



WESTERN NIGERIA

House of Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

11TH SESSION 1962

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28-30 March, 2-6, 9-13, 16-17 April and 25 May 1962

PRICE FIVE SHILLINGS

Western House of Assembly, Ibadan

His Excellency the Governor—Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., K.C.M.G.

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- The Premier—The Honourable Chief S. L. Akintola, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Finance—The Honourable Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Local Government—The Honourable Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Education—The Honourable Dr S. D. Onabamiro, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources—The Honourable Chief A. O. Adéyi, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Lands and Housing—The Honourable Chief J. O. Adigun, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Home Affairs—The Honourable D. Ogundiran, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development—The Honourable Oba C. D. Akran, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Information—The Honourable Chief E. A. A. Fadayiro, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Labour—The Honourable Chief J. E. Babatola, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs—The Honourable Dr J. O. Omitowoju, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General—The Honourable Chief S. O. Ighodaro.
 The Minister of Midwest Affairs—The Honourable J. E. Otobo, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Works and Transport—The Honourable Chief S. O. Sogbein, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Trade and Industry—The Honourable K. S. Y. Momoh, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Health and Social Welfare—The Honourable Chief J. O. Osuntokun, M.H.A.
 The Minister of State (Trade and Industry)—The Honourable Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie, M.H.A.
 The Minister of State (Local Government)—The Honourable Chief S. A. Tinubu, M.H.A.
 The Minister of State (Education)—The Honourable J. O. Oye, M.H.A.
 The Minister of State (Economic Planning)—The Honourable Chief E. Anuku, M.H.A.
 The Minister of State (Agriculture and Natural Resources)—The Honourable C. I. Akere, M.H.A.
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Oba I. B. Akinyele, Olubadan of Ibadan, M.H.C.
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Oba Tewogboye II, Oshemawe of Ondo, M.H.C.
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Oba S. O. Abimbola, Oluwo of Iwo, M.H.C.
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Obi Obika A. Gbenoba, Obi of Agbor, M.H.C.
 The Minister without Portfolio—His Highness The Honourable Erejuwa II, Olu of Warri, M.H.C.
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Oba S. L. Adetona Ogbagba II, Awujale of Ijebuland, M.H.C.

MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(Arranged in Alphabetical Order)

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------------|
| 1. Abioshun, Mr J. O. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Iwo South Suburban |
| 2. Adebessin, Mr K. S. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Egba Central I |
| 3. Adedoyin, Prince A. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Ijebu-Remo South |
| 4. Adedigba, Mr M. A. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Iwo South-East |
| 5. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Egba South I |
| 6. Adekeye, Chief A. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Ondo West II |
| 7. Adekunle, Mr Y.... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Ogbomosho South-East Urban |
| 8. Adelegan, Mr S. T. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Ijesha Rural North |
| 9. Adelodun, Mr I. A. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Oyo North-West II |
| 10. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Egba Central II |
| 11. Adeniran, Mr J. G. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Ibarapa West |
| 12. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Oyo East II |

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MEMBERS—continued—

13. Adesanya, Mr A. A.	Ijebu North I
14. Adewunmi, Mr M. A.	Ibadan Central East
15. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.	...	...	...	...	Oshogbo North I
16. Adeyi, Chief A. O.	...	...	...	...	Oyo South-East
17. Adibi, Mr N. A.	...	...	...	...	Ogbomosho North-East
18. Adigun, Hon. J. O.	...	...	...	...	Ogbomosho North-West
19. Adisa, Mr A.	...	...	...	...	Ibadan South-East Rural
20. Aghahowa, Mr W.	...	...	...	...	Benin South-East
21. Agbaza, Mr J. U. E.	...	...	...	...	Urhobo East II
22. Aina, Mr E.	...	...	...	...	Egba South II
23. Ajibola, Mr A.	...	...	...	...	Ibadan North-West Rural
24. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.	...	...	...	...	Ibadan South Central
25. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.	...	...	...	...	Ibadan East Rural I
26. Akere, Hon. C. I.	...	...	...	...	Ishan North-West
27. Akerele, Mr S. A.	...	...	...	...	Ekiti North-East I
28. Akerele, Mr S. O.	...	...	...	...	Ife-Ila North
29. Akingboye, Mr A. O.	...	...	...	...	Okitipupa South-West
30. Akintola, Chief S. E.	...	...	...	...	Ogbomosho South-East
31. Akinyemi, Mr R. A.	...	...	...	...	Ikeja South
32. Akran, Oba C. D.	...	...	...	...	Badagry West
33. Amadasun, Mr V. I.	...	...	...	...	Benin West I
34. Aniyi, Mr I. O.	...	...	...	...	Iwo West I
35. Anuku, Hon. E.	...	...	...	...	Asaba North-West
36. Areola, Mr R. O.	...	...	...	...	Ekiti South-East I
37. Arowajolu, Mr E. B.	...	...	...	...	Okitipupa South-East
38. Aruwajoye, Mr S. B.	...	...	...	...	Owo South II
39. Ashiru, Mr B.	...	...	...	...	Egbado South-West
40. Atie, Mr A.	...	...	...	...	Western Ijaw I
41. Atohengbe, Mr A.	...	...	...	...	Benin North-East
42. Atolagbe, Mr D.	...	...	...	...	Ekiti North-West I
43. Awopeju, Mr J. O.	...	...	...	...	Ijebu-Remo North
44. Babatola, Hon. J. E.	...	...	...	...	Ekiti North-East II
45. Babayemi, Mr A. A.	...	...	...	...	Egba North-West
46. Bello, Mr A. B.	...	...	...	...	Oyo Central II
47. Ebubedike, Mr F.	...	...	...	...	Badagry East
48. Edeki, Rev. I.	...	...	...	...	Afenmai North-West II
49. Ekwejunor-Etchie, Chief G. E.	...	...	...	...	Warri West
50. Elusade, Mr T. E.	...	...	...	...	Ife Town South
51. Ewah, Mr B. I. G.	...	...	...	...	Ishan North-East
52. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.	...	...	...	...	Egbado North-West
53. Fani-Kayode, Mr R. A.	...	...	...	...	Ife-Ila South
54. Fashola, Mr O.	...	...	...	...	Ibadan South-West Suburban
55. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.	...	...	...	...	Ondo West I
56. Fetuga, Mr M. A.	...	...	...	...	Ijebu Central East
57. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.	...	...	...	...	Oyo North-West I
58. Idodo, Mr M. A.	...	...	...	...	Afenmai South-East
59. Igugu, Mr T. E.	...	...	...	...	Central Urhobo East
60. Ijle, Mr M. O.	...	...	...	...	Ishan West Central
61. Imafidon, Mr E. O.	...	...	...	...	Benin Central East
62. John, Mr C. O.	...	...	...	...	Oyo East I
63. Kehinde, Mr J. O.	...	...	...	...	Ede Ejigbo North
64. Kotoye, Mr N. A. B.	...	...	...	...	Egba East II
65. Lana, Mr R. A.	...	...	...	...	Oshun North-East II
66. Lawal, Mr J. L.	...	...	...	...	Oshogbo South-West Urban
67. Layonu, Mr S. A.	...	...	...	...	Ede Ejigbo South
68. Momoh, Hon. K. S. Y.	...	...	...	...	Afenmai North-East
69. Obadara, Mr A. O.	...	...	...	...	Ibadan North-West Suburban
70. Obisesan, Mr B. O.	...	...	...	...	Ibadan North-East I

MEMBERS—continued

71. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O. ...	...	...	...	Egbado North-East
72. Odigie, Mr J. O. ...	...	...	...	Ishan South-East
73. Odutuga, Mr J. A. ...	...	...	...	Epe North
74. Ogundiran, Hon. D. ...	...	...	...	Ibadan East Rural II
75. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A. ...	...	...	...	Oshun South-East II
76. Ogunyele, Mr Y. ...	...	...	...	Oshun South-East I
77. Oke, Mr E. O. ...	...	...	...	Ogbomosho South-West
78. Okeya, Mr S. A. ...	...	...	...	Ekiti South-East II
79. Okumagba, Mr D. E. ...	...	...	...	Warri East
80. Okwesa, Mr P. V. ...	...	...	...	Aboh East
81. Olaitan, Mr O. ...	...	...	...	Ilesha Urban East
82. Olamigoke, Mr C. O. ...	...	...	...	Okitipupa North-East
83. Olaniyan, Mr B. ...	...	...	...	Ibarapa East
84. Olowofoyeku, Mr B. ...	...	...	...	Ilesha Urban West
85. Olukoju, Mr I. A. ...	...	...	...	Owo South I
86. Olumofin, Mr D. K. ...	...	...	...	Owo North II
87. Olusa, Mr R. A. ...	...	...	...	Owo North I
88. Omitowoju, Hon. Dr J. O. ...	...	...	...	Ife Town North
89. Omokowajo, Mr J. O. ...	...	...	...	Okitipupa North-West
90. Onabamiro, Hon. Dr S. D. ...	...	...	...	Ijebu North II
91. Onasanya, Mr S. ...	...	...	...	Ijebu Central West
92. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A. ...	...	...	...	Egbado South-East
93. Popoola, Mr D. A. ...	...	...	...	Oyo South-West
94. Oputa-Otutu, Chief F. ...	...	...	...	Aboh West
95. Orowole, Mr D. O. ...	...	...	...	Iwo West II
96. Osagie, Mr B. E. O. ...	...	...	...	Benin West II
97. Ositelu, Mr I. A. ...	...	...	...	Ikeja North
98. Osuhor, Mr F. ...	...	...	...	Asaba South-West
99. Osuntokun, Chief J. O. ...	...	...	...	Ekiti North-West II
100. Otobo, Hon. J. E. ...	...	...	...	Urhobo East I
101. Otubanjo, Mr S. A. ...	...	...	...	Ijebu South-East
102. Oviasu, Mr G. I. ...	...	...	...	Benin Central West
103. Owonikoko, Mr K. O. ...	...	...	...	Oyo Central I
104. Oye, Hon. J. O. ...	...	...	...	Afenmai North-West I
105. Oyewole, Mr S. O. ...	...	...	...	Ibadan Central West
106. Rerri, Mr A. T. ...	...	...	...	Urhobo West I
107. Riemu, Mr J. A. ...	...	...	...	Urhobo West II
108. Sanni, Mr S. A. ...	...	...	...	Ibadan North-East II
109. Sobande, Mr O. ...	...	...	...	Egba East I
110. Sogbein, Hon. S. O. ...	...	...	...	Egba North-East
111. Somotan, Mr A. S. ...	...	...	...	Ibadan South-West Central
112. Tabiowo, Mr P. K. ...	...	...	...	Central Urhobo West
113. Tifase, Chief J. L. ...	...	...	...	Ondo North-East I
114. Tinubu, Hon. S. A. ...	...	...	...	Oshun North-East I
115. Utomi, Mr F. H. ...	...	...	...	Asaba South-East I
116. Williams, Mr C. A. ...	...	...	...	Epe South
117. Zuokumor, Mr A. A. ...	...	...	...	Western Ijaw II

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

1. Mr Speaker ...	...	...	...	Chairman
2. The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House ...	...	...	...	Member
3. The Minister of Health and Social Welfare ...	...	...	...	Member
4. The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources ...	...	...	...	Member
5. The Minister of Lands and Housing ...	...	...	...	Member
6. Chief A. Adekeye ...	...	...	...	Member
7. Mr S. T. Adelegan ...	...	...	...	Member
8. Chief F. Oputa-Otutu ...	...	...	...	Member

Western House of Assembly Debates

MEMBERS—continued

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House	Member
3. The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General	Member
4. Mr J. O. Awopeju	Member
5. Mr S. T. Adelegan	Member
6. Mr G. I. Oviasu	Member

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General	Member
3. Chief S. B. Aruwajoye	Member
4. Mr J. A. Odutuga	Member
5. Mr M. O. Ijie	Member
6. Mr I. A. Olukoju	Member
7. Mr A. B. Bello	Member
8. Mr T. E. Elushade	Member

HOUSE COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House	Member
3. Mr N. A. B. Kotoye	Member
4. Mr S. O. Akerele	Member
5. Mr F. H. Utomi	Member
6. Mr O. Olaitan	Member

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

1. Chief Adedapo Adekeye	Chairman
2. Mr J. Adeyemo	Member
3. Mr J. U. E. Agbaza	Member
4. Mr M. A. Fetuga	Member
5. Mr D. A. Popoola	Member
6. Mr O. Sobande	Member
7. Mr Y. L. Adekunle... ..	Member
8. Mr S. A. Akerele	Member
9. Mr P. K. Tabiowo	Member
10. Mr V. I. Amadasun	Member
11. Mr R. A. Akinyemi... ..	Member
12. Mr I. A. Olukoju	Member

STATUTORY CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Mr S. Onasanya	Chairman
2. The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education	Member
3. The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Economic Planning	Member
4. Rev. I. Edeki	Member
5. Mr A. A. Adesanya... ..	Member
6. Mr R. O. Areola	Member
7. Chief F. Opata-Otutu	Member
8. Mr A. Adelodun	Member
9. Mr A. E. E. Atohengbe	Member

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Western House of Assembly Debates

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

A. Adedoyin, Esq.

DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

S. T. Adelegan, Esq.

OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE

Mr J. M. Akinola	...	...	...	...	Clerk to the Regional Legislature
Mr D. E. O. Oriola	...	...	...	...	Second Clerk to the Regional Legislature
Mr M. O. Maduemezia	...	...	...	...	Acting Hansard Editor
Mr E. O. A. Soyega	...	...	...	...	Acting Official Reporter, Grade I
Mr A. O. Bamishe	...	...	...	...	Official Reporter, Grade II
Mrs W. Akinwunmi	...	...	...	...	Official Reporter, Grade II
Mr J. A. Darlington	...	...	...	...	First Serjeant-at-Arms
Mr R. S. A. Akinrinmade	...	...	...	...	Second Serjeant-at-Arms

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1962

The House met at 10.35 a.m.

pursuant to a Proclamation by the Governor published in the

Western Nigeria Extraordinary Gazette dated the 15th of March, 1962

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Whereupon, the First Sergeant-at-Arms, having come with a message to attend His Excellency in the House of Chiefs.

The House went, and having returned—

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I have to report that this House has attended His Excellency in the other House, and that His Excellency has been pleased to address a meeting of both Houses. For purposes of greater accuracy and clarity, I have instructed that copies of the Address be circulated to Members.

The Speech was as follows:

“His Excellency, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., Governor, Western Nigeria: Honourable Members of the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly: Once again it is my privilege to welcome you all to a new Session of the Legislature. Events during the past twelve months have confirmed that my Government is determined to apply itself with vigour to the essential task of promoting the well-being of the people of this Region. The word “austerity” has now become a household word but the real significance of the measures recently announced by my Government lies in their purpose which has been described as “prosperity through austerity”. It is by such practical examples of self-sacrifice that we can hope to achieve the task of nation-building and the development which my Government has made its prime concern.

The Estimates of expenditure for 1962-63 will be laid before you in due course and you will find that this has been framed to reflect economy measures which are intended to ensure that the task which has been so well begun will go forward and grow. During this Session, a number of revenue measures will be introduced so as to provide additional funds for the execution of development projects under the revised Development Plan for 1962-68.

In collaboration with the other Governments of the Federation, my Government has formulated a carefully integrated Six-year Development plan, covering the period 1962-68; the programme has a proposed total expenditure of £240.1 million of which £90.3 million constitute capital expenditure.

Hon. Members will have learnt of the impending population census scheduled to take place in May this year. My Ministers attach great importance to the successful organisation of the census. You all know that population statistics is essential to the formulation of sound economic planning and I sincerely hope that all of you will join my Government in ensuring the success of this important work.

My Government is committed to the development of a welfare state within the concept of free democratic institutions. In the true spirit of our National Independence, my Ministers will ensure that every citizen participates in the endeavour to build a Western Nigeria of which we can all be proud. To this end, my Ministers are determined to encourage and foster the spirit of community development and self-help. It is encouraging to know that certain friendly overseas Governments have come to our aid by way of financial as well as technical assistance, for which my Government is truly grateful. But the greatest tribute is the assurance which I can give them that their aid will be put to the most fruitful use.

My Government is very conscious of the fact that the prosperity of this Region depends upon the development of its agriculture. Accordingly, it is the intention of my Ministers, through a dynamic policy of extension education, application of the results of research and the provision of credit facilities, to improve agricultural technique and production.

Plans will go forward to ensure the provision of employment opportunities for the younger generation in agriculture; in this connection, the farm settlement scheme will play an important role. Already, there are over seven thousand acres under cultivation under this system. My Government will also continue to encourage poultry farming through the application of scientific method and the establishment of additional poultry farms as an integral part of the farm settlement scheme. Livestock improvement measures have resulted in a one hundred per cent increase in the number of poultry farmers over the last year, a five-fold increase in the production of improved birds for distribution and a fifty-fold increase in egg production.

[HIS EXCELLENCY]

In the field of Forestry, my Government will continue to pursue the policy designed to increase the stocking of the forest: already our achievements in this field have shown that regeneration operations in Western Nigeria are well ahead of similar activities in other parts of tropical Africa. My Government has under consideration, a review of the forest policy, the object of which is to maintain the security of the forest estates and to obtain maximum return from it. Extended activities are also planned in the fields of veterinary services, agricultural research and fisheries.

My Ministers will intensify their efforts, through the Industrial Promotions Commission, to encourage the establishment of new industries with a view to providing employment opportunities, and in order to reduce our dependence on the importation of essential commodities. Special efforts will be made during the year to establish industries designed for the processing of our raw materials such as cocoa and palm kernels.

My Government recognises the need for the dispersal of industries throughout the Region. To this end, investigation will be conducted with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development in order to ascertain the possibilities for industrial growth in particular areas of the Region. Emphasis will also be laid on the need for the establishment of viable small scale rural industries.

My Government will co-operate with the other Governments of the Federation to secure for Nigerian traders a greater share of the nation's commercial life, particularly in the field of retail trade.

A successful reorganisation of the marketing arm of the Co-operative Movement has placed the Produce Marketing Unions in a much stronger financial position. Most of these Marketing Unions are now registered for the first time as licensed buying agents. The Co-operative Supply Association will continue to distribute spraying equipment and chemicals to the farmers with a view to ensuring higher production figures.

In the important field of education, my Government attaches the greatest importance to the orderly development of facilities at all levels. Accordingly, they are proceeding with an expanded and intensified Teacher Training programme both in colleges and by method of in-service training. With the assistance of the United Nations, plans will be introduced during this meeting for the establishment of an Advanced

Teacher Training College for the supply of highly qualified non-graduate teachers to man Teacher Training Colleges and Secondary Grammar Schools.

My Government is well aware of the need to expand facilities for Grammar School education and to this end, plans are in hand for developing the smaller schools into double and treble streams. Under the new arrangements, it will no longer be compulsory for the children to reside in the school premises and steps will be taken to encourage the admission of both boys and girls into schools suitable for this purpose.

In order to ensure that the benefit of secondary grammar school education is received by children who are able to profit by it, my Government has recently set up a Commission of Inquiry to look into the payment of school fees in Secondary Grammar Schools and Teacher Training Colleges. Increasing attention will be given to the development of sixth-form education so as to ensure that as many children as possible are prepared for university education.

The development of Technical Education will continue to occupy an important place in the education programme, and, during the coming year, two new trade centres will be opened at Oyó and Owo. The first batch of students has already been admitted into the Ibadan Technical College and plans are in hand to arrange classes for part-time students and day-releases in response to the needs of industry. The construction of the new Technical College in the Midwest will begin at an early date. This will ensure an increase in the production of technicians and craftsmen.

The development of the University of Ife under its Provisional Council is proceeding at a satisfactory rate and staff is being assembled as quickly as possible. The first batch of direct entrants into the University will be admitted in October 1962.

My Government is proud to announce that the programme of road development and strengthening of bridges begun during the 1960-65 development period has now almost been covered. Investigations have been carried out in the past year and designs are now being prepared for a projected programme of road strengthening in the Region. Preliminary investigation has been completed and the design is now being completed for the proposed bridge over River Ethiope in Sapele. Considerable progress has been made in the field of Electricity Development

[HIS EXCELLENCY]

in urban areas and my Government intends to extend these facilities to rural areas during the coming year.

In pursuance of my Government's policy to provide pipe-borne water in all urban communities, a number of schemes will be initiated during the coming financial year. The construction of rural water supply schemes will also continue in co-operation with local communities.

The solemn undertaking given by my Government in regard to the development of public health and medical facilities will continue to occupy an important place in the development programme during the coming year. My Government acknowledges with gratitude, the contributions which the World Health Organisation and other international Agencies are making towards the improvement of health facilities in this Region.

For some years now, my Government has been concerned with the eradication of yaws and similar endemic diseases. I am happy to say that the work is now nearing completion and the incidence of yaws has been brought to an almost negligible level in most areas. My Government has also been actively concerned with the control of small-pox and the prevention of epidemics. My Government will continue its efforts until the greater proportion of my people have become fully protected against this disease. It is the intention of my Government to improve the facilities available for the more efficient treatment of leprosy.

The services which my Government has been rendering in regard to the control of tuberculosis will be expanded so that patients in the more remote areas might avail themselves of the type of treatment now available for urban communities.

The problem of malnutrition is being tackled with determination and with the assistance of an overseas agency. The new School of Hygiene and Health Auxiliaries will be opened during the year and my Government hopes shortly to introduce training courses locally for Health Sisters. The requirements of the rural areas will continue to receive special attention in the field of public health education. The problem of juvenile delinquency is no less important and is being vigorously tackled.

In concert with the other Governments of the Federation, my Government will continue to give active support to the work of the Nigerian National Advisory Council for the Blind.

It is the intention of my Government, during the course of this year, to place proposals before this honourable House for the reform of the local government system in a manner more suited to present-day circumstances.

As hon. Members are aware, my Government attaches great importance to the participation of our women folk in public life; arrangements have now been completed for the selection of female members who will sit on the Local Government Councils:

The present local government system is ten years old and the experience of the last few years has made it necessary to look at it critically with a view to overhauling parts of it which are defective or out-moded. It is therefore proposed during the course of this year to place reform proposals before the Legislature with a view to amending the Local Government Law in a manner more suited to present day circumstances. My Government will continue to give every possible assistance to Local Authorities, but the time has now come when these Councils should accept a greater measure of responsibility for the provision of essential local services. Accordingly, measures will be introduced to modify the payment of grants by the Regional Government, and Local Authorities will be expected to explore new sources of revenue and to take full advantage of those already at their disposal.

At an early date after the present meeting of the House, it is proposed to hold a Conference of Obas and Chiefs. My Government will like to give a reassurance that it will continue to maintain the institution of chieftaincy and to uphold the honour and dignity attaching to the traditional position of Obas and Chiefs.

Hon. Members, in pursuance of my Government's determination to give maximum encouragement to foreign investors it is proposed during the coming year to establish new industrial estates. Survey work connected with the agricultural settlements, industrial development and the assessment of mineral potentials will continue to receive the urgent attention of my Government. An aerial survey of important centres of population will be conducted during the coming year and this will be of tremendous importance for the purpose of mapping and town planning. Plans are well in hand to launch a programme for the replanning of important towns in the Region.

[HIS EXCELLENCY]

Arrangements for the introduction of titles registration will be pursued vigorously in order to promote greater investment in real property.

In the field of Labour Administration, my Government will continue to maintain good labour and industrial relations. Every effort will be made to open more Employment Exchange offices in the Region in order to cope with the demand for industrial labour. One such office will be opened at Ikeja shortly.

As hon. Members are aware, the National Provident Fund Act came into force in 1961. It is the intention of my Government to encourage workers in this Region to take advantage of the facilities offered by this new measure.

My Ministers are anxious to improve upon the standards of performance in Customary Courts. To this end, training courses will be organised for those who are responsible for the administration of justice in the Customary Courts. A Commissioner has recently been appointed to advise the hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Justice on the problems affecting Customary Courts and to serve as liaison between the Ministry of Justice and the Customary Courts. In order to assist Presidents and Members of Grades "C" and "D" Customary Courts, the preparation of a vernacular version of the "Notes for Guidance" in the Customary Court Manual will shortly be made available. Legislation amending the Customary Courts Law will be placed before you at this Session; the measures proposed are all designed to facilitate further improvement in the manner in which the duties of Customary Courts are carried out.

A judicial Division of the High Court has recently been established at Ijebu-Ode and similar steps are contemplated in respect of Oshogbo and additional Judges will be posted to Ikeja and Warri in order to cope with the ever increasing volume of work in these areas.

In order to ensure a more effective co-ordination in the administration of the Midwest Area, my Government has recently assigned additional responsibilities to the hon. Minister of Midwest Affairs in the fields of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Land Tenure. In this way, I am sure that the needs of this area will continue to receive the special attention which they undoubtedly deserve.

The important task of giving adequate publicity to the activities of the Government

will continue to receive the attention of my Ministers. During the new year, arrangements will be made for the provision of exhibition centres, cinema vans and mobile cinema barges throughout the Region.

Overseas Publicity service will be expanded and every effort will be made to provide useful information to potential investors in foreign countries.

The issue of Public Order is taken seriously by my Government and adequate steps are being taken to ensure that peace is maintained throughout the Region. Greater attention is also being paid to the training of the Local Government Police Forces to increase their all-round efficiency and, in full co-operation with the Nigeria Police, a worthy code of conduct and discipline is being attained.

Sporadic outbreaks of fire in many parts of the Region during the past year have justified the Fire Services Programme of my Government which aims at the establishment of Fire Stations in centres of large population as well as industrial areas all over the Region. In order to provide adequate support for the programme, it is proposed to open a Fire Services Training School during the year which will be attached to the modern Fire Station which is nearly completed and will soon come into operation in the Secretariat area in Ibadan. For the protection of Ibadan Town, which is the capital of the Region and where considerable business capital is at present concentrated, more work will be done on the provision and installation of Fire Hydrants which will be capable of dealing with any type of fire risk that is likely to occur.

My Government also realises the importance of attracting tourists to the Region and has under consideration certain proposals for improving and increasing Catering Rest House facilities in the Region. In furtherance of this aim the very modern Catering Rest House at Uromi which has recently been completed and fully furnished will soon be opened to add to the facilities available in the Midwest Area. The other Rest Houses in the Region, particularly those suitable for use by important persons, are being redecorated and modernised.

Hon. Members will be pleased to know that the next meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be held in Nigeria during this year. During the meeting, Members of the Western Nigeria Legislature will have the rare privilege of playing host to their colleagues from other parts of the Commonwealth. I have no doubt that the Legislature of Western Nigeria is proud of its association with this unique body

[HIS EXCELLENCY]

and that we in Western Nigeria subscribe in full measure to the principles of democratic Government which is the cornerstone of our bond with other nations of the Commonwealth.

Hon. Members, such is your Government's programme during the coming Session. During the year, there will be ample opportunity for reappraisal of old attitudes and for making necessary sacrifices for the progress and glory of our great Nation. I have no doubt that our people will be found equal to the task and that all of us will together join in the noble task of building a better Nigeria for the coming generation.

I now declare this Session open and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God will rest upon you and that He may guide your deliberations".

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Motion for an Address

The Government Chief Whip (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the most gracious speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature, and that a humble Address in these terms be formally presented to His Excellency by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

We in this Region are indeed fortunate to have at the helm of affairs today as Governor of the Region a person who by his great devotion to his duties, hard work, display of tact and love of the people, has been, at all times, a great source of inspiration to all of us. It is very difficult to thank the Government for its many activities in the last twelve months, without mentioning the important part which His Excellency as the Head of State and the symbol of Authority in the Region has played in making possible those good things by which this Government is remembered. In particular, I believe I am speaking for all sides of the House when I pay great tribute to His Excellency for his recent tour of the Northern Region. We do hope that in the years ahead many more of such visits will be made to all the other Regions and that reciprocal visits will be made to this Region of the other Heads of States. The importance of such visits cannot be over-emphasised in the building of the unity of Nigeria, a matter so dear to all our hearts. At least, by such visits we can show that every inch of the soil of the North is as much the home of His Excellency as is every inch of the soil of the Western Region and *vice versa*.

This, I believe, is the first meeting we are holding since Her Majesty conferred the great title of K.C.M.G. on His Excellency the Governor. I am sure all Members of this House will join me in congratulating His Excellency for this great honour and assuring him of our loyalty and devotion at all times.

The Speech which His Excellency has been graciously pleased to deliver to us this morning makes a comprehensive and adequate review of the activities of this Government during the last twelve months and maps out the future plans and activities of the Government for the next twelve months. It will just be sheer waste of valuable time to repeat again the very authoritative declaration of Government policies and intentions which have so ably been stated in His Excellency's gracious Speech from the Throne. I will therefore just content myself in moving this Motion with the underlining of some of the more important aspects touched upon in the Speech.

There is no doubt that the Session which His Excellency has just opened will go down into history as marking the end of an era and the beginning of another in the annals of the history of the Western Region. It will mark the end of a most desirable and perhaps useful honeymoon with independence and the commencement of the hard task of nation building through self sacrifice and faith in the great future of Nigeria. It is the faith we all have in the future of our country and the desire to see this great nation develop within so short a time that makes us accept gladly the end of the honeymoon with independence and welcome the austerity measures announced recently by the hon. Premier of this Region. We as Members of the Action Group take especial pride in the fact that our Government is in the forefront of building the nation through the sacrifice, toil and zeal of the people and their leaders. I believe I am right in interpreting the feelings of the leaders of the people of this Region when I say that we assure the Government of our full support in this matter and that we are all ready and willing to pay our share of the price of progress; that we are determined that this great nation of ours and this Region must continue to set the pace in development, in providing jobs for the jobless and in ensuring good health and good roads and that education at primary level shall continue to be free and, not least, that opportunity to rise to the highest level possible shall be made available to every child and every citizen of this Region, rich or poor.

[MR KOTOYE]

This Government is to be highly commended for bringing forward at this epoch-making meeting of the House a new Six-year Development Plan which is to cost the Region upwards of £240 million. I have no intention to anticipate the much respected hon. Minister of Economic Planning on this matter when I say that one of the greatest objectives of this plan must be to provide jobs for the unemployed and the idle and thereby feed mouths which may go hungry because of lack of employment.

When the great Awolowo Government took office in 1952, the problems facing this Region were principally those of ignorance, illiteracy and disease. At the time our great leader was laying down his mantle of office, he had succeeded in a manner unsurpassed in Black Africa to bring about, within so short a time, enlightenment, education, good health services, and prosperity to all citizens of Western Nigeria. It is perhaps not to be unexpected that with the completion of the tasks of the old Government the great problem of the new Government should begin. Today, the one great problem facing this Government is the provision of jobs and opportunities for the hundreds of children who are going to come out of the several Awolowo Schools throughout the Region. It is for this reason that I heartily welcome Government's decision to bring a new development programme, and I have no doubt that when the present Akintola Government takes its place in the Hall of Fame it will be said of it that it met this great problem of unemployment and has succeeded by the huge Six-year Development Plan in laying low this great problem of our times.

It is gratifying to note that Government's activities in the closing year in the field of education has been immense, culminating in the establishment of the University of Ife. We in this House are proud to be associated with the decision to establish the University. We are happy to note the great support and encouragement which the University has received from at home and abroad. Speaking on education generally, it is comforting to find at the helm of affairs a person of the calibre of the present Minister of Education. I want to assure him that his activities in the last twelve months in the matter of making education as cheap as possible and bringing opportunities of education to every village and hamlet has the full support of right thinking members of this great community. It is unhealthy that a Government should have committed well over forty per cent of its annual revenue on one item of

social service every year. And that is exactly what we are doing in this Region in the matter of education. The need to examine and prune Government expenditure on education without doing damage to the great objective cannot be over-emphasised. I am satisfied that we have in that Ministry someone who can do this. I want the Minister to know that he can count on the support of right thinking members of the community in ensuring that wastages in Government expenditure caused by the over-liberal attitude of the Government to voluntary agencies, private proprietors, etc., must be stopped. Voluntary Agencies must be told that this Region has accepted democratic socialism as the great objective. And democratic socialism involves State planning and Government control on democratic lines. This Government has accepted its responsibilities in the matter of education, and voluntary agencies and proprietors must be told to accept theirs. But if voluntary agencies must hold this Government to ransom by insisting that we continue to spend forty-three per cent of the revenue of the Government on education, then the hon. Minister of Education must tell them that it is compatible with democratic socialism that Government will take over education completely and eliminate all these middlemen agencies and proprietors which have made education an expensive thing in the Region.

I do not intend to dwell much on secondary education, in view of the Ajayi Commission of Inquiry which is now going on. But I should make it known that the decision of Government to set up this commission is wise and commendable, and it is to be hoped that Government will give the report of the enquiry very great and wide publicity when issued. I want to emphasise, however, that whatever the Ajayi Commission may have to say, the study and teaching of science in our secondary schools appear not to have been on a high and inspiring level. I do hope that our able Minister of Education will give this matter his most urgent attention.

It is a matter of great pleasure to me personally that we are ending another year in which this Government has enjoyed industrial peace and calm. No Government in the Federation can claim to have enjoyed as much industrial peace as the Government of the Region within the last five years. Whilst in other places we hear of strikes, threat of strikes, dismissal of strikers, we hear here of co-operation, patient negotiation by employers and the employed. The one single labour upheaval that I know of in the last

[MR KOTOYE]

twelve months in this Region was settled without resort to the dismissal of the strikers. This is not the story in other places. This happy situation could exist because the Action Group to which we on this side are proud to belong is the best friend of the workers, and the workers now know their friends.

The decision of the Government to open labour exchanges is most welcomed. It is to be hoped, however, that when these exchanges are opened they will not be mere decorations, but will be used as the only channel of employment, and that men of good calibre and integrity will staff them.

The importance which agriculture and agricultural services occupy in the plans of the Government is perhaps emphasised by the fact that of the six and half pages of His Excellency's Speech, a whole page is devoted to agriculture. I congratulate the Government on its great achievements in the field of agriculture, particularly its extension services. All over the Region, in remote places and in villages and hamlets in the Region, the sign "M.A.N.R." has now become a pleasing symbol of a dynamic and go-ahead Government. It is not surprising to find that this Government has made so much progress in the field of agriculture, because we had at the head of this most important Ministry a distinguished and hard working Minister in the person of Chief Akin Deko. Chief Deko is no more with us, but it is a humble tribute to him when I say that the sign "M.A.N.R." which has been made popular by him all over the Region will be a worthy memory to the services of a noble and distinguished son of Western Nigeria. It is a matter of great pleasure, however, that the great experience of this great son will not be lost to us and will still be available in the great position which he now occupies as the Regional Representative for Africa of the F.A.O. The hon. Premier is to be congratulated on making the right choice to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Chief Akin Deko. I have no doubt that our new Minister of Agriculture, the pleasant-looking Chief Adeyi who has equally distinguished himself in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, will also make a name for himself and this Region in his new Ministry.

Finally, let me express my personal pleasure to learn from the Speech from the Throne that this Government will pay greater attention to the training of the Local Government Police of this Region.

We who come from the rural areas of this Region, where the Nigeria Police is wholly

unknown, have much to be grateful for in the services rendered by our Local Government Police. The Local Government Police is a much maligned Force, but even their worst critic will never fail to admit today that they form the bedrock and base of security and peace in the Region. I want to let members of this important instrument of security and peace in the Region know that in the hearts of peaceful and well-intentioned citizens of the Region—and we are millions—their services are well appreciated. I do hope that Government will be unceasing in the task of ensuring that the standard of training and discipline of the Local Government Police Force takes no backward position of any Police Force in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr S. T. Adelegan): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion so ably moved by the last speaker. In doing this, I am tempted to ask hon. Members, especially those from rural areas, to rise with me and give three cheers to the Government for the prominent attention given to rural areas as evidenced by the schemes planned for them in practically all branches of governmental activities during the ensuing year.

In its agrarian policy, Government has already provided Farm Settlements which offer employment opportunities for the younger generation. In the distribution of amenities Government continues to provide rural water supplies, rural electricity supplies; and, in consideration of health, rural health centres. And, what is more, the rural areas are not forgotten in industrial planning. It is happy to note that emphasis will now be laid on the need for the establishment of rural industries. This stress on the development of the rural areas and the countryside must surely delight the minds of the inhabitants of this great Region.

The word "Austerity" has been regarded with affection in some quarters and with lukewarmness, and even aversion, in others. There are those who pray that austerity should be chased away as quickly as possible. Others, indeed, do feel that some of the measures in the Western Region have been overdone. But the foresightedness and realistic approach of this Government has been aptly described by the phrase "Prosperity through Austerity".

If we can co-operate with the Government and our leaders in "boycotting all boycottables" and cutting our coat according to our size, avoiding extravagant living and buying only the essential, we shall be helping in a large measure to develop our dear country and provide employment opportunities for the younger ones.

[MR ADELEGAN]

It is now common knowledge that the population census of the Federation of Nigeria will take place next May. We have oft-repeatedly been reminded of the significance of this important event. Since the economic and social development of our areas depend solely on population figures, it is incumbent on all of us to go back home and educate our people on the necessity of presenting themselves and their households to census officials. In this connection, Sir, we fully appreciate the efforts of our energetic Premier and his Ministers in launching the campaigns in a big way a few days ago.

The Government should be congratulated on its bid to expand facilities for Secondary Education. In this connection, two strategic moves made by the Government are very worthy of note.

First, in order to see that the maximum number of places are utilised in Secondary Schools, Government has set up the Ajayi Commission to look into the question of fees charged in Secondary Schools. It is hoped that when the Commission completes its findings, it will be clear what equitable charges all schools should make, what local contributions will be expected, and what Government assistance will be needed for the proper running of Secondary Schools in this Region.

Secondly, Sir, the Premier recently, on a busy tour of parts of Western Nigeria, found it worthwhile, despite his engagements, to call at a developing Secondary School to see for himself problems facing a typical developing school.

One salient point which emerged in the address presented to the Premier by this School was the development of Science in our Secondary Schools. Most of our Schools at the moment can only make do with the teaching of Arts subjects because of the inadequacy of staff and equipment for Science teaching. This, Sir, is a very difficult problem which our Government has been planning to solve and which must be solved at all costs. In this age of atomic and space travel, it is important that Government sees to it that facilities for the teaching of Science are provided in every school, however young.

Government is to be congratulated for the orderly development in the University of Ife. It is quite heartening to remember how, when the University was to be set up last year, various Divisions and communities vied to give out land for the site of the University. But this is not the end of the enthusiasm

and affection all citizens should have in this all-important institution. We should regard it as our baby and show continual interest in its growth and development and also see that other people's babies do not grow healthier and develop faster. In order to achieve this I appeal to the Government of Western Nigeria to set up an endowment scheme to help the growth of the University.

The value of the work done by certain Government Departments may not be frequently appreciated by members of the public. In this connection I would wish to commend the tremendous work being done in the field of mental health by this Government through the Aro Mental Hospital. We may not all, most of us, need to take treatment at this world-renowned institution at Aro. Most of us may be gifted with strong natural resistance, and our saturation point may be high. But one thing stands out clearly, and that is, that in these busy, ambitious days of independence everybody is always confused and in a hurry, and many more may need the comfort and assistance provided by Aro.

Dr Preye Okosi in an article in a Federal Information pamphlet has the following to say of this very important institution, and I quote:

"The Aro Hospital is bound to play a leading role in the treatment of nervous disorders in Nigeria. Between October 1954, and October 1961, more than 2,800 patients have received long and short-term treatment—many patients were admitted from outside the Western Region.

"The Aro Hospital is obviously the best and most modern hospital of its kind in Africa. There are for example Electroencephalogram for epilepsy, Department of Occupational Therapy, X-ray Department which is equipped to carry out the most complex investigation on the brain, and a neuro-surgical theatre to cope with all kinds of surgical conditions of the brain."

It is heartening to note that since the Western Government took over this hospital in 1954 it has spent on it pretty one million pounds.

Finally, I should wish to commend the Government on the stand taken on the question of law and order in this Region. Throughout last year, despite evil suggestions of a breakdown in the machinery of law and order, there were no disorders. For this success I should like to congratulate the Police, both federal and local.

Now that it has been established that this Region cannot be plunged into chaos and disorderliness, I appeal to all in a body to rise

up and co-operate with this progressive Government and do our best to make our Region remain ever the best in this Federation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Further Debate stood adjourned till tomorrow, Thursday, 29th March, 1962.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

(1) By the Minister of Finance.

(i) *Lotteries*.—A Bill to amend the Government Lotteries Law—(Cap. 72); read the First time; *to be read a Second time later in the Meeting*;

(ii) *Pools Betting*.—A Bill to make provision for the Control and Regulation of Pool Betting and Pool Betting Business, and for the taxation of Pool Betting, in Western Nigeria and for other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith; read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 6th April, 1962*;

(iii) *Income Tax*.—A Bill further to amend the Income Tax Law—(Cap. 48); read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 9th April, 1962*;

(iv) *Appropriation (Supplementary)*.—A Bill to make supplementary provision for the services of Western Nigeria for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1962, additionally to that made under the 1961-62 Appropriation Law, 1961; read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 4th April, 1962*;

(v) *Appropriation*.—A Bill to appropriate nineteen million, one hundred and nineteen thousand, two hundred and twenty pounds for recurrent expenditure and fifteen million, nine hundred and sixty-nine thousand, and ninety pounds for Capital Expenditure for the Services of Western Nigeria for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963; read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 6th April, 1962*;

(vi) *Stamp Duties*.—A Bill to amend the Stamp Duties Law—(Cap. 118); read the First time; *to be read a Second time later in the Session*;

(2) By the Minister of Lands and Housing:

(i) *Housing Corporation*.—A Bill to amend the Western Region Housing Corporation Law—(Cap. 130); read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 29th April, 1962*;

(ii) *Crown Lands*.—A Bill to amend the Crown Lands Law—(Cap. 29); read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 4th April, 1962*;

(iii) *Communal Land Rights*.—A Bill to amend the Communal Land Rights (Vesting in Trustees) Law—(Cap. 24); read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 5th April, 1962*;

(3) By the Minister of Local Government:

(i) *Local Government*.—A Bill to amend the Local Government Law—(Cap. 68); read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 2nd April, 1962*;

(ii) *Chiefs*.—A Bill to amend the Chiefs Law—(Cap. 19); read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 18th April, 1962*;

(iii) *Council of Obas and Chiefs*.—A Bill to amend the Council of Obas and Chiefs Law—(Law No. 38 of 1959); read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 18th April, 1962*;

(4) By the Premier:

(i) *House of Chiefs*.—A Bill to prescribe the qualifications of Chiefs to be selected as Members of the House of Chiefs for the Region, the manner of selection of such Chiefs, the circumstances in which the seat of any such Chief in the House shall become vacant, and for purposes incidental thereto or connected therewith; read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 6th April, 1962*;

(ii) *Provinces and Divisions*.—A Bill to make provision for the Establishment of new Provinces and Administrative Divisions in Western Nigeria, for variation in the areas and boundaries of Provinces and Administrative Divisions and for matters connected therewith; read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 29th March, 1962*;

(iii) *Parliamentary Electoral Regulations*.—A Bill to amend the Parliamentary Electoral Regulations, 1960, read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 30th March, 1962*;

(5) By the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:

(i) *Customary Courts*.—A Bill to amend the Customary Courts Law—(Cap. 31)—and to make provision for other matters connected therewith; read the First time; *to be read a Second time on 2nd April, 1962*;

(ii) *Laws (Adaptation by Orders)*.—A Bill to make provision for the adaptation, by order of the Governor in Council, for

existing Regional Laws for the purpose of bringing them into conformity with, or giving effect or enabling effect to be given to, the provisions of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960; read the First time; to be read a Second time on 4th April, 1962;

(iii) *Interpretation*.—A Bill to amend the Interpretation Law—(Cap. 51); read the First time; to be read a Second time on 9th April, 1962;

(6) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

Liquor Licensing.—A Bill to amend the Liquor (Licensing) Law—(Cap. 65); read the First time; to be read a Second time on 4th April, 1962;

(7) By the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Produce Inspection.—A Bill to make provision for the Inspection in Western Nigeria of produce for export, for the purpose of enforcement of Grades and Standards of quality in respect of such produce, and for matters incidental to the fore-going matters; read the First time; to be read a Second time on 19th March, 1962;

(8) By the Minister of Education:

University of Ife.—A Bill to amend the University of Ife (Provisional Council) Law—(Law No. 6 of 1961); read the First time; to be read a Second time on 30th March, 1962;

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Free Passage to the House for Members

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House rays His Excellency to give directions that the Commissioner of Police shall keep, during the Session of the Legislature, the streets leading to the House free and open and that no obstruction shall be permitted to hinder the passage thereto of Members of the House.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): I rise to cond.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee of Selection (New Members)

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that Chief A. Adekeye, Mr S. T. Adelegan and Chief F. Oputa Qtutu be members of the Committee of Selection.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made, That the House do now adjourn.—(Chief Odebiyi).

Business of the House

Chief Odebiyi: Hon. Members must have had copies of the Legislative Programme for this Meeting. It may be necessary in the course of the Meeting to have them amended; as and when amended, new copies will be offered to Members.

It is proposed that on Saturdays the House will not be sitting: this is to afford Members the opportunity of visiting important industrial projects in the Region.

It is proposed that on Saturday after next, there will be a tour to the Midwest to see plantations and other industrial projects in the area.

On the following Saturday, which is the 14th of April, there will also be another tour of the Provinces. (*Interruptions*).

Also, as Members will have noticed, a meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be held tomorrow, and not today, at 5 o'clock in the Committee Room upstairs, or in the Chamber here, to afford Members an opportunity of discussing the Programme which is going to be drawn up for the forthcoming Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to be held in Nigeria. I do hope that Members of this House will be present as Members of the House of Chiefs will be there.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.30 a.m., until tomorrow, Thursday, 29th March, 1962, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1962

(*The House met at 10.15 a.m.*)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE: REPORT

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the Resolution and Recommendations of the Standing Orders Committee, which will have the effect of amending rather extensively the present Standing Orders of this House, be adopted.

The Standing Orders hitherto used by this House were made in 1955 under a Colonial Constitution, and they were designed for a much smaller House and for much more restricted Parliamentary activities than what we now have to carry out in an enlarged Regional Parliament of an Independent Nigeria. The Orders have therefore been found inadequate and unsuitable for the new status and functions of the House. Sometime last year, with the approval of the Executive Council, advantage was taken of the presence in the country of Mr Richard Barlas to review and revise the Standing Orders. Mr Barlas is the United Kingdom House of Commons Clerk in charge of reviewing and revising the Standing Orders of Commonwealth Parliaments, especially the Parliaments of former colonial countries which have recently emerged into sovereignty. Mr Barlas worked here in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice and the Legislature Department to produce the recommendations that were finally considered by your Committee.

The recommendations speak for themselves, but I would like to call the attention of hon. Members to the new financial provisions: it became necessary to insert the actual words of the Constitution in the Standing Orders dealing with financial matters so as to avoid doubts in such matters—for instance, Standing Orders merely paraphrasing Constitutional provisions may, in the heat of partisan debate on the floor of the House, be suspended on a substantive motion; but if the exact words of the Constitution are quoted in the Standing Orders with relevant references such dangers will be eliminated.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is nothing controversial in the recommendations and I am sure they will be acceptable to, and be regarded as desirable and necessary by, both sides of this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhadji D. S. Adegbenro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRODUCE INSPECTION BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chief A. O. Adeyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to provide for the inspection in Western Nigeria of produce for export, for the purpose of enforcement of grades and standards of quality in respect of such produce, and for matters incidental to or connected with such matters.

This Bill, when passed into Law, will replace the existing Produce Inspection Ordinance (No. 24 of 1950) as well as other subsidiary and amending legislation incidental thereto. The draft Bill follows the existing provisions of the Produce Inspection Ordinance, 1950, in so far as those provisions refer to Regional responsibilities.

Clause 5 of this Bill provides for the establishment of the Western Nigeria Produce Inspection Board. The members will be drawn from both official and non-official sources and they would be persons who have knowledge of, or special interest in, produce and matters pertaining thereto. The Board will advise me in relation to the making of Orders and Regulations for the control of the quality of produce for export and of the protection of such produce from

CHIEF ADEYI]

rioration or attack by insects. The
rd will also advise me generally in respect
Produce Inspection and the application of
Law.

have already indicated that the Produce
pection Service of Western Nigeria at
sent performs its duties under the
hority of legislation devised in 1950 to
t the needs of all parts of the Federation.
e Bill now before this House merely re-
cts, with necessary modifications, additions
amendments, the existing Produce
pection Ordinance, 1950, and is framed in
light of our present experience to provide
the particular requirements of Western
eria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural
Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye):** I rise
second.

Question proposed.

Mr G. I. Oviasu (Benin Central West):
ore saying anything on this Bill, I would
to make certain observations.

want to know why this particular Minister
uld table this Bill, which should be for the
nister of Trade and Industry, Mr K. S.
moh. We wonder why the Premier of
Region should remove the Marketing
rd from the Ministry of Trade and
dustry and transfer it to the Ministry of
griculture and Natural Resources. This
ter falls under the portfolio of the Minister
rade and Industry, and I am putting it to
that this is very unfair to that gentleman
o is now holding the portfolio. Is it
ause he is from the Midwest?

Applause from Opposition Benches).

The Premier: Point of Order. Is that
y Fani-Kayode is the leader of that side?

Mr Oviasu: The creation of the Produce
pection Board is unnecessary because of
austerity measures. When there is need
the provision of amenities in this Region,
y is it necessary at this time of austerity
t more Boards should be created?

Applause from Opposition Benches). I wonder
y the civil servant members of the Board
not left to carry on the job of the Board.
is one thing to advise the Minister and
ther thing to take that advice, since the
nister, according to the section dealing
h the Board advising the Minister, has the
ht to reject the advice. This is nothing
t political jobbery.

The Minister has the power of cancelling
licences. I must warn that this must not be
used as a political weapon against any political
enemy. It is the practice of this Government
to bring things that are of benefit to their
party members, as their members are always
appointed to the statutory corporations of
this Region. The Government thinks that
it is only when the members of the Govern-
ment are appointed to these Boards that
they will be able to toe the party line. Most
of the provisions of this Bill are unnecessary.

Government Benches: That is too
technical for you.

Mr Oviasu: I am a trader, and I know.
I have the opportunity to know. I know
more.

**Mr J. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North-
West):** Mr Speaker, Sir, some months ago
this particular Minister was connected with
cocoa fraud.

**Government Chief Whip (Mr N. A. B.
Kotoye):** I think the hon. Member should
be called upon to withdraw the remarks he
made about the hon. Minister.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member said
that the Minister was connected with a fraud.
Unfortunately, I do not see whether in his
ministerial capacity the Minister has some-
thing to do with the fraud detected by the
Cocoa Commission which culminated in the
Commission of Inquiry, so that if his English
is bad he should find a better word. The
hon. Member could not have meant that
the Minister was a party to the fraud.
I should like the hon. Member to say that
the Minister was not meant to have anything
to do with cocoa fraud.

Mr Omokowajo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I
meant to say that his Ministry was connected,
not the Minister himself. (*Cheers*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Trade
and Industry was connected with cocoa fraud,
and now the head of that particular Ministry
is transferred to be the Minister of Agriculture
and Natural Resources, and that section where
there was the alleged fraud in the Ministry
of Trade and Industry is now removed to the
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural
Resources. There is still something there
which is not clear to all of us. I would wish
that particular Produce section to be taken
back to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
Somebody said the Yorubas do not want
Midwesterners to know what is in that
particular Ministry. Perhaps it is true.

Mr V. I. Amadasun (Benin West I):
Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to fall in stream with all that the hon. Members on this side have said.

Mr Speaker, it is very, very clear now that the Members of the Opposition have been doing their work efficiently and judiciously. It was during the last Budget Session of 1961 that the Members of the Opposition made an allegation that so many thousands of pounds of the Regional Government had been diverted to some hidden hands, and that led to the Deluño Commission of Inquiry. (*Applause*). I am from the Midwest; I can call that name anyhow, so that, Sir, for any Member of the other side to say that the Members of the Opposition have not been doing their work is erroneous.

This Bill is the result of the criticisms of the Members of the Opposition, and, Mr Speaker, Sir, a mature politician who has studied this Bill carefully would see that the Bill is classified into four categories: one category affects the Minister transferred from one Ministry to the other; and, number two, Sir, the Bill also affects the Western Region Produce Inspection Board; number three, the Bill affects Produce Officers; number four, the Bill affects the farmers of the Region.

In continuing with the first classification, the Members of the Opposition opposed this Bill vehemently because it gives supernatural powers to the supposed Minister. I am going to cite relevant sections of this Bill which have given supernatural powers to the Minister.

Mr Speaker, Sir, clause 4 (3) is identical with clause 5 (2) (a), (b), (c). Sub-sections (a), (b) (i)-(iii) will show clearly that some hidden powers have been given to the Minister responsible for this Ministry. Section 4—to refresh your memory, I quote:

“4. (1) This Law shall apply to the produce described in the First Schedule, being produce intended for export, and the word ‘produce’ in this Law shall be constructed accordingly.

“(2) The Minister, with the advice of the Board, may by order add to or delete from the First Schedule any description of produce.

“(3) In relation to the making of an order under sub-section (2) the Minister shall not be bound to accept the advice of the Board”.

Clause 8 (1): “The Minister, with the advice of the Board, may make regulations providing for—

(a) the precautions which shall be taken to prevent the occurrence and spread of pest infestation in produce by means of inspections thereof and the powers and duties of officers concerned in pest control;

(b) the inspection and grading of any produce according to its quality and purity, and prohibiting or regulating any dealings with or processing of any produce which has not been so inspected and graded or which does not conform to standards prescribed in accordance with the provisions of the Export of Nigerian Produce Act, 1958, or any other law;”

Clause 5 (2): “The Board shall consist of nine members as follows:

(a) a Chairman, being a person appearing to the Minister to be fit and proper for appointment as such;

(b) five members, not being officers in the public service of the Region, of whom—

(i) one shall be a person appearing to the Minister to have special knowledge of, or interest in, matters relating to cocoa;

(ii) one shall be a person appearing to the Minister to have special knowledge of, or interest in, matters relating to palm produce;

(iii) one shall be a person appearing to the Minister to have special knowledge of, or interest in, matters relating to rubber; and

(iv) one shall be a person appearing to the Minister to have special knowledge of, or interest in, matters relating to timber; and

(v) one shall be a person appointed to represent the interest of license buying agents”;

Mr Speaker, Sir, with all these citations I have been able to prove that the extraordinary powers given to the Minister are anti-democratic and supernatural.

Now, turning to the second category I said that this Bill is meant to affect the Western Region Produce Inspection Board. There is no need for the appointment of the Board since it is in an advisory capacity. I do not need to sit on a Board the decision of which the Minister shall not be bound to accept. That is why I did not accept to sit on the Midwest Minority Council. Hon. Members should desist from accepti

[MR AMADASUN]

appointments as members of this Western Region Produce Inspection Board.

And turning to the third category, Sir, I said that it is meant to make the Produce Inspectors more efficient. In the Delumo Inquiry it was so specifically written that the Produce Inspectors of the Western Region are dishonest, inefficient and corrupt—*(Interruptions)*—and, because of this, the Ministry has done harm in making certain regulations to make the work of the produce inspectors very difficult. In a section it was stated that any produce inspector who passed any produce not reaching exportable standard should be subject to a fine of £200 or imprisonment for one year, and the Minister has failed to explain what is meant by “exportable standard”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill has been prepared in a way whereby the Produce Inspectors who will not follow the order of the Minister will be victimised. *(Interruptions)*.

I cannot be perturbed by your interruptions. I am opposing this in order that the farmers in the Midwest will not be made political victims.

It is stated that any farmer who hinders the work of any Produce Inspector, or any farmer who gives out any adulterated rubber sheets, or any farmer who fails to follow the order of the Minister, shall be sentenced to a fine of £200 or one year's imprisonment. But the warning I want to sound in this connection is that before the orders are made—the majority of our farmers are illiterates—it should be the duty of the Government to teach the farmers what they have to do and what not to do: not simply sending people out to the Midwest to victimise them because they have produced adulterated rubber sheets.

Finally, I am closing by saying that this Bill was brought to the House because of the very important contributions the Members of the Opposition have been making in this honourable House.

I beg to oppose.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): I think we on this side of the House must try and understand the position of the Western Region. A few weeks ago, the Premier of this Region appealed to the Opposition and to this House, and to the Region as a whole, that the financial position of the Region is such that great sacrifices must be made if we are going to achieve the development necessary to push the Region ahead: in other words, to get

progress in the Region, to industrialise the Region, to implement trade, and to foster agricultural schemes. I think that if the Premier of this Region and the Government want to be taken seriously they must act in such a way as to make it obvious to all of us that whenever demands are made on the people for sacrifices, the Government itself must be circumspect to avoid any way or any means of mis-spending a single penny.

Now, Sir, if a Board with some executive powers has been thought necessary in order to put a check or a super-check on the produce department, I think, Sir, that we on this side of the House do not think that this is a complete necessity; and now Government has thought fit to clear up more funds for new members of the new Board! But whether the proposed Board is absolutely advisory, speaking for myself—and I am sure for Members on this side and also for all right-thinking persons—an advisory committee or an advisory council would have met the circumstances of the case. There are several Boards like that, Mr Speaker. You have advisory councils appointed without payment. People who serve on them often get their sitting allowances. They are advisers to the Minister. In this case the Minister is not bound to accept the advice; he might reject the advice.

What is the purpose of creating a new Board with five members of the Action Group? *(Interruptions)*. I read clause 5 (2) of the Bill—

(2) The Board shall consist of nine members as follows:

(a) a Chairman, being a person appearing to the Minister to be fit and proper for appointment as such;

(b) five members, not being officers in the Public Service of the Region..... *(Interruptions)*.

I do not intend to meander from my points and to reduce the statement I am going to make. In clause 7, you will find that the functions shall be as follows:

(a) to advise the Minister concerning the making of orders under sub-section (2) of section 4, or the making of regulations under section 8 or in the circumstances mentioned in sub-section (3) of section 9;

(b) to advise the Minister on any matter concerning this Law, or its application, or any matter relating to produce inspection generally.

[MR FANI-KAYODE]

In clause 4 (3), page C 55, it is provided that the Minister shall not be bound to accept the advice of the Board. It is true that the people to be appointed are supposed to be specialists in their own line. What I am saying is that we have an efficient Civil Service. It is true that during the Delumo Inquiry a lot of disparaging remarks were made. That does not mean that the standard of the Civil Servants dealing with this aspect cannot be improved when we have these people as paid advisers of the Government. They are Civil Servants receiving emoluments for advising the Minister in respect of these matters. What then, Sir, can be the necessity, in these days when demands for sacrifice are being made, for the creation of a Board with a Chairman and five members with emoluments? We do not know how much they are going to be paid; eventually we shall know; but I say that if the Premier of the Region wants us, Sir, to take him seriously, as he did in the past when he made the speech demanding austerity—well, we told him quite clearly that we accepted the challenge of the times, and we know that the Western Region is going to forge ahead.

We shall be prepared to make sacrifices, but I think, Sir, that we on this side of the House and others on the other side of the House should know that in demanding sacrifice from the people the Government itself must learn to go softly with the expenditure of public funds. I would say that the Premier should consider very seriously whether he should turn this Board into an advisory council or an advisory committee without emoluments. That is all I am asking for. It will be a reasonable thing in these days when you are asking us to make sacrifices. We are prepared to make the sacrifice. The Premier himself says he is prepared to make sacrifices. The Ministers are going to make sacrifices; so are our existing Board members. Why extend the number of these people whose emoluments we are going to cut? I sincerely say that it does not make sense. I sincerely hope that the Minister will seriously consider our suggestion. *(Applause)*

Mr A. A. Adesanya (Ijebu North I): Mr Speaker, Sir, before going on I should first of all welcome the Leader of Opposition to this House after his brief disappearance in the House yesterday—*(Interruptions)*. I do not intend to attack him because he is somebody I respect, a learned man, a Queen's Counsel. *(Applause from the Opposition Benches)*. I respect him also, for he is somebody who drives sense into the heads of

Members of the Opposition. He crossed over from this side, and I think it is really an honour on the part of the Action Group that somebody who crossed over from this side rose to be the Leader of the Opposition. *(Prolonged cheers from Government Benches)*. The criticism of the Opposition may be divided into two.

The first one is from the Back Benches, and that one is somewhat irrelevant and unreasonable, I should say, for this reason. The first one is this: that the power given to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources is undemocratic. In the same breath the man who said that it was undemocratic was referring to the Delumo Inquiry and he stated, perhaps, that it was as a result of the Delumo Inquiry that this Bill was brought to the House. That one shows quite clearly that the Minister of Agriculture is not somebody who is undemocratic in his ways of behaving.

It is true that this Board should be an advisory Board, and as the Leader of Opposition rightly pointed out, the Minister is not bound to take the advice of the Advisory Board. The only reasonable point I see from the Opposition is the one brought by the Leader of Opposition himself. It is true, Sir, that during this time of austerity the Government should not appoint any other board and pay that particular board. *(Opposition Member: Then you better come here)* That is the only point, Sir, I see from the Opposition.

But it may well be because the Leader of the Opposition does not know, and I would tell him, that from this side of the House what we are trying to do is that we should not be penny wise and pound foolish. We are doing this so that we may be able to save more—spend a penny and save one pound. That is the main reason why this Bill is coming up.

But as for the other criticism, that one has been disposed of by the learned Gentleman, the Leader of Opposition, who always speaks sense when he speaks over there. I am definitely sure that he, the Leader of Opposition, will make it a point of duty to have a parliamentary council of the Opposition perhaps he would have been able to teach the Back Benches the way and manner to attack and criticise Bills in this House. And so, Sir, I am passing to the Leader of Opposition the advice that he should try as much as possible to teach these Back Benches their what they are to do in this House.

I rise to support this Bill.

Mr Speaker: May I seize this opportunity to remind hon. Members of Standing Order No. 29: "During a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones". Thank you.

Mr N. A. B. Kotoye: Mr Speaker, Sir, we on this side of the House, no doubt in the eyes of the Opposition, are regarded as devils, but there is no doubt that even the devils do deserve their dues sometimes. I think that this Government deserves a great deal of praise from the Opposition for bringing this Produce Inspection Bill. Last year, at a time just like this, we listened to very foul, scandalous and inflammatory allegations made against the Government in regard to produce matters, and instead of the Opposition coming here this morning to admit the falsity of the allegations which they made on that occasion, they have come this morning to find faults in a Bill which has been brought about by the findings of the Inquiry. As a matter of fact, I think that the Opposition ought to be a bit ashamed for in spite of their challenge and in spite of the Commission of Inquiry, the Leader of the Opposition had not the courage to appear before the Inquiry to repeat the strong and serious allegations which he made on the floor of this House. (*Shame, shame*).

However, I am not going to dwell much upon that, Sir, for there is no doubt that we shall still have the opportunity at a later stage in this House to deal with the irresponsible allegations made by some Members of the Opposition at the last Budget Meeting.

One of the important points I wish to make is this: that those who call themselves seasoned politicians or legislators ought not to find fault in the provision in a law which says that the Minister is not bound by the advice of an advisory body. (*Opposition Benches: Why?*) After all said and done, the Minister of the Government has full and final executive responsibility for every matter within his portfolio. But whether it is stated or not, everybody who is a seasoned legislator or politician ought to know that whether it is stated in black and white, every Minister reserves to himself the right to accept whatever advice is given to him. Without saying it, all the boards and corporations in this Region are under the control of the Minister who is answerable for that particular board in this House. So that whether or not this provision is made, we still know that a Minister of the Government has full executive responsibility over matters within his portfolio.

This Government will cease to be the Government of the people if corporations can

do things which are contrary to Government policy laid down and enunciated by the Minister in this House. And it is really strange that our friends who are fellow travellers of the Federal Minister of Finance, who had introduced several Bills in the Federal Parliament, providing clauses similar to this, can come to this House to pick holes in this simple provision.

We have also been treated to palpable ignorance by one of the hon. Members on the Opposition side from the Midwest when he accused the Government of not providing a definition of what is "exportable standard". I would, Sir, draw the attention of the hon. Member, if he would care to read his Bill again, to page C 54, where he would see in Clause 2 the definition of "exportable standard" as "a standard which is not lower than that prescribed for produce intended for export, under the provisions of the Export of Nigerian Produce Act, 1958, or any other law". (*Mr Amadasun: That is not explicit. It is indefinite*). Yes, it is not explicit because the hon. Member is a simple layman, but those who are produce buyers, and who know much about these matters, quite really understand the provisions of the law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the Government deserves to be congratulated for being the Government of the people. It had the courage, when allegations were made against it, to appoint an open Commission of Inquiry presided over by a High Court Judge of this Region. It is really strange that Members of the Opposition, who claim to have respect for law, should refer to the name of a High Court Judge of this Region in such a derogatory manner as the hon. Member from Benin has done in this House. (*Shame, shame*)—(*Mr Amadasun: Parliamentary privilege*).

It is really a shame that in this second half of the twentieth century a Nigerian should find it easier to pronounce an English name and yet find it very difficult to pronounce the name of another Nigerian. (*Shame, shame*).

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support this Bill.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, I only want to make an explanation in connection with the criticisms made by the first two Members of the Opposition concerning the removal of the Marketing Board from the Ministry of Trade and Industry. (*Interruptions*).

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): I have delegated authority to him to speak on this matter.

Dr Onabamiro: For a long time, Government has been contemplating making

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adjustments to the allocation of that Board in relation to the two Ministries for the following reasons. It is apparent that production and sales are very closely inter-related. When a Minister is in charge of production and another is in charge of sales, the two may not be closely integrated. (*Interruptions*). If you compare the sales of cocoa over the last ten years you will see that the years of great productivity always tally with the years of low prices abroad, whereas years of low productivity always fetch high prices abroad.

About thirty years ago, in America, there was overproduction of wheat. Because the same Minister in America was in charge of production and sales, the Government of America gave an order that the excess should be ploughed back into the soil. The Minister of Agriculture in America is also the man in charge of the sale of farm products. It may well be that in years to come we may produce more cocoa than could be sold in one year and our Minister may be in a position to say that cocoa should not be sold abroad until another year when it will fetch better prices.

As a matter of fact, this would have been the case if Chief Akin Deko had not left. He would have been in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture and also in charge of the Marketing Board. (*Interruptions*). The fact that the Minister of Trade and Industry is a Midwesterner is a mere coincidence. In future, the Minister of Agriculture may well be a Midwesterner. (*Interruptions*). The Marketing Board will still remain in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and I regard what the Opposition has said as irrelevant. (*Prolonged cheers from the Government Benches*).

Chief Adeyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to reply very briefly to the remarks made by my friends on the other side.

For purposes of brevity, I shall reply to some points which have been made and have been repeated by Members for lack of understanding of what the former speaker had said on that side of the House.

First of all, the transfer of the Marketing Board to the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources should not create any doubt or any misgiving in the minds of the Members of the Opposition. The Leader of Opposition is saying that I am nervous. I think if the House assumes or has done the garb of Dr Lambo he should go to Aro. (*Interruptions*).

The point which the Members of the Opposition have made, I think, is a mis-

understanding of the functions of the Government. The hon. Minister of Education has given a very, very clear explanation. I should like to mention what happens in other places, to the Members of the Opposition. In the Northern Region the Marketing Board is under the supervision of the Minister of Economic Development; in the Eastern Region the Marketing Board is the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture; in Brazil Marketing and Sales of Produce in that country is under the portfolio of the Minister of Agriculture. Because of duplication of functions, the hon. Premier has given thought to this point that the Marketing Board should be transferred to the Minister of Agriculture, even before the former Minister of Agriculture left the Government. But I believe the Premier thought that it was opportune, when there was a vacancy in the Ministry of Agriculture, to transfer that important Board to the proper place where it ought to be.

The Member for Benin also referred to the point of cancellation of licences. This is nothing new, Mr Speaker, and I do not know the reason why the Member for Benin West should get very much worried. Before any licence of any licensed buying agent is cancelled, he must have fallen short of the prescribed standard given by the Marketing Board, and if he has fallen short or he has violated the rules and regulations of the Marketing Board, a licensed buying agent has the chance to appeal to the Marketing Board for the renewal of the licence:

- (1) He could appeal to the Board, which may consider or reject the appeal; and
- (2) he could appeal to the Minister.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very much surprised that the Members of the Opposition could not understand, up till now, the reason for the introduction of this Bill and the reason for the institution of the Delumo Commission of Inquiry.

In my opinion, there is no point in referring to themselves as the brain behind the institution of the Delumo Commission of Inquiry as the result of their wild and unfounded allegation of fraud. In fact, I must explain that the Government had been contemplating, and finally decided, to appoint a commission of inquiry into the working of the Produce Section of the Ministry of Trade and Industry ever before the institution of the Delumo Inquiry. I want the Opposition Benches to bear this explanation in mind. Under the circumstances, therefore, it carries no respect or credit to the Opposition to expect any

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support of their claim from this side of the House or from the public.

I should like to reject the idea of the Opposition Chief Whip in referring to me as a supernatural Minister and in the same breath calling me a small Minister; perhaps the chief whip is mostly interested in "Methusela" Ministers. Those of us who are young Ministers are carrying out our duties with vigour and efficiency; but some of you on the Opposition side of this House look down on people who are youthful Ministers.

However, the Members of the Opposition mentioned the case of adulteration and the exportable standard of cocoa. I am glad that the Chief Whip of this side of the House has explained the position in a satisfactory manner. But I should like to say one thing, and that is, that the quality of our produce is important—(Interruptions)—and is of very great concern to us, and if you had known what obtains in the United States of America you would not quarrel at all. It is only to improve the quality of the produce of this country; and, secondly, we want to do so in order to attract higher prices in the world market.

The establishment of the Board is not a new thing. Members do not earn any honorarium: they draw mileage and sitting allowances. The appointment of the Board is only to make the whole Produce Section become an efficient section of the present Ministry. (Cheers from Government Benches).

I am surprised that the Member for Benin West was unable to know what is called "adulteration". I will now quote from the appropriate regulation which will clarify the position clearer to the hon. Member—

"Regulations made under the Produce Inspection Ordinance, 1950 (No. 20 of 1950) Paragraph 3.

In these regulations—

'adulteration' of rubber means the admixture or combination together of a quantity of rubber of exportable standard with any of the following:—

(a) a quantity of rubber not of exportable standard;

(b) any rubber which is not derived from the tree *Hevea Brasiliensis*;

(c) any rubber which may have been of exportable standard but has since deteriorated and become not of exportable standard, whether it has been passed and graded or not;

(d) any liquid or solid matter or solvent substance other than *paranitrophenol* or a prescribed coagulant, which is foreign or superfluous".

Under the circumstances, I conclude that some people on the other side of the House did not do their home work before coming to the House.

Some hon. Members of the Opposition expressed doubts as to the services renderable by the proposed Board and concluded that it would amount to time-wasting to the Members.

In order to allay the fears of the Opposition, I must give them the assurance that the Minister is not all that irresponsible. For this same purpose, I prefer to read the functions of the Board.

The functions of the Board shall be as follows:

(a) to advise the Minister concerning the making of orders under sub-section (2) of section 4, or the making of regulations under section 8 or in the circumstances mentioned in sub-section (3) of section 9;(Opposition Benches: How about Rewane?) (Interruptions).

(b) to advise the Minister on any matter concerning this Law, or its application, or any matter relating to produce inspection generally.

All these clauses quoted are quite clear and I do not see anything bad in appointing people who are familiar with the business.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I have covered the points that brought much objection from the Opposition Benches.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 27 agreed to.

First Schedule agreed to.

Second Schedule agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

Sitting suspended at 11.36 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.

THE PROVINCES AND DIVISIONS ESTABLISHMENT AND VARIATION BILL: SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola):
Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Bill for a Law to make prov-

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sion for the establishment of new Provinces and administrative Divisions in Western Nigeria, for variation in the areas and boundaries of Provinces and administrative Divisions and for matters connected therewith.

I do not imagine, Sir, that this House will require a very lengthy explanation of this Bill. In general respects, it is to give legislative approval to an arrangement whereby the Governor in Council will be empowered, as occasion demands, to vary administrative boundaries and to create such new administrative boundaries and such new administrative areas as may be necessary in the interest of the efficient administration of the various services provided for the public good.

Hon. Members no doubt remember that the old administrative arrangement provided for this essential need under section 4 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Orders in Council, 1954-60. Under this instrument, power was vested in the Governor of the Region to direct by Proclamation that the Region shall be divided into divisions or by units of administration as may be necessary. On the attainment of Independence in 1960 the old arrangement came to an end and the present Constitution of the Region made no provision in terms of the subject-matter with which the present Bill is concerned. Of course, the old arrangements had to go, in the first place, because it is clearly incompatible with the principles of democratic government that a matter of such importance should be dealt with in a summary fashion, as implied by the making of a proclamation. Obviously, the representatives of the people in Parliament ought to be apprised of the intentions of the Government in a matter such as this. It is clearly essential that machinery should exist for the proper organisation of the affairs of the Region in connection with the grouping of the Region into units as may be deemed convenient in regard to the administration of particular services. But, for instance, you already have in existence the units of administration of the services provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Lands and Housing, and so on. Indeed, these arrangements are by no means of a static nature.

It is our duty to examine these matters from time to time and to introduce such changes as may be necessary in the light of experience. In the field of local government, for instance, we keep an eye on the problems and the need of each of these areas

as occasion demands; changes should be made in structure and organisation in such a way as to ensure maximum efficiency in the work which is being done. By the same token, provision ought to be made for possible re-organisation of the larger administrative units so that, should the need arise, the Government could be in a position to re-arrange matters so as to meet any new problems of organisation and management.

Perhaps for purposes of clarity, and in order to simplify the issues involved, I should read the relevant portion from the old Constitution, that is, the Nigeria (Constitution) Orders in Council, 1954-60, section 4; the section reads:

“The Governor of a Region, acting in his discretion, may by proclamation published in the official Gazette of the Region direct that that Region shall be divided into areas and that any such areas shall be a Division for the purpose of this Order or any Regulations made thereunder”.

In other words, under the old Constitution, the power to divide, to sub-divide, to bisect, to dissect and to manipulate—(Applause)—any area in the Western Region was vested in the Governor acting in his discretion alone. But, as this became incompatible with the attainment of Independence, the new Constitution Order in Council does not make such a provision; in other words, by leaving it out expressly in the new Constitution the Constitution impliedly vests in this honourable House the power originally exercised by the Governor in his own discretion. So, the purpose of this Bill is therefore to pass a Law which will regulate what ought to be done when new Provinces, or new Divisions, or new administrative arrangements could be made in the Region.

That is the sum total of the provision of this Bill; in other words, the Bill contains nothing new; the only new feature of it is that, instead of the power for the re-grouping of the Region being vested in the Governor alone acting in his own discretion, that power will now be vested, in the Governor in Council, which, of course, means that the power is being vested in the Government which is responsible to this honourable House. Indirectly, the power is now being vested in this honourable House which is the supreme authority in Western Nigeria.

The idea, therefore, is not to create any new Divisions at this sitting; nor does it imply the establishment of a new administrative unit. This is only a Law which will give the Governor in Council power to re-arrange matters, should the need ever arise.

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

Hon. Members, I think I have said enough to show that the purpose of this Bill is to ensure that a provision is available for making alterations in Provincial, Divisional and Local management in such a way that the difficult task of effective administration of the services provided by the Government may be carried out. I know that I can rely on the support of the hon. Members opposite to give this simple Bill the unanimous and easy passage which it deserves; and may I also add that if the need should ever arise to exercise the power contained in this Bill, that is, by re-grouping or by re-organising any part of Western Nigeria, no steps will be taken by the Government without adequate consultation with the people directly concerned.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Adeyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill now being debated. (*Interruptions*).

I would like the hon. Members on the other side of the House to make less noise.

Mr Speaker, provision has been made in the Bill that the Local Government Law, Cap. 68, and also the Local Government Boundaries Settlement Law, Cap. 69, be reviewed. I wish to draw the attention of Members to the provisions of the Local Government Law, Cap. 68, sections 11, 12 and 13. You will see exactly that boundaries are not adjustable within Councils without certain obligatory functions. I want all to understand, Sir, that the intention of this Bill, as the hon. Premier has said, is just to enable the Government, if and when the need arises—(*Interruptions*); and when that need does arise, Government is bound as stated in the Bill not to do anything outside the provisions of the Local Government Law of the Region.

And what does the Local Government Law stipulate? It stipulates that certain things ought to be done; the wishes of the people in the area must be ascertained, and so on and so forth. It also stipulates that the instrument establishing these Councils cannot be amended either by alterations or by addition without taking into account the wishes of the people of the area concerned.

Mr Speaker, with these few remarks I beg to support.

Mr G. I. Oviasu (Benin Central West):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill because it is illogical, anachronistic and undemocratic. The Premier in presenting this Bill—(*Interruptions*), one would think, Sir, that he is, in the word of the psychologist, guilty of rationalisation.

The Objects and Reasons of this Bill are not what the Premier has given; they go further than that; and I would like to enlighten this House and trace the events that have brought this Bill to this Legislature.

Mr Speaker, Sir, already in the Western Region—in the Midwest area—this Government has planned and executed the plan, in fact, to administer Warri Division from Ondo. (*Shame, shame*). The Warri Division is already being administered from Ondo Province.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let us take note of this logic: the Warri township is within Warri Division; Warri Township is the capital of the Delta Province; Warri Township is in Warri Urban Area in Warri Division; Warri is being administered now from Ondo Province. Well, all other Divisions in the Delta Province used to be administered from Warri Division; in other words, it stands to reason, Mr Speaker, Sir, and this will expand the logic of the hon. Premier, that the whole of the Delta Province shall be administered from Ondo Province; or, in short, that the whole of the Delta Province becomes a part of Ondo Province. (*Interruptions*). But wherein lies the administrative convenience of administering Warri Division from Ondo Province? This is very bad; not only that, Sir; the Akoko Edo which they have now changed to Akoko Oke, owing to political spite, is being administered from Ado Ekiti. (*Shame, shame*). Wherein lies the administrative convenience of administering Akoko Edo—I will not call it Akoko Oke—from Ado Ekiti? Well, these steps have been taken, Sir, without consultation with the people. These steps by the Government—by the Premier and his Government—have been taken without consultation with the people, and I submit, Sir, that that is very undemocratic indeed. The people of Warri have not been consulted and they do not like being administered from Ondo Province. The people in Akoko Edo have not been consulted and they do not like being administered from Ado-Ekiti. Well, Sir, these are clever manoeuvres—clever manipulations—to thwart the purpose of the creation of the Midwest State; nothing more, nothing less! It beats my imagination, Sir, that a person of Chief S. L. Akintola's calibre, who is trained

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in law, should allow his sense of justice to be so blurred and abused; it beats my imagination that the hon. Premier, who claims to be the first man in this Region—a champion of democracy—should commit such a rape on democracy. Did he consult the people? No, he didn't. This is an insult to the people of the Midwest. This is done to frustrate the creation of the Midwest State. The events in the Federal House have overtaken this. (*Applause*). A Motion has been moved and passed in the Federal House that a fourth Region shall be created to consist territorially of Delta Province, including Warri Division and Ijaw Division and Benin Province, including Akoko Division.

The Midwest State is already in sight. It is given on a platter of gold. Very soon that Region will be created. (*Interruptions*). This Bill, as I observe, is undemocratic and useless. It is not necessary to change our boundaries.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I oppose the Bill.

Mr B. Olowofoyeku (Ilesha Urban West): Mr Speaker, Sir, the purpose of this Bill, as declared by the hon. Premier, seems good on the surface. We all agreed that we should move forward with progress in our political evolution. In the past it has been conceded to the Governor to make proclamations in respect of administrative boundaries, but, under this Bill, this power is conferred on the Governor in Council.

This is not democratic enough because, if you give this big power to the Governor in Council, the activities of the Governor in Council in this respect will not be subject to any debate in this House. And, apart from the fears which have been expressed by the last speaker on this side of the House, that is the fear in respect of the Midwest, there is another fear. In fact, I think we are fortunate that the Midwest Motion has been passed in the terms in which it was passed because it definitely made provision for the incorporation of Warri and Akoko-Edo in the proposed new State.

Apart from that, Mr Speaker, there is no doubt that the present divisional boundaries are more or less co-terminal with the boundaries between the sub-ethnic groups in the Western Region. For instance, Ijesha Division is inhabited by Ijesha people alone; Ife Division is inhabited by Ifes and Illas; but in most cases, political boundary divisions are just a limit of the territorial area for a certain group of people. If it is given to the Governor in Council to manipulate these boundaries at its discretion, then what is going to prevent

Government from taking sides where there are boundary disputes between two divisions? At present, boundary disputes have been resolved in courts, and I must say that the courts have been trying to do their best in resolving the boundary disputes which have resulted so far.

The assurance which we would like to have from Government on this issue is not only that people will be consulted: we want to have an assurance that the territorial area of one Division will not be sliced off and given to another division. We would like to be assured that Government will not take sides in the existing boundary disputes between one Division and the other. If these assurances are given by Government, the evil which is related in the Bill will not be as serious as we first thought. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that there is a lot of trouble related to this Bill. We would like a definite assurance from the Premier that he will not allow his Government to take sides in political boundary disputes.

Mr F. H. Utomi rose. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr J. O. Awopeju: There is a stranger nearby without a constituency. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Chief Ighodaro: It is the Member from Asaba.

Mr Utomi: Mr Speaker, Sir, we in the Midwest are directly affected by this Bill. We pray that every Member from the Midwest will be allowed to talk on this Bill.

We know our Government—the Western Region Government. It is a Government already known locally and throughout the whole world as qualified in criminal devices.

Mr Speaker: This is not parliamentary enough. I would like you to withdraw your statement.

Mr Utomi: I withdraw. (*Shouts of "Shame! shame!" from Government Benches*).

There is no doubt that this Bill is a pill of bitterness. It is to frustrate the people from the Midwest and we have our brothers from the other side of the House from various places in the Midwest who have not been able to see anything wrong in this Bill!

Mr Speaker, Sir, not quite three weeks ago, only to please themselves, a part of the Midwest, the capital of the Midwest, is being contemplated to be removed all the way to Ondo, which means that Warri people have to travel through Sapele, Benin Ifon etc.

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and go all the way to Ondo. We do not see the wisdom in this. At the same time, we are told that our own brothers who are being seized from us from Akoko-Edo will be ruled from Ado-Ekiti.

It is unfortunate. We know very well that whatever we have from the Western Government is a Greek gift. This Bill is a device designed to cause trouble in the Midwest. It is a scheme devised to cause trouble in the Midwest. They want to set the people in the Midwest against one another. They want to bring boundary disputes between one Division and another, and between one District and the other, particularly at this time when we are to come together to fight our common problem.

Mr Speaker: How do you know that that is what the Government is going to do?

Mr Utomi: I am warning Government not to cause trouble. Already we know that they have the power of life and death. The people may not be consulted. Is that democracy? Democracy in the Western Region is destroyed. To consult the people is worthwhile but, now, Government will be empowered to divide provinces without consulting the people.

Already in the Midwest, we know their intentions very well. I refer you to Chapter 3 (1) of the Bill which states: "The Governor in Council may, for administrative or other purposes and in such manner as may appear to him expedient, by order establish provinces by dividing the Region into areas accordingly", etc., etc. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! order!

Mr Utomi: Already in the Midwest, we know their intentions. If you read Chapter 3 (1) of the Bill you will see that the Governor in Council may for administrative or other purposes and in such manner as may appear to him expedient, by Order—

(a) establish provinces by dividing the Region into areas accordingly.

(b) establish a new province out of the area of one or more existing provinces;

(c) establish a new division out of the area of one or more existing divisions;

(d) alter the boundaries within the Region of any province or division;

(e) transfer any province or division or part of the area of any province or division to form part of any province or division;

(f) define the boundaries within the Region of any province or division;

(g) designate the name or title by which any province or division shall be known.

It is only because the Midwest is coming off that you have to rush such a destructive Bill, only to cause trouble and disorder and to incite the people against themselves. We know them very well. They are very clever in such actions, and we know very well what their intention is in giving implementation to this Law within the Midwest and within the Region.

When we met in the Western House of Assembly in 1953, when we sought for a new province in the Midwest—the Western Ibo province—it was unanimously approved in this House, in this very same House. They went home to Asaba Division and set head against head. It was approved in this very House. It was to stop the creation of this province that they set the people of Aboh Division against the people of Asaba Division, and now when we are getting our Midwest, when we want to work together as a team, they want to set the people at home against each other. I still say that it is a piece of muddle. It is a catalogue of barbarity.

Mr President, I oppose the Bill.

The Premier: May I express my gratitude to all those who have contributed to this debate. It has been made extremely lively indeed. To me it appeared a very innocuous Bill, but I feel that my good Friend from Asaba has clothed the Bill with the immaculate whiteness of his own logic. Unfortunately it is no logic that appears so transparent. There is nothing behind it. The Bill does not intend to create any new administrative units now, and the Bill does not seek in any way to amend the existing administrative divisions in the Midwest or in any other place. The objects of the Bill are clearly stated, and I have already made it clear that the Bill contains nothing new, excepting that the power exercised by the Governor in his own absolute discretion will now be exercised by the Governor in Council, *i.e.*, by the Cabinet, which is responsible to this side of the House and to this honourable House, and you have the right to question the conduct of the activities of the Cabinet in respect of any matter whatsoever. Therefore, whether you are a member from the Government side or the Opposition, the Cabinet of Western Nigeria is responsible to you, and all we seek to do is to transfer that power and have it vested in the Governor in Council; and, of course, that means all sides of this honourable House. What is to be quarrelled with in that?

A reference has been made to the administrative arrangement in certain parts of the

[THE PREMIER]

Region. If it is the question of making administrative arrangements, it is not necessary to pass a Law. In any event, this Law does not have exclusive application to the Midwest. It is a Law intended to operate throughout the whole of Western Nigeria.

The honourable Member from Ilesha made a very, very important thought-provoking point. He said he would like an assurance that the provisions of this Law would not be invoked in order that the Government might take sides in disputes between any two administrative communities. I unequivocally give that assurance here. (*Applause*). We will never use this Law in order to take sides in any boundary disputes between any two Divisions in the Region. It must be clearly understood that on this side of the House there is hardly any Division in Western Nigeria which is not represented, and I am sure that our members, no less than the members of a city, are patriotic enough not to allow this law to be moved to the detriment of their own people.

I know some people who do not care a hoot whether their father's house is divided and sub-divided and a part of it transferred to strangers. There are such people in Western Nigeria, but they are not in this side of the House. (*Loud applause*).

I assure you we will never take sides. The duty of the Government is to make peace among the various communities in Western Nigeria. Where we observe that tension is very high, ours is to try to find ways and means of pouring oil on troubled waters.

On the second point, this Bill is not designed to be used exclusively in the Midwest. It is a law which will apply throughout the whole of Western Nigeria as and when the need arises. I do not therefore see any reason why members from the Midwest or from anywhere else should be so suspicious of its motives.

Now, we were accused of ruling places in the Midwest from Ondo or ruling one place from another. I think that Members are conversant with the effects of the laws that they passed here. In Ibadan here today, I mean, speaking of Ibadan, the power to administer Ibadan city is vested by Law in the Ibadan District Council and it cannot be imagined that the city of Ibadan can be administered from Benin. Every local government council is responsible for the administration of its own area, and the fact that you have one administrative

officer or a Local Government Adviser coming in only to ask what is happening does not mean that a place is being ruled from a distance. You must be conscious of the power vested in you and vested in your own Local Authority. Each Local Authority is responsible for the administration of its own area, and the idea of somebody administering a place from a distance does not arise.

May I appeal to you once more that as democrats, as my Friend the hon. Member for Ilesha has pointed out, this Bill is in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution. This Bill is the only Bill that will show the present status of the country. The alternative will be for us to go back and vest the power which we seek now to invest in the Governor in Council, in one and only one person. Do you wish for that retrograde step?

Finally, Sir, a good deal of protest was made in an irrelevant manner to the creation of the Midwest State and somebody got up in a spirit of jubilation to say that the Motion had been passed in the Federal House, the Federal House which is notorious for perpetual error. (*Loud applause*). May I finally suggest that nobody, no sensible man opposite me, should rejoice at this stage.

Mr Speaker: I notice that those who are in the gallery are trying to laugh along with the Members of the House. This is disallowed please.

The Premier: May I say that as far as the Midwest Motion is concerned, it is too early to jubilate. That Motion was there before, and it was discovered that a mistake had been made, and they started all over again. There is such a thing in Mathematics known as a recurring decimal. (*Prolonged applause*). The secret of all our moves about the Midwest, the tactics of the past, the tactics of the future, are concealed by us here. (*Applause*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Chairman, Sir, in this very clause, I have the following amendments to make—After the word "provinces" occurring in sub-clause 1 (b), insert "after enquiry has been made".

Mr Chairman, Sir, when the hon. Premier of the Western Region was making his speech on this Bill, I wasn't given an opportunity

to take part in the debate. The Premier promised that the people connected with the area must be consulted. So that, after due enquiry has been made in accordance with this amendment, we will then take the Premier of the Western Region seriously in all that he has explained when the Bill was being debated this morning.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr Amadasun: The amendment I want to make in sub-clause 1 (e) is that after the word "transfer" we should insert the words "the people of". Mr Chairman, I want this expression to be inserted in order that the Premier might prove to this House the sincerity of his explanation.

Mr D. E. Okumagba (Warri East): Mr Chairman, I rise to second the Amendment. The Premier assured us that before the Bill is applied to any area there would be mutual consultation. As far as Warri Division is concerned, whenever there is going to be any consultation, the matter should be made public.

We represent the people of Warri Division. My Party controls the majority in the Division. Our only representative in the House of Representatives is a member of the NCNC.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member please keep within the limit of the amendment.

Mr Okumagba: Before the Bill is applied the hon. Premier should see to it that the desired consultation is made public, especially in Warri Division, because we know we control the majority there. There are three legislative seats. We have two and the other party one; so we are the people to speak for Warri Division.

The Premier: I oppose the amendment because it is superfluous, and therefore unnecessary. It is unnecessary because, before any Government, any responsible Government, dabbles in matters like administrative re-arrangements, there would normally be consultation with all concerned. Secondly, the hon. Minister of Local Government has assured you that in the Local Government Law, the provision you are now referring to is already there. So you cannot transfer one area to another, or just arbitrarily decide on a re-arrangement of local administration in any area without adequate consultation. That I am sure will always be made. It is not necessary to overburden the Bill with unnecessary recitations. I say it is absolutely unnecessary.

My hon. Friend the Member for Warri said he and his colleagues, because they are more, numerically, than my representatives there, are the people competent to speak for Warri. (*Opposition: Yes, that is democracy*). Things that are rare and expensive are not judged by their weights, and I am sure if votes were weighed and not counted, we control Warri. (*Laughter*). If you want to know, I am sure here that my hon. Minister of Education—one Minister of Education here—will be equal to ten *Amadasuns*. (*Laughter*).

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr Amadasun: In sub-clause 1 (e), line 2, delete "form part of" and insert the word "other" between the words "any" and "province". The amendment should read: "transfer any province or division or any part of the area of any province or division to any other province or division."

It appears that the Western Region Government wants to do an impossible thing, that is, to transfer an area or land to another area or take part of one province to another province. This is above human nature. If the people in an area are dissatisfied and want another province, they may migrate. Some people migrated to Ilorin, and some tribes from Egypt. This amendment is important. People who like may migrate into Ondo or Warri if they are dissatisfied.

The Premier: I oppose the amendment suggested by the Member for Benin City. It is better to transfer an area than to transfer a person. Anybody may be wherever he wants. Transfer of people is against our Constitution. We cannot transfer you to anywhere, because we have greater respect for human beings. That is why we ask for the transfer of areas, and not of people, after consultation.

Mr R. A. Akinyemi: You said it is inhuman to transfer people, but you exiled the Alafin of Oyo, the late Alhaji Adeniran.

The Premier: In saying that it is inhuman to transfer human beings to anywhere, I do not mean when an error has been committed.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr Amadasun: We are not going home till the 29th of April. Do not be in a hurry. I move that Clause 31 (9) be deleted entirely, because I am a person who does not want any province or any division to be named after certain personalities. The Premier of Western Nigeria, if this clause is

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not deleted, will name a province after his own name. In some parts of the Federation, some provinces are named after some personalities because of their cultural nature. I therefore suggest that this clause be deleted.

Mr F. O. Osuhor (Asaba South-West): When I first read through this Bill, I thought I would see the signature of the Minister of Local Government under it. I am surprised that the signature of the Premier appears at the end of the Bill. It will cause confusion among our people if, tomorrow, Benin Province becomes "Akintola Province" and Warri or Delta becomes "Awolowo Province", or this or that province is named after this or that man.

The Premier: May I oppose this Amendment which is one of the most difficult amendments I have ever seen. Although the Governor in Council is given the power to create a province, when it comes to what name a particular province will bear it must be borne in mind that the background of the people and their traditional position have to be respected; otherwise no such province will have the support of the people of the area. There was only the Oyo Province before, but later on, the province was divided into two—Oyo Province and Ibadan Province. If the Government has power to create a province, it does not have power to give it a name.

Someone suggested that the new province might be called Akintola Province. Even our Opposition will admit that our ambition is not for such purposes. Port Harcourt, Enugu, have names given to them! If a local council which constructs a road can be given the right to give the road a name, what about the Government of this Region? (*Interruptions.*) Honestly I have found names of Members on both sides given to important streets in the Region, and I do not regret it at all. New roads are being built and names of many of you will still be there. There is Osadebay Road. (*Interruptions.*) I am sorry some of them (*pointing to Opposition Members*) will go back to the school for local geography. (*Laughter.*)

May I say that there is no danger of any new province or any Division being given a name which will not be compatible with the historical background and the wishes of the people directly concerned.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr A. E. E. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): I move that clause 3 (1) (a) be deleted entirely.

Government Bench: The Chairman has not called you.

Mr Atohengbe: We were happy when the Premier, in moving the Motion, referred us to the 1954-60 Orders in Council. We wanted to be referred to the present Nigeria Constitution. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Chairman: The hon. Member has my permission. (*Applause.*)

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am moving an amendment that clause 1 (a) be deleted entirely, because that clause empowers the Governor to act as in the terms of the Bill, whereas the Constitution Order in Council which so empowered the Governor was an outdated one.

Amendment put and negatived. (Up roar.)

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Bill reported without amendments, read the Third time and passed.

THE WESTERN REGION HOUSING CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Chief J. O. Adigun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Western Region Housing Corporation (Amendment) Bill be now read a Second time.

In moving the Second Reading of the Bill to amend the Western Region Housing Corporation Law, I like to call Members' attention to the objects and reasons for the amendments as published with the Bill. The Housing Corporation has assumed a greater measure of responsibilities since its inception and it is Government's wish to still widen its scope of activities and expand its area of influence. It is to cope with this great expansion that Government now proposes to make provision for Executive Directors to assist the Chairman of the Corporation in discharging his onerous duties. Opportunity is also being taken to bring the definition of "the Minister" in section 2 of the law up to date.

Also in the amending Bill, provision is being made for the extension of the period within which the Corporation should make its Annual Report to the Minister, from three months to six months after the end of each financial year. The purpose in this case is to allow more time for the auditing of the accounts of the Corporation. These amendments are non-controversial.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhadji Z. A. Opaleye): I rise to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this Bill. The idea behind all moves by the West Regional Government should fall in line with the proposed measures announced by His Excellency yesterday, namely, that of prosperity through austerity, or *vice versa*.

It appears that it is felt that the present Chairman of the Housing Corporation is having too much work in hand and that he needs a helper to assist him; but I hold it very strongly that the idea of two Executive Directors to help a man who has been doing the job singly is extravagant, and particularly at this age of austerity.

Another reason why I am opposing the Bill is that I would want the hon. Minister of Lands and Housing to explain to the House why a job that can be done by four people should be done by six. I think that in view of the austerity measures which we are trying to promote in the Region and for which all the Members of the House are so happy, including the Premier of the Region, one would have thought a maximum of four people should be the number required by the Corporation; the relevant section of the Bill should not read "between four and six".

Well, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill is a very short one and I would like to warn the Western Region Government about one thing. It is good telling this honourable House one thing, and broadcasting the same over the Press and the Radio. (*Interruptions*). I am referring to the austerity measures announced by the Government. Now if the austerity measures are to have their full and maximum effect, the Government should be warned against introducing matters which will involve it in extra expenditure. The point I am trying to raise is that if Executive Directors must be appointed, they must not be more than one. If other members of the Corporation should be named they should not be more than four.

One other point in the Bill.....(*interruptions*). I have the protection of Mr Speaker. Well, it is our duty as the Opposition to criticise constructively. I beg to oppose the provision of the Bill as it now stands.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, in accordance with what the last speaker has said, the Bill is not highly controversial. We all know the importance of the Housing Corporation of the Western Region Government. The activities of this Corporation have been felt principally in two parts of the Region, the Ikeja Housing Estate and the Bodija Housing Estate. I had the fortune to visit the Bodija Housing Estate during the last Parliamentary Session. What I want to say in connection with this is that I do not see any reason why the activities of this Housing Corporation have not been extended to the Midwest area. (*Government Bench: Sapele.*) It is very easy to say that there is provision to establish this and that (*Interruption*). Judging from the benevolent activities of this Corporation, by now one estate should have been established in the Midwest area.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the appointment of two Executive Directors, as has been pointed out by the last speaker, goes against the spirit and principles of the austerity measures. The appointment of two Directors goes to prove that the present Chairman of the Corporation has not been able to discharge his duties efficiently; but from what I know, the present Chairman is one of the best brains in the Western Region and has been doing his work efficiently. (*Applause*). What is the necessity then of appointing two Directors? Maybe it is necessary to appoint two Directors in order to give jobs to some supporters of the Action Group.

I beg to oppose the Bill.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, I am surprised to hear that the Western Region Government is going to appoint two Executive Directors to assist the Chairman of the Housing Corporation. The Premier of the Region gave us the assurance that public money will not be expended in unnecessary fields. I shall not be tired of crying because if they will cut my salary cut their own salary, and cut the salary of all of us, we must be assured that these sacrifices are going in the correct direction. It is my opinion that the funds of the Housing Corporation are very low. I am making that statement with all sense of responsibility, because the source of my information is such that it has always been correct in the past. Whether the Housing Corporation has money or not is still even a side issue. There is no need appointing two Executive Directors if you are going to be democratic. I therefore oppose the Bill,

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unless, Sir, the hon. Minister can show us quite clearly the necessity for these two extra Executive Directors. What are they supposed to do? If he can show us, then we can understand. Believe me, Sir, at this stage of our development, it is sheer bad politics, in the first instance, because the public would like to see some form of austerity, and, secondly, it is even bad financial control of public funds.

We have seen, and I am sure the hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General will bear me out, Executive Directors in the Western Nigeria Development Corporation. What do they do? Nothing. (*Government Benches: They do many things*). Well, sometimes. Mr Speaker, they do work sometimes. We have got to a stage now when all these superfluous posts are completely beaten out from the face of our legislation. I am sure, Sir, that hon. Members in this House, both on this side of the House and on the other side, will bear with me that if we really mean business, if we really mean to use public funds for progressive measures, we have to think twice before creating these posts.

Some people who hold these posts today are redundant. We have managers and chairmen of certain corporations that should have been shot at sight (*The Premier: Shot!*) Yes. Shot dead. I must not mention names, because they cannot defend themselves in this House. I am not here to mention anybody's name. But I think that the best any chairman or some executive directors can do is to commit suicide; the best they can do for this country and for this Region, if they cannot resign, is to commit suicide.

More so, Sir, the hon. Premier will come before us again and ask for the creation of two more posts. I am hoping, Sir, that the hon. Minister will think twice about these proposed appointments or take us into confidence in this House and tell us how much they intend to pay them.

We hope, Sir, if they have made up their minds that they are going to spend money on these Executive Directors, how much they are going to pay them. Is it going to be free? I am saying, Sir, that it is about time that these non-austere measures should have been withdrawn from the face of this House and I am hoping that the hon. Premier will get up before long and tell the whole House that he will think twice about the new appointees as shown on this Bill.

Lastly, about the period of 180 days to prepare the financial report. I can quite understand

that the financial ramifications of the present government party, either initiated by this Government or inherited from their predecessors, are so vast that they need more than 180 days to bring out any account that we have found very great difficulty in unravelling. I am saying that the financial position of this Region today is so complicated that they do not even need only 180 days but three years.

As I was saying, Sir, that the financial jobbery, the ramifications, borrowings, lendings, withdrawals, paying-back will take a genius to unravel. And no wonder they need 180 days to prepare the auditors' report! We can't stop them; even if they do not give us a report. What can we do? But, I am sure, Sir, that the country and posterity will one day call on them to give an account of all these monies. (*Government Benches: Now*). Not yet, Sir. There is plenty of time.

Chief S. O. Ighodaro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I did not intend to say a word but I have been provoked by the Leader of Opposition.

Mr Fani-Kayode: I must withdraw one statement. When he was Executive Director, he was very good.

The Premier: May I add, Sir, that when we were all together, we appointed all the sinners of today. (*Prolonged laughter from both sides of the House*).

Chief Ighodaro: I would like seriously to speak on one or two points.

I do not consider, seriously speaking, that these appointments will be redundant, Sir. These Executive Directors and Chairmen of Corporations, are men of good substance, men of great talent and ability, and they are able to do their work efficiently. I know there is not such publicity given to their work, but they do quite a lot of solid work. I can say, for example, that there is an Executive Director that is in control of the Plastic Factory, the Nigersol Development Corporation, the Water Resources Corporation, ditto Nigerian Cement Limited project, and so many like that; and many of these are very complicated. The Leader of Opposition, and a learned lawyer, would know that several of these are complicated issues. You have got to go to their meetings; you have got to study many of these papers, usually very complicated; you have got to visit the projects and examine them; because what you read on paper does not take any substance.

I think it is certainly unfair for a man of the reputation of the Leader of Opposition to speak of the Directors and Chairmen in a

[CHIEF IGHODARO]

rather derogatory way in which he has spoken. I mean that to talk of certain Directors going to commit suicide is most undesirable and is very unfair, because they are not here to defend themselves in any way.

As for the Housing Corporation, I should like to appeal to the hon. Member, Sir, that it is an expanding corporation. It is one of the most popular of the corporations here and the Government is thinking of expanding it very soon. And not only that; Government too is thinking of transferring several properties and things to the Housing Corporation so that the benefits can spread wider than now. And if you are going to do that, you need more hands to help the chairman of this corporation and whatever you pay him by way of salary would certainly mean that more profits will accrue to the corporation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, because of austerity we should not think that these members are redundant. After all, whatever members are appointed, they would have to suffer the same austerity measures. It is not so much because of that, but that by their appointment more substantial results would come to this Region, and I think, Sir, that they should be a little more generous in their views of the chairmen and the executive directors.

Chief Adigun: Mr Speaker, Sir, some important points have been raised and the hon. Attorney-General has cleared some of them. But I should like to add to what he has said about the number of executive directors. It is not Government's intention to appoint these two directors at once. They will be appointed as and when the need arises and, maybe, the need may not arise. (*Shouts of "why, why" from Opposition Benches*). If the provision made for it in the Law is not made; it will be impossible for Government to make such an appointment.

The hon. Member for Urhobo mentioned that we should limit the number of members on the Board. May I draw his attention to the fact.....(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I was saying that the hon. Member for Urhobo suggested that we limit the number of members of the corporations to four and not six. I should like to draw his attention to the provisions made under the original law itself. We only repeat what is in the original law. The provision there is: "Not less than four or more than six members will be appointed." There is nothing new in this. The only thing there is the provision of Executive

Directors, but these Executive Directors would be appointed as and when the need arises.

On the accounts of the corporation, I should like to assure hon. Members opposite that what we are doing is nothing new at all. It is experience that has taught us that it does not pay to have this provision of three months as we have in the original law. In the laws for the other corporations, they are expected to submit their reports within six months and we thought we should bring this in line with the provisions in the other laws; so that it is nothing strange at all. As a matter of fact, experience has shown that it is not possible for the auditors to complete auditing the accounts within this period. Auditing of accounts is very technical and the auditors must be very careful if they must produce very accurate report.

The Leader of Opposition mentioned that he has had information that the funds of the corporations are very low. Well, this is not to my knowledge. All I know is that Government is planning to expand these corporations. It may well be that this part of the development plan which is being considered may bring in other partners, facilitate the getting of loans from foreign countries, and enable us to have elaborate schemes of expansion in the different parts of the Region; and we thought, perhaps, that if we are going to make provision for this expansion, we must have Executive Directors to assist the chairmen of these corporations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Motion for an Address

Adjourned debate on Question (28th March):

"That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in the following terms:—

This House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to Your Excellency for the most gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature;

And that this Address be formally presented by the Leader of the House and the Mover of the Motion."

Question again proposed.

Mr R. A. Akinyemi (Ikeja South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the Speech from the Throne, a Speech which was addressed to the hon. Members of the House of Chiefs and that of the Assembly by His Excellency, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, the Oni of Ife and the Governor of Western Nigeria. The Speech of His Excellency and the wording of the Motion of Thanks by the Government Chief Whip are significant because both are devoid of the usual arrogant and boastful expressions which were characteristic of past Speeches and Motions of Thanks.

The Speech has given a comprehensive review of Government activities within the past twelve months and what the Government intends to do in various fields within the next financial year. But in supporting the Motion I will like at this stage to make certain observations.

The Governor has not, in his Speech, made reference to the creation of the Midwest State, the proposal for improving sporting activities in the Region; the Government proposal for allaying the fears of the Opposition in the Region. On the whole the Speech contained a lot of unfulfilled promises since the last Budget Session.

From the Governor's Speech from the Throne yesterday it is clear that the most important task of the current Session of the Western House is to approve the budgets for the next financial year and to consider the Six-year Development Plan, totalling about £240.1 million.

It is right that the Members of the House should have the final say on these plans which we are told have now been integrated into one National Plan. But parliamentarians ought to make it clear that they resent the contempt with which they have been treated by the Government. For nothing but a contemptuous disregard for the House could have been responsible for the fact that the Members of the House will be seeing the Development Plan for the first time during the current Session of the House. A plan which is to cost the £240.1 million is not a document to be rushed through Parliament. It is a plan which ought to have been sent to Members of Parliament and which should have been published at least two months ago. Only thus could the Members of the House have had the oppor-

tunity of studying the plan very closely and sounding public opinion on it so that they may be in a position to express the opinion within the House.

As it is, Members of the House are placed in the embarrassing situation of having to approve an expenditure of £240.1 million without any consultations with their constituents if they do not want to be accused of holding up the Region's progress by deferring the consideration of the Plan.

In 1956 a Motion was unanimously passed in the Western House of Assembly calling for the creation of the Midwest State. Awolowo, the present Leader of Opposition in the Federal House, was then the Premier of the Region. During the Federal elections, Awolowo made it clear that his Party was irrevocably committed to the creation of the Midwest State. In 1961 he told lies to party supporters in the Midwest, that it is left for the Motion to be moved in the Federal House and he felt that the Federal Government was prepared to create the State. Now this Motion has been passed in the Federal Parliament with the necessary two-thirds majority. It has also been passed in the Northern and the Eastern Houses. Up till now nothing has been done in this House to see to it that the Government of the Western Region carries into effect the election promises made to the electorate of the Midwest. In other words, as representatives of the people we must know whether this Government is still supporting the creation of the Midwest or whether the Action Group is backing out. Whether the Action Group or the Western Government likes it or not, the Midwest will be created and has been created.

Some of you who are Ministers and who come from the Midwest are afraid whether in the Midwest Region you will not be a Minister and not earn £3,000; that is why some of you are backing out. We give you a word of assurance that the creation of the Midwest State is above party politics and we will consult you with regard to the interim administration set-up of the Midwest Region.

Today we do not know who is the Leader of the Action Group, having regard to the events that happened during the Action Group Congress at Jos.

In the Sports life of the Region it is the statutory duty of the Western Nigeria Sports Council to help financially sporting organisations in Western Nigeria. Since the creation of the Sports Council two years ago no sporting organisation has been helped either in form of loans or in form of grant.

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The Council's apathy is most apparent with regard to football which is the most popular game not only in Western Nigeria but in the whole world. For example the Sports Council advertised for coaching scholarships over two years ago and, up till now, nobody has ever been appointed, in spite of the fact that the West N.F.A. has sent recommendations to them as far back as June 1961. The appointment of the Chief Coach, Les Courtier, was terminated in April 1961, and up till now, no Chief Coach has been appointed. The West N.F.A. managed to get Mr Ayo Adeniji to do the work of the Chief Coach but the West Sports Council refused to pay his salary. Notwithstanding that, it was through hard work and selfless service of members of the West N.F.A. that Western Nigeria was able to win the Nigeria Challenge Cup.

Apart from Ibadan, there is no football Stadium in any other part of Western Nigeria. As far back as September, the West N.F.A. submitted recommendations to the West Sports Council with regard to other towns in the West where small stadia could be built; but nothing has been done up till now.

The West lost the Bank Anthony Cup to the East just because one member of the Sports Council who is expected to seek the interest of the Region in sports refused to release a player at Ado-Ekiti, the home town of Osuntokun, the Minister responsible for sports in the Region. It is a national pride for us to lead not only in Nigeria but in whole of Africa in the fields of Sports. Any time the Western team or any Nigerian team is defeated one feels frustrated.

I think the present members of the Sports Council are not the suitable types. Why do I say that? Now, the Chairman of the coaching committee is a woman—Mrs Fatayi-Williams. She has never taken part in sports before in her life. There is another Powell; he is a groundsman earning £2,300 per annum. There is another man, Mr Alakija. All these are Europeans—no single Nigerian. (*Government Benches: Alakija is is a Nigerian.*) I don't dispute that, but his mother is an English woman and his father an African. He does not speak Yoruba. They are all opposed to everything African. When an approach was made to them by the West N.F.A. to engage some of the Western players to work at the Liberty Stadium they refused; instead they engaged teachers and girls. I say, with the greatest respect, Mr Speaker, that the time has come

when there should be a re-organisation of the West Sports Council to put people there who are Africans.

Now, let us come to the question of labour. In the Western Region here, the Governor's Speech from the Throne has made it clear that the Government, in conjunction with the Industrial Promotions Commission, will establish industries. Let me say that that may, to some extent, go to ease the unemployed. I appreciate the point, but there is one danger in it unless, according to what is contained in the Governor's Speech from the Throne, we do something and make Government introduce legislation and make it imperative that employment must be through the Labour Exchange or through any other agency. There are thousands of our school leavers with Standard Six Certificates who are unemployed. There are also thousands of Modern III school leavers who are roaming about. That does not affect the Western Region alone. It is all over the Federation; so that it will to some extent ease direct employment as is done in England. It will increase efficiency, Mr Speaker; not only that—it will stop bribery and corruption. It will also stop some Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries getting their girl-friends employed at the expense of others.

Now, let us come to the question of austerity measures. I am in sympathy with the Government. (*Interruptions*). I would withdraw the statement about Ministers, but I would say, with the greatest respect, Mr Speaker, that these are social evils in our society. The Government has advocated democratic socialism. I think the time has come when we should stop deceiving ourselves. A Nigerian does not know the difference between democratic socialism, marxist socialism, capitalism or communism. All he is interested in is bread and butter. It was an offence in this country to read communist literature, whereas we purchased them in every bookshop in London. I am not a communist, but if communism means that the ordinary man will have his daily bread, that the standard of life of our people will be increased, then I am a communist.

Now, let us come to the question of austerity measures. There has been a lot of grumbling by the civil servants about the austerity measures. I would declare that civil servants have told me to my hearing that, immediately it is implemented in the Western Region, there will be an exodus of some of them. We on this side of the House believe that no civil servant in Nigeria should earn more than £2,000 per annum. After all, the wife of a civil servant earning over

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£2,000 per annum and the wife of a labourer earning £7 a month buy in the same market at Dugbe. They cannot threaten the sovereignty of this Parliament. We are to dictate to them. They are not to tell us what they want.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, apart from this, the local government police.....(*Interruptions*). We are not concerned with the Nigeria Police. All we are concerned about is that we have under our direct control the local government police. In the past, local government police have been used as an instrument of oppression and persecution. Gentlemen, I am of the opinion that the local government police must be re-organised and the people that are to be engaged must be free in order to make it possible for them to realise that they are not in the Region either for the Action Group or for the NCNC, because, today, if you say you are a Minister or the Premier and you continue to use this government machinery against your political opponents, what is the guarantee that you will be there tomorrow and one day, whether you like it or not, you will be accountable to God?

The Minister of Local Government has, in the Governor's Speech from the Throne, realised that the time has come when there should be a review of the local government system. It has been said, to some extent, that women will be sitting on our local Government councils. I think it is a good thing for women to play some part in the administration of the Region; but I would suggest, with the greatest respect, Mr Speaker, that the time has come (if Margaret Ekpo and Mokwelu could win elections in the Eastern Region to be Members of the House), when it is necessary, in order to safeguard not only the NCNC but leaders of the Action Group, for these women to contest elections.

Now, at this stage, I have to thank the hon. the Premier for the part he played in the enquiry into the N.F.A., Western Region. We ran to him. I was among those that were to go to him, but Soremi went and, overnight, he called the Minister responsible and instituted a Commission of Enquiry. Although the matter is *sub judice* we will await the result of the court proceedings. I will ask the hon. Premier and the Minister in charge of sports finally to use their good offices to finance the greatness of sports in this Region so that in the years to come, when we go to international fields of sports and athletics, Western Nigeria will come back triumphant.

With these Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Layonu (Ede/Ejigbo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor so ably moved by the hon. the Chief Whip.

His Excellency's speech is a faithful record of the most important events of the coming year. The language used in describing them is lucid, and the tone is challenging. Sir, if one does not hide one's head in the sand, but faces the facts, one can see the real state of things and appreciate the tremendous contributions the West Regional Government is now making towards the advancement of the regional economy. The Five-year Development Plan was received by the people of this Region enthusiastically. That enthusiasm continues to reign supreme and is vividly manifested in the day-to-day work of the people. We bid a warm farewell to the old year and we are now giving a joyous welcome to the new year—1962/63. The new year will bring us fresh successes.

Sir, we have clearly seen in the Speech of His Excellency that the next six years will witness a further considerable expansion of the regional economy and the enlistment of additional reserves. This will definitely accelerate economic development and lead to fresh successes. The new development programme of this Government has a feature which distinguishes it from those of other Governments of the Federation. The Action Group party maps the practical paths for further development of Democratic Socialism which will eventually make the people of this Region sow precious seeds and reap bumper harvests. The goal of the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria is to give the people of Western Nigeria the highest standard of living.

It is very gratifying to see that the Government of Western Nigeria was the first Government in Nigeria to make a sudden pronouncement on the popular measure—"AUSTERITY". The Government is not like an empty barrel which makes the loudest noise. It is not like people who make the loudest clamour repeatedly and loudly too on austerity and still fail to take the measure. May I take this opportunity to say that the Western Government has made a lead in taking the severest measure of austerity. Right from the Premier who now earns £1,500 less than each of his colleagues in the North and East and £1,800 less than the Prime Minister, to our Ministers who now earn £1,800 less than each of their colleagues in other parts of the Federation and ordinary hon. Members who now earn £150 less than each of their colleagues in

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the North and the East and £250 less than each of their colleagues in the Federal territory, great sacrifices have been made.

May I take this opportunity to say that contrary to the opinion of inveterate lampoonists and unsuccessful propagandists this Government did not in the least face any financial bankruptcy before introducing the severe austerity measure. We gladly and conveniently accept to make this sacrifice without any regret because we feel that high development rates are a law of the Action Group Government's planned economy and that the enormous scale of these undertakings requires enormous funds. Our Government is now confronted with the most difficult and gigantic and inspiring adventure ever undertaken by any Government. The undertaking calls for the finest qualities of courage, faith and sacrifice. But the major task of our time is to get along on our way, whatever the cost. There is nothing dull or unromantic about that. It is a time for high adventure, for the ruggedness of the pioneer, and for a purpose that will not be denied.

In His Speech from the Throne, His Excellency eloquently said:

"During this session, a number of revenue measures will be introduced so as to provide additional funds for the execution of development projects under the revised Development Plan for 1962-68....."

".....my Ministers will ensure that every citizen participates in the endeavour to build a Western Nigeria of which we can all be proud."

"The other Rest Houses in the Region, particularly those suitable for use by important persons, are being redecorated and modernised."

Now, Sir, it is said, "Truth is indestructible. Right is invincible. Justice is inescapable". It should not be difficult for us to see now where the weak spots in the civilisation of the past have been. And seeing them with clarity, we should be able to correct them with courage.

Should we take for granted that because my constituency had electricity and water supplies about ten years ago, therefore it should be deprived of development projects? Should we say that because we have Queen's School in my constituency therefore it should be completely neglected of medical services?

We urgently need a big general hospital in my constituency and, in the alternative, a rural health centre. The only nearest place to us having a General Hospital is Oshogbo

which is nine miles away. There are instances, cases without number, where patients die on the way when they are being carried to Oshogbo for medical treatment. During the Awolowo regime, we were given electricity and water supplies. If the Akintola regime cannot give a big General Hospital, we beg for a Rural Health Centre. "Above everything else is the importance of human well-being".

Now turning to Rest Houses in the Governor's Speech. Despite the atmospheric, hilly and the very satisfactory situation of Ede Rest House, it has not been redecorated and modernised and it houses cockroaches, pests and ants. The ceilings are almost completely removed by white ants. The room is too hot because it is covered with iron sheets only. It is an apology and needs expansion.

Improve our health by giving us a Rural Health Centre.

Sir, with these, I support the Motion.

The Minister in the Ministry of Education (Mr J. O. Oye): Mr Speaker, Sir; I just want to make an explanation with reference to the speech of the last but one speaker which refers to me as the chairman of the Western Regional Council of N.F.A.

It appears to me that there are certain things which the last speaker does not understand. When there was no Sports Council in this Region, the Government usually gave a subvention of £4,000 to the Football Association for payment of salaries to coaches, and when the Sports Council was established by law that power passed on to the Sports Council. The last speaker said that the Sports Council had contributed no grant at all to any football associations in this country. That is not correct. What happens is that the Sports Council appointed two coaches, Mr Les Courtier and Mr Balogun. At the moment, Mr Balogun is a coach in this Region and he is being paid by the Sports Council. We didn't like Les Courtier. We approached the Sports Council and his appointment was terminated. The Sports Council advertised for a coach and a new one has been appointed with our knowledge and the Sports Council is going to pay for this new coach when he comes to Nigeria.

The last speaker spoke about Mr Adeniji. He said that Mr Adeniji was appointed by the Sports Council and the council refused to pay his salary. Mr Adeniji's appointment was the responsibility of the Western Regional Council of N.F.A. and not that of the Sports Council. It is not the responsibility of the

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Regional Council of N.F.A. He also spoke about one Mr Ogunlade who is a member of the Sports Council from Ekiti. Well, the boy who played for us at the Bank Anthony Cup is from Christ School. The letter which was written to get permission was sent to the Principal of the school and not to Mr Ogunlade as alleged. Now, he also accused the Sports Council of engaging women and some other people and refusing to engage sportsmen to work there. From my own experience, we have some difficulty in getting certain people employed in this Region. The reason for this is that most of the people have not the requisite educational qualifications.

Mr B. I. G. Ewah (Ishan North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his Speech from the Throne.

Going through the Speech very carefully, and looking back at the nice records of achievements of this Government and what is in store for the future, I will not hesitate to conclude that the Government of this Region stands very high above the Governments of the other Regions.

In saying this, the large array of visitors who came into this Region during the last financial year is an evidence of the growing importance of this Region in international circles. This is a certain proof, too, of the effective advertisement of this Region to the outside world by our able, sympathetic and energetic Premier and Ministers. Overseas tours are therefore highly encouraged because the attraction of many foreign business concerns to invest in this Region is the immediate result of these tours and also demonstrates the faith and confidence which the outside world have in the ability of this present Government to maintain law and order.

This House will agree with me that the Government of this Region is stable, democratic, responsible, tolerant, progressive and, above all, it has respect for the sanctity and dignity of the individual.

The fundamental human rights in our Constitution are not as vast as the rights, freedom and liberties which the citizens of this Region have been enjoying since the Action Group came into power in the Region. These rights, liberties and freedom which the average Westerner has regarded as the normal way of living are to his counterparts in other parts of Nigeria privileges not for the masses but for the *Rankadedes* and those on top. All these will show that it is a great privilege for any one to live in the West.

Expatriate tutors teaching in our Grammar Schools should be encouraged.

On behalf of my people I now present my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Government of this Region for the new water extension in Ishan costing about £200,000 and with the full hope that in due course the same project will be extended to the following places:—

Ewoyi-Ubei-Neko-Uromi-Ualor-Noke, Awo and Olewa.

Finally, Sir, I wish to appeal to the Government of this Region to give us electricity, more scholarships for our children, and to open the newly built General Hospital and the Catering Rest House at no distant date.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Further Debate stood adjourned till tomorrow, Friday, 30th March, 1962.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed, that the House do now adjourn.—(Chief Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 3.00 p.m. until tomorrow, Friday, 30th March, 1962, at 9.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1962

The House met at 9.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Adjournment

The Leader of the House and Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, I rise to move that at its rising this day the House shall adjourn until Monday, 2nd April.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (3)

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (3) be suspended this day to enable the House to sit after 12 noon if necessary.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will take place today at 5 o'clock and not 1 o'clock as previously arranged.

THE UNIVERSITY OF IFE (PROVISIONAL COUNCIL) (AMEND- MENT) BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): I rise to move the Second Reading of the Bill for a Law to amend the University of Ife (Provisional Council) Law, No. 6 of 1961.

The Council, as originally set up by the existing Law, could only have amongst its members nine people who are not under the employment of the University. Experience gained since the Council has started to

function proves that much advantage would accrue by an increase in its membership. In these early stages of the development of the University, as we all know, the Council has a gigantic task to perform. The buildings of the institution have to be erected under the constant supervision of the Council; staff have to be assembled from various parts of the world, and the organisation of the different departments carefully built up. This means that the Council has to set up a number of Committees such as Finance and General Purposes Committee to supervise its finances; Appointments Committee to vet the *curricula vitae* of people applying for academic and administrative posts in the University, and a Building Committee which will plan the phasing of the building programme of the institution. With the present number of non-academic members of the Council remaining at nine, each member may have to serve on several committees, resulting in frequent meetings and strenuous travelling. Whereas, by increasing the number of non-academic members to fifteen, the work would be more evenly spread out with the consequent reduction in the encroachment of the time of members.

A second reason for proposing this amendment is to enable the University of Ife to come closer to that of the sister University institutions in Nigeria. In both University College, Ibadan, and the University of Northern Nigeria. Government is represented on the Council by one or two officials whose presence has the dual advantage of apprising the Council of current policies formulated by Government on Higher Education and reporting back to Government at frequent intervals on the progress made by the Provisional Council in the development of the University.

Thirdly, Mr Speaker Sir, we may also observe that in the Councils of the three existing sister University institutions in Nigeria, that is, the University College, Ibadan, the University of Northern Nigeria and the University of Nsukka, representation by overseas University organisations is provided for. As the Universities of the World belong largely to the same family by virtue of their academic tradition the University of Ife may, at some future date, desire to have on its Council someone coming from outside Nigeria who may enrich its deliberations with the accumulated experience of University organisation developed in other countries. The amendment proposed would also enable this to be done.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move,

Chief Ighodaro: Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr V. I. Amadasun (Benin West I): Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this Bill because its aim is to make the object of the introduction of the Western Regional Government austerity measures a mockery by increasing the maximum permissible membership of Ife University Council to twenty out of which not less than five nor more than fifteen are to be persons not employed on the academic or administrative staff of the University.

The Minister in his short and not very clear explanation has failed woefully to inform the House whether these persons to be appointed as members of the Ife University Provisional Council would be fit and proper persons to be so appointed, not on the basis of party political qualifications, but on sound knowledge of the workings of a University, or whether these persons are entitled or not to some emoluments.

The nature and type of allowances or pay of these members ought to have been explained by the Minister of Education in order that this honourable House might be convinced of the need, at this time of austerity measures in the country, for the members to be so appointed. From my elementary knowledge of mathematics, I know, Sir, that what is now going to be paid to twenty members in the nature of salaries or allowances will by far exceed what had hitherto been paid nine members. The guiding principle of any austerity measure is the judicious spending of any revenue arising from such measures. Once this principle is violated, then austerity measures are meaningless. At this stage of the life of the Ife University—a University whose buildings are in the atmosphere—let the Minister of Education be disallowed from increasing the number of membership of the Provisional Council or that of the staff, or that of the students.

With all these remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with all the explanations given by the Minister of Education, we still disagree because they are meaningless. The reason is this, that if you want to talk of austerity measures, you should practise it. Why not let the number of the members remain at nine and let them work night and day?

Government Benches: And let them die of blood pressure?

Mr Amadasun: Well, I don't know that. Anyway, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to oppose.

The Government Chief Whip (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Speaker, Sir, it has been truly said that only fools tread where angels fear to walk. I feel that the hon. Member would have saved himself a great deal of embarrassment if he had appreciated that the Bill before the House is not a Local Government Bill. The Bill is a Bill to make provision for the new University's gigantic programme which the proposed Council is going to undertake.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West): On point of Order, Mr Speaker, Sir, Order No. 27. It is unparliamentary to call an hon. Member a fool.

Government Benches: Nobody has been called a fool, please.

Mr B. Olowofoyeku: rose.....(*interruption*).

Chief Ighodaro: To say that fools tread where angels fear to walk is no language directed towards any particular Member.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman's point is exactly correct. If anybody has called someone a fool here at all, that person should be called to order, but that has not been the case.

Mr Kotoye: Mr Speaker, Sir, as I was saying, one important point must be made clear to our Friends on that side of the House. The fact that Government has introduced austerity measures does not mean a curtailment of the services which the Government is to render to the people. We will not say that, because of austerity, we will not do our duties. We have been listening to many Members of the Opposition accusing the Government of wasting money while we say there is austerity. When the Provisional Council of the University of Ife was set up, right from the start there was no doubt that the Council was going to discharge very important duties and that huge and gigantic buildings would have to be put up.

Opposition Benches: Where is the money?

Mr Kotoye: You just wait and see. The plans are ready. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Will the hon. Gentlemen know that the speeches are being directed to me. I hope they will allow me to hear.

Mr Kotoye: It is only but fair that Government should make adequate provisions for Members of the Council, persons who will be able to cope with these responsibilities.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr R. A. Akinyemi (Ikeja South): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill as it stands, is non-controversial, but what we on this side of the House are saying is this: since the Premier of the Region has announced that there is going to be prosperity through austerity, we of this side of the House insist that Government should be able to show that they are not going to spend the money of this Region in a way that will be against the will of the public. I would say this and make it clear. Now, there are nine members that are to be increased to fifteen members. The Minister of Education said that because these nine members will have much to do by way of attending many meetings, they are therefore being increased. But that is their duty, and it is for that that they are going to be paid. They are going to earn fat salaries.

On the other hand, if they must be paid, they should be paid only sitting allowances and we would then know that the Government is in accord with its austerity measures.

Again, we on this side of the House would like to emphasise the fact that when people are appointed, the Opposition Members must be consulted as to appointments into such a body. It has always been the policy of the Western Regional Government to appoint members of their Committees and Boards just because they are members of the Action Group. I must say this, that the people who are to be appointed must be people who know something about the administration of a University set-up—not people appointed for fun. In the first Council, you appointed Chief S. O. Gbadamosi, a ceramics factory manager. (*Interruptions*). Now, it is time that, when you are going to proceed to appoint members, you should give us the assurance that money will not be wasted and that you will consult us.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu Remo North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support this Bill and, in rising so to do, I simply want to clarify some points to the hon. Members on the other side about payment of emoluments to members serving on this Provisional Council. I think I heard it on authority that these members were not paid any money except sitting fees. On the other hand, the increase in membership is necessary to enable

men and women of talent to be appointed into the Council. Now, this will enhance the standard of efficiency that will arise as a result of the advice given by such talented men and women.

Now, it is true that we talk of austerity measures. The question of austerity, as the hon. Chief Whip on this side of the House has pointed out, does not mean that we should curtail the services to be rendered to our people. It should not be at the expense of efficiency and proficiency. My hon. learned Friend from Ikeja South said the Bill was non-controversial, and so it is. I am happy he took that turn of mind in dealing with the Bill.

As regards the question of consultation, I can say that the Minister of Education will give you the assurance that the Opposition will be consulted before members are appointed. It is very necessary and fair. This is a question of education. It concerns you equally, as it concerns any other person in the Region. We have men of talent in the Opposition, and we want them there, because the question of a University is a world-wide problem. I assure the hon. Members of the Opposition that they will be consulted.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, Sir, we are undoubtedly not happy on this issue of austerity. We take it very seriously. As things are going now, I am certain that the Government of this Region will make all of us not only a laughing stock of the country but a laughing stock of the whole world. We have declared a policy of coming down to the barest minimum for the purpose of the development of the Region. We have all agreed that these aspects of development are not only essential but vital to the life of the Region. Every penny counts.

Yesterday, we were treated to an assurance by the Government that a new Board created will not earn emoluments. Yesterday, as well, we were treated to an increase in the members of Directors of the Housing Corporation. Today, we are again treated to an increase of members on the Council of Ife University. Can the Minister of Education honestly get up, Sir, and tell this side of the House that he has any control whatsoever over the personal emoluments given to the members of the Council by themselves? Can he tell us, Sir, that he does not believe that they have been over-generous in the past on the issue of allowances to members? The Minister of Education can only lay down the principles upon which the members are to work.

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Now, we are going to increase the number of these people who will possibly go there and only make worse the financial situation. I am saying, Sir, that we should reflect, and if increases are absolutely necessary, let us go ahead with them. By the way, I think the Council is headed by one of the most brilliant men in the Action Group party. What is the necessity for the increase? I am saying that, on the issue of expenses, we must cut down. I do not see any necessity whatsoever for increasing the number of members of the Council.

Again, I think that at this stage of our development, we have to look very closely into our system of education. Yes, I think that at this stage of our development, and with the song generally being sung about in the country now—more education! more education! more education! we have to look very closely into our system of education. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am quite convinced that, Ashby Commission or no Ashby Commission, the creation of four Universities in this country today will sooner or later present much more troubles to the country than benefits. Furthermore, Sir, I should say that the more academicians we turn out, the more Arts Degrees holders, the more Accountants, the more Engineers, it is about time we looked into our educational level, not from the academic point of view at all, but from the strictly essential utilitarian view.

I ask, Sir, what type of Industries are we trying to establish? How are we going to man them? Are we going to get expatriates on contract to fill these places for the time being and educate our own sons here, not Overseas, because Overseas education does nothing more than decrease the funds of the Region? There is no doubt about that; for every student we send overseas, we spend a colossal amount of money. Why can't we, Sir, bring that education down into Nigeria here, and make sure that we do not exploit our funds unnecessarily in training?

Secondly, Sir, we have now young men in this country with School Leaving Certificates, Higher School Certificates, even with degrees, who are going about looking for work. Are we, Sir, going to open our eyes and, just because something is done in Lagos or in the Eastern Region or anywhere else, follow blindly a style which will not be beneficial to the whole country? I am still saying that we should not say that because something has

been done in the Eastern Region it must therefore be done here, or that because it has been done in the Federal Territory, therefore it must be done here. We have to look, Sir, into the policy of Education and make it commensurate with our demands and our needs. Are these boys, Sir, who are getting B.A. in teaching going to eat their Diplomas? Very soon, Sir, they shall be driven to that. We have teachers; we have street cleaners who are holding adequate degrees. (*An hon. Member: As in India*). Yes, as we have in India.

I think, speaking for myself—and, I am sure, speaking for all the Members of this House and all the sane Members of the other side of the House—(*Interruptions*)—I used the word "sane", Sir, because I see about two or three people shaking their heads vigorously as I was speaking (*Laughter*), we have to take this matter in all seriousness. I think our Minister must set the example for the whole country. He is capable of doing it. I know him personally, and I think he has the ability and the strength of mind to deviate from the usual course followed by all the other parts of the country. Let us establish more technical schools by all means. Let us have all the Faculties but restrict the membership, restrict the numbers in the Law School. It is not because I am afraid of competition. These boys are to perspire a long time, before they get to my standard, and I don't blame them; that is how it should be. But I am saying, in all seriousness, by the time they turn out a hundred lawyers from Lagos University, a hundred lawyers from Nsukka University, a hundred lawyers from Ife University, the lawyers here in Nigeria can hardly find work to do.

Now we talk of Journalists. We have the papers here. All these papers that are being run at a loss! Not one paper in Nigeria is making a profit yet. (*An hon. Member: "Daily Times"*) Where are we going to put these Journalists? Are they going to eat their notes? They will eventually be compelled to eat their notes. (*Laughter*). I can assure you that the field now is even crowded.

What is the use of bringing more young men, giving them hope of a better future, giving them broad education and not feeding them? What of the teachers and graduates? I am still saying that we shall have to re-orientate our minds. The only people I can safely say will find jobs in this country for a long time to come will be the teachers. In fact I understand, Mr Minister, that in your University, there is no Faculty for Accountants, no Faculty for Architects, yet you have got to import Architects! These

people will come here with heavy charges. No arrangements have been made for a school for them right now. Let us look into this. These are the aspects of our education that I am sure everybody in this House will support. We have got enough of Latin, Greek, and so on. We learn Latin, we learn Greek, we don't speak the languages, though we speak French. That is why I am still saying, Mr Speaker, Sir, that although it is good that we learn some bit of it, I mean these academic achievements, yet, right now, Sir, let us be practical. (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*).

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to answer, very briefly, some of the questions raised by the Leader of the Opposition. I would like to record that I am grateful to the Leader of the Opposition for the very constructive speech he has made, and I only regret that he was not here when I was delivering my speech on the Bill, as some of the points he raised were covered in my speech. But for purposes of clarity, I should say that three things are covered.

First, the association of Members of the Opposition in the development of this University. The hon. Premier gave an undertaking that, this being a University of the people of Western Nigeria, it will be developed through the common experience and knowledge of both sides of the House, and a Committee was set up—the Parliamentary Advisory Committee of the University of Ife—in which the hon. Leader of Opposition was concerned. The Committee held a meeting on the 21st October, 1961, but, very regrettably, no Member of the Opposition was present. (*Interruptions*).

The second point is about money, and austerity. May I say that the amendment will not necessarily mean an increase in the expenditure for members. Members do not get salaries. They only get allowances on the day they attend meetings.

The third point raised by the Leader of Opposition is whether the Government is fully conversant with what is going on in this country. I would say that, so far, we have no grounds to complain, and that the Council is not taking action contrariwise to the direction of the Government. I make this doubly clear: I have said that we can vote for one or two officials in the Council so that the Council can become closer to the Government and the Government closer to the Council.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee (In the Committee).

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTORAL
REGULATIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL
SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Parliamentary Electoral Regulations, 1960. The Bill has the merit of being both short and non-controversial; its purpose is to tidy up some of the provisions contained in the existing Regulations and to ensure that the procedure for by-elections into the present House is redefined in the light of changes in the Constitution since 1960.

I should like to explain that it is necessary to effect amendments to the Regulations by means of a formal Act of the Legislature, as distinct from Regulations made by the Governor in Council, in view of the provisions of section 15 (1) of the Constitution of this Region, whereby elections to the House of Assembly are required to be held in such manner as may be prescribed by the Legislature. In other words, it is simply a question of bringing the machinery for elections to this House up to date, and of replacing the acts of the Governor in Council under the pre-Independence Constitution by a formal Act of this representative body.

As hon. Members are aware, elections to the present House were conducted under the 1960 Constitution. Since then, this country has achieved sovereignty and, in consequence, certain changes have been effected in our constitutional position. It has accordingly become necessary to substitute references to the 1960 Constitution for references to the pre-Independence Constitution: Clause 2 of the Bill deals specifically with this matter.

Under the old arrangements, the power to appoint officers to hold public offices in the Region was vested in the Governor. This is no longer true today; as the Public Service Commission of this Region has taken over this important function. At present, there is some doubt as to whether the appointments of electoral officers made under the 1960 Regulations are valid. The provisions of

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the 1960 Regulations conflict with the relevant constitutional provisions in so far as they purport to confer upon the Governor powers expressly conferred by the Constitution on the Public Service Commission. Accordingly, this Bill seeks to rectify the position by substituting the words "appropriate authority" for the word "Governor" wherever it occurs in the Regulations.

It is also necessary to amend some of the provisions of regulation 14 of the Regulations so as to place their meaning beyond reasonable doubt; experience has shown that there have been occasions when those involved in the conduct of elections have had some doubt as to the correct interpretation of particular aspects of the provisions of the Law in regard to matters of routine administration.

Other amendments to the 1960 Parliamentary Electoral Regulations have been found necessary; for instance, no provision at present exists for the appointment of such minor officials as Counting Clerks, Female Searchers, etc. It is proposed to amend Regulation 5 to permit the appropriate authority to appoint these and such other officers, by whatever names they may be called, to exercise such functions as the Electoral Commission may prescribe. The Bill also seeks to amend Regulation 13 so that symbols registered under the Local Government Electoral Regulations, 1961, shall be deemed to have been registered under the Parliamentary Electoral Regulations. This arrangement would remove the necessity for making separate applications for the registration of symbols for Parliamentary and Local Government Elections, particularly in instances where a particular political party or individual wishes to retain the same symbol for the Parliamentary as well as Local Government Elections.

Regulations 61 and 70 are to be revoked since they are no longer necessary in view of the fact that adequate provisions already exist under section 15 (ii) and 16 (i) (a) of the Constitution of this Region. The Constitution empowers the Electoral Commission to direct and supervise the registration of voters and the conduct of elections to this House. Similarly, the Constitution provides that the High Court of Justice of this Region shall have original jurisdiction to hear and determine questions of validity of elections to this House.

Having explained the purpose of this Bill, I hope that this honourable House will give it a unanimous Second Reading and its blessing.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhadji Z. A. Opaleye): I rise to second.

Question proposed.

Mr B. Olowofoyeku (Ilesha Urban West): The hon. Premier assured us that this Bill is short and not controversial. Now, we agree that the Bill is short all right, but we do not agree that it is not controversial. When I say that the Bill is a controversial one, I do not refer to the particular provisions contained in the Bill. I refer to the piecemeal manner in which the Bill has been brought to this House. I do not know whether the Premier is too busy to bring a comprehensive Bill about elections into the House of Assembly, or whether the Attorney-General of the Region is too busy to help him, but I must say that this Bill, as it stands, is useless for the purpose of conducting any election to this House.

The Premier referred us to section 15 (i) of the Constitution of this Region. According to that section, every constituency established under section 14 of the Constitution shall return to the House of Assembly one member who shall directly be elected in such a manner as may be prescribed by the Legislature of this Region. So, from the 1st October, 1960, Mr Speaker Sir, any election to this honourable House must be conducted in a manner prescribed by this Legislature. No election conducted into this House under the principles of existing regulations will be valid.

The Premier: That is why we are passing this Bill.

Mr Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker Sir, in order to validate future elections to this House, he has brought this Bill into this House, but what we are saying is that we are reminding the Premier that he is being paid by the people of this Region in order to serve them and, in serving the people of the Region, he should not shirk his duty: he should do it wholeheartedly; it is his duty to bring a comprehensive and all-inclusive Bill to this House. How do we pass a Bill, a Parliamentary Bill, which tries to amend a Regulation or to improve an Order in Council? I think, Mr Speaker Sir, that this is anachronistic. If we can amend an Order in Council by a Bill, then what can prevent another Order in Council amending this Bill? So we do not know exactly where we are. I think Mr Speaker Sir, that the honourable Premier should take a warning

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and throw away this Bill and bring to this House another Bill which will contain all the Regulations on the conduct of elections into this House.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would like the Government to know that we are very serious on this point. This is not the first time that we have had the unpleasant experience of passing a Bill in this House and going outside to find members of this House saying that the law so passed was *ultra vires*. Mr Speaker Sir, I refer to the recent amendment to the High Court Law which has been attacked by the former Attorney-General, Chief F. R. A. Williams, successfully in the High Court of this Region. He attacked the Law and he said that it was *ultra vires*, and the Court agreed with him.

(*Opposition Benches: Shame, shame.*)

Mr Speaker Sir, I have appraised the Attorney-General confidentially. He is aware of it. This is not the place for me to cite authorities.

In brief, Mr Speaker, what we are saying is that the Premier should be hard-working enough to bring another Bill into this House. Already, there has been a Bill which will be introduced very soon regulating the appointment and selection of members of the House of Chiefs. That is the type of thing which we want in this House. In view of the fact that if even this Bill is passed it is going to be useless in view of the fact that it has no legal validity and that any election made under it stands the chance of being set aside, we must say that we on this side of the House do not want to waste our money in any election which will be set aside, thus taking us to the field again. So we are strongly appealing to the Premier to take away and shelve this Bill and bring a more comprehensive one.

Mr A. O. Obadara (Ibadan North-West Suburban): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to corroborate with the last speaker on this side of the House who spoke a lot in opposing this Bill.

Firstly, if we look and examine carefully, we shall notice that in clause 3 (4) (a) by deleting the word "Governor" and substituting "Appropriate Authority" it gives room for the Action Group to annihilate their political opponents. The aim of the party in power is to appoint ex-prisoners, organising secretaries and cruel and unkind chiefs as the appropriate authority. If this Bill is passed, particularly clause 3 (4), there should be no future elections which will be real and fair.

Moreover, Sir, Clause 4, Regulation 5 (i) states that such Returning Officers, Polling Officers and Assistant Polling Officers should be appointed by the appropriate authority. If the Government wants to claim championship of democratic government, such Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers and Polling Officers should be appointed from among the University students (*Laughter*).

Mr C. O. Olaitan (Ilesha Urban East): May I know, hon. Premier, whether—in view of the fact that the hon. Member for Ilesha Urban West has suggested that this Bill, if passed into law, will contravene certain sections of the Constitution—whether the Premier will be obliged to withdraw the bill before the House? If the Premier agrees to withdraw the Bill and bring a comprehensive Bill, then this House will support the Bill. We like the Premier to give us an assurance that he would withdraw the Bill and bring a comprehensive Bill (*Interruptions*).

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, I must say, Sir, in the first instance, that the wordings of the Constitution are quite clear. The wordings say, Sir, that every constituency established under section 14 of the Constitution shall return to the House of Assembly one member who shall be directly elected in such a manner as may be prescribed by the Legislature of this Region. In other words, Sir, the Law relating to elections must now be passed, not by any previous regulations, not by adaptations, but by regulations or laws made here. The same thing applies in respect of 16 (1) Sir. (*Fire them! Fire them!*) Now speaking for myself whether the Bill is passed or not is for the Government, but, certainly, we would not like to go to any election and find that the Government Party has given loopholes to go back and upset any elections that we win. (*Laughter*). This might be the reason behind the big loophole in this Bill.

Secondly, Sir, I have never seen a much more slipshod work in all my life. Let us say that this is possible; let us say that, legally, it is possible to incorporate the details of the Regulations in the law; let us say that it is possible. I would have thought that a neat and clean job could have been for the Premier to come before this House with an entire Regulation, not by reference to something that is within itself, but by a complete work; and I hope, Sir, that the Attorney-General would have been consulted, Sir, to advise the Premier to look into this matter. Take back

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this rag—this black rag—because it is not more than that. Take it back home. Let them do their home work as they should have done in the past before coming here; let them get a clean Bill before us, including all the laws necessary for future elections, and we on this side of the House shall give them all our support.

In fact, to be frank, Sir, if you are going to understand what the Law is in future, you not only have to look at this Law, you have got to go and search back if it is possible at all: you have got to go and get Regulations, put it beside you, take this Law, put it beside you, scratch your head again, look at the Regulations again. That is for lawyers—Lawyers can do that. But when it comes to elections, Sir, I am sure, Sir, that every candidate would be a lawyer to see that he is complying completely with the requirements of the Law. Even not all Electoral Officers will be able to appreciate the difficulties; it is difficult for them, Sir, to look at the contents of the Law in one single sheet of paper, much less having to refer back to some previous Regulations and having to adjust both to make a meaning. I am suggesting, Sir, that the hon. the Premier should not feel as if he feels sore about withdrawing this Bill. I think the honourable thing for him to do, Sir, is to take it back, incorporate the whole thing into one single Bill and bring it to us. It will help us, it will help them; it will help all the Electoral Officers. Apart from the legal issues, it is much more expedient.

The Premier: Mr Speaker, one of Shakespeare's plays is entitled "Much Ado About Nothing". (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, we have been treated to Much Ado About Nothing. I understand the contention of the hon. leader of the Opposition: the whole of the Regulations and of the provisions governing elections should be brought together to the floor of this House and passed as such. But may I invite the attention of the hon. Member to the first section itself—section 1. It says that this Law may be cited as the Parliamentary Electoral (Amendment) Law, 1962, and shall be read and construed as one with the Parliamentary Electoral Regulations, 1962, which means that all the provisions of the Electoral Regulations of 1960 are being embodied in the Law (*Interruptions*). We are perfectly at liberty to study carefully Regulations for 1960 to which obvious references have already been made in this House. May I remind this honourable House that if we pass this, and they are going to challenge it outside, the legal encounter

will never last. (*Interruptions*). If you dare go to Court on any Bill here, I shall not get legal advice from the Action Group only: I shall tap the best brains on the other side of the House.

After all, it is said that old friends are better than new. (*Interruptions*). All we intend to do here is to be able to regulate the holding of elections. And may I promise my Friends, especially the learned Leader of the Opposition, that if this Bill is passed we shall seize the earliest possible opportunity to consolidate all the laws dealing with elections; and I promise that by the time we sit again, next sitting, I shall bring consolidated laws on elections up to date. (*Interruptions*).

Well, as half bread is better than none, I hope that my Friends will accept this. My hon. good Friend on that side of the House did not understand the meaning of "prescribed authority". I am quite sure that my learned Friend is too high a man to be approached by him. Hon. Obadara was at a loss as to what the meaning of "prescribed authority" was. If he cannot consult the real lawyer on the other side of the House, I am quite sure that my hon. friend, hon. Oputa-Otutu, a sympathetic "Q.C.", will be available to help him. (*Laughter*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 12 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment.

Motion made and question proposed, That the Bill be read the Third time and passed.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, we did not discuss the provisions of this particular Bill because we have opposed the introduction of the Bill itself. But, a few days ago, I think, the Government assured members of the public that there will be no increase in the deposit which is to be made by candidates for elections. I hope, Sir, that the Premier will assure this House that there will be no increase in the deposits. I would like to have a confirmation in this House.

The Premier: As far as the present Bill is concerned, it does not contain any provisions for any increase. (*Interruptions*). There was an error in the original one and a correction has been made; instead of £100 it still remains at £25. Well, that is as far

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as we are concerned; whether it is going to be increased in future or not, I do not know. Under the Law, as it is now, we do not contemplate increasing the fees, and if the fees are to be increased in future, that will be a matter to be taken up afresh.

I understand the wrong copies have gone to the Opposition. May I say that, even if we made it £100, we shall consider ourselves as being in line with what obtains in other parts of this country. It is £100 on the other side of the Niger. (*Opposition Benches: Why should you follow their footsteps?*) We are not following their footsteps, Sir. But if we choose to do so, in future, it is because we do not want to insult the hon. Member for Ikeja. The hon. Member for Ikeja is as wealthy as, and as prosperous as, any of his counterparts in the Eastern Region. (*Interruptions*). Why should the deposit of £25 be paid by the Leader of the Opposition here when he contests elections, while his counterpart in the Eastern Region pays £100? Well, in future, we shall consider that; but in the meantime, it is only £25.

Mr Fani-Kayode: I would like to correct one error, Sir. It is very nice to have a smile about this kind of thing. We can concede to Government that they can govern by mistakes, but I refuse to agree that they can legislate by errors. In future, I hope the Government will be much careful in the presentation of Bills. They have misled us—I do not say deliberately—but they have misled us here, and I am certain that there are some Members on the other side of the House who agree with me.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

Sitting suspended at 10.35 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 11.45 a.m.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Motion for an Address

Adjourned Debate on Question (28th March):

“That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in the following terms:—

This House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to Your Excellency for the most gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature;

And that this Address, be formally presented by the Leader of the House and the Mover of the Motion”.

Question again proposed.

Mr J. L. Tifase (Ondo North-East I): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to support the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Speech from the Throne, I am happy, Sir, to congratulate the Governor for his most comprehensive and very able Speech.

Sir, it is particularly interesting to note that the Governor, in the course of his Speech, has been able to make mention of his Government's 1962-68 Development Plan which will involve a total sum of £240 million, and which will commence during the next financial year. This gigantic development plan will no doubt be the last stage of the Government's plan to transform the Region into a welfare state.

Sir, although Nigeria has achieved her national freedom, yet we still have to work hard to achieve our economic freedom. And I think, Sir, that one way of throwing off this economic bondage is the doctrine of austerity measures which we have accepted in the Region today.

It will be no exaggeration, Sir, if I say that the introduction of the austerity measures in the Region is a practical demonstration of the Action Group's political ideology of democratic socialism. (*Hear! Hear!*) Therefore, Sir, it will be our prime purpose and objective to propagate and practise beliefs and ideals throughout the country so as to safeguard, not only the future of this country, but also the future of mankind. I therefore welcome the proposed cut in the salaries of the Premier, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Legislators. (*Interruptions*) This, Sir, will certainly prove their sincere and selfless service to the people of this Region and the country.

Sir, I also congratulate the Government for its intention to review its Forest Policy. I strongly believe, Sir, that the time has come when this Government must have a dynamic Forest Policy which will help to preserve the security of Government Forest Estates, and also check the reckless exploitation of economic trees in the Region. (*Hear! Hear!*).

I am also very happy, Sir, that during the coming financial year the Government will establish a cocoa industry in the Region. I would like to suggest that this industry, Sir, should be sited in Ondo Province which is the largest cocoa growing area in the Region.

It has become necessary in the Midwest, in view of the frequent political disturbances there, to strengthen the machinery of law and

order in the area so that this Government may be able to check extra-legal activities of certain reactionary elements in the area.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support.

Mr A. A. Babayemi (Egba North-West): In supporting the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his inspiring Speech from the Throne, I must first comment on the ambitious development programme outlined by the Government. This programme is a commendable one, and I am sure that its implementation cannot but result in appreciable and desired rise in the living standards of our people.

It is, therefore, right, Sir, that in securing the vital capital necessary for the attainment of this end, the Government should seek, by various means, to cut down its expenditure and to save all that it can for the smooth and efficient running of the Region—hence this austerity.

It is therefore right that all those who have the progress of this Region at heart should support the Government in this noble and great effort. I am happy, therefore, to inform Members on the opposite side of the House that we on this side of the House are prepared by practical examples to make sacrifices in order to achieve this task of nation-building and the development which the Western Regional Government has made its prime concern. (*Interruptions*).

The Government deserves praise and congratulations for what it is doing to provide water supply in this Region. May I state, at this stage, that there are still some areas in Opeji, Imala and Ikereku Council areas without adequate water supply. We hope that the Government will not neglect these areas in the provision of rural water supply.

It is the policy of the Government to develop medical health services in this Region. My people in Egba Division have realised the advantage of Medical Health Services and, as such, I am seizing this opportunity to remind the Government that it would be highly appreciated if the following pressing needs of the Egbas could be provided:—

- (1) An up-to-date hospital for Abeokuta.
- (2) A Blood Bank.
- (3) A Radiologist, a Radiographer, a Laboratory Technician, and more Medical Officers and Nurses for the General Hospital, Abeokuta.

With these, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr F. Ebubedike (Badagry East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne delivered by His Excellency the Governor of Western Nigeria, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.

The Speech was impressive and ably delivered, and his experience in administration has been manifested therein. Nevertheless, with what obtains all over the Region one would be forced to doubt the sincerity of the Government in carrying out the plans so ably put to this honourable House by the Governor.

In January this year we were called to a meeting where the Premier outlined the austerity measures proposed by this Government. Members gladly accepted it, and the Leader of Opposition proposed that a committee be set up to advise on the use of the funds accruing from this measure. But since this Session started three Bills have been passed and we find that the funds of the austerity measures were just a matter of robbing Peter to pay Paul. Offices have been created to provide jobs for the Action Group good "boys" instead of the proposed economic development. This creating of new posts which shall cost the tax-payers not less than £1 million per year is the foundation of our *Austerity de luxe*.

His Excellency has made an appeal for co-operation for the Census—(*Interruptions*)—and this, in fact, is a burning issue in the mind of every sincere nationalist. I still believe that the former census which was planned by the imperialists had its faults and was designed to place one Region over the others. If the census is carefully and properly conducted, and local leaders taken into confidence, the result shall prove me right. It should not be made a party issue.

Coming to development, the Region claims to be leading the other Regions of the Federation; but how can one reconcile this issue when it is clear that certain areas in the Region have not been considered in the distribution of amenities and industrial development? (*Interruptions*). It is the duty of the Government to provide employment by means of these industries and agricultural projects; but check up and you will find that, even in the schemes, employment becomes a means of party membership campaign. Farm settlement is a pointer.

Education has been the scheme uppermost in the plans of all the Governments of the Federation. The Regional Government is lucky to have somebody of Dr S. D.

[MR EBUBEDIKE]

Onabamiro's calibre in the Ministry of Education. He was formerly in the NCNC and criticised the Government. Today he has carried all the ideas which he gathered from the NCNC to the Action Group and he is now improving the scheme of education. The co-ordination of education in Nigeria is very important, as elementary school leavers from the West are being looked down upon in the Federal Territory in employment and other aspects.

We are hearing of Technical Education, but in the Colony Province no Technical Institute has been established. The teachers from Badagry East who want to enter the Advanced Teacher Training College have been asked to apply to Ondo, despite the nearness of Ijebu-Ode which is also a centre. How can one imagine having to leave Colony Province to go all that far!

Coming to the question of trade and industry, I have to say that the sooner foreign firms are stopped from participating in retail trade, the better. The Government should consider the change in the relationship of these big foreign firms and the Nigerian public and, in co-operation with the Federal Government, save the public from the loss they are suffering through Hire Purchase and Insurance. (*Interruptions*). The Bills on these two important issues should be reviewed and public interest be guarded. The Government must do something in this direction to protect Nigerians. Industries sponsored by the Government should be evenly located in the Region. (*Interruptions*).

Before I go on, I have to appeal to the Government that, in my constituency, almost everybody is a fisherman. I appeal to this Government to consider the institution of a fishery industry in Badagry East. I have also, at this stage, to thank the Government for establishing a Secondary Grammar School in my constituency; but, nevertheless, we are still in need of more.

With these I beg to support.

Mr R. O. Areola (Ekiti South-East):

I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, for his Speech from the Throne and to congratulate his Government on the thought-out plans for the educational, social and economic development of Western Nigeria. I am particularly impressed by the following aspects of the Speech:—

Austerity Measures.—These measures, designed to curb wasteful spending and to husband carefully the revenue of the Region

so as to enable Government to carry out its revised 1962-68 Development Plan, are a bold step which only a selfless Government, determined to seek the well-being of the electorate at the expense of its own comfortable living, could have taken. The readiness and the complete unanimity with which both sides of this House embrace these measures point to the fact that the Government has moved in the right direction. There is no doubt, Sir, that some of these measures will pinch, others will wound, and a few will actually bite sharply those of us who are called upon to make these sacrifices, but it is a noble endeavour honestly and conscientiously made by an honest and well-meaning Government whose first consideration is the welfare of the people of Western Nigeria. The Government, like in many other things, has set a pace for the other Governments of the Federation to follow, and given to the people an example which is better than a precept. Every honest citizen of Western Nigeria should be prepared to make some sacrifice, however small, if, in the words of His Excellency, "we are to build a Western Nigeria of which we can be proud".

The unemployment problem.—The Government should be congratulated on the steps it intends to take to reduce unemployment in Western Nigeria. The steps include the improvement in agricultural technique and production, the farm settlement scheme, and the encouragement of poultry farming and fishery. Moreover, the Government intends to intensify its industrialisation policy to include the establishment of viable rural industries. This will reduce very considerably the present trend of a movement of population from the countryside to the big towns. To all these attempts must be added Government's wish to co-operate with the other Governments of the Federation to wrest the retail trade from alien hands.

Secondary education.—The Government is to be congratulated on its activities to make Secondary Education a living institution in Western Nigeria. One is impressed by the untiring efforts of the Government not only to aid Secondary Grammar Schools and Teacher Training Colleges financially but also to help in the search for qualified staff. In this great work of nation-building, I must here pay a great tribute to the Voluntary Agencies, most of whom are religious denominations, who, in addition to training and improving the mind, are greatly concerned with the nurturing of the soul. The Ajayi Commission of Inquiry, looking into the question of fees in Teacher Training Colleges and Secondary Grammar Schools, seems to

[MR AREOLA]

have blurred some people's sense of justice and fairplay and tended to make them look upon Voluntary Agencies as a thing to be hated rather than a friend and benefactor to be loved and honoured. Some people seem to misunderstand the Government's aim in instituting the Inquiry, which, I believe, is to find a norm or standard by which fees can be charged either in the whole Region or in specific areas of it. The question is one of standardisation of fees, and I am sure that, without the support and full co-operation of the Voluntary Agencies, the Ajayi Commission cannot achieve much.

Road Development.—The Government deserves to be commended for its road programme in Western Nigeria which has the best roads in the Federation of Nigeria. The Trunk A and B roads joining together the big towns of the Region having been all tarred, the roads leading from big towns to feeder towns and villages should take precedence over Government's projected programme of road strengthening. Such roads exist in Ekiti.

Electricity Development.—The supply of electricity to rural areas is a blessing for which the Government should be patted on the back. The Ijero scheme is a case in point, even though one would like to see a change that will make an all-night lighting possible in the town instead of the present arrangement. The introduction of electricity to rural areas will reduce night roguery which is a constant feature of a village life, and increase productivity, especially of women who can work more hours after night-fall.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Can we have an explanation of "women working more hours after night-fall?"

Mr Areola: Where women light their lamps and after a few hours their eyes are weak, they have to give up hope of working further; but, with the introduction of electricity they would be able to work longer hours. *(Laughter from all sides).*

Rural Water Supply.—The Government's water supply scheme, especially in rural areas, is welcome to thousands of our people living in rural areas. The local communities are wishing and able to co-operate with the Government in executing the scheme. I wish the Ikole-Aiyedun water scheme, long begun but slow in execution, be given priority this coming financial year.

Health Scheme.—Even the most cynical of all cynics will not fail to appreciate the efforts which this Government is making to improve the health of the people. Among other things, the Government has built a General Hospital in each of all the Division of Western Nigeria, several cottage hospital in addition, and now the establishment of a school of Hygiene and Health Auxiliaries is being contemplated to prove conclusively the Government's determination to see a greater proportion of the people of Western Nigeria protected against diseases. The Ikole Methodist Maternity Hospital so much needed and used by the people could be developed into a General Hospital jointly owned by the Government and that Mission to further this health scheme.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these I beg to support.

Rev. M. I. Edeki (Afenmai West II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am supporting the Motion. Thanks for the Speech from the Throne and I have the following comments to make.

The Speech from the Throne has most ably outlined Government's Development plan for the coming year in pursuance of its policy of a welfare State, and in consonance with the principles of democratic socialism. The purpose of Government is to enable all its citizens to live more abundantly by providing facilities for trade and employment, education and transport no less than health services which have been and are going to be the pivot of the activities of the Western Nigerian Government as has been indicated in the Speech.

The bold austerity measures announced by the Premier not long ago are proof positive of the ambitions of the members of the Government Party to make personal sacrifice in the interest of the economic development of this most go-ahead Region in the Federation of Nigeria. Unlike other Governments who talk of austerity and are half-hearted in their approach to it, the Government of Western Nigeria has come out with concrete and comprehensive measures of which its leaders have got to be congratulated. But the Six-Year Development Plan, on account of which we have made sacrifices must be prosecuted with all vigour, and its influence must be felt in urban as well as rural areas. Industrial estates should be established in the Midwest and the proposal for the establishment of viable small scale rural industries is most welcome.

The provision made for agricultural development in the said plan is praiseworthy since agriculture is the mainstay of our

[REV. EDEKI]

economy. The need for more farm settlements especially in the rural areas cannot be over-emphasised.

The re-forestation schemes mentioned in the Speech may be furthered by checking the indiscriminate bush burning that is a seasonal feature of the countryside, with devastating effects on forest resources and the fertility of farmlands.

Education is the spring from which the plant of national life is watered, and any nation whose educational system is devoid of teachers of the requisite qualifications and training cannot grow into its full stature. The plans calculated to intensify teacher-training are therefore most welcome. But in order to ensure that secondary education is of the desired standard, especially in the voluntary sector, the so-called Regulation 17—Post-Secondary Scholarships—must be considerably increased. I hope something good will accrue from the Ajayi Commission; but the Government, in order to ensure that the benefit of the secondary grammar school education is received by all children, should expand its programme for post-primary scholarship and give financial assistance in a less niggardly fashion to students who, because of sudden or unexpected adverse changes in their parents' economic conditions, may be unable to complete their courses without such aid.

The criticism often levelled against African education is generally that it is too literary. In the light of this, one would suggest that the teaching of Science in all Grammar Schools should be encouraged by more liberal grants towards the building of laboratories and that the education acquired in these institutions be given some technical bias through the provision of workshops. A more liberal policy than at the moment, governing the opening and running of secondary Grammar Schools in rural or under-schooled areas, must be dispassionately examined by the Government.

Last year I described here in this House, the poor road facilities that existed in my constituency, Ivbiosakon District. I would like to say that the position has not changed much, although the tarring of the Ifon-Sabongidda road has been started, for which the Government is to be thanked. It is however the unanimous wish of my people that this road should ultimately be tarred as far as to Auchi through Afueze and Sebe. It is also high time that the Sebe-Ogbe-Otwa-Uzebba road, Otwa-Afueze road and Sabongidda-Ekpoma road should be tarred.

I ask that the inhabitants of Ivbiosakon District should not be forgotten in the distribution of such amenities as cottage hospitals, pipe-borne water supplies and rural electrification schemes.

In conclusion, I would like to indicate a subject which should earn an honourable mention in the Speech from the Throne next year. I had the privilege of being a member of the Parliamentary delegation which the Government sent to some European countries last year. From our practical study of the working of parliamentary democracy in other places we discovered the truth in the dictum that "constitutions are made for the people and not the other way round". The point I however want to make is this. The walls and the halls of all the parliamentary buildings we saw are decorated with paintings and statues of illustrious citizens. In Oslo, especially, we visited the National Park, the Folk Museum (where we saw a church and living houses more than 500 years old), the Viking ships Museum, stocked principally with ships used by the Vikings over 1,000 years ago in their long voyages of discovery and plunder, the Kon-Tiki Museum and the Nansen Museum. In Stockholm we visited, among other places, the Skansen (something like a National Park), the wreckage of a seventeenth century warship (*Vasa*) and the Valdermarsudde Museum. And, of course, no visit to London is complete without calls at the Tower and Madam Tausaud's.

European cities must be praised for writing their history in marble and paint, in which respect Parliaments and Municipal Councils in Africa ought to imitate them. I hope that the time will soon come when the walls of this House will cease to be bare. The paintings and statues of illustrious sons and daughters of the Region must be seen everywhere.

The current vandalism in Nigeria in connection with primitive works of art and objects of historical interest must be checked at once. More museums must be built in the Region so as to stimulate general interest in our past and provide tourists with places of call. Finally, plans ought to be made for a national park in Ibadan.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr V. I. Amadasun (Benin West I): The Speech from the Throne, as delivered by the Governor, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., is watery and full of unnecessary repetitions of promises which are never fulfilled; for example, the establishment of farm settlement, Housing Corporation Scheme, and the building of technical Schools

[MR AMADASUN].

in the Midwest. These schemes have, up to date, not been introduced in the Midwest area of the present Western Region of Nigeria. Therefore it is not true, as the Governor has stated in the Speech, that it is the policy of the Government to promote the well-being of the people of this Region.

The sacrifice which was demanded from the Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Legislators and Civil Servants of Western Region is excessive and hellish, in that the Premier of the Western Region announced his Government austerity measures hastily in order to score party political points, with the result that his measures do not fall in conformity with the measures of the other Governments of the Federation. The Federal, Northern and Eastern Regional Governments of the Federation only allowed a ten per cent deduction of austerity from the Ministers' and Legislators' salaries, whilst in the West, in addition to the ten per cent deduction, the hitherto poor basic car allowance, plus other allowances, were affected by the Western Region austerity measures. Mr Speaker, Sir, your own salary was also affected. Judging from the high standard of impartiality in the execution of your onerous duties, it would have been reasonable that your salary was not affected. If the austerity measures had affected only the Ministers and Legislators, that could have been enough; but, far from this, Sir, the salaries and allowances of the humble, honest and dutiful civil servants of the Western Region were also affected, whereas their counterparts under the other Regional Governments of the Federation were in no way adversely affected. I hereby call on the Civil Servants of the West to present a united front against the excessive austerity measures of the West in order to present to posterity an heritage of contented and efficient Civil Service.

I say all these with great regret, especially on the consideration of the fact that the Premier of the Region took the Leader of Opposition and my poor self into confidence, not in matters of details, before announcing his obnoxious austerity measures. Therefore, Mr Speaker, the saying of the Governor is by no means true, that by the austerity measures of the West, prosperity could be got through austerity. This is just equal to saying that Heaven could be reached by going through the gate of Hell!

Much emphasis has in the past been placed by His Excellency on the need for diversification of the farm settlement scheme to all parts of the Region and the encouragement of small scale industries and the

promotion of Co-operative Societies' activities all over the Region. It will be surprising for the Speaker to note that thousands of pounds have been sunk into the coffers of the C.S.A. (Co-operative Supply Association) of the Western Region for which the Minister of Trade and Industry has never demanded an account of how the grants have been utilised by the C.S.A. I have it from a very reliable source that a major proportion of these grants has been diverted into private dishonest hands. An enquiry is needed. I am sorry that Mr Adeyi is not here; or is he here?

Government Bench: Mr Adeyi is here.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member should speak to the Ministers and Members of this House and not members outside the House. (*Interruptions*).

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Point of order.

Opposition Benches: Sit down; sit down.

Mr Amadasun: It is said, Sir, in the Speech from the Throne, that efforts are being made by the Government of this Region to establish a technical school or college in the Midwest, a college which will begin at an early date. The early date may mean tomorrow, which never comes. I know for certain, Sir, that provisions were inserted in previous Estimates for the establishment of a Technical College at Benin. A site was provided for this College, but the Technical College meant for Benin has now been built at Oshogbo, and in the ensuing year two Technical Colleges will be built at Oyo and Owo, all in the Yoruba section of the Region. This unfair distribution of technical education facilities does no credit to the much-heard-of saying that the Western Regional Government is noted for its high standard of equitable distribution of amenities.

The Speech from the Throne is verbose—in fact, the longest speech ever delivered by a Regional Governor—and watery, in that some vital matters of great national importance were omitted. For instance, Sir, His Excellency could have made mention of the impending creation of the Midwest State. The Motion for the creation of the Midwest Region was first initiated in this House by Mr Showole, in 1955, praying the Queen of Great Britain to assent to the creation of a Midwest State. In April 1961, a similar Motion was moved in the Federal Parliament requesting that a Midwest State

[MR AMADASUN]

be created; this Motion received the unanimity of both the Action Group, NCNC and NPC members of the Federal Legislature. This motion was on March 22 moved again, owing to a technical error associated with the passage of the Motion in April 1961; but because of the political inconsistency of the Action Group, this party opposed the Motion for which they had previously registered unanimity, and lost shamefully with 49 votes to 214. It is true that we are parting, and there is no kind of parting that is pleasant. At any rate His Excellency could have made mention of this impending parting of the Midwest from the rest of the Region in a friendly way. By the grace of God, and the popular wish of the people of the Midwest, the Midwest State shall be created, and any person that may take this vital issue to court does so at his own risk.

Government Benches: Are you afraid of court?

Mr Amadasun: Not at all. I am responsible for all I say here. This is just a warning.

Mr Speaker Sir, with these remarks, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr D. Atolagbe (Ekiti North-West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his comprehensive address from the Throne to this Legislature a few days ago. And in doing so, Sir, I wish to pass a few remarks on some of the items contained in the address.

It is most gratifying that the Government has a plan to establish viable small scale rural industries for our people. Apart from the fact that this will place jobs in the hands of many, and the country enriched thereby, it will also arrest the present tendency of people shifting from rural areas to urban areas in search of work and thereby leaving the rural areas gradually depopulated.

Equally gratifying also is the assurance of the Government, as revealed by the Governor in his Speech, to secure for Nigerian traders a great share of the nation's retail trade. The practice of some big foreign firms competing with poor Nigerian small scale retail traders is not only unsatisfactory, but also annoying. That the Government took notice of this and has promised to come to the aid of the retail traders proves again that the Government has the interest of the common people at heart.

I congratulate the Government for its bold programme of road development which has been vigorously executed. Those who have had the opportunity to travel far and wide in all the Regions of this country, as I have had the opportunity of doing, and compared the opportunity of travelling on tarred roads offered, would agree with me that the Government of the West is indeed worthy of praise as it has by far done more than the other Regions in that connection.

Today, there is no Trunk B road in the West which has not yet been tarred. In addition, all the important Provincial roads have also been tarred. One can safely say that about seventy-five per cent of the inhabitants of the West live today in towns and villages which are reached on tarred roads. It will be at least two decades more for the Eastern Region, and perhaps four more decades for the North, before they can reach the stage reached by the West today in the matter of road tarring. Whenever I travel in the West, and remember what the position was up to a decade ago, my heart gives thanks to God and to the Action Group, and I always feel proud that I am a Grouper. Of all the achievements of the Action Group, it is only the free Primary Education that can be compared with that of its road tarring in extent and importance.

I pray that we all on both sides of this House may live long to see more of the wonderful works of the Action Group.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government has also made known in the Speech from the Throne its plans for extending electricity to more towns, supplying good water to more people, and endeavouring to meet more and more the needs of our people in the fields of health and education. Already, this Government has done more than any other in the Federation. Again, we all know that the Action Group never fails in its promises. What we all need to do, both the Government and the Opposition is to support the laudable programmes of the Government as unfolded in the Speech from the Throne, and our progress will continue to set the pace for the other Regions in the Federation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Odigie (Ishan South-East): I rise to associate myself with those who have spoken in favour of the Speech from the Throne. I have to congratulate the Governor for bringing out in his Speech, in a way, the achievements of the Government of this Region. Any right-thinking person will acknowledge that this Government has achieved much, even more than any other

[MR ODIGIE]

Government in the whole of the Federation. Those who could have read the six years plan of this Government will discover that the Western Regional Government has been able to budget £240 million to be spent in the next six years against the £110 million of the East. Is this not a noble achievement? (*Laughter*).

Now, it is a pride even for the Opposition to belong to the Western Region. A very big pride for that matter! We should have an honest intention.

Opposition Benches: What have they done in your constituency?

Mr Odigie: Oh! oh! this is because you are ignorant of what the Government is doing. I am congratulating the Western Government for what they have done for Ishan Division. (*Laughter*). The Colonial or Imperial Government, during their days, were able to tar only 110 miles of road from Ibadan to Igbara-Oke. Immediately the then Western Government took over the tarring of roads was extended from there to Asaba.....(*interruptions*). In Ishan, my constituency, the second stage of water supply has set in, the first stage having cost £300,000. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: There have been too many interruptions since the hon. Member from Ishan started his speech, and a most unparliamentary language, "expatriate", has been used. Just now, one hon. Member said that the other Member naturalised in Ishan. I will no more allow this unparliamentary language to continue please.

Mr Odigie: Before the Western Government came into existence in 1952, every part

of my Division was drinking pond water. Now you can travel to Ishan and find the best and most palatable water distributed everywhere. I am sure you will be amazed to hear that a sum of £244,000 has been spent on bridges only within nine miles of road, and this is a very big achievement by this Government. You will not be surprised to hear that this Government has established a farm centre in Ekpoma. You will not be surprised to hear that at Akoko-Edo and Ewohimi there has been a total planting of 4,000 acres of land of palm oil, and employment has been given to not less than 2,000 workers. This is a very good achievement of this Government; so that for Members of the Opposition to rise to point accusing fingers to the Government is ingratitude on their side.

The Motion for the creation of the Midwest State was a Private Member's Motion, and the Premier of the Region had pointed out that the Government of yesterday is not the Government of today. The Government is not bound by that Motion, as the Motion was never passed by the House of Chiefs, and therefore it can never be called a Motion. How can the Western Government be committed over the question of the Midwest? It cannot help to wound this Region. If you are foolish enough to allow yourselves to be split, well that is left to you.

Further Debate stood adjourned till Monday, 2nd April, 1962.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed, that the House do now adjourn. (Chief Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.52 p.m. until Monday, 2nd April, 1962, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 2ND APRIL, 1962

(The House met at 10.10 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

VACANCIES

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I have to announce the following vacancies which have occurred since the last Budget Session of the Legislature:—

The seat of hon. Chief J. O. Fadahunsi, Member for Ilesha Rural South, who resigned his seat to take up appointment as Chairman of the Nigeria Airways Corporation on 15th June, 1961;

The seat of the hon. Chief G. Akin-Deko, Member for Ondo North-East II and Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, who was appointed the West African Regional Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations with effect from the 13th of January, 1962;

The seat of hon. B. Ojeniran, Member for Oshogbo North II and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Transport, who died after a short illness on 21st September, 1961.

I sincerely hope and believe that hon. Members will find it convenient to rise up with me and pay our last respect in dead silence for one minute for the departed one. May his soul rest in peace. (*The House rose in silence accordingly*).

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Leader of the House and Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICE OF MOTION

WESTERN NIGERIA DEVELOPMENT PLAN, 1962-68

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name:

“That this House approve the proposals in the White Paper entitled ‘Western Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-68’.”

In the 1960 Budget Session of the Legislature, this honourable House adopted a quinquennial development programme presented by me entitled “Western Region Development Plan, 1960-65”.

Before that plan has had the opportunity to run its full course, a variety of factors have overtaken it. One of these factors, an event of nation-wide significance, is an agreement reached by all the Governments of the Federation during one of the meetings of the National Economic Council that an integrated National Plan covering the period 1962-68 be introduced. Implicit in this agreement was that the Plans of the Regional Governments would form parts of this National Plan. The primary intention here was that of creating a climate favourable for the attraction of international sympathy, co-operation and assistance in the implementation of the overall National Plan.

Mr Speaker, Sir, at this point, I should like to draw attention to one feature which hon. Members would have noticed. The new Plan encompasses a six-year span (that is, 1962-68) as distinct from the conventional five-year term. In the judgment of the National Economic Council, a development programme of the magnitude of £670 million cannot conveniently be contained within a five-year plan period, having regard particularly to the size of the foreign aid component likely to be available and to the size of capital that could be mobilised internally. Besides, other problems of finance might arise, for example, serious balance of payments difficulties. This Government has accepted the advice of the National Economic Council, although it could efficiently have mobilised sufficient executive capacity to undertake its programme in five years. The point to note, however, is that the present Plan, unlike the 1960-65 Plan which it replaces, covers a period of six years.

Now to the substance of the White Paper. In this connection, two questions may be asked: First, what are the goals and objectives of the Western Nigeria 1962-68 Development Plan? And secondly, what will be the

[OBA AKRAN]

general expectation of the people of the Region in the next six years—consequent upon the execution of the Plan?

Let me begin to answer these questions by stating succinctly the objectives of the Plan. The first and primary objective is to "increase production—both agricultural and industrial—so as to bring about a steady rise in income and in the standard of living". The second objective is to modernise agriculture and industry. The third is to accelerate the diversification of the economy of the Region. A large expansion of employment opportunities in the Region is the fourth objective. The fifth objective is the strengthening of the Community Development spirit as a medium of fostering economic progress; whilst the sixth is the strengthening of the private sector of the economy.

I am sure that hon. Members would wish me to elaborate on the six objectives which I have enumerated above. As I have already indicated, the first objective is to increase agricultural and industrial production so as to bring about a steady rise in income and in the standard of living. The foundations for achieving this objective were firmly laid in the 1955-60 Plan. Under that Plan, the main emphasis was on the provision of Social Overhead Capital which included basic road systems, water and electricity supplies, universal primary education and improved health facilities. On this solid foundation it is now proposed (as in the now terminating 1960-65 Development Plan), to mount a programme of *increased* agricultural and industrial production. Thus, of the total capital expenditure of £32.9 million in the 1955-60 Plan, 20 per cent was spent on agriculture, trade and industry; under the 1960-65 Plan, where total capital expenditure was of the order of £68.3 million, 33 per cent was earmarked for agriculture, trade and industry; in the Plan now before this House, hon. Members will observe that primary production, trade and industry claim 48 per cent. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, when I refer to increased production, I mean a carefully-planned production. This projected increase will make available to the ordinary man and woman varied and better quality foods of high protein value. Export crops will be increased, thus enhancing this Region's position as the Federation's foremost earner of foreign exchange by way of agricultural products. More manufactured consumer goods will be made available to the people of this Region, but by way of import substitution, at economic costs. It will be seen,

therefore, that the people of this Region have been set on the path to higher living standards. Indeed, during the Plan period, the target is for an annual rate of growth of 4½ to 5 per cent, in real terms, of the aggregate income of the Region.

Our second objective in the next six years is the modernisation of agriculture and industry. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members are fully aware of the new development in agriculture and farming technique which this Region has blazed forth in the Federation, namely, the Farm Institutes and Farm Settlements. Under the 1960-65 Development Plan, five Farm Institutes and thirteen Farm Settlements have been established already. (*Applause*). It is proposed to pursue a full and judicious development of these and to increase the number of Farm Settlements.

Other effective measures are also envisaged for the improvement of the techniques of production of both food and cash crops. The general downward trend in the price of our principal export crops demands that increased output in this area should be predominantly by way of increased productivity, that is to say, by way of improved efficiency in the use of factors of production. Special attention is being devoted to the introduction of more modern agricultural equipment suitable to local conditions. Thus, the hydraulic hand-press, the improved nut-cracker, new tractors and implements, a more modern variety of the rice-thresher and winnower, and cassava grater are being introduced. Research is also being carried out into possible modifications of our indigenous small farm tools. To this end, the Agricultural Engineering Section of our Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources is being strengthened by the training of indigenous Agricultural Engineers, three of whom are expected to arrive shortly. This matter of the development of our small farm tools is of very great importance because it means that for the first time in the history of this country, changes in agricultural technology will effectively be brought within the reach of the individual ordinary farmer, even at the village level.

During the six-year period it is proposed that there will be an increased number of rural, small-scale and large-scale industries and that in all these areas, there will be conscious effort to improve production methods. Facilities will be provided to draw on the experience of such countries as Japan and India whose performance in the sphere of rural and small-scale industries has been acclaimed as quite outstanding.

[OBA AKRAM]

Mr Speaker, Sir, you will remember that I referred to the third objective as being the acceleration of the process of the diversification of the economy of the Region. This strategy involves both diversification within agriculture and diversification away from agriculture. There are obvious disadvantages attaching to over-specialisation either in agriculture or in industry. In so far as agricultural specialisation is concerned, current trend in world market prices of our major export product is sufficient evidence that, were we not sufficiently foresighted to make a beginning in the policy of diversification within agriculture, our economy would have been exposed to severer shocks than we have in fact experienced. Mr Speaker, Sir, the proposals in the White Paper before this House are designed to ensure that in future no longer shall the economy of the Region be held to ransom by the fate of one particular crop in the world market.

Thus, it is proposed to intensify the development of the oil palm and rubber by the introduction of new and high yielding varieties. There is also envisaged a programme for the development of cotton. Other tree crops to be developed include cashew, citrus and mangoes. It is also the intention to encourage the processing of such of our agricultural crops as may, with advantage, be processed locally both for export and for internal markets. In this connection, a special place is being given to the processing of cocoa, the desiccation of coconut and the manufacture of tapioca out of cassava. Later, I will be making reference to the development of poultry and livestock and of fishing industry. This, of course, is another aspect of diversification.

Now, briefly, concerning diversification away from agriculture. Mr Speaker, Sir, the record of this Region's industrial development speaks for itself. I do not intend to burden hon. Members with a long catalogue of industries that are already on the ground nor with the still longer list of proposals that are currently being discussed with the Region's Industrial Promotions Commission. But if I may name a few of those already on the ground: there are the Ewekoro Cement Factory, the Plastic industry, Textile Industry, Crittall products, Rubber products, Aluminium products, Rubber processing, Vono products, Asbestos Cement and Soft Drinks industry. Very shortly there will come into being a Tyre and Tube industry whose operations will be of tremendous advantage to rubber producing areas in the Midwest and elsewhere in the Region.

(Interruptions from Opposition Benches). Two breweries, Guinness Stout and Beer are about to be established. Negotiations have been concluded for the establishment of a sizeable fishing industry which will offer training, refrigeration and marketing facilities, as well as employment opportunities to people in the Delta and coastal areas of the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to make one important point in connection with this Region's policy of industrialisation. Broadly, this Government categorises industries into three groups: the first group consists of fields which Government considers should be left entirely to public ownership. Examples of industries coming within the category are Public Utilities. The second classification embraces an area where there is a marriage of public ownership and private enterprise. Category 3 is an area of private enterprise. In categories 2 and 3 Government welcomes, and indeed desires, foreign participation both by way of capital investment and of provision of technical know-how and managerial ability. While Government continues through its agencies to hold shares in industries coming within categories 2 and 3, it is the policy that eventually these shares shall be unloaded, particularly in category 3, on to members of the public.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to make one essential qualification to what I have said regarding foreign participation. In certain rather restricted fields it is the declared policy of this Government that no foreign participation will be solicited and indeed, it is hoped that where in such fields foreign participants already exist, they shall pursue a policy of conscious and organised quick withdrawal. I refer here specifically and exclusively to the two fields of retail trade and of road haulage. In these two fields, indigenous people in this Region have by long enterprising experience gained both the technical know-how and the business acumen. For example, the keen efficiency of the women of this Region in the business of retail trade is proverbial. What is required now is sympathy on the part of the big business combines who are already in these two fields, sympathy and co-operation in an ordered withdrawal from these fields. No one more than ourselves appreciates more fully the sort of difficulties that are bound to occur in a period of transition, but there is no doubt whatever, that the thing can be done, provided it is carefully ordered and realistically phased out. This Government is committed to that policy. The Plan before you envisages these proposals; but the operative word and

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the key to success in this matter is sympathy on the part of those big expatriate combines already in the field—sympathy in the process of an ordered withdrawal.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish at this point to invite hon. Members' attention to the important role of the Industrial Promotions Commission. Charged with responsibility for accelerating the pace of ordered industrialisation of the Region is the Industrial Promotions Commission. Already, this Commission has done very excellent work not only by reason of the number of industries it has attracted into the Region and, indeed into the country, but also by reason of the terms on which it has succeeded in bringing in these industries and the selectivity which it has displayed.

The expansion of employment opportunities in the Region is the fourth objective. The need to provide more job opportunities for the people of the Region, and more especially for the growing numbers of young school leavers becomes pressing daily. I do not have to elaborate on this. Under the Plan, a whole complex of schemes has been evolved with a view to meeting this urgent situation. Mr Speaker, Sir, the White Paper before you includes schemes of farm settlements, of co-operative group farms, of small and large-scale industries, of co-operative artisans, of cottage and rural industries and of the development of trade and services. All these, provided we all gird ourselves and accept the sacrifices necessary to produce the resources to implement them, will ensure that no longer will our sons and daughters migrate from the rural areas to float about in the large towns in hopeless quest for white-collar jobs that never materialise.

The fifth objective is aimed at continuing to foster the spirit and to improve the techniques of community development. In the real spirit of independence, the motto should be "Progress through self-help". The policy is to get local communities to do things for themselves. Unless the mentality that Governments operate as a sort of fairy godmother is eradicated, the peoples of this Region are never likely to come fully into their own. The proposals in the White Paper before this House are calculated to ensure a swift and effective decolonisation of that mentality and to achieve the motivation of people to effectively desire to help themselves. Mr Speaker, Sir, the subject of community development and of integrated approach to the problems of the rural areas is one of the essential ingredients to the solution of the problems of rapid economic

and social development of this country. In the matter of economic development, we in this Region, like all other developing areas of the world, are running a race with time. The normal methods may not always be the effective methods because the times in which we live and the pace of development are not normal. The goals we have set for ourselves require that every man and woman must contribute his or her widow's mite. This is the spirit of community development. Indeed, at this juncture of our history, Western Nigeria calls on every man and woman to do his duty. This is the concept of the Development Plan; this is the challenge which it throws forth.

During the operation of the now suspended 1960-65 Plan, the community development technique took an additional stride. Communities have been encouraged to engage in self-help schemes of integrated rural development which include co-operative farming, co-operative poultry, co-operative processing of agricultural products, and aided self-help low-cost housing. It will be seen that this approach has added a new dimension to the community development technique as a means of fostering economic growth. In the 1962-68 Plan, it is intended to continue to foster this spirit and technique.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the strengthening of the private sector of the economy is the sixth objective. This measure is designed to enable the private sector take its full share in the programme of economic development. The proposals in the Plan before this honourable House are calculated to ensure the maintenance of the existing economic environment which conduces to the development of enterprise and initiative in the people. Under this Plan, the methods adopted for encouraging the private sector include the establishment of credit and training facilities, the provision of power and the development of industrial estates and transport and communications. In these ways, the major obstacles inhibiting private initiative would have been removed, thus liberating the energies in this important sector with a view to its making effective contribution to economic development.

Mr Speaker, Sir, from the brief outline I have given, hon. Members, I am sure, would have begun to see what may be the general expectation of the people of this Region in the next six years. The farming population of this Region is indeed very much affected by the proposals in the Plan. A vast programme of tree-crop development is envisaged, not only in respect of cocoa, but also in regard to the oil palm, rubber, cotton, coconut,

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cashew and the mango. Hon. Members know, of course, that the farming population of this Region is engaged on one or other of these tree-crops. For the execution of this tree-crop programme a sum of £2.5 million, in addition to what is provided under the Farm Settlement programme, is earmarked in the Plan.

I mentioned earlier the Farm Settlements and the Farm Institutes as being one of those unique contributions which this Region has made to the economic and social development of this Federation. In essence, the introduction of the Farm Settlements may be called "The birth of a new Agricultural Age". In the programme before this House a sum of £5.6 million is proposed for the development of Farm Settlements. As I said earlier, it is the intention that eventually there will be a Farm Settlement in every Division within the Region. I do not need to elaborate on the benefits of the Farm Settlements either in the sphere of increased production, or in the matter of generating employment opportunities.

Also contained in the White Paper is a programme for food production which is designed to meet the demands of the growing population, to raise the nutrient values of food and to expand the variety of foodstuffs. The matter of improving the quality of our foods and of increasing the variety touches also on the important issue of import substitution. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members know too well the tendency in this country to regard imported foodstuffs, even of lesser nutrient value, as being superior to local foodstuffs of better and fresher quality. The proposals before this House envisage plans to intensify research into the matter of our local foodstuffs, through the development of Home Economics, to bring out to our people the true value of such local foodstuffs as our own legumes, vegetables, etc. The fructification of all these projected agricultural development rests on the quality and strength of the Extension Services of our Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. A sum of £2.8 million is allocated to Extension Services.

I have already made reference to livestock, poultry and fishery. It is common knowledge that we import into this country between £6 to £8 million worth of fish annually. Part of the proposals in this Plan is designed to rectify this position of imbalance and take advantage of our coastal line to mount a fisheries industry. A livestock and dairy industry is proposed which will decrease our dependence on imported milk and which will

eventually bring the price of milk to within the reach of the ordinary man and woman. Over the last ten years we have gradually been raising the scale of our poultry development. It is proposed during the next six years to intensify its development and so cut down on imported eggs; but nothing shall have been achieved in this direction unless the price of locally produced eggs is brought within the reach of the lowest income group and this, indeed, is part of the proposals in the Plan before this House. For the development of livestock, poultry and fishery, there is a provision of £851,000. This however, does not include anticipated investment in related industries which are calculated to amount to over £1 million.

Progress, of course, depends on advance in research and the proposals before you, Sir, envisage an allocation of £66,000 for research into various aspects of agriculture. Not unconnected with agricultural research are experiments which are being carried out by the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources into certain fast growing species for the manufacture of paper pulp and matches and for other industrial and commercial purposes. Allocated to Forestry in this Plan is an amount of £98,000. In all these things, hon. Members will observe that the spirit of the proposals is to translate into economic reality the substance of the political independence which this country has gained. We are sure—and indeed convinced—and the records of all the meetings of the National Economic Council testify loudly to this—that all the Governments of the Federation are at one with us in this noble endeavour.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in our present circumstances, it will be nearly impossible to upgrade our peasant farmers unless an efficient system of agricultural credit exists. If the peasant farmer, as we know him, is to go beyond the point of peasant farming; if he is to make effective use of the results of researches into agriculture, if the advantages of progress in technology are to be brought within his reach; if some of the graver hindrances inherent in our system of land tenure are not to impede his further progress, then we must come to the aid of the peasant farmer by means of a system of well-organised agricultural credit. Mr Speaker, Sir, in the proposals before this House, a sum of £5 million has been allocated for agricultural credits.

And now, Mr Speaker, a word or two about our programme of industrial development. The industrial development programme is designed to make greater contribution to the

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Western Nigeria Development 2ND APRIL
Region's income, to broaden the base of the economy, and abate the risk of overdependence on foreign trade, to help secure full employment for the people, to ensure greater stability in the Region's finances, to make the fullest utilisation of available resources and to contribute in improving the nation's balance of payments. In order to achieve the objective of accelerating the pace of industrialisation, an aggregate sum of over £21 million has been allocated for investment and industry. Of this figure, £5 million is earmarked for the establishment of a Development Bank which will be provided with much needed technical advisory service that would effectively guide investment into the most profitable projects. Of the remaining £16 million, £10 million is for investment in large-scale industries; credit to rural and small-scale industries and retail trade claims the rest.

To facilitate the establishment of industries in the most favourable industrial zones in the Region, Government has established industrial estates in Ikeja and Mushin near Federal Territory, Lagos. The present Plan contains proposals for the creation of industrial estates in Abeokuta, Ajeromi, Akure, Ibadan, Ijebu-Ode, Ikeja-Extension, Sapele and Warri. For the development of these industrial estates a sum of £3.3 million has been earmarked during the proposed Plan period.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one special feature of the White Paper before this House is the inclusion of special schemes designed to create job opportunities. Such, for example, are the projects for small-scale and cottage and rural industries. It is proposed to expand existing facilities in these labour intensive schemes.

For the success of any scheme of small-scale industries an efficient training programme is essential. In co-operation with the United States Government's Agency for International Development, a training project for small-scale industrialists, estimated to cost about £1.4 million, is being estimated.

The White Paper makes provision for the development of a sector of the economy which, in the whole Federation, is known at present to be quite immature, namely, the services. With advance in the agricultural sector, the main area of employment will begin to shift to the services sector. Mr Speaker, Sir, in the present Plan, Government proposes, by way of industrial credits and of its industrial training programme, to encourage the youths to obtain gainful employment in appropriate areas in the services sector.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the proposals before this House, Social Services claim approximately £22 million or 25.6 per cent of aggregate capital expenditure. In the field of education, for instance, total capital expenditure for the six-year period is expected to be £12.85 million. The proposals cover all aspects of education from primary to University level. During the Plan period, the objective will be to continue to raise the standard of teaching in primary schools by a vigorous teacher training programme. Technical and commercial education will receive a very high priority since there will be an increasing demand for skilled and professional personnel as industrial development gains momentum. In the field of Health Services, capital expenditure during the period will be £1.6 million.

Hon. Members will have noticed that part of the health proposals is an arrangement to carry medical services right into the rural areas. It is proposed by a system of inducement to get medical practitioners to shift from urban areas into inadequately serviced parts. Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government is firmly convinced that if this Region must progress, first priority must be placed on ways and means of raising the level of amenities available to the ordinary man and woman in the villages. In this, preventive medicine will play a predominant role.

I would at this juncture draw attention to certain services which are essential to economic development. The first of these is Electricity supply on which it is intended to spend only £1.5 million. Government does not wish to embark on a very ambitious programme here as it is anticipated that cheap electricity will become available from the Niger Dams Project within the Plan period. However, attention will be given as soon as possible to pursuing plans for progressive rural electrification, particularly in anticipation of increasing development of small-scale and Rural Industries that may require some motive power. Secondly, a programme for road and bridge construction costing £6.25 million is contemplated. Apart from the construction of select new feeder roads which are justified on strict economic grounds, the main emphasis during the six-year period will be on the consolidation and improvement of the existing basic road system established between the years 1955 and 1962. By 1968, it is estimated that there will be over, 1,400 miles of tarréd roads designed to carry traffic up to at least 300 vehicles a day.

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I will now refer to one characteristic of the Plan which further illustrates the shift of emphasis to directly productive expenditure. General administration is allocated only 2 per cent of capital expenditure as against 24 per cent in the 1955-60 period. This, of course, is made possible by the speed and efficiency with which the Civil Service Organisation in this Region has been built up.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now come to a crucial point—the financing of the Development Plan. The total cost of the six-year Programme is £240.1 million made up as follows: Capital Programme £90.3 million; Recurrent Expenditure arising from the Development Plan £33.6 million; and normal Recurrent Expenditure £116.2 million. From this hon. Members will see that the total Development expenditure over the period is nearly £124 million and the Revenue Recurrent Expenditure to keep the services of the Government going is £116 million. The relatively low Recurrent Expenditure over the period testifies to Government's firm policy of keeping administrative expenditure to the barest minimum. This is a constant feature of the financial prudence of this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am constrained to borrow the phrase of the Roman Orator, and to say hon. Members "lend me your ears", because I think the explanations which I am about to make at this point are of extreme importance. (*Cheers*) How do we propose to meet the cost of the programme of the financial magnitude defined above? Hon. Members will wish to know that Government intends to meet fully the recurrent costs of the programme; that is to say, Government intends to find internally £149.8 million. This policy is, of course, dictated entirely by financial prudence in that it would be unsound public finance and rather incompatible with political independence that Government should rely on foreign aid to run its day to day normal governmental affairs. Moreover, I am sure that hon. Members would not wish that this Government should incur a loan at interest to finance what are after all mostly administrative expenses and therefore not developmental. Of the Capital Expenditure of £90.3 million, a foreign component of 50 per cent is assumed, for planning purposes, in accordance with the advice by the National Economic Council. This means, in general terms, that of the £90.3 million, this Region would expect at least about £45.1 million to come from foreign aid sources. We are thus left in this direction with £45.2 million

to find. Mr Speaker, Sir, the substance of this means that, in aggregate terms, we in this Region must find £195 million in order to carry the programme which have outlined before hon. Members. Recurrent Revenue from existing sources is estimated to be £130 million. £65 million thus represents the gap which must be bridged if the programme unfolded before you this morning is to be implemented.

I am sure I am expressing the wishes of all hon. Members in this House if I say that we all here consider no sacrifice too great to bear in order to achieve the total well-being of those who have voted us into this House and of generations yet to come to whom this gathering of today will be a momentous event in their reading of history. I know that hon. Members on the other side differ from us in their political views, but of this one thing I am certain, that we are in this House agreed to one man that we shall leave no stone unturned and that we shall consider no suffering too great to bear to achieve the general upliftment of every man and woman in this Region. I know that this spirit of self-sacrifice is there. The seeds have been sown, the lead has been given: I think for once we hon. Members here on both sides of the House may congratulate ourselves for the noble example of self-sacrifice. Our own sacrifice if quantified is indeed of rather small financial effect, but the real significance of that sacrifice derives from the impetus which it gives elsewhere to do as we have done. As it were, in its multiplier effects, the financial results could be tremendous. But if the results of our example is not to be barren of these multiplier effects, we must, in the spirit in which we have begun, make a concerted appeal to the people of this Region to do as we have done. This is the greatest challenge which this House is being called upon to face. Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope this House will rise to the challenge and let the people carry on the good work which we have so magnificently begun.

Mr Speaker, Sir, having regard to the spirit with which hon. Members in this House have begun in this matter of self-sacrifice, I am sure that if we are unable to bridge the gap to the tune of £65 million, it will not be for want of effort. I am advised that it will be feasible to take measures to bring the uncovered gap to £20 million. This will, as I have stressed above, require sacrifice on the part of all. No one suggests that the process of mobilising development capital is an easy one.

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Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish at this point to place on record the gratitude of the Government of this Region to all those Governments and International Bodies who have in one way or the other—by financial aid or by technical assistance—come to the help of this Region and, indeed, of the whole Federation. As has been aptly stated elsewhere, the greatest tribute we can pay to all those Governments and International Agencies who have come to our assistance is the assurance I now give them that the aid they give will fructify to the utmost: that it will serve its sublime purpose, which is the welfare of the people of this country and the common good of humanity. There can be nothing nobler than the task of upgrading suffering humanity. Indeed this must be regarded as the culminating act of all great civilisations and as the measure of the real maturity of the Great Powers.

But, placed side by side with the cost to the Great Powers of their armament race, the figures of assistance to the developing countries seem to cry out loudly for augmentation. To the developing countries, the philosophy of the Great Powers is as confusing and baffling as their inventions and technology. We hear of the ideals of democracy; we too cherish these ideals very dearly. We hear of spiritual values; we too strive after them. We hear of the common brotherhood of man, we too embrace this. We hear of the ideals of social justice, we too cherish these ideals. But we are baffled by the contradiction in which, while many peoples in several parts of the world are in need of resources for uplifting humanity, vast sums are tied up in an arms race which no one now really wishes to run, but which none has the courage to abandon. Our plea is that the Great Powers should pause awhile and re-assess issues involved. I believe they will realise that other areas of worthwhile endeavours exist—areas more profitable to humanity as a whole. This, we believe will in future constitute the real test of the greatness of the Great Powers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to pay tribute to the great contribution of certain members of the Universities of Ibadan and of Ife who served on the Region's Economic Planning Committee which has responsibility for developing the Plan which I have presented to you. I am sure that more and more we should be creating a situation in which the Universities make greater and greater impact on the life of the nation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my task is done. I have unfolded to you what Plan we must pursue if this Region, as indeed the Federation, is to achieve a take-off within a third National Plan Period. I have also stated what sacrifices must be borne to make possible this sustained growth of the economy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. (*Applause*)

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Speaker: Debate on this Motion will take place on the 5th of April. For clarity, copies will be served on each member of this honourable House.

I think this will be a convenient time for a short break.

Debate accordingly adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Thursday next.

Sitting suspended at 11.20 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.25 p.m.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read:

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Local Government Law. Hon. Members will remember that, early this year, the hon. Premier assigned the functions in respect of Local Government affecting the Midwest to the hon. Minister of Midwest Affairs, and this Bill that I am putting before the House, Mr Speaker, Sir, is designed to enable the Minister to satisfy or to perform the statutory functions under the Local Government Law in relation to the Midwest areas of this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr V. I. Amadasun (Benin West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of this very important Bill, a Bill which has no section attracting controversy. I will not therefore hesitate to congratulate the Western Nigeria Government, led by the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, for the introduction of this Bill to this House for the purpose of amending the Local Government Law in order that responsibilities for Local

[MR AMADASUN]

Government affairs in the Midwest might fall into the portfolio of a Minister who is a Midwesterner. This step, Mr Speaker, Sir, sound though it may be, may be viewed by the destructive critic as anti-democratic, but the only thing I have to say in this regard is that the action so far taken by the Government in the matter of transferring to the Minister of Midwest Affairs responsibilities of Local Government affairs in the Midwest is belated; I repeat, is belated—I want “belated” to be underlined—and ought to have been taken seven years ago, immediately after the passage of the Midwest Motion in the Western House of Assembly in 1955. You know this very Motion was moved by Chief Sowole and seconded by a no less distinguished Midwesterner, Chief S. O. Ighodaro, the Minister of Justice. You (*pointing to Chief Ighodaro*) supported that Motion; is that not so? (*Laughter*).

Chief Ighodaro: Yes.

Mr Amadasun: A severe critic, Mr Speaker, Sir, may now be opinionated to say that this change is made in order that the Action Group may make it impossible for the intended Midwest State to be created by distracting voters in the Midwest from voting in the Midwest Referendum.

I am not very much used to reading when I am speaking in this House as some Members on the other side used to do, but in order that they may understand the high standard of classical English that I am using—(*Applause*)—I want to see that I make a precis of it in very simple English so that the Members on the other side may understand what I am saying.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, what I am saying is that the action so taken—I mean this very Bill, the Second Reading of which was so compulsorily moved by the Minister of Local Government—is belated, and it is also an indication that the agitation of the Midwesterners and their determination for a Midwest State is divine and democratic. (*Applause*). Now, if it were not through the instrumentality of that agitation, I am sure that a man of the category of hon. D. S. Adegbenro, the Minister of Local Government, will not have the audacity to come and move this Motion yet.

Alhaji Adegbenro: What are you saying: Because it is belated to transfer responsibility for Local Government to a Midwesterner, will you therefore oppose the State? It is a question; stand up and answer it.

Mr Amadasun: No, Now, in 1955, this Motion was moved here. Immediately after the passage of the Motion this very Bill ought to have been introduced. And not only that, Sir; in 1957, Her Majesty the Queen sent the Willink Commission to find out.....

Government Bench: Willink Commission?

Mr Amadasun: Minority Commission.

Government Bench: Willink Commission.

Mr Amadasun: Willinks Commission. Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to be protected because the boys on the other side are very rascally. I ought to be given a chance to ventilate my opinion. Now, this Willink Commission, Mr. Speaker, Sir, came to Nigeria.....

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: Point of Order. We are not rascals. We are responsible.

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: The hon. Member ought to be forgiven by the Members on this side of the House because he is a school master without the necessary qualifications. (*Laughter*).

Mr Amadasun: The point of order is irrelevant.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, after the Willink's Commission, there was a recommendation that the Edo Minority Council should be set up to be given certain executive powers, and that the composition of that Edo Minority Council should consist of Members of both sides in the Western House of Assembly and Members in the House of Chiefs. Instead of this, these people who have the authority and audacity to come and move this Motion, brought into operation in the Midwest what is called the “Midwest Advisory Council”.

Mr Speaker, I am happy because the local affairs are now in the hands of a capable Midwesterner who knows something more of the varied customs and traditions of the people of the Midwest than the former Minister of Local Government, the hon. D. S. Adegbenro.

Secondly, I am happy because this step so far taken by the Government is a testimony to the Region of the determination of the Midwesterners in their struggle for creation of a Midwest State in order that they and their posterity might not be perpetually and politically enslaved.

Thirdly, now that matters in connection with the Midwest are in the hands of a Midwesterner, the Local Government Law, otherwise called “the principal Law”, will not be frequently amended as it is now,

[MR AMADASUN]

The taxation of Midwesterners, irrespective of Parties, will not be excessive as hitherto, and local government elections will be free and fair.

Finally, the passage of this Bill today will make us the Midwesterners to say "goodbye" to the former Minister of Local Government, Chief Adegbenro, who was popularly known as the Minister of Terror in the Midwest. The dissolution of many NCNC Councils in the Midwest will always remain green in our memory. (*Applause*). I say "Bye, Bye", and invite Chief Otobo to take over from him, now.

I beg to support.

Mr F. Oputa Otutu (Aboh West): Mr Speaker, Sir, we on this side of the House are not opposing the Bill. It is welcome. The Bill seeks to enable the Minister of Midwest Affairs to perform statutory functions under the Local Government Law in relation to the Midwest areas of the Region.

Sir, by bringing this Bill to this House, the Government of this Region is once again demonstrating its approval of the creation of the Midwest State in spirit. The Bill, Sir, is a partial approval of an autonomous Midwest State.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is hoped that this Government will sponsor the Motion as it did in 1955 for the creation of the Midwest State. It is also expected that this Government should give bolder expression to the Bill by refraining from loopholes here and there to forestall the creation of the Midwest State.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr S. A. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support; but I wish to raise one or two points in connection with this Bill for a Law to amend the Local Government Law.

Though this amendment is not a strange one—already there is a Minister for Midwest Affairs who is solely responsible for Midwest affairs—one wonders why the Government of this Region is worried about the Midwest. Personally, to me, the Minister of Midwest Affairs has got nothing practically to do at present inasmuch as we have the Minister of Local Government who has been taking care of all the Councils in both the Western Region here and in the Midwest.

I wonder why the Government of this Region is worrying too much about the affairs of the Midwest. Personally to me,

the Minister has nothing to be worried about, so far as it is definite that this area will be leaving this Region very soon. The Bill I expect to see in this honourable House is the Bill for the creation of the Midwest State. Any powers or duties which are to be exercised or performed under this Law in or in relation to any part of the Region other than the Midwest Area by the Minister, as in section 2 of principal Law, Cap. 62 (2) (a) and (b), will be of no value to this Region. It is a pure fruitless adventure, and I therefore consider it unnecessary.

Mr Speaker, Sir, inasmuch as the creation of the Midwest State is a problem before the Midwesterners, we need not waste time on this Bill. Sir, not to burden ourselves it would be better to throw this Bill away and jump on any other interesting business.

Mr Adeoye Adisa (Ibadan South-East Rural): I rise to speak in support of the Bill, but I am not speaking as an NPC member but as an NCNC member.

It is not quite easy to weep or rejoice over this amendment because I do believe that in the affairs of mankind honesty is the best policy. The Action Group has been caught severely by the cob-webs of their own political intrigues. I know that the Minister for Local Government will not feel pleased at this transfer of power, but we can rest assured that the creation of Midwest has come into its own now. What is now clear is the impending doom of the Action Group in the Federation, and this has been convincingly confirmed as the Minister to whom these powers are transferred is not here. It might be that he is not happy about what is happening in the Midwest area and he has gone there perhaps to organise a campaign against the forthcoming plebiscite. I feel, however, that on this memorable occasion everybody would feel immensely pleased that the Action Group has now resigned itself to the inevitable.....(*interruptions*).

I know that what is happening even in the Federal House has shown characteristically that the Action Group has accepted its minority status. It has accepted the fact that it will be the Opposition throughout the whole Regions of the Federation. Not only that. We heard that a member of the Action Group was appointed Leader of Opposition in Eastern Nigeria, and I know our people here are happy that they will have an office as the Opposition when we defeat them at the forthcoming election in the Midwest.

[MR ADISA]

On this point, Mr Speaker, Sir, I do say that the Minister to whom these powers are transferred was formerly a member of the NCNC, and I am quite sure that when the plebiscite in the Midwest has taken place and when the State is created, he will cross the carpet—(Cheers)—back to the NCNC, where he will be given a better and more deserving duty.

With the above remarks, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr P. V. Okwesa (Aboh East): I rise to support the Bill. My main reason for supporting the Bill, as already explained, is that the portfolio of Local Government in the Midwest Area has fallen into an able hand.

I wish to say again that the Minister for Local Government has introduced the Bill too late. I am aware—(Interruptions)—that the transfer of power has already been made at least three months ago and that the Minister concerned has been acting as the Minister of Local Government for the Midwest State for at least three months. I do not know, Mr Speaker, Sir, whether this is legal or illegal, and whether all the actions of the Minister during the three months will be legalised. I should think that such a Bill should first be introduced into the House and passed before the Minister is able to act as Minister in charge of Midwest Local Government, but, to my surprise, he has already begun to exercise the power before the Bill is brought to the Floor of this House. Legal experts in this House will bear me out—(Fire, fire!)—that the Minister of Local Government has made a blunder by authorising the Minister to act. What I am saying is that the Government has put the cart before the horse. They have transferred power to the Minister before the power is legalised in this House. That is the only side that I detest in the amendment.

On the other hand, it is very good news because the hon. Minister is intelligent and hardworking, and I know that by his handling this portfolio as far as Midwest is concerned we shall have something better than hitherto.

I am making all these remarks because I know that sooner or later the Minister will have to give up the post to somebody else when the Midwest State is created. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy that Members of the Opposition have spoken in support of this Bill.

With regard to the point raised by the Member for Aboh East, I wish to make it clear that we are guided by the wise counsel of the Attorney-General in this Region in all matters pertaining to Law, and that the Opposition Members have nothing to fear. If they doubt my statement, it is open to them to challenge it in the appropriate court of law.

Members will remember that I introduced the Bill broadly in two or three sentences because I believe that this Bill is not controversial and is a Bill that I expected ought to be welcomed by all sides of the House. But there is one point, and that is the relevance of the speeches about the creation of the Midwest. I do not see the relevance of that State now, because this Bill is designed to give the Minister for Midwest Affairs powers to exercise certain functions in the Local Government Law; but it seems that what we are doing now is in anticipation of the creation of the Midwest State. May I advise you to wait for the particular moment when we shall reply and let you know the state of our minds and also how far we are also prepared to meet the issue. The creation of the Midwest State is not yet before the House and I will not be prepared to be dragged into that. (An hon. Member: Into what?). Into the controversy about the creation of the Midwest State.

The other Members, Member for Aboh West, Member for Ibadan Central, and Member for Ibadan East, all of them have stated that the transfer to the Minister of Midwest Affairs of those powers certainly show that we of this side are now approving the creation of the Midwest State in spirit. Can I say that the time has not arrived to determine or even discuss the creation of the Midwest State.

The last point, Sir, is that the transfer now means that all functions about local government are now vested in a Midwesterner, but it should be clear that we in this Government have collective responsibility. It does not matter from what part of the Region a Minister comes. The responsibility for any exercise of those powers vested in him is certainly that of all Members of the Cabinet as a whole.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I recommend the Bill for the acceptance of this House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

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Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

**CUSTOMARY COURTS
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Customary Courts Law and to make provision for other matters connected therein.

The Customary Courts Law—as hon. Members are aware—was passed in this Region five years ago—in 1957.

Some amendments were made in 1959. The most important of the amendments at the time was the introduction of the Supervising Authority. The main object then was to ensure a methodical supervision and control of customary courts. Under this system of supervision, a supervising authority may of its own accord, on the application of any person concerned, review any proceedings, civil or criminal, in respect of which it is appointed, where it appears that there has been a patent case of miscarriage of justice or where an obvious error has to be corrected.

Since 1959, a number of supervising authorities have been appointed for the various Customary Courts in the Region. In every case, a supervising authority is a lawyer—President and, in the Midwest, I have appointed the Chief Magistrates there among the Supervising Authorities. I am sure this is a move which hon. Members would commend.

In the present Bill, I would like to focus your attention upon one additional means of effecting control over this hierarchy of customary courts.

The Chief Justice of the Region is to be empowered to require Presidents of Grades "A" and "B" Courts who are legal practitioners to furnish monthly lists of criminal cases to himself or to other High Court Judges. I must add that this section of the Law is taken verbatim from the Magistrates Courts Law. It is a provision perhaps older than the Native Courts Ordinance 1933.

The hon. the Attorney-General, in 1933 (A.C.V. Prior), in moving, in the Legislative

Council, the Second Reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make better Provision for the Administration and the Constitution of Native Courts in the Protectorate" said that "this clause is based on a section in the existing Native Courts Ordinance", and it cannot be claimed therefore that it is entirely new. Under that clause, a President or a District Officer may revise the proceedings of a Native Court, quash a conviction, may substitute for a sentence imposed by a native Court any sentence which seems to him to be more suitable, or may order the case to be retried by the same or by another Native Court, or he may transfer the whole proceedings to the High Court or to a Magistrates Court, or to some other Native Court.

Quite apart from any system of appeals, it is obviously desirable that as an Administrative Officer moves about the Province, he should have the power to rectify immediately the decision of a Native Court which he sees to be erroneous.

Hon. Members will note that the powers of the High Court Judge are very wide; for example—

(a) he may reduce a sentence;

(b) he may vary a sentence;

(c) he may annul a conviction;

(d) he may order a new trial before the Customary Court which passed the sentence or before any other court of competent jurisdiction;

(e) he may order for further evidence;

(f) in fact he may make any order as justice dictates.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let no hon. Member ask me why the powers of the Chief Justice do not extend to the Presidents in Courts of Grades "C" and "D", where laymen administer justice. If the 600 Customary Courts in the Region were to be directly controlled by the Chief Justice and the High Court Judges in this Region, you would certainly overburden them, and you would find this House being asked to increase the number of Judges almost ten-fold. You can imagine what it means to the Treasury—a High Court Judge is on £3,000 a year.

Hon. Members will agree with me that since all the Courts presided over by laymen have supervising authorities who are legal practitioners, and since freedom of appeal remains, it is certainly unnecessary and expensive to place all courts under the control of the Judges of the High Court.

[CHIEF IGHODARO]

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is one other major reason. I consider that this method of assessing the standards of performance of our legally qualified Presidents in the discharge of their functions would make it easy for the Chief Justice, who is the Chairman of the Judicial Service Commission, to have more intimate knowledge of some of our potential High Court Judges. It is a good thing for Customary Court Presidents in Grade "A" or "B" Courts to know that they too could be considered for one of the highest judicial offices in the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there are only two other amendments which I must mention. It is necessary to make it crystal-clear that the channel of appeal from a Grade "B" Court (with a lawyer-President) is not to another Customary Court or Magistrate's Court, but to the High Court.

The system of appeal just now is this: there is a right of appeal from a Grade "A" Court to the High Court; from Grade "B" (Legal Practitioner) to the High Court; from other "B" to Grade "A" Court; from "C" and "D" to Customary Court of Appeal. Where no customary court of appeal is established for an area, any aggrieved party may appeal to a Magistrate's Court within thirty days from the decision or order of a Grade "B", "C" or "D" Court.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the last point. There is one amendment whose object is to ensure that Customary Courts of this Region should be required to enforce or execute the decrees, orders, warrants or other processes of the Customary Courts of other Regions, and generally to give assistance to these Courts on the basis of reciprocity.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am afraid I have spoken rather lengthily. I am sure that hon. Members will agree that there is some justification for this expatiation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr O. Olaitan (Ilesha Urban East): Mr Speaker Sir, I think that members of the legal profession who have had the opportunity to go to Customary Courts to practise will have to thank the Attorney-General for the amendment made in this Bill, especially the provision where any accused person who is convicted in a local Grade B Customary Court will have the right to appeal straight to the High Court rather than to the Grade A court.

But by critical and realistic examination of these amendments, one will observe that some of the amendments are simply window-dressing, because some of the points which are usually attacked by the members of the Opposition are left untouched. I like to deal first with the right of election in these courts.

The Attorney-General will believe that there is very vital idea about Customary Courts in this Region. In the case of a man charged before a Customary Court, say, in a Grade B Customary Court where a semi-illiterate person is appointed as president of that court, which is mostly the case, accused persons are left without any right of election. They are bound to submit to the decision of that illiterate person. This vital point will have to be removed and given the right of election. Where an accused person is charged before a layman for, say, stealing, he must be given the right of election where he prefers a trial by a High Court Judge, because, in this Region we feel that members of the High Court Bench are all right and they are good in their job. So we feel that accused persons who are charged before a Grade B Court ought to be given the right of election.

Now I can reinforce this argument by saying that in Chief Magistrates' Courts in this Region, where we have men of ten years or more years standing in the legal profession appointed Chief Magistrates, an accused person before them charged for stealing for example, has the right of election. He can say, "I do not want my case to come before you" and the Chief Magistrate has nothing to do than to send the accused person to a High Court for trial. Now it appears ridiculous that an accused man should be left to submit to the mass decision of a semi-illiterate person who knows little or nothing of the special case of stealing. I think the Attorney-General ought to look into that properly when for the second time he is introducing a Bill for an amendment to the Customary Courts Law.

Secondly, Sir, I should like to mention the case of the influence of local politicians in Customary Courts in this Region. Now, one will observe that most of the Presidents of the Customary Courts, especially Grades C and B in this Region, are defeated candidates of the Action Group either in the Federal, Regional or Local elections, and, taking human nature as it is, these people are bound to have ill-feelings against all their opponents in that Division where they have failed an election. I would not like to go into names. So I feel, Sir, that in order to give Customary Courts prestige in this Region, they must be removed entirely from the influence of local

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politicians. I feel therefore that sections 12, 69, 70 and 71 of the Law ought to be repealed because these are the sections of the Law which give councillors the influence and the right of poke-nosing into the rights of Customary Courts, in the sense that they provide accommodation and that the fees are collected by them. A judge of the court who likes to be given fantastic allowances for travelling has to see the local councillor who may, perhaps, have a friend who is charged before the court. So I think that, in the interest of justice, it will be better if all local councils are not allowed to participate in the running of Customary Courts in this Region; so that I feel that the next time when the Attorney-General is bringing out a Bill, he will have to look into the possibility of removing the influence of local politicians from Customary Courts because I would like to say that, whatever the criticism of customary courts in this Region, it is quite obvious that they have done something towards the quick processing of justice in this Region.

At the same time one will observe, Sir, that customary courts in this Region are given some very high powers, especially the Grade A courts, because I think the Attorney-General will agree with me that a judge of a Customary Grade A Court is not superior in status to a Chief Magistrate. (*Government Bench: Yes.*) I feel that the powers of a Chief Magistrate are limited in criminal cases, whereas in the case of a Grade A Customary Court, an accused person who appears before a Customary Court is liable to be sent to thirty-four years imprisonment. In the case of a Grade A court they are given such very wide powers that they have to be curtailed because they are, more or less, powers of life and death over the accused person.

Thirdly, I like to mention the point made by the Attorney-General on which he dwelt very heavily during his moving of this Bill: that is, section 12 of the new amendment Bill. The Attorney-General gives us the impression that this section of the Law is vital to accused persons and that it will help justice better in these courts, but I hold a contrary opinion because section 12 is permissive and is not mandatory. As such, I would rather prefer that the wording of section 12 should have been the same as section 44D of the Customary Courts Law 1957 which reads:

“A supervising authority may of his own or on the application of any person concerned.....”, and it goes on like that;

so that section 12 should have read “The Chief Justice may of his own motion or on the application of any accused person”, etc. That should have given a person who is aggrieved of the decision of a Grade A Customary Court the right to file a motion in the High Court asking that the Chief Justice must exercise his power of review. But in this case it is simply permissive in view of the fact that the Chief Justice may or may not do it. In order to give a very bad effect to this section, the last proviso read.

“Provided that three months after the last day of the month to which the list relates the Chief Justice, the judge, or his successor, as the case may be, shall become *functus officio* in respect of all cases upon the list in respect of which he shall not up till then have taken any action”.

So that if after three months the Chief Justice does not ask for the list, or does not take any action on the list, that list becomes useless in his Chamber. So I feel, Sir, that this is a way, more or less, of twisting the effect of this section; I would therefore be urging the Attorney-General to reconsider at a future date the possibility of drafting section 12 in the same manner as 44D.

Furthermore, Sir, I like to thank the Attorney-General of this Region for his sense of justice because I have got several occasions to approach him and he has been very helpful at times; but, at the same time, Sir, I should like to give a hint which I think Members of this House will well appreciate. One sees, everyday, members of the Opposition criticising the customary courts; it is quite certain that most of these customary courts are acting against the wish of the Attorney-General in matters of administering justice in their courts. I think that there must be an effective supervision of these customary courts especially in the Grades B and C courts of this Region because the Attorney-General, going through the list of the Presidents, will know that these people are no doubt Action Groupers in entirety: Either they are chiefs who are members of the Action Group or they are people who have lost elections at local level. So I feel Sir, that in order to do that, there must be an effective supervision of these customary courts.

I will give an example from Ilesha Urban where semi-illiterates—no, I wouldn't say semi-illiterates—rather, raw illiterates are appointed as presidents who cannot read even the words of the Customary Courts Law. Now they are trying accused persons for failure to pay rates and, under the provision

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of the Law, it is specifically laid down that fines shall be paid in default; but these people, either through malice or through sheer ignorance of the Law, continue to put people into jail even where the terms of the law do not say people should go to jail in the first instance. Now, in that case, the only thing we have is the right of appeal to Grade A courts, and I am sure the Attorney-General knows this very well, the accused persons will be languishing in jail for six months before Grade A courts hear their appeal; but, when such a thing happened in Ilesha, I think the Attorney-General met the situation very well and had to appoint Grade A courts as supervising authorities for that Division. Within a period of one day or two, these people were allowed bail and their cases were quashed. But if the Attorney-General had been like the other Ministers who do not care for a sense of justice but only care for politics, he could have left the people to suffer and be languishing in prison.

That is why I said the Attorney-General is a statesman—it might be he is half a politician. He is a member of the honourable profession, and he does not have to face the people at elections, and he is very fair. I can assure the Attorney-General that when the NCNC controls the Midwest, he will be removed to be the Attorney-General in the Midwest.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu Remo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the amendment proposed, and in so doing I should like to praise the Attorney-General and the hon. Member of the Opposition who has just spoken. I think it is a case where myself or—let me speak idiomatic English—himself, the Customary Court Judges and myself would cry like “Ephesian Craftsmen of Old” and say, raising our hands in terror and protest, “Our craft is in danger”. Now, Sir, I am not at all surprised at the amendment proposed by the hon. the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice for this Region. We have to thank him very immensely for this. It is said that the taste of the pudding is in the eating.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would say that it was through the operation of the Richard's Constitution that the defects which were latent in it were discovered and so many amendments resulted which culminated in the present Constitution that we now work. Now by working the present Customary Court Laws and the Rules of Court governing its practice, so many anomalies reared their ugly heads, and it is but timely and opportune for amendments to follow. And not only

that; with this amendment there are still some defects which may still be discovered; and so, even in spite of this amendment, we cannot chant any *Gloria* yet, for it is said that not till the end is the *Gloria* chanted. (An hon. Member: Are you supporting or opposing?).

No. I know there may be some Customary Courts presided over by laymen which may be a *replica* of what John Bunyan described as Vanity Fair Market where Christian and his friend, Faithful, were tried. But it would be criminal and foolish to attribute the doings of these Customary Court Judges to the Action Group members. (Cheers).

Sir, my good Friend—the hon. Member there—did something where his speech appeared to snag like a play of Julius Caesar which at its end, and like the play of Thomas Ridd which snagged towards the end and ending up in a melodrama; so was the speech of my learned Friend at the tail end of it when he started to attack the character of the Customary Court Judges.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I do agree that these people are not saints: they have got faults, but the remedy is in our hands as lawyers. There is a certain friend in my constituency—my friend—a veteran schoolmaster who was my colleague when we were schoolmasters and is my friend in other respects. I had to take an Order of Prohibition against his proceeding in a matter before him, but when he did not do well, I obtained that order from the High Court. So if you feel that a Customary Court Judge is biased or prejudiced, well, you can always take out an Order of Prohibition, and it is to the credit of this Government that that right was not taken away.

Sir, my good Friend also mentioned the case of the nomination of people who were defeated at the elections—either Federal elections or Western Region elections—being appointed Judges. May I remind my hon. Friend and the hon. Members of the Opposition that all these Customary Judges have their oaths, and the oath they subscribe to is that they must do justice without fear or favour. (Shame, shame). Now I am saying that if any of these people do not prove faithful to their oath and, on the contrary, are perfidious to it, then it is between themselves and their God. And not only that; we have our own earthly and legal remedy, namely, to get the matter removed from their hands.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would support this Bill and I commend to the hon. the Attorney-General the suggestions put by the hon. Member for the Opposition,

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namely, that the review of these cases may not only be on the motion of the Chief Justice but may be at the instance of any other aggrieved person or anybody who is interested. That is very good, Sir. And not only that, Sir. When we suggested that after three months, the Judge shall become *functus officio*, I think that it is only reasonable if anybody should not sleep over his right and if he fails to do anything within three months that is his own funeral. (A Member: *Very good*). So, I do not think that is necessary, when once the first suggestion—the rewording of section 12—is taken into consideration.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support.

Mr A. A. Adesanya (Ijebu North I): Mr Speaker, Sir, may I thank the learned Gentleman from the Opposition for the compliments he paid to this side of the House when he was supporting this Bill. (Interruptions). But Mr Speaker, Sir, I cannot think of any other testimony to the democratic ways of the Members of the Government more than what has happened today. We have just passed one Bill, that is, the Bill for "Midwest affairs." Well, we got the Members of the Opposition supporting it one hundred per cent. Here is this one—the Customary Courts Law. I am sure the learned Gentleman there was speaking for the Opposition when he got up to say "I support the Bill". It follows then, Sir, that the Government of this Region is really democratic. It is a Government—(Applause)—that respects the views of the masses and I would only recommend to the Members of the Opposition that they should go home and do likewise in the Governments where they hold power.

It has often been said, Sir, that we learn from mistakes much more than from successes: we often discover what we did by pointing out what we could not do, and it is he who had never made a mistake who had never made a discovery probably, Sir.

This Bill was passed in 1957 and, undoubtedly, there are many loopholes in it. Sir, I wholeheartedly commend the Attorney-General and the Government to which he belongs for putting up this amendment.

Members of the Opposition are at times like sheep without a shepherd. I have said it in this House once, and am doing so now—(Interruptions). I have said it in this House, Sir, and I am repeating it, and I hope the front benchers—particularly my learned Friend in the front bench there—will drive it home to their party. (Shame, shame). As

I have said, they are like sheep without a shepherd. You could see that they will never—(Interruptions)—they have never, at any time, at least this session, held their Parliamentary Meeting. (Laughter). A Member: *Correct that English*). I am speaking the Queen's English. (Cheers from Government Benches). What I would only advise, Sir, is that the front bencher—well, unfortunately, the learned Gentleman in the front bench could not come today, and I do not know what to term the other Gentleman, whether NCNCer or NPC. He has told us, anyway that he was speaking on behalf of the NCNC and not the NPC. (Interruptions). Well, the learned Gentleman there never attended a Meeting of this House before. Mr Speaker, Sir, my advice to the Members of the Opposition is to hold their Parliamentary Council Meeting before they come to this House. (Interruptions). I am sure, Sir,—(shouts of sit down, sit down, shame, shame).

Mr Olaitan: Point of Order Sir, Order 27, Rule 2. (Prolonged interruptions). A Member must confine his observations to subject matter under discussions and may not introduce matters irrelevant thereto. (Shame, shame).

Mr Deputy Speaker: Will the hon. Member please continue.

Mr Adesanya: My advice to the Opposition, Sir, in order that they may not continue to waste the time of this honourable House, is to hold their parliamentary council meetings. (Interruptions). Well, they should not just come here like sheep without a shepherd. Well, today, Sir, I really commend them, particularly the last speaker from the Opposition. Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have said before, they should hold their parliamentary council meetings regularly. (Shouts of sit down, sit down, shame, shame). I am not surprised at what Members of the Opposition are doing: they have agreed that truth sometimes pinches.

Mr A. Adisa (Ibadan South-East Rural): Mr Speaker, Sir, immediately after the shepherd begins the sheep. Undoubtedly, we know our standard of debate in this House this morning. There is no doubt that he did not do his own work well, and next time, when he rises to speak, I am sure he will address his speech to the Speaker and forget the question of whether Adisa is NPC or NCNC. After all, I did not leave the Jos Conference in order to welcome the Sardauna at Ibadan! If he wants to know people with NPC tendencies he should look

[MR ADISA]

for them in his own camp. (*Laughter*). He should try to find out from those people who go and worship at the feet of Sir Abubakar Balewa every week-end begging him, praying him, not to create the Midwest. (*Shame, shame*).

Now, Sir, I have the greatest pleasure indeed in commending these people, and I do myself thank the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General whom we have all admired in this House, not only with his ministerial conduct, but with even his political conduct. (*Interruptions*). If I want to be appointed a Judge, I will go to the Federal territory.

Studying this Bill, there is nothing to criticise in its terms because it has been prepared by an active lawyer; but the point is in his co-operation. Great fears and anxieties are raised in the minds of all the Members of the Opposition because there are some precedents of your oppression, suppression, repression, etc. (*Applause*). Because of these, I feel that this Bill is opportune. First, it is the repercussion of your deeds—your fear of what is going to happen to your supporters in the Midwest when it is created. I believe that you are now trying to set a good example. This kind of Bill, when properly passed, will serve to save your own supporters after the creation of the Midwest from the hands of Customary Court Presidents.

Now, Sir, I believe that, apart from what is enacted clearly, there are omissions—clear omissions—in this amendment, and I believe that the main problem of Customary Courts is that they should not be given jurisdiction over criminal cases. That is the point of fact which is supported not only by the analysis made but also by any historical evidence. First, we note that we speak of these Customary Courts: what are they for? The Customary Courts are supposed to enforce those customs of ours which have attained the stamp of legality; but, instead, what do they say is the function of these Customary Courts? Purely statutory. You have this jurisdiction in criminal cases, in statutory offences, and there are amendments as long as the history of their oppression. I am sure that the next opportunity which the Minister of Justice will have will enable him to take away completely the jurisdiction of all these Customary Courts, because there is no way of preventing injustice if you ask a man who is very ignorant about law to be a judge of so many statutory functions in which, even before eminent lawyers, mistakes are made. I do not even think that there is

any justification whatsoever for giving these Customary Courts criminal jurisdiction at all; but if you say no, you are going to see fire in the Midwest when it is created (*Applause*).

Now, Sir, as regards the question of supervision by the Chief Justice, I believe that the horse is put before the cart in this matter. We find almost, always in Courts presided over by legally qualified presidents; that we can always expect better administration of justice, and it is not in these Courts that the real defects have been found. Almost always you find it in Courts which are presided over by the laymen: these grades C, D, and B Customary Courts presided over by persons who are not qualified in Law. Therefore, one should have thought that the Chief Justice should have been given supervisory role over these very Courts of iniquity, rather than over the very Courts which are presided over by people who are qualified in Law. I know that it would be said in the way of Hanson that these other Courts have supervisors, but my own experience, Sir, with the greatest respect and deference to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, is that these supervisors are, I am afraid, afraid of their daily bread, because if they do exercise their supervisory role by way of annulling the convictions or setting aside the sentences by these Courts, they feel that they might run foul of the hierarchy of the Action Group. (*Applause*).

I know that the second to the last speaker said of his experience—(*A Government Member: The last but one speaker please*). Thank you very much for that noble interjection. Now, I feel that what he has said was this; that there was a case relating to his friend—and he himself found that there was glaring injustice that he had to go to the High Court before he could obtain justice. The point he has failed to tell us here is how much he spent in order to get the High Court to give him his right when it is known that thousands of our people under the era of austerity created by the Action Group have not just the money to bring their appeal to the High Courts. Is this also “life more abundant”? The Life more Abundant stunt of the Action Group is very empty and has been wiped out, (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Speaker, I will say this: that in this Region unless you have.....

Mr Deputy Speaker: I think what we are saying is prosperity through austerity.

Mr Adisa: Mr Speaker, Sir, speaking of prosperity through austerity, I pray God to give me prosperity to overcome this austerity (*Applause*).

[MR ADISA]

Mr Speaker, I find one significant point in one of the amendments, and that is that the Customary Courts of this Region will now be empowered to enforce the decisions and orders of other Customary Courts. This is a very, very good amendment because at least it shows that those who have welcomed the Sardauna would have at least fulfilled a part of their promises—their pledges—that all these penal codes will now be enforced in this Region and that all Alkali Courts, whatever they have done, would be rubber-stamped by the Customary Courts of the Western Region. That is a very wonderful achievement of the Action Group.

Now, Sir, I find, lastly, the question of the role of assessors—those who are to sit with the Judges of Customary Court Presidents. Sir, the whole position needs, I think, a review by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. I do not think that these assessors are behaving well; I do not think it merits their retention in the Customary Court panel. I believe that what is needed is not in the way of appointing more and more assessors, but in the way of only appointing legally qualified personnel to man all the Customary Courts in the Region; until that is done I can only bid good-bye to justice in the Western Region. (*Applause from Opposition Benches*).

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhadji Z. A. Opaleye): Mr Speaker, in supporting this amendment, I would like to make some observations. Now, the time is overdue, Mr Speaker, when members of the Opposition should be honest to the electorate of this Region. (*Interruptions*). For instance, Sir, these people will come here to criticise this Government in a most destructive manner. (*Interruptions*). We will listen to very constructive criticisms and not foolish ones. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Deputy Speaker: The word "foolish" in that context, I think, is unparliamentary and should be withdrawn.

Mr Opaleye: Mr Speaker, Sir, I said constructive criticism. (*Members of the Opposition: Withdraw, withdraw*). Mr Speaker, I withdraw. (*Shame, shame*).

Members of the Opposition will come to this honourable House and criticise the Government. This Bill is designed to consolidate democracy and will make for justice (*Interruptions*). In the Eastern Region, Sir, where the NCNC controls the Government, the Minister of Customary Courts is

responsible for the appointment of Court Presidents, whereas these people will come here and criticise our Government. Whereas we have a Local Government Service Board, an independent Board, responsible for the appointment of Customary Court Presidents here in the West, in the Eastern Region the Minister of Customary Courts is responsible for the appointments. I am therefore telling members of the Opposition to write a letter to the Premier of the Eastern Region and tell him to amend the Constitution. (*Shame, shame*). They should write to the Premier of Eastern Region to amend the Local Government Law in the East so that an independent Local Government Service Board, as is in the Western Region, can appoint Customary Court Presidents. You only cause confusion when you come here to say that Presidents of Customary Courts here are politicians, whereas, in the Eastern Region, the Minister responsible for Customary Courts, appoints Presidents of Customary Courts.

Please, we appeal to you to go to the East to amend the Law.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose vehemently the Second Reading of a Bill further to amend the Customary Court Law of the Western Region of Nigeria. The Principal Law which this Bill envisages to amend, brought into existence in the Western Region the Customary Court system, a system which is calculated to be the worst weapon of oppression of Action Group political opponents. The political atrocities which brought about the 1961 breakdown of law and order in Western Nigeria were originated and nurtured by some irresponsible and culpable actions of a majority of the Customary Court Judges or Presidents of Grades "C" and "D" Courts (*Interruptions*). (*Shouts of "Withdraw, withdraw" from Government Benches*).

Mr Deputy Speaker: Change the word to "allegation".

Mr Amadasun: I beg to withdraw.

Some of the amendments shown in this Bill are indeed very good, when interpreted without political bias; but I would still suggest that the principal Law should further be amended so that—

(a) Presidents of Grades "C" or "D" Customary Courts should have no power under the Law to issue warrants of arrest on any person in matters which have political colouring.

(b) Presidents of Grades "C" or "D" Customary Courts should have no power

[MR AMADASUN]

in law to refuse bail for any accused persons when there are men to bail them.

(c) Presidents of Grades "C" or "D" Courts should have no power under the Law to detain an alleged offender for a period exceeding two days, instead of seven days as at present.

(d) Presidents of Grades "C" or "D" Courts should have no power under the Law to charge an accused person for contempt of court.

For instance, Sir, at Umagbae Grade "C" Customary Court on 13th March, 1962, Cause No. 8/1962: Criminal Summons No. 21212 of 19th February, 1962, one Mr Uwamae Umakhe, a co-accused with Mr A. Okundaye, was on 13th March, 1962 aforesaid sentenced by the Judge of this Court to a week's detention in Her Majesty's Prison for contempt of court for allegedly smiling in Court. There are many manifold instances of events of this nature in Customary Courts in Benin Division.

However, clause 3 (b) of this Bill which seeks to empower the Minister to make provision, where the Court consists of more than three members, for the Court to be constituted by such number of members out of the total membership, as the Minister may specify, is welcome. It is common knowledge, however, that many Grade "C" Courts of three members in the Midwest hold Court sessions, when only a member, usually called the President or Judge, is present. This section will inculcate in members of courts of multiple membership that none of them, in the eye of the law, is much more important than the other.

Section 12 of this Bill which empowers the Chief Justice or any Judge of the High Court so designated by the Chief Justice, to require any President of a Grade "A" or "B" Court, who is a legal practitioner, to forward to the Chief Justice or a Judge of the High Court, as the case may be, a list of all criminal cases, or specified criminal cases, decided or brought before such President during any specified month, is welcome. This section empowers the Chief Justice or a Judge of the High Court to mitigate or annul any penalty inflicted on any person by the President of a Grade "A" or "B" Court. A system whereby the list of criminal cases decided or brought to Grade "C" Courts will be required by Court Supervisors should also be introduced, for such a system will correct and put right many miscarriages of justice now being experienced all over the

Region in Customary Courts not presided over by legal practitioners.

Finally, Grade "C" or "D" Customary Courts scattered all over the Region are noted not for good dispensation of justice, but for maladministration of justice. The legal performances of a majority of the Judges of these Courts have fallen far below expectation. The sooner the Grades "C" and "D" Customary Courts are abolished, the better it is for the people of the Western Region in general and the Midwest in particular.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have said before, from my own political point of view, I, hon. V. I. Amadasun, standing in this honourable House, oppose this Bill which has brought calamity to Action Group opponents all over the Western Region. All these unnecessary Grades "C" and "D" Courts are not required in the Benin Division.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the Bill.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs (Mr J. G. Adediran): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Second Reading of this Bill my observation is that the Opposition Member for Ilesha said that Customary Court Judges/Presidents were appointed because of their party affiliation. I say, Sir, that this is not correct. Customary Court Judges were appointed on merit (*Interruptions from Opposition Benches*). Secondly, he said that all accused persons who are tried in Customary Courts are NCNC members (*Interruptions from Opposition Benches*). I know that any person whether NCNC or Action Group or common citizen can be prosecuted in the Customary Courts.

Again, Sir, he said that Customary Court Judges usually run to councillors in regard to their salary or basic allowances. I say, Sir, that Customary Court Judges are appointed by the Local Government Service Board. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). Their salaries, allowances and sitting fees are fixed by the Local Government Service Board and not by the Local Government Council. (*Interruptions from the Opposition Benches*). The impression that Customary Court Judges will decide in favour of Councillors because they want increases in their pay, according to Opposition Members, is what I want to correct.

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I like first of all, to express my gratitude to hon. Members of the Opposition who showed me courtesy and generosity by their remarks.

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[CHIEF IGHODARO]

I can only say that it is always mine and my Ministry's great pleasure to assist any Member of the Government or the Opposition, and whatever suggestion they bring forward for the improvement of the Customary Courts, we are ever willing to adopt them.

Some of the amendments that have come before this House are actually due to some individual Members. I am not mentioning names, but I know some barristers who have come forward with their letters making special remarks or speaking to us about certain sections of the law, and asking us to consider them. I would like to take this opportunity too to express my appreciation to the Ibadan Bar for their examination of the Customary Court Law and their willingness at all times to make very responsible suggestions to the Ministry of Justice.

I appreciate all this co-operation because I certainly feel that we have room for improvement. We have not exhausted all the possible amendments for the Customary Court Law but I am averse to bringing amendments piecemeal, and that is why we have accumulated most of these, and that is also why in this House today we have about twenty-two amendments. We compile them from time to time and, at one sitting, we bring them forward.

I would like, however, to make remarks about one or two salient points which have been made in the course of this Debate. The most important one is that there should be some right of election—what the lawyer calls the right of somebody going to court and being able to make a choice whether he should appear before you or should appear before another court. It is something which, of course, I am prepared to consider, but it is not a problem which I can tell you off-hand that I will accept, because it has very many amplifications and very many complications. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

There is one other point I would like to make, Sir. We have made every attempt, every possible human attempt, to keep politics out of the courts. I am speaking sincerely. All Presidents of "A" and "B" Courts—those courts manned by lawyers—are not chosen by me or by the hon. the Premier. Those members, those Presidents, are chosen by the Judicial Service Board.

The Chief Justice of the Region is the Chairman of the Judicial Service Commission, and we have introduced this measure because the main object is to make the public have confidence in these court judges and to know

that, after all, these Presidents are not the hand-maid of politicians. They are not our puppets. Members and presidents of C and D courts are appointed by the Local Government Service Board. It is true that some of you might say, "Well, that is still not satisfactory enough". The only alternative to that would be for this House to give me personally the power of appointing the Customary Court Judges. If you give me that power, I would be prepared to utilise it. But I know that most of you would be very hesitant. However much you may appreciate whoever is the holder of the post of Minister of Justice, I know that you will be most reluctant to entrust such powers into his hands, but you should know that in one part of this Federation my colleague is responsible for making such a choice. Of course, I do not say that you should follow that pattern, because this is the West and we must abide by our own principles.

And one other point which has been raised is this: somebody has suggested that criminal cases should be taken outside the jurisdiction of the customary courts. I am quite surprised to hear that from the learned lawyer.

Opposition Benches: He meant C and D courts.

Chief Ighodaro: Let us presume C and D. Have you ever examined the statistics of criminal cases in this country? The number is mounting. And what are we going to do with those villages and those communities where crimes are mounting from time to time? You have not got enough magistrates to tackle all these problems. And not only that; let us examine the old Native Court Ordinance. Whether you call the old courts Native Courts or Provincial Courts, when you examine the law relating to Native Authorities you find that, in the past, native court presidents or native court judges had criminal jurisdiction. Today, in the 20th century, in 1962, when we have even made progress, and when we have walked through the corridors of time to where we are today, you say that these men should not have any criminal jurisdiction. I think this is very difficult. We have suggested other methods of improving the courts but I think there is no harm in their having criminal jurisdiction.

One Member made what I may call a serious indictment. He said that some supervising authorities were frightened. I would not like to say that he said they were afraid. I do not like to believe that he was serious. I do not think that there are supervising authorities in this Region who

[CHIEF IGHODARO]

are afraid to do their duties. The only thing I would like to say is that there is no reason why anyone who is really in difficulty should not approach the supervising authorities, who can always put things right.

One last word I would like to say is that the customary courts on the whole are doing their work gallantly. And Members must have the courage to praise them when they deserve to be praised. One thing that I would like to say is that I do not like to see the authority of the customary courts flouted. I regret—I am very serious—(Interruptions). I regret that in that part of the world where I come from—the Midwest—in the past, there has been a great deal of flouting the authorities of the customary courts—(Interruptions)—and I hope that things will improve, and for things to improve in that area I have made a special case for appointing the Chief Magistrates in this Area from Benin and Delta to be the Supervising Authorities. I have already made that remark. I hope things will improve. One thing I want to assure Members is that I do not like people to trifle with the dignity of customary court presidents. You must see that their dignity is maintained. I am not to defend them, but I must use all the powers at my disposal to see that their dignity is maintained.

Mr Speaker Sir, I do not intend, nor do I think I can even exhaust all the things I want to say on this occasion; there is still some opportunity coming during the Budget debate; when it comes to my Head—the Ministry of Justice—whatever lacuna I have left unfilled I will take the opportunity at the time to do them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 23 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

Sitting suspended at 2.20 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.15 p.m.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Motion for an Address

Adjourned Debate on Question (28th March)—

“That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in the following terms:—

This House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to Your Excellency for the most gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature;

And that this Address be formally presented by the Leader of the House and the Mover of the Motion”.

Question again proposed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr D. K. Olumofin):

Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor of Western Region for his Speech from the Throne. In doing so I would like to make some observations on one or two important points.

In the first place, I would like to congratulate His Excellency the Governor for the Speech from the Throne; and in congratulating the Governor I think Mr Speaker will agree with me that the Governor is in a unique position, not only in Western Nigeria, but also in the whole Federation. This Address should be endorsed by the House before being presented to His Excellency the Governor by both the hon. Leader of the House and Minister of Finance and hon. the Leader of the Opposition. I hope my Friend, the hon. Fani-Kayode, will go with the Leader of the House to present this Address to His Excellency on this occasion.

There is one point made by the Opposition about the alleged break-down of law and order. I would like to say that, although elsewhere in the Federation political powers are being misused, Western Nigeria remains a citadel of democracy, and law and order remain undisturbed in Western Nigeria. If Western Nigeria had not been a citadel of democracy, most of the members opposite (pointing to the Opposition Benches) might have been jailed because they did a lot of things to cause trouble and unrest, and tried to bring chaos to the Region, but for the tactful patience of the Government of this Region. I remember that certain mischievous politicians from beyond the confluence of the Niger and Benue came here and made provocative and inflammatory speeches calcula-

[MR OLUMOFIN]

ted to cause trouble or to incite people to lawlessness; but the Government did everything possible to avert trouble; and these acts of incitement to lawlessness could never have been carried out with impunity elsewhere in the country—not to mention the Eastern Region—but I must congratulate the Government for being able to keep its head all along.

There is one aspect of the Speech from the Throne—a vital point I want to talk about—which is in relation to professional drivers. I should like to call the attention of Mr Speaker to the recklessness of professional drivers. Most of us using the roads will agree that they (the drivers) always think that the roads belong to them; they will not give way. They do not know what we call “road courtesy”, particularly the lorry drivers. We should like to appeal to the Police to see that these drivers keep the laws of the road and observe traffic regulations. If I were the police I would arrest them and charge them to court. And if I were a magistrate I would jail them and seize their licences. (*Interruptions*). So I would appeal to the Police that they must take care of these drivers on the road as we are all experiencing difficulties from their irresponsible actions, and most of them think that if they contravene the traffic laws they will just be taken to court and fined. If I were a magistrate, I repeat, I will send them all to jail. (*Shouts of shame, shame, from the Opposition Benches*).

Before I take my seat I wish to make an appeal. (*Interruptions*). I would appeal to the Leader of the House to see to it that the Leader of the Opposition accompanies him to His Excellency the Governor to deliver the humble Address for his Speech from the Throne.

Mr W. E. Aghahowa (Benin South-East): Mr Speaker Sir, in support of the Motion that a humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor for his able Speech from the Throne, I have this to say. This Speech ought to have been the first and most up-to-date on Nigeria's Second year of Independence, but it has failed to be so in four principal aspects:—

(1) it fails to stipulate how to combat bribery and corruption in this Region;

(2) nothing was said about the impending creation of the Midwest State;

(3) the effective maintenance of law and order in this Region; and

(4) the extension of governmental amenities to the people living in the rural areas.

Dealing on my first point Sir, all right-thinking Nigerians hold firmly to the view that bribery and corruption have done a lot of damage to the social fabric of this young promising Federation, and this Region in particular. Since the Government has done nothing positive to bring this evil practice to a halt, it appears as if the Government is aiding and abetting it. We are now going to accept, as our way of life, prosperity through austerity, according to the Governor's Speech. Bribery and corruption will, I am sure, wear uglier faces. It will therefore be highly appreciated if this Government can set up an Anti-Bribery Committee in each of the administrative provincial headquarters throughout the Region, and a more crafty legislation brought up to eradicate the evil from our society.

On the Midwest issue. Although there might have been some slight legal typographical errors in the first Motion moved last year for the creation of the Fourth Region in Nigeria, to be known as the Midwest State, yet events—(*Interruptions from Government Benches*)—connected with the creation of the State are such that nothing can hold back the creation of the Midwest State. The Speech from the Throne ought to have stated that, before long, a Fiscal Commission will be set up to share the Region's revenue with the new Midwest Region. (*Cheers*).

This Region has passed through a most crucial period in the current year which ended a few days ago. I mean the alleged breakdown of law and order in this Region. Everybody in this Region has suffered in one way or the other. Throughout that period, the Local Government Police was of less use in view of their gross ignorance and lack of training coupled with the poor academic grounding of nearly all of them. I would therefore suggest that provision be made for our young men with full secondary grammar and post-school certificate background to be encouraged to join the Local Government Police in order to improve efficiency. Anybody who watched most of them connected with court prosecution will agree that the Local Government Police is a miniature of the Nigeria Police. A more comprehensive training which will not in any way be inferior to that of the Nigeria Police should be introduced forthwith. And if the need should arise, the Local Government Police should be integrated with the Nigeria Police in the interest of efficiency. The Local

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Government Police, as it is at the moment, is, to say the least, a wash-out.

The Minister of Justice, or whoever it may concern, will be doing the greatest disservice to the entire populace of this Region if he continues to appoint local Action Group politicians as Customary Court Presidents. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*). The Government should make it a point that only people with a clean past shall be considered for customary court presidentship, particularly the Grades B and C courts.

On the extension of amenities to the people living in the rural areas, the electorate of Benin Division have been criminally forgotten in the way of governmental distribution of amenities. Three years ago the Midwest Advisory Council recommended, with a certificate of urgency, a rural water scheme for Evbohigae, Ugo, Evboesi, in Iyekeorhiomwon, Benin Division. When the hon. Olusa visited the Iyekeorhiomwon Council, he gave a categorical assurance that water will be available within twelve months. Chief Ekwejunor-Etchie, the Minister of Justice.....

Chief Odebiyi: Point of Order, Sir. The hon. Member is a Regional Minister in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and not the Minister of Justice.

Mr Aghahowa: Chief Ekwejunor-Etchie also came round to give a further assurance. He even told us that the road passing through Agbor, via Ugo, to Sapele was then on the current year's estimate for bituminous surfacing. The Urhonigbe-Umotu water project is still today a paper programme. None of these projects, Sir, ever saw the light of day.

Nothing ruins a Government than when it promises and fails. It is a surprise to see that a village like Isho and Ogbese in the Yoruba West, which is not as big as a street in Eubohigae or Urhonigbe, should have water while bigger places in the Midwest have none.

During the last Budget Meeting of this honourable House, the Minister of Education gave an assurance that the Edo College £25,000 expansion schemes will be implemented. He also gave another positive assurance in respect of the Technical School for Benin. What is the position now, Sir? Again, the much publicised Midwest Secretariat is also not built. When will this Government stop deceiving the people of the Midwest area? Therefore, Mr Speaker, I seize this opportunity to call on this Government to stop her

hypocritical practices towards the people of the Midwest.

On the Government's much publicised austerity measure, why should this Government differ from what the other Governments of the Federation have adopted? With all the power at my command I call on this Government to adopt the same austerity measures as adopted by all the other Governments of the Federation. Any attempt to differ will, I am sure, make the Six-year Development Plan ably presented to us this morning a complete failure.

With these few remarks I rise to support the Motion.

Mr S. A. Akerele (Ekiti North-East I): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to join those who are expressing the dutiful thanks of this honourable House to our Excellency the Governor for the Speech which he has most graciously delivered from the Throne. This Speech has outlined in full the progressive plans of our dynamic Government. These are just a few of the points contained in the Speech.

The Expenditure.—The Governor in his Speech, had mentioned that the Government would spend £240.1 million as its expenditure for the next six years and that £90.3 million would be for capital projects.

The Census.—The Governor also touched upon the keen anxiety of our progressive Government to arouse the interest of our populace in the forthcoming census as the population statistics is essential to the formation of sound economic planning. The Western Nigeria Government is to be credited for this appropriate and fitting propaganda on the census, as lack of such propaganda in the past was responsible for the inaccurate reckoning of our population. Our people were not keen on being counted, partly because many people thought that it was the Government's subtle method of numbering people for taxation, and partly because, in many areas in our land, people thought it was contrary to native law and custom to know exactly how many people there are in a town or village.

Welfare State.—The Governor in his Address also touched the Government plans to develop a welfare state by encouraging and fostering the spirit of community development and self-help. The Government has introduced a number of measures arranged and supervised by capable Government officials by means of which leadership training is carried out throughout the whole of this Region; examples are the training of the *Shasha* Boys, by means of which roads and

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bridges have been known to have been constructed through its able officials afield. It has already established four farm projects in appropriate centres in the Region: one—the Igede Farm Project—is established in Ekiti Division, through the careful scheming of this Government; the surrounding ten villages and towns have been stimulated to make the farms and the roads to them by means of communal effort for the use of about one hundred boys who are selected from each of all the towns and villages concerned. We want many more of such schemes and we are extremely grateful for what the Government has done.

Improvement of Agriculture.—The Governor said that development of agricultural technique and production will be accelerated by means of appropriate training and research work. He also mentioned that Government has already settled our young school leavers as farmers on 7,000 acres of land. These Farm Settlements are established in suitable places throughout the whole of the Western Region. They can be found at—

- (i) Utagba-Uno in Aboh Division, Delta Province;
- (ii) Ekpoma in Ishan Division in Benin Province;
- (iii) Mbiri in Asaba Division in Benin Province;
- (iv) Onishere in Ondo Division in Ondo Province;
- (v) Erin Ekiti in Ekiti Division in Ondo Province;
- (vi) Okitipupa Division in Ondo Province;
- (vii) Esha-Oke in Ilesha Division in Oyo Province;
- (viii) Ilora in Oyo Division of Oyo Province;
- (ix) Ogbomosho in Ogbomosho Division in Ibadan Province;
- (x) Ago-Owu in Oshun Division in Ibadan Province;
- (xi) Ifo in Egba Division in Abeokuta Province;
- (xii) Ado-Odo in Egbado Division in Abeokuta Province;
- (xiii) Ibiade (Waterside) in Ijebu Division, Ijebu Province.

As said above, our Government has already settled hundreds of our young school leavers on these settlements; it has expended thousands of pounds on each of these settlements. It has thus provided employment for several thousands of our citizens in each of these Divisions where the settlements are situated, and thereby contributed

in a large measure to making life more abundant for them all. Equally and also important, these settlements are meant to produce a new generation of young men who will respond more readily to modern methods of farming, especially to encourage methods of growing cocoa, citrus, coffee, coco-nuts, palm trees, etc.

I must add that Farm Institutes are also established in these areas—

- (a) We have the Rural Farming Centre at Asaba;
- (b) Ilesha Farm Institute at Ilesha;
- (c) Odeda Farm Institute is sited at Odeda near Abeokuta;
- (d) Agbadu Farm Institute in Urhobo Division in Delta Province;
- (e) Ikorodu Farm Institute in Ikeja Division in Colony Province.

Our boys, Mr Speaker Sir, who are studying at all these Institutes, and the several hundreds of people employed at each of the Institutes understand perfectly the Action Group adage of "Life more abundant for all".

I must mention here, Sir, that our able Government has intensified, on all these Farms, modern improvements of livestock and poultry farming and increased the production of highly nutritious eggs. I must however warn our ever-watchful Government about certain dangers that may utterly upset all the carefully planned schemes that our Government has established for the advancement of our race. These dangers are twofold—

- (i) Secret threats to the students and settlers from the former owners of the lands which our Government has acquired.
 - (ii) Unscrupulous handling as well as misappropriation of the crops of the students and settlers by certain officials who care very little for the Government's success in its agricultural experiments.
- These two facts have been responsible for scaring away many settlers and students from their farms.

Credit Facilities to Farmers.—The Governor has mentioned that our vigorous Government will intensify its system of giving credit facilities to our farmers throughout the whole of the Western Region. I must mention here, Sir, that the Action Group Government of the Western Region needs to be congratulated for this important policy. The Finance Corporation has established 209 Local Loans Boards throughout the whole of this Region and each Division has a number of them. All these 209 Local Loans Boards have already loaned out a total sum of £218,730 to farmers

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and the fishermen of this Region. In order that I may be able to satisfy our NCNC critics that our Government has not neglected the Midwest area in its distribution of amenities, I must say that—

(i) Asaba Farmers and fishermen, with twenty-three Local Loans Boards, have already borrowed £9,906 from the Western Nigeria Finance Corporation;

(ii) Benin Division Farmers and Fishermen, with six Local Loans Boards, have borrowed £14,189;

(iii) Afenmai Division Farmers, etc., with three Local Loans Boards, have borrowed £2,798.

Our Government should be vigilant about certain fraudulent members of these Local Boards who defraud our farmers on the loans by misappropriating certain percentages of the farmers' loans for their own use and, in some cases, converting the whole of the farmers' refund to their own use and, when detected, absconding from their territory and thereby making the farmers pay sorrowfully twice for the money they have borrowed. These are those who appear to have been determined to sabotage our Government's good intentions. We have a few of these in my District, where many farmers who refunded their loans three, four, five or six years ago are now called upon to make fresh repayments, because their former refunds did not reach Government coffers.

The method of making these loans and their refunds should be scrutinised by the Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a separate motion on the establishment of new industries and improvement of trade, and I think therefore that I may still have a better opportunity to talk on this fully, later on. Meanwhile, I just want to say that we must be grateful for the loans made by the Finance Corporation towards the Development of indigenous private enterprises throughout the whole of the Region. For instance, these sums of money have already been lent towards the development of local trade in this Region:

Towards market development ...	£ 48,835
Sawmills, etc. ...	105,700
Launch Services ...	90,140
Buses ...	199,350
Hotel development ...	34,000
Erection of Produce Stores ...	25,000
Food processing machinery ...	17,985
Ceramic Industry ...	50,000

Footwear Industry ...	£ 4,000
Motor Park improvements ...	13,350

The Western Nigeria Government has already spent a total sum of £723,060 on these types of projects in different parts of the Western Region.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo: Point of order, Sir. Order 27 (1): "A Member shall not read his speech. It appears the hon. Member is reading his speech. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member please continue.

Mr Akerele: Mr Speaker, Sir, that is really how I should read when I want to teach the uninformed.

The Government has tarred a good many roads throughout the whole of the Western Region and we are extremely grateful for those tarred in Ekiti Division. But tarring of these roads is still very important in view of the big towns they connect:

Egosi-Ire-Igbemo road ...	... miles	12
Iddo-Osi-Igede road ...	... miles	11
Ushi/Ilogbo road... ..	... miles	1
Igbole-Ifinshin/Awe road miles	1
Egosi-Aiyede junction miles	2
Iddo-Orin-Ifaki road miles	7
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If these roads are tarred, this Government should have served a set of people who know how best to be grateful to the Action Group Government of the Western Region.

The Government has promised a rigorous erection of pipe-borne water in all urban communities as well as construction of rural water supply schemes in all the nooks and corners of the Western Region. We are grateful for those already erected, but I must beg to say that the water works at Oye Ekiti which was completed over a year ago has not supplied a gallon of water to anybody in that town.

Again, for the past few years, the Regional Government has always set aside in the Estimates an amount of money for the Aiyede Ekiti Water supply. In 1959 a water engineer came into the town to raise the hopes of the people, but nothing has been done ever since.

All the other big towns in Ekiti, like Iddo, Ire, Ishan, Osi, Ushi, Ifaki, Itaji, Ilogbo, etc., still draw their water directly from the brooks and they all produce their lights from

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[MR AKERELE]

oil lamps and candles. I therefore solicit pipe-borne water and electricity supplies in its Development Plan for all these towns.

The Governor also said that the Government would control endemic and epidemic diseases, as well as intensify its treatment of leprosy. The Government will also extend the type of treatment it has in urban areas for tuberculosis into rural areas. It will tackle the problems of malnutrition; it will reform the local government system; it will improve Customary Courts and local police.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with all these behind my mind, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (Mr S. A. Adeniya): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to speak in support of the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for His Excellency's Gracious Speech from the Throne.

I am happy to note that the Speech contains a new Six-Year Development Plan. The programme has a proposed total expenditure of £240 million, of which £90 million will be spent on tarring and improving our roads, supplying water and electricity to towns and villages in the Region, building more schools and hospitals, establishing new industries and providing other basic amenities for the people of this Region. This is a laudable scheme and I am sure that by the time the scheme would have been completed, this Region will be a very happy place to live in as everybody, regardless of his place of birth or living, will enjoy all the modern amenities of life and unemployment will be completely wiped out.

Mr Speaker, this Government must be congratulated for the bold step it is taking to solve unemployment in this country. The Government has, in partnership with some foreign investors, established industries in Ikeja, Abeokuta, Ibadan and other parts of the Region. It has also established oil palm plantations and oil mill factories, rubber plantations and rubber factories in many parts of the Midwest, thus giving employment opportunities to several thousands of workers. The Government is still very busy pursuing its plan to industrialise the Region so that everybody may be gainfully employed. When the Government of this Region has been doing all these, what has the Federal Government done to solve or to attempt to solve the problem of unemployment in this Region? Nothing. Or is the Western Region not part of the Federation of Nigeria?

The other point I should like to mention is the question of austerity measures recently announced by the Premier of the Region. Since its announcement the other Governments have also announced their austerity measures. I support austerity, but I would want this Government to influence the Federal Government to reduce the heavy duties on imported goods like petrol, cars and commercial vehicles. These heavy duties will bring heavy increases in the prices of local foodstuffs.

One other point I would like this Government to take up with the Federal Government is the question of importing goods which are made locally. If the Federal Government can disallow the importation of foreign goods which are manufactured locally, industries established by the various Regional governments will flourish quickly and their employment-power will increase.

On the question of Census, when in 1952 the then Central Government decided to conduct a census of this country, many people were under the impression that the census was meant for tax purposes; so that a true and an accurate counting was not possible. Now that we have another opportunity, I hope hon. Members will help to propagate the importance of the forthcoming census. Do not let us mislead our people into believing that the census is meant for tax purposes, as was done in 1952.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency, the Governor of Western Nigeria, and in doing so I would like to make the following observations.

In the first place, I wish to speak on "austerity" measures. As described by the hon. Premier, he said "prosperity via austerity". But I think what we have in the Western Region actually is "prosperity via cruelty". (*Hear, hear*). I will explain that to you quickly. Now, you say you want prosperity via austerity in the Western Region; let the Premier and all his Ministers refund all they have taken from the Regional Government for the first one year. A Minister takes £90 basic allowance for his car; a Parliamentary Secretary takes about £60; and then they claim over £5,000 per annum at one shilling per mile! Some Ministers will just leave Ibadan and go to their constituencies and sleep there for a week and then they come back to tell their finance clerks that they have toured all over

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the Region. (*Shame, shame*). If you want, in actual fact, prosperity, the Ministers should all go and park their cars in the Premier's Office and get no allowances whatsoever. It is then that we want prosperity via austerity, but not as we have it now. Imagine, a Minister's car earns more than what I earn in this House and some of you, when you go out, you say that this is local running. Local running: how many miles? 6,000 miles at one shilling per mile! I know people say: "None go so far, as they do not know where they are going". You do not know where you are going? (*Opposition Benches: Good talk; Fire on, fire them*). Because the NCNC announced "austerity measures" in their Port Harcourt Convention, the Premier of this Region ran to the Press and announced austerity in the Western Region; reduced the salaries of this and cut the allowances of that. Now you have gone even to the extent of removing the basic allowances of civil servants. Mr Speaker, Sir, what do you expect the civil servants to do? I am sure that many of them will not be able to go to their offices to do their daily job. Sir, if you actually want "austerity" in the Western Region, make the basic allowance of all the Members of the House to be equal.

Do you know what this clearly shows? I am speaking to you through Mr Speaker. It clearly shows that the Western Legislature is inferior to other Legislatures in the Federation. Members of this honourable House are on salaries of £840 per annum and Members of the Federal House are on £1,000 per annum, so that if you take 10 per cent from their salary of £1,000 they still have £900. (*Interruptions*). You had not more than 2,000 votes when you contested the elections. I had more than 13,000 votes. I beat my Action Group opponent by over 5,000 votes. Those people who just rejoice do not know what the Ministers are doing; they have other sources to make money which you do not know. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*). A Minister in the Western Region went to the Midwest. I am saying this and I can say it outside this House.... (*Interruptions*).

Mr Olumofin: Point of order. Order 27 (6): No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Member. It is my view that the Member for Okitipupa is imputing dangerously improper motives to the Ministers of this Region as to their sources of revenue.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! The Member for Okitipupa should continue.

Mr Omokowajo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I will continue with this sentence. The greatest offence a man can commit in his life is for him to deceive himself. Don't deceive yourselves. You are not happy with the austerity measures too. (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, what I want to show is that Action Group backbenchers go about saying that the austerity is not good; the NCNC went and put it forward. If you are not happy at the austerity you should be bold to tell your leader that you are not happy. That is why I told you that the greatest offence a man can commit is to deceive himself.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would wish to speak on the Development Plan. With the £240.1 million voted, I am sure that they just want to deceive those of us from Ondo Province. With this they will provide amenities for people at Oshun, Ijebu, Egba and Ikeja where all factories are established. But those of you who come from Ondo Province will know clearly that we have been badly cheated —(*Interruptions*)—but you do not want to talk because you don't want to miss your political appointments. If you go from Okitipupa to Shagamu, on the left when coming from Okitipupa you will see the rubber plantation there. Now they want a tyre factory for this Region but you will not find it there. I think it is where you have rubber that such a factory should be built. When you make your plans, for God's sake, remember Okitipupa Division. You have punished us enough. That is why you will never win there. And when people talk here, it is said that it is an exaggeration. If we observe that during 1962-68 Development Plan there is no improvement I will move a motion that we shall carve out another Region from this Region known as "Ondo Region". (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, many people have spoken of the Farm Settlements. The Farm Settlements are no good as they are a colossal waste. Now when the Government or the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources gives an acre of land to a contractor which could be cleared by two gentlemen for two days for £50 and they rejoice they have farm settlement. If you know how much Government spends on farm settlement you will know that it is a great waste. People talk that you give the boys job; you don't give them jobs; you loan them £3 each. They labour for their job. Many of the boys are now

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grumbling that they want to leave your farm settlements.

Another point, Sir, is about veterinary services. In the first place if you visit some of the clinics in the Western Region you will see that for the major animal diseases like anthrax, etc., there are no vaccines for their cure. There is no need to have veterinary staff without adequate equipment for them to work, otherwise our livestock will be in great danger. I have been to several places where all you have there is only dusting powder, and that is all. If you want to keep the veterinary services up to date it is necessary to order for vaccines so that the staff will be able to deal effectively with our livestock. I would, however, like to mention that Veterinary Assistants receive equal if not better training than Pharmacists, but Veterinary Assistants in this Region are badly treated. If you go into it you will see that Veterinary Assistants do more than Pharmacists and, as such, it will be my pleasure if this Government will consider the improvement of the service condition of Veterinary Assistants.

The other thing I want to say, Sir, is the control of the drug we call "Gamalin 20". This is used for cocoa. People call it "Fari-Fari". Now in Okitipupa Division because people have not got the advantage of buying this Gamalin 20; cocoa crops had been destroyed from the smallest to the biggest. It will be very good if the use of Gamalin 20 is controlled in this Region.

The question of development of roads. Now Government talks of road development and the strengthening of bridges, and that plans have even been completed. I am assuring the Government that not a single bridge has been built in Okitipupa Division. The other day I went to a contractor; he said there was no money. If you cannot repair these bridges go and replace all you have removed from there, so that we know that we have no bridges. About roads, Sir the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs ran to Okitipupa at one time and said the road would be tarred. That was in the Estimates. The Parliamentary Secretary is present here now. The Okitipupa road is not tarred up till now. You voted £200,000 for over three times for Igbotu embarkment. Has anything been done? Not at all. The Parliamentary Secretary should be told not to come to my people again to tell them lies. When you vote £10 million you cannot get £2 million but you just put a figure there to catch votes.

On the question of Electricity, this same Parliamentary Secretary ran to my people again and told them that electricity was coming. (*Interruptions*). My people asked him who sent him and said that he had come with another story of electricity and asked him not to raise their hopes any longer. I am telling you now that, whether you like it or not, the Federal Government is going to give Okitipupa Division electricity this year.

On Local Government, I have been informed that female members to the Councils will be selected according to proportion. In Ikale Orisunmeta District Council in Okitipupa Division there are twelve Action Group members and eight NCNC. We have not been given the chance to send a female NCNC member to the Council. (*Interruptions*). On local government, Sir, so many people supported that the Minister of Midwest should take over several aspects of Chieftaincy Affairs and some other functions from the Ministry of Local Government. I am telling you, Sir, if you will not call it "Bensonian English", that that is an attempt to "jambalise" NCNC members of the Council. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, about the Tax Assessment Committee for Okitipupa Division, Ikale Idapomarun is NCNC-controlled. Some time ago we nominated names of people to be members of the Assessment Committee. We sent them to the Minister of Local Government; the names were rejected on the condition that the Permanent Secretary, or whoever wrote in his place, said that he wanted to know the number of Action Group and the number of NCNC. They sent the number of NCNC and the number of Action Group in the Assessment Committee, but the Permanent Secretary wrote back that we should accept the members of the Assessment Committee for last year, after we have taken the council from them; so I feel now that all of them are Action Group members. If the Government is actually sincere we sent a delegation to the Deputy Premier, Oba C. D. Akran, who promised that NCNC members should be in all the Assessment Committees for Okitipupa Division, but no NCNC member is allowed in any tax assessment committee.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government has mentioned this: "to maintain the institution of Chiefs and to uphold the honour and dignity attached to the traditional position of Obas and Chiefs". I am telling you, Sir, that in Ikale land in Okitipupa Division we have only one Oba there and the Bales who are members of the House of Chiefs. When

[MR OMOKOWAJO]

they are coming from home they will hide what they call "crowns"; when they come to the Western House here they just put them on. But when they are at home they cannot wear them. There is only one Oba in Ikale land. If you want to maintain the dignity of the Oba there, the *Bales* or the *Olojas* should not be allowed to wear crown. Some of them Sir, they just go to the offices to harrass clerks. This is not a proper thing. They are chiefs actually; so that if you want to maintain the dignity of Obas, the *Bales* and the *Olojas* should not be allowed to wear crowns. If you check properly in the House here, Sir, you will see that some of them get out their crowns from their cars immediately they get to the premises of the Western House. I feel that the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs will see to it that the Chiefs and *Bales* are not allowed to wear crowns.

Local Government Police.—People say that the Local Government Police are not efficient; they cannot be efficient because, if not in the Western Region, I have never seen a policeman with one eye. (*Laughter*). I confirm that the Local Government Police in this Region is corrupt as other speakers have stated.

Loans Board.—We have a Loans Board at Okitipupa but up till now there is no money to loan to people. Since there is no money to loan to the people of the area, the best thing is to close your office there and send the clerks back to Ibadan for another job. What is the need of giving them money when they are doing no job there? This is another aspect where your Government wastes money.

Mr Speaker, Sir, every time I speak, people from the other side call me *Apetesi*. (*Laughter*). I wish this House to know that illicit gin should now be legalised. Many of you will at last turn to drinking illicit gin as you may not now be able to afford to buy beer, stout, etc.....(*Interruptions*).

With the above remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion of Thanks to the Governor.

Mr I. A. Adelodun (Oyo North-West II): Before I continue my speech, Mr Speaker, I wish to say that we do not need to dwell much on what the last speaker from Okitipupa has said. He is a very young and immature politician. He cannot address Ministers and his superiors better. He is a young Modern III School leaver.

I now continue with my speech afresh.

Mr Speaker, I rise to support those who had given thanks to His Excellency the Governor of the Western Region for his excellent Speech addressed to both Houses on the 28th of March, 1962. The speech contains important programmes of the Government for developing this Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, I have these important observations to make on His Excellency's Speech from the Throne:

Advanced Teacher Training College for the supply of highly qualified non-graduate teachers to man Teacher Training Colleges and Secondary Grammar Schools. I am much interested and felt concerned in this programme for the fact that Okeho/Iganna District Council is just preparing to pay 10s special rate per taxable adult for a Grammar School and this was recently approved by the Minister of Local Government. I also seize this opportunity Mr Speaker, Sir, to thank the Government for the Trade Centre already built and which will soon be opened at Oyo. This will undoubtedly solve the problem of unemployment to a certain extent in our Division.

The University of Ife, which will welcome the first batch of entrants in October this year, is a great pride to our Action Group Government.

I again thank the Government of this Region for tarring Iseyin-Okeho, Okeho-Ilero, Ilero-Otu and Otu-Okaka roads. Those of us who are owners of vehicles enjoy the roads abundantly. But at this juncture, Sir, I remind the Government of the fact that we would like Okeho-Ijio road to be tarred as soon as possible.

The Government should also be praised for the arrangement made for training our Customary court judges in the vernacular they understand, in order that they may be of more service in dispensing justice in their different courts.

I again pray that the Minister of Works and the Government at large may please quicken action in supplying Okeho with water according to the £90,000 provisions made in the Estimates.

This austerity measure affects us, but the bearable sacrifice is for furthering developments in our Region. We must bear it. The Action Group Government, unlike all other Governments in the Federation, is out for any sacrifice that will bring about the development of every nook and corner of the whole Region it administers.

The effort of the Government is praiseworthy Sir, for having it in plan to build

[MR ADELODUN]

more schools for Health Auxiliaries in which there will be training courses for Health Sisters. I pray that these course may include those for the training of Midwives who are not available for employment to run our Maternity centres on Local Council levels.

In conclusion, Sir, the Government with all these gigantic programmes and all other powerful performances in the past, present and future should be praised. I therefore pray for more grease to the elbows of our Parliamentary Secretaries, Ministers and more especially our energetic and hard-working Chief S. L. Akintola, the Premier of Western Region.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr D. A. Popoola (Oyo South-West):

I rise to support the Motion so ably made by the honourable the Government Chief Whip, thanking His Excellency, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, the Governor of Western Nigeria and the Oni of Ife, for his Speech from the Throne at the opening of this Session of this honourable House.

Throughout the Federation of Nigeria, Community Development takes a prominent position none the less in the rapidly advancing Western Nigeria. Hence, the Government's six-year development scheme stands as one of the boldest and most laudable plans ever envisaged for the progress of the Region and for the future advancement of the community.

I also beg to point out Sir, that the economic stability of Western Nigeria depends very largely on her agriculture and natural resources; the co-existence of Industrial Development side by side with the above is indeed the ideal step a Government of any nation may take in serving her country. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Speech from the Throne has taken cognisance of this all-important aspect when it includes the improvement of agricultural techniques, expansion of production, encouragement of poultry farming and the establishment of urban and small scale rural industries.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Speech from the Throne would not be complete if it failed to state categorically the educational policy of this great Region. But, by the Speech, the Government has made a most comprehensive scheme right from the Primary School system, Teacher Training Schemes, Secondary Education both Modern and Grammar, and, to culminate all, the University of Ife. I reserve no hesitation whatsoever, Sir, to say

that this Region's Educational Policy is sufficiently enviable as it is unbeatable by that of any other Government in the Federation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government since it has taken up the reins of this Region in 1952 up to date, has greatly improved the lot of the different sections of the community therein, and Oyo Division is by no means an exception. I pay my due respects and show my deep appreciation to the Government of the Region for the General Hospital in Oyo, that of Igbetti, and the several Health Centres already established and operated, the farm settlements, and, last but not the least, the new Trade Centre just completed in that Division.

But, Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to point out at this juncture that my constituency has been over-due for some amenities as enjoyed by many others within the Region. Whereas I am very appreciative of the Government's good intention in supplying pipe-borne water within a section of Oyo South-West and South-East constituencies, yet I have to point out, Sir, that many roads linking different towns in those areas need to be tarred if the inhabitants will enjoy fully the benevolence of the Government. Such roads are those linking Oyo-Awe, Akinmorin-Jobe, Imeleke-Iware and Fiditi. The others are those linking Oyo-Ilorra, Oluwatedo-ilu Aje, Imini and Ojutaiye. In fact, all these towns mentioned above are within the Afijo Group area. I am also aware, Sir, of the extension of electricity to Oyo town. I will only crave that an immediate extension of this electricity be made to cover Awe, Akinmorin, Ilora and Fiditi as at present covered by the pipe-borne water extension, other extensions following this up in no long a time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr M. A. Adedigba (Iwo South-East):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very happy for the opportunity given me to speak in this honourable House.

Sir, to begin with, I should like, first of all, to pay tribute to our great ruler, Kabiyesi Oba Alaiyeluwa, His Excellency Sir Adesoji Aderemi, the Governor of Western Nigeria.

Now, Sir, we are all supporting the Motion on the Speech from the Throne. All these speeches are a sort of campaign, just to deceive the minority. Again, Sir, this Government has always been accused of discrimination in the distribution of amenities, and each time untenable arguments are always put up by the Government in defence. Now, Sir,

[MR ADEDIGBA]

I will cite a few examples in supporting my arguments.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a road in my town, Ileigbo in Iwo District. This road is the shortest road to Gbongan which is only thirteen miles from Ileigbo. My people have constructed this road since 1951 but there is only one big river on the road—the Oshun river. We have tried all our best to build a bridge over this river but have not completely succeeded. This Government continues deceiving my people every year, and they even take it as an opportunity for campaigning during elections. Mr Speaker, Sir, on this Ileigbo-Gbongan Oshun bridge, we want this Government to see that the bridge is under the new Six-year Development Plan, or, on the other hand, grant the people of Ileigbo a chance of public collection in order to raise funds for the construction of the bridge in time. We also want this Government to tar the road from Iwo, which is only two and a half miles from my town. (*An hon. Member: What is the name of your town?*) Ileigbo. Mr Speaker, Sir, I want the Government to extend electricity, which is now under construction at Iwo, to Ileigbo.

Again, Sir, about the austerity measures, I am only advising this Government to copy the other Regional Governments which have made a 10 per cent cut from their Members' salaries and not the other allowances.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Adeyemo (Oshogbo North I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor of this Region for his laudable Speech from the Throne.

The Speech once more justifies the well-known assumption that the Western Nigeria Government is the most efficient and progressive in the entire Federation today. Considering the various items of developments planned in the Region and the promise that His Excellency's Ministers intend to take vigorous action towards the implementation of these projects, there should be no doubt whatsoever in the minds of any Member in this honourable House that we people of this Region should be proud to entrust the affairs of this Region into the safe hands of the Action Group Government for many years to come.

Sir, my statement will not be full without showing gratitude to our able Ministers, because any right-thinking person who has

read between the lines, will see at once that there is a certain amount of wisdom in planning for the future economy and welfare of this Region. I, therefore, pay tribute to the performances of our Ministers and congratulate them for their faithful, honest and conscientious services rendered to the people of this Region. To be frank, Sir, the popularity of any good Government depends mostly on the implementation of its promises. In this connection, the Government of this Region is exemplary and worthy of emulation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the entire people of my constituency, I thank the Government for tarring Erin-Ede road which has been recently completed. May I take this opportunity.....

An hon. Member: Point of Order, Sir, There is an hon. Gentleman in this House who is not properly dressed—the hon. Member for Okitipupa.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member please continue.

Mr Adeyemo: May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Government for what it is doing to provide water supply in this Region. A very striking proportion of people in my constituency suffer from water-borne diseases, and the number of victims rises every day. I hope that the Government will extend pipe-borne water to my area, which is only six miles from Oshogbo-Ede Waterworks, and also approve the extension of electricity which will let my area be one of the areas in this Region enjoying "Life more abundant".

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like it to be recorded in the Hansard that the hon. Member had only a shirt on, although we on this side of the House have accepted the ruling of the Speaker on this question.

Mr Adeyemo: *Agriculture.*—Sir, the establishment of farm settlements and institutes in this Region is something that brings joy to our young school leavers who will be able to work for themselves as independent citizens of an independent Nigeria. I therefore wish such farm institutes and settlements to be established in my own area and in Oshun Division as a whole.

Education.—It is gratifying to note the steady progress the planning of the University of Ife is making. May I make one or two suggestions here. First, I would like to ask the Government to take the lead by making it

[MR ADEYEMO]

possible for most of our Regional Scholarship holders to make use of this University instead of sending them overseas. This will save a lot of money in transport and avoid waste of time in finding accommodation overseas.

Secondly, I suggest that when awarding Diplomas and Degrees to our students who have successfully completed their courses, such Degrees should be designated B.A. (Ife) or M.A. (Ife) and not B.A. (London) or M.A. (London). Before I leave this item, Sir, I strongly appeal to the Government that a School of Journalism be established, as that of Ghana, for our ambitious scholars who may like to take up Journalism as a career.

It is interesting to note that the Government, through its Adult Education Organisation, has gone a long way towards conquering mass illiteracy in this Region, and I am sure, Sir, that if the Government can maintain the present pace in its educational programme, there is every prospect that within a short time Western Nigeria will emerge as the most enlightened and educated Region throughout the Federation.

Health.—It is the policy of this Government, Sir, to develop medical health services in this Region and I hereby register the appreciation of the people of my constituency to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare for giving us dispensaries and maternity centres. There is only a dispensary in my town, Erin, and I wish the Government will give us a maternity centre in addition to the dispensary. Every hon. Member welcomes more, and we cherish the hope, Sir, that by next year all our new requests made during this Session would have been considered by the Minister.

Industry.—I have to congratulate the Minister of Trade and Industry for his activities throughout this Region as far as industries are concerned. I appeal to the Government to spread the benefit of Industrial enterprises uniformly and in particular if industries could be located in Oshun Division the people will make generous offer of land.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the efforts of the Minister of Home Affairs throughout this Region is well known. I appeal to the Minister that more power be given to our Local Government Police to handle political cases within the duration of electioneering campaigns and more attention be paid to their training and organisation. As the hon. members should be aware, the Local Government Police of this Region is second to none throughout the Federation of Nigeria during

the time of training and their activities after training, and I can boast that what the Nigeria Police can do the Local Government Police of Western Nigeria can do also. Also, Sir, I should like the name "Local Government Police Force" to be changed to "Western Nigeria Police Force".

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, knowing that the Opposition Members in this House and their members outside praise the good works of the Government, then I would ask the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria to carry on with that sense of praise we have both from our supporters and even from the Opposition and their supporters outside too. I pray that long may Action Group Party of Nigeria reign.

Mr Speaker, Sir; I beg to support.

Mr T. E. Igugu (Central Urhobo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion for an Address to be presented to His Excellency the Governor of Western Nigeria for his gracious Speech from the Throne. In doing so, Sir, I would like to make certain observations. I am sorry, Sir, that the Premier is not here but, whatever happens, I think the Leader of the House and Minister of Finance shall relay all what I am going to say to him.

When the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, was taking over the Premiership of this Region in March 1960, and when the Premier was formally presented to the House by the Minister of Finance, Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi, certain remarks were made by the Premier himself and the hon. V. I. Amadasun, the Opposition Chief Whip:

In order to refresh the memory of hon. Members of this House, I should like to read out the relevant portions of the House of Assembly Official Report in the past issue No. 19 dated 14th to 18th, 21st to 25th and 31st March, 1960. It reads thus:

"May I add, for those who do not completely agree with the Leader of the Opposition, that I am not as good as they think I am. I understand that an Assembly of this size has the power to make a man a woman.....By the passage of time you will discover that I am not as good as you think I should be".

This is what the Premier said precisely when he first came to this House. The Opposition Chief Whip had this to say:

"Mr Speaker, Sir, I fear the way this statement was worded. I fear this new Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola than Chief Awolowo".

[MR IGUGU]

Sir, from the day-to-day events in this Region, one could see exactly that there has been great changes in the affairs of this Region since the Premier took over. I should like to say that after a thorough scrutiny of what I have read out, if you have gone through it, you will see that the affairs of this Region, as stated, have been misled.

(*Government front Bench: You mean, can be misled?*).

Yes. Going carefully through these statements one would draw an inference that the Premier was correct in his statements as we have now seen his handwork and we agree that he is not as good as we of the Opposition thought he could be, and that the Opposition Chief Whip had a very good foresight of what was going to happen.

The Premier has, from time to time, appealed to both the Government and Opposition for co-operation in running the affairs of the people of this Region. I have heard him say at times that the Government of this Region belongs to both the Government party and the Opposition party. I understand this to mean that the Government is practising the British pattern of democracy. I do not believe in paper work and mere vocal statements in this connection. Our day-to-day experience of Government's attitude in this Region is so widened that no amount of statements, however polished they may be, can move or convince us until such statements are practically demonstrated.

Here is a Government that professes to champion the cause of democracy and yet the Government is planning to annihilate the Opposition. I do not see any reason why the Action Group Government should be so hard on the Opposition. The Action Group won the last election, appointed a couple of Ministers in each Ministry, and provided jobs for all the members who have contributed towards their successes during the election.

The affairs of this Region are entirely in the hands of the Action Group. What reason on earth will make this Government to be hostile, oppressive and aggressive to the Opposition of Western Nigeria? I think the Government should be satisfied with their present status in the Region. They certainly have nothing to quarrel about.

Although I have never been to the United Kingdom before, yet I understand that in Britain there are three major political parties, the Conservative, Labour and Liberal. In the British pattern of democracy, no matter

which party wins elections at any given time, once the elections are over and the Government is formed, the Government settles down to serve both the Government and the Opposition. But here in the Western Region, constituencies of Opposition members are discriminated against in all development projects of the Government. I do not know whether it is the British pattern of democracy that this Government is following or not. Unless this Government changes its attitude in dealing with the Opposition, it is not competent to claim to be truly democratic. Rather it should claim dictatorship. In this connection, Sir, if the Government wants to practise democracy in its real sense, if the Premier's incessant call for unity and co-operation should be taken seriously, then the Government should take the Opposition into confidence by accepting all constructive criticisms and suggestions put forward by the Opposition, ensure fair and even distribution of amenities to all constituencies, abstain from any kind of political victimisation, try as far as possible to live up to expectations, and give practical demonstration to what it preaches.

For instance Sir, in Urhobo Division, and Central Urhobo in particular, the Government has not done anything in the way of improvement to the area. There are no good roads, no water supply, no electricity, and no adequate medical facilities for the people of Urhobo Division.

In these circumstances, I appeal to the Government to please consider the tarring of Okpare-Ughelli-Agbarha-Orogun road. This road is an important and historical one; it is the main road that links Central Urhobo District with Kwale District. The Government should not therefore lose sight of the road. The Government should extend rural water supply to Central Urhobo, provide Ughelli township with electricity and raise the Ughelli Rural Health centre to a General Hospital status.

I am speaking from the bottom of my heart Sir. The Government should, within the ensuing financial year, give deep consideration to these demands which I have made.

Furthermore Sir, it is astonishing and noteworthy that mention has not been made in the Speech from the Throne about the creation of the Midwest Region, the fourth Region in the Federation of Nigeria. It may be an oversight but, whatever happens, I must warn the Government against any subversive activity against the creation of the new Region. We the Midwesterners want to manage our

[MR IGUGU]

own affairs. We wear the shoes and we know where they pinch us. He shall be the life enemy of the people of the Midwest area, he who shall make any attempt to frustrate the creation of the Midwest Region; and in fact, Sir, we shall not forgive such a person. Therefore, Sir, the issue of the creation of the Midwest State is not a political one. The Government should let us go free and I hope we shall carry back home in a peaceful atmosphere our useful experiences in the long association we have had with the people of Yoruba West and thus continue to maintain our friendliness and cordial relationship at a very good balance even though the Midwest Region has been created.

Sir, there is one other point which I wish to ask Government now to clarify. In my constituency there are about one thousand Modern School Leavers getting ready to enter to manhood every year. Successful scholars on leaving school propose to be teachers, clerks, policemen and so on and so forth. But disappointingly when these scholars start to look for jobs they fail to secure one and thus they cannot do otherwise than to go back to the land. On reaching the land, they cannot tap rubber, collect palm fruits and farm. They cannot raise capital to start on petty trade. What is going to be the future of these boys? I think the Government must consider deeply the ways and means by which these boys can rightly accelerate to manhood, otherwise the Modern school shall in due course produce a gang of thieves and hooligans in some parts of the Region.

Speaking on the austerity measures of this Government, I have not much to say other than that the Government as a junior one to the Federal Government of Nigeria should follow closely the measures already adopted by the Federal Government as far as austerity is concerned. I will always like the Minister of Finance here to learn from that illustrious son of the Midwest, Chief Festus Okotie Eboh, Federal Minister of Finance who possesses all the qualities of a Finance Minister.

In conclusion Sir, I will like to repeat that by the grace of God we shall get the Midwest Region. My hon. Friends from the Midwest opposite me know this very well. They also support the Midwest Region and I think it is wise of them to have done so. There is never a time in the history of man that freedom was resented by the people freedom was given. I think my hon. Friends from the Midwest in

this House agree with me. If there be any Midwesterner in this House who does not support the creation of the Midwest Region, I challenge him to state so categorically on the Floor of this House.

Mr I. A. Olukoju (Owo South I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support and to commend the Governor's Speech from the Throne. As usual with this Government, the comprehensive programme of work for the current Financial year and the Six-year Development Scheme do not surprise people in this Region and all in the Federation of Nigeria. I say the programme and the scheme are not a surprise because they embrace adequately all progressive moves to promote the transformation of this Region into the best welfare State in the Federation of Nigeria. It could have been a surprise, Sir, if the high standard usually built and kept by this Government, and if the sensibly designed plans of work as now put forward in the speech, have fallen short of the people's expectations; rather, Mr Speaker, the sense of duty and responsibility on the part of this Action Group Government of Western Nigeria, as keen as ever, has promised, as indicated in this Speech from the Throne, a bright future for the people's hopes and aspirations.

In the field of Education, we all know why our Government spends so much, one of the major motives being to wipe out ignorance and illiteracy. With a greater zeal, determination and untiring vigour, the Government is pursuing a scheme for sound secondary education. May I here say that my Constituency, Owo South I, happens to be one of the backward areas to which the Government should give priority. Last year April, the Government grant-aided one of the two existing schools, and for this, the Government deserves praise. The people still look up to the Government to grant-aid the Catholic Grammar School on the assurance that all conditions necessary as laid down by the Ministry have been adequately met.

In addition, Sir, preparations are nearing the final stage by the authorities of Christ Apostolic Church to open a Girls Secondary School sited in Oka to offer opportunities for their daughters in Ondo Province. To this the Oka District Council has given an assurance of an aid of £2,000 if permission is granted, but hon. Members in this honourable House may be interested to know that three Secondary Schools will not be too many for Oka and District in Owo Division as Oka has a population of 28,000 (1952 Census); and

[MR OLUKOJU]

when we consider that size minus the Districts and the surrounding areas, I think the Minister of Education will not hesitate to give immediate consideration to the people's aspiration on this demand.

Agriculture.—Among other facilities like loans to farmers, the battle against pests and cocoa nurseries; the people in my Constituency would very much like that the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources should think it expedient to establish a Farm Settlement in Irekari and Ekamarun District Council Areas in Owo South I constituency. The Minister is assured of the availability of land and the willingness of the people to offer the land for the project. This will serve its well known original purpose and as well provide employment to Modern School Leavers of the area. In the dispersal of industries, there is no doubt that Owo South I constituency will be one of those backward areas which will linger to see some of the major or minor industrial projects spring up in such areas. Electricity and water supply to the neighbouring towns are pointers that Oka, Irekari and Ekamarun should in normal circumstances be next to be supplied these amenities on the development programme in the current Financial Year.

Health.—Besides being the Minister with up-to-date facts and figures about the health or medical schemes, I am happy, Sir, that the Minister of Health and Social Welfare will, by virtue of his good practical knowledge of the area, agree with me that nothing short of a cottage Hospital for the area, or at least a Rural Health Centre for the three District Council Areas—Oka, Irekari and Ekamarun in Owo South I constituency—will appropriately satisfy that area. To confirm this, I have to say that two of the three areas are about thirty miles from the nearest Hospitals.

Electricity.—The supply of electricity to Owo and Ikare is not a bone of contention but reference must be made to it, that if Owo with a population of about 30,000 and Ikare 25,000 are supplied electricity, I think it stands to reason that Oka, with a population of 28,000, should be supplied, and that without delay. Therefore the Ministry of Works and Transport should give this earliest consideration and execution.

On the whole, Sir, the Governor's Speech and the extensive programme therein have indicated the actual love and sincerity of purpose that the Action Group Government has for the electorate of Western Nigeria.

Therefore, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr P. V. Okwesa (Aboh East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his Speech from the Throne, but before doing this, I have serious observations to make.

Now Budget time has been described as the time for stock-taking. We should now take stock of all Government activities during the past financial year and see whether Government had carried out its duties to the people of this Region satisfactorily well, or whether it has failed to carry out those duties which it owns to the people.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should start my observations with the proposed "Austerity Measures" as the Speech from the Throne started with this rocket. The idea of making sacrifices with a view to developing this newly Independent nation is a welcome one. In fact, we believe that there will be much to enjoy in the future if we all make sacrifices at the present time. But the extent of this sacrifice must not make us mere laughing stock. Mr Speaker, Sir, I say this in all seriousness: all people must make sacrifices in proportion to their earnings. Civil Servants and ordinary legislators should make sacrifices, but should not surrender their basic and consolidated car allowances. It is the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, who earn fabulous sums of money—allowances which are equal to the salaries of an ordinary legislator—should be drastically reduced. (*Shouts of "Tell them that in the East and Federal"*). Mr Speaker Sir, it is understood that as a result of the proposal to cut basic and consolidated car allowances, there is now in the Cabinet circle what is known as the "Premier's Pool". According to this device, Mr Speaker, Sir, all Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are to surrender their cars to the Government who will maintain the cars as well as pay up the balance of the car advance given to this type of hon. Members. Then these Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries will still have to use the cars as they like. This is cheating both to the civil servants and ordinary legislators. The proper thing to do is to reduce drastically the car allowances of Ministers to £240 per annum and that of Parliamentary Secretaries to £180 per year. The basic and consolidated car allowances of civil servants and ordinary legislators should not be touched. They should stand as they are at present. After all, legislators, Parliamentary Secretaries, Ministers and Civil Servants use the same makes of cars and travel on the same roads. There is, therefore, no

[Mr Okwuba]

reason why Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries should be given such fabulous sums as car allowances.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I come now to the question of Government development Plan. It is one thing to plan gigantic programme and quite another thing to carry out the programme in such a way that all sections of the Region will really enjoy equal and equitable share of it. The question, Sir, which now arises is: how can we be assured that this Plan would not follow the footsteps of its predecessors?

How can we be assured that the Development Plan is not meant for only a section of the Region to the utter neglect of the other sections? Our experience in the past has been a regrettably annoying experience. Government's attention was concentrated in the Yoruba West section of the Region while the Midwest was left comparatively uncared for. (*Interruptions*) (*Shouts of "One Nigeria" from Government Benches*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, are we sure that the ugly monster—discrimination—will not again rear its horned head during the six years covered by the Plan? Have all sections of the Region any hope of enjoying an equal and equitable share of this large sum of money in the form of amenities and industrial projects? The Governor, in his Speech failed to give this assurance, but Government needs to give this assurance if the present Development Plan is to mean anything to us.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let us move on to the question of population census. I would assure the Governor and his Government that all sections of the Region are ready to co-operate with this Government to see that accurate population figures are attained during the Census. This co-operation is necessary because in the past many parts of the Region were wrongly calculated. These population figures were so inaccurately taken, with the result that certain areas with large population were erroneously regarded as areas of scanty population, and this, to some extent, was responsible for the inadequate number of seats allocated to such areas in the West Regional Legislature. We must all co-operate with the Government to see that this error is not repeated.

Community Development.—Mr Speaker, Sir, Government had done well in the past to encourage community development. But the policy of refunding to the people only one-third of the total cost of any scheme embarked upon by the community should be

amended. The fact that Government refunds only one-third of the total cost of a scheme sometimes discourages certain communities from embarking upon certain development schemes which they would normally like to pursue.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it must be stressed that in certain backward and neglected areas the cost of community development schemes is so high and the people so poor that they cannot afford to provide even one-third of it, the use of communal labour notwithstanding. Government must therefore give special treatment to backward areas. That means that such backward areas should enjoy a greater share of financial and technical assistance given by friendly overseas countries. It is only in this way that we can assure such friendly countries that this aid is being put to the most profitable use—(*Government Benches: Where? In your constituency, Ndosimili?*) Yes, Ndosimili is one of the backward areas in the Region—I am not ashamed to belong to that area. I say this because in such areas the cost of community development is so high and the people say that they cannot afford the development scheme. Government should therefore make an amendment, particularly in so far as the neglected areas which have been neglected for long are concerned. This means, in short, that such areas should enjoy greater share of the financial and technical aid.

Education.—Mr Speaker, Sir, in the field of education I have certain very serious observations to make. The first is that all sections of the Region are not equally benefited. The award of scholarships is not evenly distributed. Certain sections of the Region receive greater awards than others. The people of the Midwest do not receive as much attention in this regard as the Yoruba-west, and the Midwesterners are becoming reluctant to apply for West Regional scholarships.

As for sons and daughters of Aboh Division, it appears that, however deserving they may be, they have been noted down in the Government's bad book, so that you can scarcely find their names in the list of those to benefit from the scholarship awards. Government must do something to dispel this notion in us. And I must stress that we cannot afford to look on in silence. These awards are being denied our sons and daughters as if we are not entitled to them.

The second is that you can never hear of a Government educational institution being proposed to be sited in Aboh Division.

[MR OKWESA]

Technical schools, Trade Centres, Teacher Training Colleges and other institutions are never considered for this Division.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Government should stop playing on the intelligence of Midwesterners. In paragraph 4 of page 3 of the Governor's Speech, the Governor said:

"The construction of the new Technical College in the Midwest will begin at any early date".

Where in the Midwest, and how soon, is the Technical College to be built? What date is this early date? Government must not continue to think that the mere mention of the word "Midwest" in any statement is enough to gladden the hearts of all Midwesterners. This is indeed absurd. We want definite and categorical statements, and not vague or meaningless pronouncements in matters of this kind.

Mr Speaker, Sir, nothing can be more annoying than the statement in the last paragraph of page 3 of the Governor's Speech; with your permission, Sir, I read the relevant part:

"My Government is proud to announce that the programme of road development and strengthening of bridges began during the 1960-65 development period has now also been covered".

If the 1960-65 road development programme has now been covered it means that the Ndosimili District of Aboh Division was never considered when the programme was being planned. Hon. Members in this honourable House may not believe it, but the fact is there, seated beyond the reach of argument, that since the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria came into power in the Region, not one inch of road has been tarred and not a single bridge has been constructed or strengthened in the Ndosimili District of Aboh Division. In actual fact the Governor's statement means that Government is proud to give the assurance that it has been able to pursue a policy of discrimination in its 1960-65 road development programme. And one may ask—is a policy of discrimination really a policy to be proud of? I think Government ought to be ashamed of itself instead of being proud. Year in year out, I have stood up on the Floor of this House to appeal to the Government not to neglect Aboh Division, particularly the Ndosimili District in its road development programme. I have even moved a Motion to this effect and, in addition, my Council has embarked on such an appeal

in every address of welcome presented to all Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries who visited Aboh Division during the last six years, but this appeal so often repeated has not touched the hardened hearts of the Government. And now Government turns round shamelessly and with a bluff to say that it is proud to have neglected or forgotten us in its 1960-65 road development programme. This statement, Sir, is enough to make the angels weep. If the Government knows its duty to the people of this Region, let it sit down and examine its moral conscience and it will surely find that it has no reason to be proud in matters connected with road development in the Region. A policy of discrimination is not a policy to be proud of.

Again, Mr Speaker, Sir, when the Governor read that part of his Speech which talked about the proposed bridge over River Ethiope in Sapele, I burst into laughter because I knew that Government had no plan to bridge the Ethiope River; if there is any plan at all, the plan exists only on paper and will never be executed; especially now that the Midwest State is going to be created. Perhaps Government's intention in mentioning this non-existent plan is to deceive the people in Sapele area to vote to remain with the Western Government during the forthcoming referendum. If the Western Government could not bridge the Ethiope when it is within its area of authority, how would it now plan to do so, knowing that the Midwest, including the River Ethiope, will soon be cut off from its area of authority?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I cannot help feeling that the Governor's Speech from the Throne is full of deceit—deceit at least of the people of the Midwest: Already there are so many rural towns and villages in the Yoruba-West which have been provided with electric light. But if we turn to the Midwest we find that more important towns than those in the Yoruba-West have been ignored in this regard. Look at Asaba, Agbor, Ogwashi-Uku, Obiaruku, Ashaka, Ughelli, Abbi, Utagba, Ashaka, Aboh, Utchi, Ogume, etc. These have not been thought fit for electricity development when small unimportant towns and villages have already had their supply. We are not impressed by, and we cannot be deceived by, Government's paper promises. If there is any plan for electricity development for rural areas, it is only meant for the remaining towns and villages in the Yoruba-West which had not yet got their shares. This is also true of the Government's urban and rural water supply scheme and of its programme of medical and health Services.

[MR OKWESA]

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to spend any more time in my constructive criticism of this Government for I know that this Government is impervious to criticisms. Time is overdue for the reform of the local government system as well as the customary court system. The present local government system which recognises the injection of traditional members to alter the verdict of the electorate in local council elections must be reformed. The present customary court system must also be reformed. Let the people of the area where a court is to serve select their own members as in the old Native Court System, and the Presidents of the courts take their turns in rotation. In the system of appointment, serious care should be taken in exercising justice to all concerned in the area.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is one point which I now remember to mention, and that is the question of inviting traditional rulers to make up the majority of the party (the Action Group) in the Councils after the necessary election. Mr Speaker, Sir, I should say that it is a shame on this Government that we have one kind of way in gaining any local government election that Government has lost. The Government uses traditional members to make the government party to control local councils when the electorates have decided what party should rule. At the last general elections, my party, the NCNC, which I have the honour to lead, defeated the Action Group woefully. What happened, you would like to know and I will tell you! The Action Group which ought to be in the minority, came overnight to be in control. (*Interruptions*). I must tell you, without fear of any contradiction, that they took all the elected members and swore them that they should join the Action Group and vote for them in the election of the chairman, with the result, Sir, that when on the 12th of August, 1961, I went to the Council to take up the chair, I was disappointed. (*Interruptions from all sides*). Well, I think that I have won the battle. Radio announcements had announced it that the NCNC had captured the Ndosimili District Council and I went there to occupy the chair. And what did I find? Mr Speaker, Sir, I found that all traditional members have teamed with the Action Group.

Does it mean that only Action Groupers are qualified to be traditional members? We have our tradition. Party politics came into this country comparatively a few years ago and, before then, we had our tradition.

You cannot tell me that the people of Ndosimili district are Action Group supporters. Now if we win a majority in the local council election it stands to reason that Ndosimili district is predominantly NCNCers. How could all the traditional members be Action Groupers? Something then is wrong in this local government system which makes the Governor in Council recognise anybody in the street, whether qualified or not qualified.

I wish to remind you of one error which both the Government and the Governor in Council committed. Before the Instrument of the Ndosimili District Council was amended to alter the composition of the council, the people were not consulted but it was said that the Governor in Council was causing an enquiry to be held. This enquiry was not held. The wishes of my people were not ascertained. Government simply took the names supplied to it by the local Action Group leaders and then made these people traditional members, the qualification of these people notwithstanding. (*Government back benchers: You were voted out*). I never sought to be a traditional member. I have contested elections into the council three times unopposed. Now the time has come when the local government system should be drastically amended.

I now come to the customary court system. I am talking face to face with the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. Although he was not on seat when the errors were committed, he has, at any rate, inherited the crime or the sins of his predecessor. How were the customary court judges and members appointed? I have made it clear to you that the Ndosimili district, for example, is predominantly NCNC, but whose duty was it to recommend people who were to be judges and presidents of these customary courts? It was the local Action Group leader. I, the accredited representative of the Ndosimili district, was never consulted. What did I hear? I was waiting for something to be done, but what I saw was a list of names of Action Group supporters. In fact some of these people were running to their leaders, some carrying £40 some carrying £50 to have their names booked. (*Government benchers: Did you report to the Police?*) Yes. You will remember that I sent a telegram to the then Minister of Justice; nothing was done. Now these names were sent to Ibadan and were returned. No NCNC supporter was included. Then I had to run to the Local Government Service Board.

An hon. Member: Point of Order: Order 33 (1). No member shall be entitled to address the House or a Committee of the whole House for more than thirty minutes on any subject. The hon. Member started addressing this House at 10 o'clock.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. I will allow the hon. Member to speak for one minute more.

Mr Okwesa: Action Group members on that side fear my revelation of the atrocities of their party. The method by which these customary court members and presidents were appointed was very undemocratic. At least, the accredited representatives of the people should have been consulted.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a party which praises itself for its love of democracy should not allow itself to be dragged into such a disgraceful action.

With these few remarks, Sir, and because the Members on the other side are becoming impatient, I take my seat.

Further Debate stood adjourned till Wednesday, 4th April, 1962.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the House do now adjourn.—(Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).

Incomplete Report of Proceedings

Mr S. A. Layonu (Ede Ejigbo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a serious complaint about the Hansard reporters who covered the daily proceedings of this honourable House last Thursday. I had the opportunity to speak in support of the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor. I stressed the urgent need of my constituency for a General Hospital or, in the alternative, a rural health centre. I compared the sacrifices which the Premier, Ministers and other Members of this honourable House have made on austerity measures,

and I spoke of the deplorable condition of the Rest House at Ede; but, Mr Speaker, to my dismay, when I went through the Official Report of the proceedings of this House the second day, I found that my speech and my name were completely deleted. If there had been an inaccurate report of my speech, it would have been a different thing but the whole of my speech was completely left out. (*Opposition Benches: You were speaking unintelligently*). The same could happen to you. This is a great sign of negligence on the part of the reporters.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Legislature is, to me, regarded to have the highest standard of parliamentary democracy in the Federation of Nigeria, so that the daily proceedings of a Legislature of this calibre should be covered by good and competent stenographers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I make this complaint for careful consideration.

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi):

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I apologise to the last speaker for the complaint which he has made about the Hansard reporters who had not been able to cover his speech delivered on Thursday last. I myself know how very disappointing that could be to any person who had made a brilliant speech, but the fact is that we have just got a new Hansard Editor and all our reporters are new. The result is that they still have to get accustomed to taking down the proceedings of this House. I can assure the hon. Member that if he will be good enough to supply the Clerk of the House with a copy of his speech, which will be compared with the tape recording of his speech when the omnibus copy of the proceedings of the House is published, the mistake will be corrected.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.40 p.m. until tomorrow, Tuesday, 3rd April, 1962, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 3RD APRIL, 1962

The House met at 10.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Personal Statement

Mr V. I. Amadasun (Benin West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, my attention has been drawn this morning.....(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Benin West will be given special permission to make a statement at this stage. It is unusual though; (it ought to come up during the Motion for Adjournment), but I grant him the indulgence this time.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to thank you for giving me this special opportunity to say something.

My attention this morning has been drawn to a publication in the Daily Times (back page) headed "Move to relax Austerity Plans". I am not going, Mr Speaker, Sir, to criticise all the paragraphs or section of the publication. All I know, Sir, is that the Press should have some sense of responsibility. (*Applause*). Whether those Pressmen are members of the NCNC or of the Action Group, or of the NPC, Mr Amadasun is not bothered, because they are not coming to my constituency to campaign for me or vote for me. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is my own personal statement, and anybody who thinks I am not fit to make this personal statement should let us go to the field of politics and battle out the issue.

Now, there was no Parliamentary meeting of the NCNC yesterday, because the Leader was not there; and the Secretary, Mr Akinyemi, was not here. Who could have called the Parliamentary meeting therefore? I mean that the logical answer is "Nobody to call a Parliamentary meeting"; so that this report is a figment of culpable imagination of that author, or the newspaper editor, or the newspaper men. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, you could see that when I was taking part in the debate on the Speech from the Throne, I said it was my own personal opinion, too, that the austerity measures of the Western Region were excessive. Whatever a Regional Government has to do must be done in collaboration with other Regional Governments, because charity begins at home. It is not good for one

Government to say "Because 'Amadasun' is in the Opposition, the only milk of life he has should be cut off". (*Laughter*). I said, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the austerity measures were excessive. Whatever is done by the Federal Government, the Eastern Region and the Northern Region should be done by the Western Regional Government. A person who has made a sacrifice of ten per cent is patriotic enough. Money matters are no matters of fancy, they are matters of fact.

What I want to draw the attention of the Speaker to on this very bad publication is this: The first indication about the move was given at a meeting of the Parliamentary Party of the NCNC, the Official Opposition Party in the Region, held at one of the Committee Rooms of the House yesterday. A Spokesman of the NCNC told the meeting that a senior member of the Government Party has told him of the move and requested the support of the Members of the Opposition. Mr Speaker, Sir, according to my own business in this House I should be the person to be first intimated by any senior officers of the Government, but I can tell you that, for more than six months now, I have never spoken to any Member on that side of the House, because what they do—what they do politically—is not to my taste. And who is that person now to come to a senior officer of the other side? So, conclusively, Mr Speaker, Sir; this publication is fiendish; it is damned, and it is as damnable as any publication in hell.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to take my seat.

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): I thank the Chief Whip of the Opposition for clearing the air about the publication which appeared on the back page of the "Daily Times" of today's issue. In normal Parliamentary procedure, if a Newspaper has made a false report of the proceedings of the House, the normal procedure will be for the privilege given to that paper to be withdrawn, but this is not a case in which the proceedings of the House has been falsified by the particular newspaper. What was really responsible was that the particular editor was indulging in some journalistic nightmare and; therefore it was open to him to make any suggestions as best as he could.

But, be that as it may, Sir, all I can say on behalf of Government is that the austerity measures in respect of Ministers Parliamentary Secretaries, Legislators—I underline "Legislators"—and Board Members, came into effect as from the 1st day of April, 1962. There is no intention whatsoever on the part of the Western Nigeria

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

Government to go back on these austerity measures. (*Loud applause*). It is true, Sir that all of us are suffering, but that suffering is nothing, Sir, in the sense that as leaders of the people, we ourselves have got to make sacrifices before we can call on them to make sacrifices. (*Applause*). It would therefore be suicidal for any Government that is worth its name to announce some measures and not even wait to carry out these measures before it makes a right-about-turn and decides to cancel the whole thing.

I am very grateful, Sir, that the Opposition has cleared the air. It is not the intention of this Government to withdraw what has been done; we will carry it out in the hope that when we call on the masses of the people to make sacrifices as we hope to do when I announce my Budget tomorrow, they will know that we ourselves have set an example and that it is left for them to follow. (*Applause*).

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): I beg to move the Motion standing in my name, that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

Chief S. O. Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Confidence in the Regional Government

Mr B. I. G. Ewah (Ishan North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name—

“That this honourable House expresses its confidence in the Regional Government for the way and manner it is tackling the problem of unemployment”.

The problem of unemployment is an important and significant question in any country and it is more so in young underdeveloped countries such as the Federation of Nigeria in general and the Western Region in particular. When one recalls that some seven years ago the Government embarked on a gigantic educational programme which it is still pursuing vigorously, one would realise that in any circumstances the result would be extreme unemployment; but the Government of this Region is not unmindful of this situation and, in order to tackle this problem effectively, this Government has

undertaken a number of industrial and economic development programmes, some of which are—

(a) Agricultural Measures—which include the opening of Schools of Agriculture to train School Certificate boys and girls.

(b) Farm Settlements—for Primary School leavers.

On Industrialisation this Government has established cement factories, poultry farms, aluminium factories, asbestos, and various industries.

Despite all these, I have the following suggestions to make to the Government, and I am making them quite briefly. The Government should make available through its statisticians, the number of—

(a) School Certificate holders unemployed;

(b) Secondary Modern School leavers unemployed;

(c) Primary VI School leavers unemployed; and

(d) the total number of these.

They should then work out how many of such boys and girls are to be employed and the number left unemployed.

The Government ought to make plans for the unemployed to be absorbed into the industries now being established. This method, added to the present steps for combating unemployment in this Region, will do more good than allowing the situation to grow worse from day to day, leading to a situation which may be complex in years to come and which may give room for lawlessness and disorder because the hungry man would then be an angry man.

I feel that the Government is praiseworthy and the Government should be congratulated for these measures which it has taken to prevent unemployment by its progressive agricultural and industrialisation policies. But no one can deny the fact that there are still hundreds of school leavers roaming about the streets without employment. I admit this happens elsewhere in the Federation, but this Region and our Government rightly claims to be first in most things and we must not be complacent; we must further look into the question of unemployment and try to adjust our whole educational policy to suit the present employment prospects of the school leavers. On the part of school leavers, therefore, it must be observed that they ought to have regard to the total planned economy of the country when those who have not yet got jobs go about complaining of lack of jobs. It is to be regretted, for instance, that every one seems to have his mind set on a particular type of

[MR EWAH]

job—usually the white collar and black coat jobs. Surely, even if this type of job were the best to go round, hon. Members should advise members of their constituencies to take up whichever job is available and stop choosing unduly. I would advise the Government that if this selective attitude continues, legislation should be introduced to force people into the jobs which are available.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Revd. I. Edeki (Afenmai North-West II):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to Second the Motion ably moved by the last speaker. In doing so, I must say, first and foremost, that the chief cause of unemployment in this country is that school-leavers do not make full use of the opportunities offered them. In England, or in many parts of Europe, people look for any jobs they can get. There are many employment facilities in the Western Region in particular, but our school-leavers generally do not make use of them. I have one example to quote in this connection. You will see that there are few Westerners in the Police Force and in the Army, whereas those are employments which maintain the dignity of man and enable people to earn an honourable living. But rather than join the Police Force or the Army, they will be looking for black-coat jobs. The Western Region Government has made many provisions for the solution of this all important question of unemployment: for example, in the field of Agriculture—(Interruptions)—There are agricultural credit facilities which are given to farmers. The purpose of these facilities is to enable farmers to employ some hands and therefore help to solve the problem of unemployment.

The development projects of the Government have this result—they help to solve the question of unemployment; for example, the Waterworks, the Road Tarring and Road Improvement projects, the Electrical Installations and other activities of Local Government Councils are many of such projects which go to open channels of employment to school-leavers. Local Government Councils also build maternity centres, quarters for the Local Government Police, etc.: all these require the giving of jobs to people who are unemployed.

Yet there is another way in which the Government is solving this question of unemployment: it is by the expansion of primary education. This expansion of primary education has resulted in the

employment of many teachers, some of whom are Modern School leavers, who could have been roaming about the streets of Ibadan; but because they have been employed as teachers, they have lessened the unemployment strain.

Another way in which the Government can ease this problem is by the establishment of small-scale industries, especially in the rural areas—saw mills, corn mills, *gari* mills and textiles in the rural areas. All unemployed hands—all unemployed school-leavers—who would have been roaming about the streets in search of black-coat jobs, could be absorbed in these industries. This will prevent school-leavers from increasing the population of the unemployed in cities and villages.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is yet another way of easing this problem of unemployment, and that is by sending many more Economic Missions to Europe and other parts of the world. Apart from the fact that these Missions help to popularise the Government, they also help to attract foreign investors and industries. When such things are done, employment facilities are increased and work will then be given to the unemployed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, finally, may I suggest another way of easing this problem (Interruptions). Another way in which Government can solve this question is by way of austerity measures. Well, austerity measures do not mean immobility or stagnation; they mean expansion through economies in one sector of the economy or the other. You see, money is saved here and there, and money thus saved can be used for another more important thing. The money so saved could be re-invested in the economy and there will be expansion; this expansion will then bring about the employment of more hands. I have therefore been very shocked at the way Members of the Opposition have been approaching this question of austerity measures. Mr Speaker, Sir, I have said that "austerity" does not mean immobility or stagnation. It means expansion and the employment of more hands. It is the re-investment of money saved in the economy so that it is expended and more hands are employed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few comments, I beg to support the Motion.

Mr Speaker: Are you supporting the Motion or seconding it? Of course, seconding it means supporting it?

Revd. Edeki: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, I rise to oppose this Motion (*laughter*). Why do you laugh? Mr Speaker, I am sorry, but I do not want to take part in this debate in such a way as the hon. Mover by disregarding Standing Orders and reading word for word, phrase by phrase, what he had put down—a thing that took him a century to prepare.

Mr Speaker: I do not agree that the hon. Member was reading his speech. If he did, you ought to have raised a Point of Order at the time he was reading his speech. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Amadasun: You know that what I have said is true.

Mr Speaker, Sir, from the wording of this very Motion, and from the analysis of the debate of the hon. Mover, you could see with me, Sir, that he had not given the facts necessary. He had run out of his patience. He was not debating the Motion he has moved.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, what is the Motion? With your permission, the Motion is—

“That this honourable House expresses its confidence in the Regional Government for the way and manner it is tackling..... etc., etc.”

The words “it is tackling” are in the present continuous tense. I want to teach these people grammar. Not “it has tackled”, but “it is tackling”. (*Interruptions*). All right, let me finish.

From my experience as a legislator, Sir, what the hon. Mover has said in relation to this Motion was to give statistical information about the number of primary school-leavers—primary six. He should give us the number in the whole of the Mid west; he should let us know the number of secondary grammar school-leavers in the Midwest and in the Yoruba section; he should give us the statistics. Then he should give the number of secondary grammar school-leavers: he should give us the statistics. Let us have this on the first schedule, as the Government used to say; then, on the second schedule, the number of these categories employed or are being employed by the Government in the Western Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, when all facts are unearthed, you will see that the Government of this Region has simply launched the Free Primary Education, plus all the needs relevant to education that they have been crying about, in order to bring about unemployment in the whole of the Western Region. (*Cries of “sit down, sit down” from Government Benches*). Not only this, Sir; this very hon. Mover is a Mid-

westerner. He should let us know from the list of the people employed in the Western Region how many are from Yoruba section and how many are from the Midwest. (*Interruptions*). You are responsible for it. Well, charity begins at home. I know of many departments belonging to many Ministers, well, I do not want to make mention of them I enquired; the people employed are from the villages or districts of the particular Ministers. If you want me to make mention of them, I will do so (*Government Benches: Make mention of them*). No, I will not do that for purely parliamentary reasons. (*Shame, shame*).

Now, Mr Speaker, look at the whole of the Western Region; there are many Obas unemployed. (*Laughter*). Many Obas are unemployed. They should let us know how many Obas are being paid by the Local Government Councils, and also the number of Chiefs. You say you love the Obas: how many Obas are getting salaries? Only a handful of them in the House of Chiefs. It is a shame—a shame—on you. If the NCNC was to take over the Government, we would pay all the Obas and Chiefs.

Mr Speaker: Order. I would like us to respect the sanctity of the institution of Obaship. No Oba is unemployed, unless he is no more an Oba. An Oba is an employment in itself—full time employment.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I pray that the Almighty God should enlighten the Action Group to make most holy the position of the Oba by giving him more financial assistance. That is my prayer, Mr Speaker. (*Laughter*). Do not laugh you Minister of Education.

Mr Speaker, from all these analyses—all I have said about the unemployment plight of the school-leavers in the Western Region—you will agree with me that this Motion is not worthy to be passed in this House because there are still thousands and thousands of our school-leavers in the country who are still unemployed and, secondly, I am saying that this very Mover is simply playing to the gallery. He simply wants members—high members—of the Action Group to know that there is somebody who is supporting them. He should not move such a Motion here again; if he does so, I will strongly criticise him.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr S. T. Adelegan): I rise to support the Motion. The hon. Member for Benin West I has asked

[MR ADELEGAN]

the House to observe the grammar section—the continuous tense—and so, Mr Speaker, I am referring the hon. Member to the Government's continued consideration of the question of tackling unemployment in the Region. In doing this I refer the hon. Members to the Government Development Plan, 1962-68, I quote from there—

“The expansion of employment opportunities in the Region is the fourth objective. The need to provide more job opportunities for the people of the Region, and more especially for the growing numbers of young school leavers becomes pressing daily. I do not have to elaborate on this. Under the Plan, a whole complex of schemes has been evolved with a view to meeting this urgent situation. Mr Speaker, Sir, the White Paper before you includes schemes of farm settlements, of co-operative group farms, of small and large scale industries, of co-operative artisans, of cottage and rural industries and of the development of trade and services. All these, provided we all gird ourselves and accept the sacrifices necessary to produce the resources to implement them, will ensure that no longer will our sons and daughters migrate from the rural areas to float about in the large towns in hopeless quest for white-collar jobs that never materialise”.

And again, Sir, not only is employment envisaged for school leavers, it is also envisaged for the inhabitants of both urban and rural areas and these have been solidly planned. In the first place there will be industries in urban areas which would absorb labourers and artisans—all kinds of workers—carpenters, even tailors, and also in the rural areas; but the Government has also made plans for combating unemployment; this is in connection with the establishment of farm settlements, also the establishment of rural industries and small scale industries. For some years past grants also have been made by the Finance Corporation of the Government to farmers, and those farmers, when they receive Government money, have the opportunity of employing labour with the money they receive from the Finance Corporation. This, Sir, I think, is encouraging the employment of the people.

The problem of unemployment over the next six years had also been mentioned by the Government; therefore, Sir, I think the Government ought to be praised for the way and manner in which it is tackling the problem of unemployment in this Region.

I beg to support the Motion.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to say that the reason behind this Motion.....

The Regional Minister (Trade and Industry) (Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie): Point of Order. Standing Order No. 3 (2): Members should sit only in the seats allotted to them when speaking in the House.

Mr Speaker: It is correct that the speaker (Mr Rerri) has not taken his proper seat. But I use my discretion to allow him to carry on. (*Cries of “Shame shame” from Opposition Benches*).

Mr Rerri: The idea is not that the Western Region Government is not doing anything to review unemployment. Look at the section on farm settlements, the various attempts Government made to find jobs for those who are out of school are very clear; our contention is that the Government is not doing enough, and therefore to congratulate a Government for the way it is handling the situation will be improper. That is where we stand.

During the past year the Government has been doing all it can to reduce employment and to arrest the situation, but it seems it is getting out of hand; it will be wrong therefore to get this honourable House to pass any Motion saying that we are satisfied with the way and manner the Western Region Government is tackling and handling the question of employment.

Now, the mover of the Motion had said earlier that he wants the Government to look into the question of school leavers who have not got jobs. Statistics for these secondary grammar, secondary modern and primary school leavers will show that it is clear beyond doubt—the hon. Minister of Education will confirm—that school leavers who are unemployed greatly outnumber the school leavers who are in employment. Whether primary or secondary school leavers, they are greatly in excess of those the Government can find jobs for. What we are saying is not that the Government is not tackling it, but that it is not handling the unemployment question efficiently; therefore the way it is tackling the problem does not warrant this Motion.

If, maybe after the first year or two of the Development Programme, we see statistically that in 1962 the number of unemployment is, say, 10,000, and after a year or two of the Development Plan, the number has fallen to 8,000 or 6,000 then both the Opposition and the Government will join together to express satisfaction on the way the Government is handling the situation.

[MR RERRI]

I do not know what is happening in the other rural areas, but it is true that in that side of the West—the Midwest—unemployment is growing daily, and for my constituency and all the Midwest to hear that I am supporting the passing of a Motion expressing confidence in the Government for the way it is tackling unemployment will amount to a vote of no confidence at any future election.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I oppose the Motion as being untimely. Yes, the Motion is untimely. The position is bad now. Government is not tackling the unemployment situation efficiently, the way it is doing it now. It made attempts for handling it; when the proper time comes we shall all join in congratulating the Government.

I oppose the Motion as being untimely.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose this Motion. People say, "Knowledge acquired for acquiring sake is worse than the worst".

When the Mover of this Motion was speaking, he talked about farm settlements, but has any of the Ministers or hon. Members sent their boys there? (*Interruptions*).

You mentioned that the Government gives loans. How many people did you give loans in Okitipupa? When you give them £10 loan, your clerks will collect £3 from the people!

Mr Speaker: Point of Order. Will the hon. Member direct his speech to me?

Mr Omokowajo: When you give a man £10 and you collect £3 from him.....(*Interruptions*).

When you talk of unemployment, the fact is we have unemployment. If you have employment, it is for those who are friends of Ministers and, perhaps, those from their constituencies.

Factories.—In the Governor's Speech from the Throne, mention was made of new factories; do you want school leavers from Okitipupa to go to Ikeja to work? Why are those factories not distributed evenly throughout the Region so that all of us all over the Region can enjoy them? (*Interruptions*).

Bridges.—Sometime ago, some labourers were employed in my area; you have not paid them till today. They have worked for nothing, and you say that there is employment in Western Region! You gave them job but they did it for nothing!

Because of unemployment Sir, is that why you (*pointing to the Government Benches*) wasted £7,000 in different places in advertising the Government overseas?

Mr Speaker: Order. The question of bribing certain people is a matter for the police and is therefore unparliamentary. Will you therefore withdraw?

Mr Omokowajo: If it is the wish of the Speaker that I should withdraw, I withdraw. (*Shame, shame*).

But I will put it in a better form. I said that the Western Region Government had spent over £7,000 to advertise itself—money wrongly used. In the Western Region at the present moment, there is no Public Works Department but a Ministry of Works and Transport. All we see now is that all these jobs are given to Nigersol, "something-sol"—(*Interruptions*)—with the result that at Akure, we have got over 1,000 labourers retrenched. (*Uproar*).

For these reasons Sir, I beg to oppose this Motion.

Mr S. A. Akerele (Ekiti North-East I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion. In the first place, our Friends on the other side said that all those who can read and write should have white collar jobs. That is a mistaken notion; and these are the people who are spreading wrong notions about education in different parts of this country. (*Applause*). Look at a friend who stood to say that a Standard Six boy should be looking for employment in an industry or in any established institution. That is a mistake. I am to convince him that Standard Six attainment is the beginning of education. How can you go out to look for a job then? (*Interruptions*).

Mr Amadasun: Point of order. I want the Minister of Education to explain the purpose of issuing certificates for primary six boys.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): I would want a notice for that question.

Mr Akerele: I was making a point that it is a mistake to expect a primary school leaver to look for a job. (*Shouts of "Shame, shame" from Opposition Benches*).

This Government needs to be congratulated on its progressive step to nullify unemployment in this Region. We noticed that, in the first instance, many roads are being tarred and many Westerners are being employed for this purpose. We notice that, in 1954-55, £190,709 was spent on tarring roads, and this figure rose to over £3,000,000 in the year

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[MR AKERELE]

1960-61. Definitely many workers should have been employed by those constructing these roads. And we notice that over 2,000 miles have been tarred in this part of the country. It will be strange if our friends on the other side could not help their relatives to find employments in these places. We have, for instance, the Ikpoba Rubber Factory in Benin City which is established by the Western Nigeria Development Corporation with over £345,000, and we notice that thousands of Westerners have also been employed by the factory. It is strange that our friends opposite cannot find employment in such a factory. *(Interruptions)*. This Government is establishing many small-scale industries in different parts of this Region. *(Cheers)*. At present we have three textile training centres and these are centred at Oyo, Ado-Ekiti and Auchi, and they are under the supervision of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. It is also noticeable that many district councils are required to send students to learn in these textile industries where the art of weaving, dying, dress-making, and so on, are taught these boys. After the successful completion of their training they can settle in their own areas as production units. It will be wonderful if our friends on the other side have not benefited from all these schemes.

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

The Minister of Labour (Chief J. E. Babatola): Mr Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Government I am expressing my gratitude for this Motion of confidence by the Mover. It will be observed Sir, that confidence is expressed in this Regional Government not actually because it has succeeded altogether in giving employment to everybody, but because the way and manner in which we are tackling the problem is known to be praiseworthy. *(Applause)*.

I think, Sir, that it is nowhere possible in the world to give employment to everybody. Circumstances may arise in which for a short time it may be possible to give employment to everybody, but for a long time it is impossible. I think Sir, that it is possible to conscript people and send them to the Army, or send them to the Police Force in order to give employment to everybody, but it is impossible for any Government to find jobs for everybody. I am quite certain that these problems have been pin-pointed in the Speech of the hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development yesterday. May I say then that school

leavers are reluctant to avail themselves of the various opportunities; rather they all want black-coat or white collar jobs.

The second problem, Mr Speaker, Sir, is one which the Government of this Region is trying to combat in order that those who want labour and employment may be given the opportunity to find what they want.

To solve the first problem, Government requires the co-operation of all our politicians and enlightened citizens, particularly teachers. Our teachers should teach our children to know that respect is due to a man not solely because he happens to be an academician; respect is to be given to everybody who can do an honest labour—be he a bricklayer, mechanic, carpenter or machinist.

To solve the second problem, namely, the problem which arises of finding out what jobs there are, the Government of this Region has started some time ago to establish Labour Employment Exchanges. These are now established at Akure and Abeokuta, and we do not discriminate in this regard. We have them, too, in Benin City, Sapele, Warri, and we have one in Ibadan; very shortly, according to the Speech from the Throne, one is to be established at Ikeja. We have to advise our boys and girls to make use of these.

At present I am sorry to say that employers of labour are not co-operating fully with the Government in the way they employ labour, and my appeal to them is that they should co-operate, or Government will make their co-operation compulsory. But as I have said, we are living under a democratic dispensation, and the rule of democracy must be allowed to operate.

In coming back to the actual problem of eradicating unemployment, may I remind this honourable House what steps Government has taken. Many speakers have referred to these steps, but I want to remind Members so as to refresh their memory. Government itself is perhaps the largest employer of labour compared with other employers of labour.

It is unfortunate that there are no statistics to show what Government has done as regards employment opportunities, but I am convinced that this Government is the largest employer of labour when compared with other classes of employers of labour. You will realise that Government has many Ministries and has employed thousands of workers. Not only that; Government also pays all the teachers in this Region whether they are teachers employed by Government or by Voluntary Agencies.

[CHIEF BABATOLA]

Government also gives grants to Local Government Authorities to pay some of their staff and their teachers, so that Government grants are really providing employment opportunities for a great number of people in this Region. And, what is more, Government has established agencies for the purpose of developing the economy of this Region, and in the development of economy you cannot exclude the opportunities for employment. In particular, we have the development of small-scale industries which are labour incentives, and by doing such things Government is providing employment opportunities.

As has just been remarked by the hon. Member for Ekiti South-East I, Government has established a very formidable record in the provision of amenities which are bound to have salutary effects on employment.

May I remind you of the existence of the Nigersol Construction Company Limited and the Nigeria Water Resources Development Corporation, both of which employ not less than 3,000 people for unskilled labour in this Region; and I am quite sure that people will greatly appreciate this.

Well, I have spoken briefly of what the Government of this Region has done; what the Government is now proposing to do transcends what it has done in the past. Yesterday, we listened here to the Speech on the Development Plan given us by the hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development on Chapter 7 of the Western Region Development Plan, 1962-68.

I have explained to you the programme of providing employment opportunities for this Region. Only two classes of school leavers constitute the core of unemployment in the Region. The products of Secondary schools do always secure employment after successful completion of their course, and, as the economy will be expanding during the Development Plan period, it is safe to assume that these two classes of school leavers will not present any problem. It has been calculated in the same chapter that the output of successful Primary School leavers will be 800,000 and that of the Secondary Modern School leavers will be about 101,500 during the Six-year Plan period. Assuming that about 10 per cent of the Primary School leavers will enter Secondary Grammar Schools and that about 50 per cent will enter Secondary Modern Schools, the Primary School leavers that will enter the labour market without adequate qualification will be about 320,000. It has also been calculated

that the total number of Primary School leavers and Secondary Modern School leavers who will be entering the labour market during the six-year period will be about 400,000 to 500,000. The problem facing the Region is, therefore, narrowed down to finding employment opportunities for about half a million youths during the Plan period.

In preparing the Six-year Development Plan, this problem of providing employment opportunities for our youths has always been borne in mind and the fact that the fourth objective of the Plan is to provide employment opportunities testifies to this. Members are well aware that large-scale industries which are comparatively capital incentives do not provide much of the needed employment opportunities for the youths. There are, however, other avenues which are relatively labour incentives. These are in the fields of Agriculture, small-scale rural and cottage industries, service industry, and small-scale business. In the case of cottage and rural industries, there is a provision of £235,000, £1,372,000 for small-scale industries, £500,000 for industrial schemes under integrated rural development, and a sum of £1,800,000 for industrial credit facilities.

May I explain what is meant by industrial facilities. We have in existence our Finance Corporation and the Local Loans Boards which give loans to farmers. Small businesses are to be established by individuals who will have to seek Government credit facilities, and when we give facilities to farmers they are going to employ people; that also narrows down the employment problems.

I wish to refer in particular to one Ministry—the Ministry of Trade and Industry. This Ministry has proposals for the establishment of cottage and rural industries; namely, textiles, brickmaking, rope making, mattresses and cushion-making, which, on the whole, will provide employment opportunities for 7,000 trainees. Apart from this provision, you will also remember that in the United States Technical Assistance Scheme, it is proposed to be able to give jobs for an additional number of 300 trainees. This is to be combined with the proposals in the Ministry of Trade and Industry. We have the greatest hope of employment for our people. At present Local Government Service employ messengers and *Akodas*, dispensary attendants, midwives, sanitary overseers, forest guards, timber inspectors, plantation supervisors, etc.

It was not possible some ten years ago for Local Authorities to employ many categories of workers, but it is now possible because

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[CHIEF BABATOLA]

under Government assistance and under Government directions, local Councils have been able to develop their economies. They have been able to acquire revenue; and not only that; they have been able to boost it. They have received from the Government various sums of money as grants and as loans, and many of these Local Government Authorities will, during this Six-year Development Plan, receive more grants for development purposes. Certainly we are going to get more people who will be appointed as rate collectors and more people will be appointed by Local Treasuries; and do not forget that they can afford themselves the opportunity of establishing industries in their areas of jurisdiction which will create employment opportunities for our boys and girls generally.

Before I take my seat, may I appeal to this honourable House to help Government enlighten our citizens, particularly teachers, who ought to inculcate in our children the dignity of labour, so that they may come to have regard for those who labour on the farms, in carpenters' or blacksmith's workshop.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank the Mover of this Motion on behalf of the Government.

Question put and agreed to.

Congratulations to the Hon. Premier

Mr S. A. Layonu (Ede Ejigbo South):
Mr Speaker, Sir, it is really a great opportunity for me to move the Motion which is standing in my name,

"That this honourable House congratulates the hon. Premier, Chief Samuel Ladoke Akintola for the successful completion of his 1961 Economic Mission to Europe, the Middle East and America and affirms its belief that the activities and achievements of the Mission will enhance the progress and prosperity, welfare and development of the people of the Western Region in particular and further the progress of Nigeria as a nation generally".

First of all, may I offer the hon. Premier special congratulations for the successful Economic Mission he had undertaken for exactly sixty days. It is said, "He who laughs last laughs best". Of all the three Premiers we have in the three Regions of Nigeria, our own Premier was the last person to go on an Economic Mission in 1961 and, thank God, his Mission was the most successful. (*Hear, hear*).....(*Interruptions from Opposition Benches*). Mr Speaker, it is a

great pity that when some hon. Members take *apeteshi* they make unnecessary noise always.

Mr Speaker, Sir, when people talk of expenses incurred on ministerial overseas tours, they forget that what we lose in terms of visible progress and productivity are more than compensated by the development advance which comes out from such tours.

The hon. Premier left Nigeria on 22nd September, 1961 on a global Economic Mission and returned on 22nd November, 1961. Among places he visited in Europe and the Middle East were London, Switzerland, Rome, Yugoslavia, Greece, Cyprus, Lod, Israel, Bonn, Cologne, Frankfurt and Hamburg; and in U.S.A. and Canada he visited Washington, D.C., New York, Ottawa and Montreal. Hon. Members will agree with me that to tour the world in sixty days was one of the most spectacular achievements of the Mission. The Mission during this period explained the many opportunities open to overseas investors and friends who wish to come to Western Nigeria to participate in agricultural and industrial programmes aimed at creating a better life for the people of the Region in particular, and Nigeria in general. The goodwill tour also afforded the delegation a fitting occasion to present Nigeria as a truly democratic, friendly, and peace-loving nation, and to apprise the world of the country's needs.

Now, Sir, what are the achievements of the Mission? The Mission had succeeded in bringing the problems of Nigeria's development in general, and those of Western Nigeria in particular, to the knowledge of foreign investors in all the places visited. It had aroused the interest of foreign countries in Nigeria and had contributed to knowledge of the country by the outside world.

It had enlisted the support and co-operation of foreign investors and industrialists who had promised the Region educational, financial and cultural assistance, including scholarship awards for deserving youths of the Region.

It had a direct bearing on the economic development of Western Nigeria, because the Development Plan we have now in this Region is a courageous account of the Economic Mission. It is also a mirror to where we go from here.

The Government current Development Programme for 1962-68 would cost £240 million, out of which the Government envisages...(*Interruptions*). I was a better reader when I was on that side of the House. (*An Opposition Member: Carpet crosser.*)

[MR LAYONU]

You will soon cross back again). The Government envisages to raise between £160 million and £180 million, leaving a balance of between £60 million and £80 million to be raised from external sources.

The hon. Premier's tact and modesty are so commendable that they should be emulated by all of us. Let us give honour to whom honour is due. Any attempt to show any sign of ingratitude to the hon. Premier will fight shy of crude facts and of the stark realities prevailing in this Region.

On his return from the tour on 22nd November, 1961 the hon. Premier announced at a Press Conference he held at Apapa that petty traders would be encouraged and that foreign firms would be barred from retail trade. This news augured well for the future of our commerce because this is really in the interest of our indigenous petty retailers who, as a result of this measure, will begin to realise considerable turnover with considerable profit margin.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate other members of the delegation who contributed tremendously to the success of the Mission. They are hon. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi, Minister of Finance, hon. Chief Adeyi, now Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Chief M. S. Sowole, Chairman, Industrial Promotions Commission; Chief Toyé Coker, Agent-General for the Western Region in the United Kingdom; Chief S. L. Durosaro, new Chairman of the National Bank Limited, and Chief I. O. Dina, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury.

Finally, Sir, I know that the hon. Premier is, no doubt, stiffening his muscles to face up numerous bullets that will be aimed at his Government when all these Development Programmes will be implemented. I would remind the Government to remember that backward areas should not be left out in perpetual backwardness.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move this Motion.

Mr R. O. Areola (Ekiti South-East I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion so ably proposed by the hon. the Mover. In seconding the Motion, I like to bring to the memory of hon. Members that a similar Economic Mission was undertaken by Chief the hon. Obafemi Awolowo, Leader of the Opposition in the Federal House and erst-while Premier of this Region, in 1956. Hon. Members will agree with me that that Mission bore, and continues to bear, immense fruits for the advantage of Western Nigeria. Such fruits are the establishment of the Ewekoro

Cement Factory, the Plastic Factory, Ibadan, the Rubber Processing Factory at Uronigbe, and so on and so forth. When hon. Members think of how many of our people are being employed in these factories, they will not hesitate to give their blessings to the Second Economic Mission undertaken by the Premier of Western Nigeria and to congratulate the hon. the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Premier of Western Nigeria, a man whom you all know for the logic of his tongue and the accuracy of his reasoning and his depth of insight into all that goes on in the different Ministries and the important Departments of the Region, is to me and to all the well-intentioned hon. Members the best man to have made that Economic Mission. He was able to give a true and accurate picture of the Region and what the Government has been able to do within less than a decade of its existence. He had, in the process, engendered confidence in the foreign countries and firms and experts he had visited.

Already, Sir, the last Economic Mission has started to bear fruits. We have had scholarships awarded to students of this Region by the Government of West Germany. We have had technical experts from the Government of Israel coming to help this Region. Above all, Sir, the Mission has created, for the products of Western Nigeria, a goodwill on which the economic activities—agricultural and industrial—depend.

With all these points, Mr Speaker, I beg to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Mr Speaker: Debate on this Motion will continue immediately after this short break which I am now announcing.

Sitting suspended at 12.00 noon.

Sitting resumed at 12.55 p.m.

Mr Speaker: Debate on the Motion for Congratulations to the hon. Premier will be adjourned until next week.

Debate adjourned accordingly.

Commission of Enquiry into the Administration of the Ibadan District and its Sub-urban Councils

Mr J. A. Ajuwon (Ibadan East Rural I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name that—

“This honourable House calls on the Regional Government to institute a commission of enquiry forthwith into the Administration of Ibadan City Council and its suburb District Councils in Ibadan,

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and also dissolve the Councils in Ibadan and Districts and order a fresh election forthwith".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I move this Motion not because I have got any ulterior motive behind it—(Interruptions)—but because of certain mal-practices in Ibadan City Council and suburbs. This demand follows the constant allegation of mal-treatment and rudeness to members of the public made against the staff of the Councils.

We heard that the Minister of Local Government is intending to extend the life of Local Government Councils throughout the Region, particularly the Ibadan City Council and its suburban councils. Mr Speaker, Sir, it looks as if the Government has its own special zones in the Region earmarked for perpetual extension of lives of councils. I have in mind the Ibadan City Council and District Councils now belonging to the Action Group Government. Does the Minister intend again to extend the life of these Councils? The fear of the Government is that its supporters are going to lose local Government election; that is why they are determined to extend the life of the Councils. If we accept such move we might extend the life of this House to another five years after the expiration of its normal life.

Mr D. K. Olumofin: On point of Order, Sir. Standing Order 27 (1): No Member shall be allowed to read his speech but short extracts.

Mr Speaker: I hope the hon. Gentleman is not reading his speech. He can continue.

Mr Ajuwon: Mr Speaker, Sir, in the month of August there was an election into the Ibadan City Council. This election was not fairly conducted; it was undemocratic, illegal, and law and order was not maintained. The Opposition gave the signal of boycott, in view of victimisation, oppression, depression and persecution of the Opposition; still the Action Group ordered that elections should take place. The Council has since been controlled by the Action Group without opposition. Day in day out the Council's affairs are secretly closed to the Opposition members.

I want to point out that since the inception of the Council, meetings are not held regularly. Many Councils in the District met only once.....(Interruption). This is a violation of the Local Government Law. The Law of the Western Region of Nigeria, 1959, Volume III, Chapter 68, page 320, Section 87 (b) says:—

"Where:

"(b) the Governor in Council is satisfied that a Council is not discharging its functions under this Law in a manner conducive to the Welfare of the inhabitants of the area of its authority as a whole,

the Governor in Council may by order—

(i) direct that the seats of the President and all members of the council shall become vacant and appoint a committee of management or an administrator for the purposes of this section; or

(ii) direct that the seats of all members of the council, other than the President or traditional members appointed directly by the Instrument, shall become vacant and that a general election shall be held on a date to be fixed by the Minister to fill the seats vacated".

The Council has not one day held a meeting. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Ibadan City Council is corrupt.

Coming to the question of Works Committee, Sir, I would like to point out that the award of contracts is purely on political basis. Mr Speaker, Sir, scarcely can a member of the NCNC get a single work. I have authority here. A special Action Group list of fifty men who are contractors was sent to the Town Engineer for regular contract work. These names can be read out if hon. Members so desire. (Interruptions). I will not release their names until the enquiry is set; then will I be able to give you more facts. Mr Speaker, Sir, proper investigation should be made to check up the allegations of corruption made by members of the public that a sum of £10 each was demanded from each contractor by the Chairman of Works Committee (Alhaji Bashiru) before contracts could be awarded to the members of the public. Members of the council have registered their names as contractors, whereby they were giving contract work under the Ibadan City Council (Interruptions).

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): On point of order. The names of the members of the public should not be mentioned on the floor of the House.

Mr Ajuwon: Mr Speaker, Sir, to confirm my statement, the splinter group (Agbaje Faction) alleged that the Chairman of Works Committee is a middle-man to the members of the public for receiving money for the Chairman of Ibadan City Council. May

[MR AJUWON]

I say, Sir, that if you want their names I will give them to you. (*Interruptions*). These councillors are unclean. Most of them are ex-convicts and tax defaulters. These councillors have been rendered homeless in their respective quarters.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one Mr B. O. Adedokun was suspended on the 13th March, 1962 because he had political differences with the hon. Minister of Home Affairs (hon. Ogundiran). The argument arose as to where to build a Council Hall for Ibadan East District Council. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs wanted the Hall to be built at his home town, Erunmu, while B. O. Adedokun wanted it to be built at Lalupon. On the face of this, the Minister reported him to the Chairman of the Council and the man was suspended as stated above.

Within three weeks a sum of £35 was missing in the Tax Office. (*Interruptions*). My point, Sir, is not whether this man who committed the offence has paid the money back or not; that is not my concern. My concern is this: we want to know what action was taken against the offender. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now come to the question of tax problem in all the Councils in Ibadan. That is how the taxes are collected. Many of these Councils have failed woefully to reach their targets. All people in the areas concerned know that they failed indeed and, to my surprise, many of the Councils have been subsidised from tax collected under the Pay As You Earn Scheme. For instance, the target for Ibadan City Council is £254,300; they have been able to collect £179,359 15s 9d, and the amount outstanding to meet up is £74,940 4s 3d. Mr Speaker, Sir, what I want to say now is that the Minister of Local Government is aware that many of these councils have failed in their duties and he has failed to act as required by the Law.

Government Bench: Which section of the Law has the Minister of Local Government contravened? (*Laughter*).

Mr Ajuwon: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Local Government has failed to act as required under the Law; and I quote below. See Laws of the Western Region, 1959, Volume III, Cap. 68, page 321, section 88 which goes as follows:

"(1) Where it appears to the Minister that a Council has failed to (a) levy or levy sufficiently any rate or tax which may be levied by it; or

(b) to collect or to collect sufficiently any rate or tax which it is its duty to collect, he may direct that expenditure shall not be incurred by the council in respect of such matters and during such period as he may specify".

The Minister of Local Government has failed in his duties by allowing all the Councils to receive money from the proceeds of P.A.Y.E.; that is where you Action Group Government try to cover the faults of your supporters. Enquiry is demanded into the administration of all these Councils.

Market Committees.—How stalls are distributed to traders at Dugbe and Mokola need to be investigated thoroughly. If this Action Group has nothing to fear, the enquiry which is now sought through the floor of this House should be allowed to come into being as soon as possible. It is the policy of the Action Group members to take bribery up to the amount of £50 before a stall is given to any trader both at Mokola and Dugbe. If this enquiry is supported I am ready to support my argument with the facts and figures before me. Our supporters are not given stalls, but we are not surprised of this as the Action Group is noted for partiality all over the Federation.

Customary Courts.—How justice is dispensed in the Customary Courts in Ibadan by the cruel judges leaves much to be desired. It is here that many Action Group supporters will find it hot if this enquiry is supported. If any member of the NCNC is involved in a court matter he will be treated badly because of his political affiliation, and yet you people say that there is law and order in this Region.

Staff Committee must be properly investigated. This Committee serves as a means of trade centre and also as land committee of which hon. Sanni is the chairman. All these things should be investigated. You should not be surprised when I mention names; it is because I am sure of what I am saying, and I am ready to defend myself in any court of law.

Chieftaincy Committee.—There are over 300 ruling houses in Ibadan, and Mr Speaker, Sir, all the NCNC ruling houses have been suppressed by virtue of their political affiliation. It is because of this type of injustice that we clamour for this enquiry to be instituted.

There is only one fact which I want to bring before this House, and it is this, that it will not be proper to see the Ibadan District Council only being run by the Action Group. If the people are bold and they are sure that they own the Council, let them dissolve the

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Council and order a fresh election which must be free and fair. The question of victimisation, oppression, suppression should not come in.

Lands Committee.—Well, I am sorry that the Chairman of the Lands Committee is not here; perhaps he knew that this Motion is coming up and he has left the House. This Land Committee is a problem, Sir. Our lands are being given to foreigners.

An Hon. Member: Who are the foreigners?

They are the Ijebus, the Egbas—well, you know them; the Ekitis. Mr Speaker, Sir, we don't say they should not give them these pieces of land but that before they can obtain a lease from the Councillors, at least a sum of £100 is obtained from them. This is a serious allegation and I want the Minister to look into it. It is shameful.

Now the question of Ogunpa Motor Park, Sir. Well this place is really a home of the Action Group, because the Hon. Minister of Local Government lives near the place. There are certain lands leased to the public at Ogunpa Motor Park. Over five years now, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Ibadan District Council could not collect the rentage, Sir. They could not because I can tell you of one person who, for good five years, has not paid a single rentage, and yet you talk of austerity measures, today and of economic missions tomorrow. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say, for Ogunpa Motor Park, that the Minister of Local Government should take time in checking the receipts, because information has been received that certain persons allegedly spent certain amounts and the receipts were burnt—destroyed entirely.

(An hon. Member: That is done by the Minister of Home Affairs).

(The Minister of Home Affairs: Note the voice).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like you to remark that an honest man, especially people from Ibadan, would say that the dissolution of Ibadan City Council has long been overdue. Last week, Sir—I am sorry to delay the Speaker—*(Shouts of "carry on! carry on!")* at Mapo Council Hall, a meeting was called, headed by the Premier of this Region, the Right Hon. Akintola.

(An Hon. Member: He is not "Right")

Oh! I am sorry, Sir, the Chief Hon. S. L. A. Now what happened, in the meeting Sir? It was purely politics.

The meeting was called in order to get my supporters to their camp. The Organising Secretaries were sent out that they should go about in the town to say that anybody who has got no membership card of the Action Group will not be allowed or will not be privileged to put his name down during the Census.

(Government bench: Ah! Ah!).

Yes, I can tell you the names. Yes he told them, and now the Organising Secretaries are collecting membership cards about. Once you haven't got the card you are not entitled to register. Now Mr Speaker, Sir, this thing is no good. If the Premier knows that he is sincere to tell the public of Ibadan that the Regional census will be coming up, why not invite the Leader of the Opposition or the member of Mabolaje Grand Alliance in Ibadan to sit down along with him at the meeting. *(Cheers from Opposition Benches).*

Now Mr Speaker, Sir, another question I would like to raise is that of Ibadan East District Council. This Council, Sir, needs serious attention. It is the home of our Minister of Home Affairs, and I would like this Honourable House—

(An Hon. Member: What is the town?)

Erunmu. I learnt that the hon. Minister is trying to dominate the Council but the question arises as to whether Lalupon will agree with Erunmu or Erunmu will agree with Lalupon, either of the two. That is the only trouble, because we will not like to see our money being used on political ends. Now the Minister of Home Affairs who is a member of this Ibadan East District Council, met me one day at Lalupon; he was trying to tell me another story, asking me to cross and that he will give me £250. *(Interruptions).*

Now coming to the question of allocation of contracts, Sir. *(Interruptions).*

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. Please may I refer Members to Order No. 29 (4) which reads:

"During a sitting all members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones".

We have heard that the Reporters—the Hansard Reporters—may be disturbed if there is too much noise going on in the House. So I will appeal to Members to please obey this Order of the House and keep silent while the hon. Member goes on with his speech.

Mr Ajuwon: Well, thank you; Mr Speaker, Sir. In view of my speeches, Sir I would like the Minister of Local Government, or whoever is responsible for the

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administration of Ibadan District Council, to dissolve it and order a fresh election. Moreover it will be necessary for an enquiry to be set up. All these facts and documents at my disposal shall be revealed, and anybody—particularly people from Ibadan—would agree with me that even they themselves are not satisfied with the way the Council is being run.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like, before I resume my seat, to give a sound warning to members of the Government, that whenever they see the truth, there is no need hiding it. They knew that, for good ten years, they could not control Ibadan town.

Mr C. I. Akere: Point of Order. I should like to refer to Order No. 2 Mr Speaker, Sir, which says that the business of the Legislature of the Region shall be conducted in English. I should like to know what the hon. Member meant by "to speak the truths".

Mr Ajuwon: Another point, Sir, I would like to remind the Minister of Local Government about the meeting we had in his office the other day. It was agreed at that meeting that when the allocation of women into the Local Government Councils would take effect, we should be consulted. Since then, up till now, the Minister of Local Government has never even informed us how far he has gone in that matter. I would like him to implement it immediately because, if some of my Party members are left out, Mr Speaker, Sir, and if only the Action Group members are put into the Councils, well, I think we shall shout and cry and let the public know that this Government is an undemocratic Government. *(Cheers from Opposition Benches).*

Finally, I will submit again, Sir, that if the enquiry is to be set up it should be drawn from equal Members of the House, that is the Opposition and the Government, because I know that if a single man is to be appointed, that man will serve his party. I am trying to tell the Minister of Local Government that if the Motion is accepted, I would like him to consider that members of the Opposition be included, and I am to assure you that we shall give you the greatest help and facts at our disposal. *(Cheers).*

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Adeoye Adisa (Ibadan South-East Rural): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second this Motion. In doing so Sir, I wish the House to show some seriousness and not

indulge Members opposite in their characteristic emptiness.

I remember, Sir, that a Motion of this nature was moved in this House by the late Leader of Opposition, Alhaji Adegoke Adelabu, may his soul rest in peace—when he moved that the Action Group Government should appoint a Commission of Enquiry over the wastefulness and extravagance of the Action Group Government of the Western Region. That Motion was rejected. It was opposed by the Action Group at that time. At that time he charged them of extravagance and squandermania, but they said it was not so. Today we are all reaping the whirlwind of austerity because there is no money in the coffers of the Government, and, secondly, Sir, at that time the great "Lion of the West" was warning the Action Group against intolerance, against oppression, against depression, against retrogression, but they turned deaf ears. Today the Midwest is going and you will soon begin to suffer from the Midwest secession. I believe that there should be no objection whatsoever to the adoption of this Motion, and that this Government should appoint a Commission of Enquiry into the administration of the Ibadan Councils.

I believe, Sir, that if this Government has nothing to hide—particularly if the Action Group Minister of Terror has nothing to hide—*(Interruptions)*—I believe that he will allow this Motion to pass; but, on the other hand, if there is much to hide, I know Members opposite will oppose this Motion as usual.

Now, in the first instance, this inquiry is necessary because we have noted in the Governor's Speech from the Throne that the Action Group has now discarded the use of its slogan "life more abundant". From now on, they will use "prosperity through austerity", but I know that we have more austerity than prosperity. But the point is that if we all see that this is the right moment for us to practise austerity, then there is no need to split all these councils whereby we shall have to spend thousands and thousands of pounds in building new offices for these councils. I think that this is simple and highly unobjectionable and an incontrovertible fact. There is nothing to quarrel with and I am sure that, no matter what party whips are trying to enforce in the way of discipline on their Members, the Ibadan Members who are still sons of the soil will not forget *(Interruptions)*. But I know, Sir, that those sons of Ibadan will not oppose this Motion. I want them on this historic occasion to forget their political differences. What is in our mind is the greatness of

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Ibadan so that our children and our children's children will have prosperity and not austerity.

The second reason why I think this House should not oppose the Motion for the dissolution of these councils and of holding fresh elections is quite simple. You claim to enjoy the popularity and support of the Ibadan people. If you are true to your words, true to your boast, the best thing you can do now is to accept our challenge to dissolve these councils, and on the floor of this House make a bold claim. If you dissolve all these councils and another fresh election is held, you will not win one council. I challenge you: if you have the support of the people, dissolve these councils and hold elections to them within two or three months. I promise you, you will not win. Now if it is a lie, you have the weapon in your hands, the weapon to explode the lie. On the other hand, if you know that you have done everything possible to make the Ibadan people angry with you, then, of course, you have much to hide; then every one of us here will sympathise with you if, as usual, you reject this Motion.

Now speaking on these district councils, the first thing we have against them is that there is at least intrigue going on in the matter of employment of secretaries and treasurers. Out of these eight councils, I am surprised that members of the Action Group who happen to be the sons of Ibadan have not kicked against the present policy whereby the sons of Ibadan are not employed as secretaries or treasurers of these councils, whereas these people who say they are Action Groupers will never allow any non-native of Ijebu, they will never allow any non-Egbas, to hold or become secretaries or treasurers of their councils; on the other hand, they come to Ibadan here and take everything away from Ibadan. I say "shame". I am at this moment reminding our sons of Ibadan who happen for some time to be in the claws of the Action Group to remember that unless you can kick against this type of atrocities, your children and your children's children will always remember your misdeeds.

Now Sir, I believe that during the last elections into all these councils there was much dust over the question of whether the election would be free and fair or not. Now I believe that with the magnanimous support of the Prime Minister of the Federation, today in the Western Region we can breathe again the air of liberty and justice; and with the great contribution of Dr

Michael Okpara the great illustrious son—*(Deafening interruptions from Government and Opposition Benches)*—we have been free in the Western Region. We in the Opposition, we of the NCNC, have been free to enjoy human freedom and fundamental rights. We want to warn the members of the Action Group that if they attempt to do all the mischief they did during the Federal election, they will be the worst for it. I want you all to remember that the next time you use the Local Government Police or the Customary Courts against us in any future elections, we will teach you sense. We have arrived at this conclusion, that in order to enjoy and sustain liberty and freedom, man, born of woman, must be prepared to sacrifice; and we are declaring on the floor of this House that from this moment we shall not fight but we shall see that wolves clad in the clothes of justice and freedom and liberty are turned to ashes.

Another point is that I feel that if you appoint a commission of inquiry into the administration of these councils, you will have the opportunity to find out that these councils are not viable. They are not economically self-supporting. You will find that, if not for political intrigues, there is no reason why these councils should be created, or the former District Council should be split. So if you order an inquiry into these—we have raised the point—the best thing to do is to go and find out the facts and when you have found out the position, forget your politics for some time, as politics is taking you more and more into desolation and despair; but if, at least for once, you begin to rely on rules of commonsense, equity and justice, I think you will agree with me that in Ibadan here it will be too wasteful to split all these councils as you have done. It will be a waste of money in this era of austerity forced on us by your squandermania. The best thing is to retrieve your error. It is never too late. And on this point I know that you have been trying to retrieve your errors, which made you to move the Motion in this House asking for the creation of a Midwest State. You have been trying to do so, and I thank God you have not succeeded.

Again, one of the things which these councils have been doing very badly relates to the question of allocation of market stalls, and I do implore the Members opposite to remember that they are born of women, though it will be better for them if men carry their coffins. If you go to Oja-Oba market, you can see old women whose stalls have been pulled down by the Action Group and you can

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see those people being beaten by sun, and you can see those women going through the downpour of rain. I know that you can, at least for the sake of these old women, give them back their stalls. I do not think, Mr Speaker, Sir, that it is nice of the Action Group to overplay politics. Every time we have told members of the Action Group that we on this side of the House are so sure of our course. We are sure that we are inevitably going to drive you away. We are so sure of this, but we are not in a hurry. So that after thousand years when lies have gone on a journey, the very day the truth sets out it will overtake the lies. We are definitely sure of this, and I will continue to say it.

What I am saying, and what I am emphasising, is that you should forsake politics on this occasion and see that these old women's stalls are restored to them because the only reason you gave for pulling their stalls was the celebration of independence. On that occasion, during Independence celebrations, you came to the women and told them, "Oh, yes, we are going to celebrate Independence; you will have to pull down your stalls and after the celebrations we are going to restore your stalls". Since that time, you now, members of the Action Group have shamelessly collected monies, thousands of pounds, from these poor women.

Mr Adelegan: Point of Order: Order 7 (ii)—A Member must confine his observation to matters under discussion and may not introduce matters which are relevant. The matter under discussion is the dissolution of Ibadan City Council. The Ibadan City Council was formed after independence.

Mr Adisa: I do not know that I was addressing kindergarten class, when I was speaking, who do not know the continuity of things. What I said was that the stalls were pulled down by one council, and the council which succeeded this council continued in the same sense of the original one. If you do not get that—(Interruptions).

Chief Babatola: Point of Order: When the question of Order has been stated, the Member who raises it shall resume his seat, and no other Member, except with the leave of Mr Speaker or Chairman, shall rise until Mr Speaker or Chairman, has decided the question, after which the Member who was addressing the House or Committee at the time of the question shall be entitled to proceed with his speech giving effect to the ruling from the Chairman.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Gentleman has not quoted any specific point of Order. (Shouts of shame, shame from Opposition benches).

Mr Adisa: Mr Speaker, Sir—(Interruptions).

Mr D. K. Olumofin: Mr Speaker, Sir, Point of Order—Order 35: Whenever Mr Speaker, or the Chairman, rises during a debate, any Member then speaking, or offering to speak, must sit down, and the House or Committee is to be silent so that Mr Speaker, or the Chairman may be heard without interruptions. (Cries of "No point, no point" from Opposition benches).

Point of Order—Order 36. Mr Speaker in the House and the Chairman in any Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of order in the House and Committee respectively and their decision upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the House except upon a Substantive Motion made after notice. The hon. Adisa, has contravened it. (Opposition benches: Are you teaching Mr Speaker? Sit down, sit down).

Mr Speaker: In continuing his speech, the hon. Gentleman has not contradicted my orders. (Prolonged applause from Opposition Benches).

Mr Adisa: I have never doubted your impartiality in the conduct of your duty as the Speaker; we do not know what the others think on that side of the House. We are quite and happily satisfied with your rulings and will never challenge them.

Now, Sir, going on with my speech, I have to refer to a matter which definitely strikes at the root of the confidence which should exist between the Government and the Opposition even when they have differences. It is on the question of the composition of the Assessment Committees with particular reference to the Councils in Ibadan. This matter was raised by a delegation of the NCNC leaders in the Western Region with the then acting Premier, Oba C. D. Akran, and it was decided that Members of the Opposition, that is, the NCNC should be nominated into these Assessment Committees. We also agreed with the Action Group Government that this list should be forwarded to the Ministry of Local Government and another copy should be forwarded to the Councils concerned. In the case of Ibadan, all these formalities were gone through and I regret, first of all, to see that the Premier is not on the seat. On the other hand, that will not prevent me from

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[MR ADISA]

saying that he has done, perhaps, some irreparable damage to the kind of confidence that should exist between the Opposition and the Government, in that when he came back, although the agreement which had been reached between the Government and the Opposition was brought to his notice, he deliberately overruled this agreement on the question of nomination of Members of the NCNC to all these Ibadan Councils and I regret it, Sir, because it will be very, very difficult for the Opposition to lay any hope upon any words of promise by this Government; but I know that opportunity still remains for you to rectify your reputation in this matter and in this regard.

I have said this: I do not bring it here to score politically, because I know that it is this kind of breaking the basis of confidence between the Opposition and the Government that is responsible. It is what is responsible for the characteristic breaking of confidence between the Action Group as a party and the other national parties in the Federation, and that is what has landed the Action Group into the mess into which it is, unless they change any time now, if they don't change right now, believe me, it may be as bad for them tomorrow.

Now, Sir, again, some of the misdeeds of these Councils relate to the motor parks which are being built even in the bush in the districts. One cannot just imagine a motor park built herein in the city and all the motor owners and drivers are forced to pay fees before they use all these motor parks. This Council built a motor park at Olode and then charged fantastic amounts. And not only that; it compelled all the motor vehicles which ply that route to use that stall; I say that this is most disgraceful and should be stopped.

Again, we found that during the crisis for confidence and leadership which arose between the Premier and Chief the hon. Awolowo.....

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I do not really see the relevance of the crisis the hon. Member is referring to; to the working of the Council.

Mr Adisa: I think Mr Speaker would have allowed me to finish my sentence. (*Government Benches: No, No*). If anybody has a point of Order let him stand up and raise it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, what I am trying to show is that these Councils in Ibadan used the money of the Council to make advertisements;

that is my point. They inserted this in the "*Tribune*".

"On the occasion of the 53rd birthday of the Federal President of the Action Group, Ibadan South-East Council congratulates

I believe that this is the kind of thing that the money of the public should not be wasted on; and it is this kind of thing, scandalous conduct I might call it, Sir, that the money of the poor people of Ibadan is wasted on—what can be termed an internal rift. Sir, I am not interested to know what goes wrong in the camp of the Action Group—(*Government Benches: That is not your business*)—but my point here, Sir, is that there should be no reason why a Council in Ibadan should waste the money of the public in order to advertise one party leader against the other. Perhaps they don't agree with themselves; but the point which I want to make on the floor of this House, is that the hon. Minister of Local Government should look into and find out who actually authorised the expenditure of this item, and then rule that those who authorised it should pay back this money into the public fund; that is what I am saying. (*Shouts of "Sit down, Sit down; No point, no point"*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, it always happens that those who are not interested in any point will always say 'No point, No point'. (*Government Benches: Tell Amadasun so*). We who are interested—particularly in Ibadan here, which had been the most civilised city in the whole of Western Region—we are interested in the Council that succeeded in the task and duties allotted to them. Mr Speaker, Sir, when some people were going out in loins and hardly used clothes, Ibadan people had been civilised then; and now, today, they have come here to say "You Ibadan people, you have divorced us". What a shame! (*Interruptions*).

Now Sir, I believe, on the whole, that what the Action Group had done in the splitting of the former Ibadan District Council into all these sub-district Councils is like the work—the angry work—of a Philosopher. The Philosopher had a thousand figures to count and the first thing he did was to double the figures before he started to count them. That is exactly typical of the mentality of the Action Group. (*Shouts of "Philosopher, Philosopher" from Government Benches*). I do pray that this House today will come right down on the side of what is just, on the side of what is fair.

I have not referred to any particular person but this is only because I am more interested in Ibadan being great and remaining ever

[MR ADISA]

great and in Ibadan sons and daughters taking their rightful places in the scheme of things in the Federation. I know that Members opposite have not inherited that mantle which I have inherited from the illustrious son of the West, the hon. Alhaji Adegoke Adelabu—may His Soul Rest in Peace—ever to be remembered. Alhaji Adegoke Gbadamosi Adelabu has given me the vision to come here and speak with justice and emotion, and I know that when people begin to answer these points, you will know that you will always live with these facts and the facts will prove to be your graves as they are proving to be your graves in the Midwest.

Question proposed.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I rise to oppose this Motion. I like to say one thing, that is, that this Motion is unfortunately a child of circumstance because it has not got god-fathers. I would have preferred that my hon. Friend for Ibadan South-East should have been the only god-father to father this ill-fated Motion.

The original Mover of the Motion, Mr Speaker, Sir, treated this House to gods of pyramids and has so really confused himself that I would say that I need not reply to all the points he has made. But I am going to answer to one or two allegations which he has made before I come back to answer in full to the points made by the hon. Member for Ibadan South-East.

The original Mover of this Motion Mr Speaker, indicated that it was the intention of the Government to extend the life of the Ibadan City Council and the sub-urban councils. May I assure him that it is not the intention of the Government to extend the life of the local councils because the Law provides for fresh elections to local government authorities and Government does not intend to violate the provisions of the Local Government Law.

It is said that the last Federal elections were not free and fair. I am not going into that now, because I would like to come back to that later on in my address.

It was said that councils in rural areas have not held their meetings at all. Right now, Sir, I have been invited to perform the opening of the headquarters offices of the Ibadan South District Council on Thursday—*(Interruptions)*. I am supposed to perform the opening of that building at 4.00 p.m. on Thursday under the items on the Agenda of the meeting.

Certain individuals who unfortunately have not the opportunity to defend themselves here in this House have been charged. What I would want to say about that, Mr Speaker, is that the question of bribery and corruption ought to be referred to the Police who are capable of digging deep into the root of the matter and bringing the offenders to book.

In regard to tax collection by these councils I should also leave that until later in my reply. But there is one interesting point that my hon. Friend, the original Mover of the Motion, made about chieftaincy titles in Ibadan. He alleged that there are no less than 300 ruling houses in Ibadan. What that means, Mr Speaker, I do not know. I know for certain that according to the Chieftaincy Bill the office that attracts the highest chieftaincy qualification here is that of His Highness the Olubadan of Ibadan. And apart from that I do not know any further chieftaincy title in Ibadan that attracts any such qualification at all. Granting that, as he has said, no NCNC member has been honoured with any chieftaincy title in Ibadan, that goes to show that there is no suitable material in the rank and file of the NCNC.

With regard to the nomination of women into councils, which the honourable and original Mover also made, I should like to say that the law which makes provision for the selection of women into councils made it clear that there must be one female member for every ten elected members in any given council. But throughout Ibadan Division, excepting in Ibarapa District, there is not a single member of the NCNC in any of these councils. How can we nominate an NCNC woman into a council in which the NCNC has no representative at all? And may I assure hon. Members of the other side that before I proceeded to put female members into councils, I invited the Action Group and also the NCNC to a meeting in my office, and we all sat over the composition of these councils and also of the elected representatives of women members in all the District Councils. This was agreed to by both sides, and I have received nominations or recommendations from the NCNC headquarters in Ibadan which had already been published in the Government Gazette.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member for Ibadan South-East has challenged this Government to dissolve all the councils. These councils were established only in August 1961 and, as far as I am concerned, Mr Speaker, I am perfectly satisfied that all the councils are doing fine in the performance of their duties.

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

The second point he made, Mr Speaker, was that no Ibadan son has ever been appointed Secretary or Treasurer of these councils. The Local Government Service Board, which was set up under the Law, is charged with the duty of making appointments into all these grades of staff in various local authorities in this Region, and I should like to assure him (my hon. Friend) that, even now as I am speaking, an Ibadan son is the Secretary of the Egba Divisional Council. Unfortunately, Mr Speaker, there is only one Class I District Council for Ibadan Division as a whole and this officer was transferred from Benin to Abeokuta to act in this superior post. I am proud to say, Mr Speaker, that this Ibadan son is discharging his duties creditably in that important post in Abeokuta.

Again he said that the councils, as set up, are not viable as well. I wonder, Mr Speaker, Sir, how my Friend does know or assess the viability of councils in this Region? I suppose that I am in a better position to know that a council is not viable. As far as I know, Mr Speaker, all the councils are viable and I am sure, Sir, when I proceed to make my own contribution to this Debate, I shall say something about Assessment Committees.

The hon. Member for Ibadan South-East alleged that the hon. Premier, when he returned from his Overseas, Economic Mission overruled the agreement previously reached between the Action Groupers and also the NCNCers on the composition of the Assessment Committees. I should like to say with all the emphasis at my disposal, Mr Speaker, Sir, that that is not true. What happened, Mr Speaker, is this: (*Interruptions*). (*Opposition Benches: Tell us*). The meeting which the NCNC and the hon. Oba C. D. Akran, then acting for the Premier, had in the Premier's Office, and at which I was present, decided that in all councils where the NCNC is represented, efforts should be made to include all the NCNC members in all the Assessment Committees. And I went out. I went out not only to make a public pronouncement. I issued a Press Release, and I assured all the councillors that where NCNC is represented as such in all the councils, nominations should come from the NCNC as a party. This has been the guiding principle in the Ministry of Local Government up till today. And what actually happens in Ibadan is this. Not only that the nominations came late; it happened that, throughout the length and breadth of Ibadan Division, as I have said earlier on, there was no NCNC member in

any of the council and, therefore, it would be awkward for me to nominate an NCNC man to sit in an Assessment Committee which will assess people who do not belong to NCNC as a party. (*Interruptions*).

About the building of motor parks all over the place—that is true, and I believe that for the reason that the building of motor parks is one of the veritable sources of revenue for local government councils in this Region. I will encourage, Sir, that councils should build up motor parks whereby they can earn more revenue to the coffers of the Councils.

The last point, Mr Speaker, is that the council in Ibadan Division spent public funds injudiciously advertising a congratulatory message to the Leader of the Action Group on the 53rd Anniversary of his Birthday. Mr Speaker, Sir, may I say that if any council—maybe NCNC-controlled or Action Group-controlled—in this Region decides to give honour to a distinguished son of Western Nigeria, I will be the first person to approve of such an expenditure. (*Opposition Benches: Public fund!*) People who are here are living witnesses to matters of this kind, not only within the local authorities. Even in other parts of Nigeria, cases have occurred where tributes have been paid adequately to the services rendered by certain distinguished sons of Nigeria, and I am sure, Mr Speaker, Sir, nobody will doubt that the leader of the Action Group is a front ranking distinguished son of Nigeria.

Now, may I add that hon. Members will agree that this Motion is not logical. The autopsy required is that Government should institute an inquiry into the institution of councils recently established in Ibadan Division, to replace them with the old Ibadan District Council and, at the same time, take steps to dissolve the councils without even waiting for the findings of such an inquiry.

Under the terms of section 67 of the Local Government Law, Cap. 68, a Local Government Council may be dissolved by the Governor in Council if it is not considered to be discharging its functions in the best interests of the local community. As far as I am aware, no complaints against the Ibadan Divisional, City Council or District Councils have ever been made at any time to me or to my Ministry.

From my observations, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied that the councils concerned are efficient and perform their duties in an efficient manner. I am therefore to draw the conclusion that this Motion is only an attempt to disrupt the recent re-organisation

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

made to improve the local government structure in Ibadan district. The request for the re-organisation of the old Ibadan District Council was made to my Ministry as far back as 1957 and, after very careful consideration of the request, my Ministry was satisfied that the former Ibadan District Council, with a population of well over one million in its area of jurisdiction, is much too large to be administered by a single District Council. Consequently, Government set up an inquiry to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants of the area in accordance with section 12 of the Local Government Law, Cap. 68. The finding of the inquiry revealed the overwhelming need for the splitting of the council into several District Councils and one divisional council.

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Sir, there has been a large scale tax evasion in the council area, and it was considered that the re-organisation proposed will reduce tax evasion. Even at that time, one of the Movers of this Motion was a tax defaulter. (*Laughter*). This goes to show Mr Speaker, that the NCNC was stoutly opposed to such a split. In fact, with the NCNC opposition, Government was satisfied that the re-organisation was desirable, and proceeded with it.

Consequently the new councils were established in August 1961, to the popular acclamation of the Ibadan people. They believed that now that they were given Councils of their own, particularly in the rural areas, they would be better able to provide themselves with all amenities they require, as compared with the utter neglect of the old Ibadan District Council under the NCNC. One outstanding revelation of the inefficiency and neglect of the NCNC in the handling of the affairs of the people of Ibadan Division is that, until the old Council was split up, there was not a single Local Government Police post throughout the rural areas of the Division, and the people, particularly in the rural areas, were left too long to be victims of shameless marauders and thieves. For once, the people in the rural area now know freedom, and do now enjoy tremendously the autonomy which the Action Group Government has given them.

Earlier, I have indicated that there was a large scale tax evasion in Ibadan and district when the NCNC was in control of the Council. I now like to support this statement by facts and figures of tax collection by the seven rating authorities which replaced the erstwhile, inept and palpably inefficient

Council controlled by the NCNC. Figures forwarded to my Ministry for tax collection up to the end of February show the following:

Ibadan City Council ...	£ 165,776
Ibadan North Council ...	26,640
Ibadan South-East Council ...	18,242
Ibadan East District Council ...	34,574
Ibadan South-West Council ...	12,699
Ibadan South Council ...	9,419
Ibadan West Council ...	33,000
TOTAL ...	£ 300,350

whereas total collection by the old Council in 1960-61 amounted to only £266,537. What is more, Mr Speaker, is that these new Councils are still busy collecting their taxes and, by the time the final figures are received, I am sure the total tax collection might exceed the £400,000 mark, because already these councils have exceeded their estimated target for tax collection.

Mr Speaker, hon. Members will now see that the popularity of the re-organisation in Ibadan City and District was responsible for the huge swing of the people of Ibadan to the Action Group—(*Opposition Benches: Non-sense!*)—and the reason why the NCNC in Ibadan developed cold feet on the eve of the last local election.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am perfectly satisfied with the performance of these new councils and oppose any suggestion to dissolve them. I challenge my Friends who moved this Motion to come with me to Moniya or Lalupon, or Olode or Iddo and make their suggestion for dissolution; they will get the most humiliating treatment of their lives in places once regarded as the strongholds of the NCNC.

Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Transport (Mr A. Ajibola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to support the Minister of Local Government and to ask this honourable House to reject this frivolous and unintelligent Motion brought before it. In doing so, I would like this House to know the background of the agitation of my dejected Friends on the other side of this House.

On the 5th August last year, elections were held into all these councils. On the eve of the close of nominations, my hon. Friend for Ibadan South-East, who is a lawyer was so tactful, withdrew; but my hon. Friend, Ajuwon, thought he would be able to win. He contested the election, and he should now come to the floor of this House to

[MR AJIBOLA]

tell the truth. What he wants this honourable House to believe is that there was no NPC or NCNC member who contested the election. They all contested and lost their deposits. I shall not be surprised if hon. Ajuwon is worried about the money given to him in Lagos and which he is now being asked to refund. He is trying to save his face and play to the gallery by saying, Sir, that these councils should be dissolved.

At the close of nominations it was found that the Action Group had come to stay in Ibadan. When elections took place, no NPC or NCNC member was elected. (*Interruptions*). Anyway, at the close of elections, all the seven councils in the district and the City Council were controlled by the Action Group.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like now to ask my hon. Friend what are his charges regarding this enquiry? He was in this House all these days; he never approached the Minister of Local Government. He simply thought that by coming to this House to say an enquiry should be conducted, it must be done. I think my hon. Friend, who is a lawyer should be able to educate him in future. (*Prolonged interruptions*). Let us imagine that a fresh election should be held. Who knows, Mr Speaker, whether he will not run away again? Well, whether he runs away or not, we are not prodigal sons of Ibadan. The time will soon come when we shall go back to the polls in these councils. (*Opposition Benches: Now—resign your seat*). Furthermore, it is good that my hon. Friend on the other side of this House is facing this challenge on the floor of this House. If he were bold enough, let him go back to his constituency where he can never be elected again. I am sure he will be facing the greatest doom of his life. Let him make a political tour and announce this to the electorate; I am sure he will have a strange story to tell his friends. What we know in Ibadan at present is that the introduction of the new councils in Ibadan has brought life more abundant and freedom for all, because after the elections, these people have been going to the villages to deceive the people by telling them that there was nothing being enjoyed by people who are put forward. Now, the one-time carpenters, tailors, and farmers are now the accredited councillors in all these councils and, if you say you want them dissolved, I am sure they will write to this honourable House that they have no confidence in you.

Why we praise this Government for the creation of all these councils is that more

work has been given to our boys; education has been extended, and scholarship awards have been increased. Therefore, on behalf of the Members for Ibadan, I am very grateful to this Government and, with all force, through Mr Speaker, it will please this honourable House to reject this frivolous and misconstrued Motion moved by my hon. Friend.

Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Mr D. Ogundiran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to carry the gratefulness of Ibadan people to the Action Group Government of this Region. I was on the vanguard of the construction of the Ibadan District Council. I would like to state our reasons for splitting the Ibadan District Council. Time there was, Sir, when Ibadan was the citadel of the NCNC. Yesterday, Sir, I threw a challenge to my hon. Friend on the other side (hon. Olowofoyeku was there) that if he would accept it from me on the floor of this House he should go back to the electorate of Ibadan and ask for a fresh mandate. (*Opposition Benches: Resign your seat*). I will resign my seat, and I am asking him to resign tomorrow. I can assure him that, at the moment, he will not only fail to come back to this House but he will also lose his deposit.

Sir, I will not go over the grounds covered by the Minister of Local Government, neither will I go over the grounds covered by my hon. Friend, Ajibola, but I will warn my Friend opposite about one remark made, and that is, that they are prepared to cause trouble in this Region. We all witnessed the unfortunate episode of the late Alhaji Adelabu's riot. We knew the people who were behind it. I can assure them that now that I hold, by the Grace of God, the portfolio of the security of this Region, I will not fail to bring to justice anybody who threatens or tries to bring about that kind of unfortunate thing that happened in 1958. A man he was who told the uneducated people of Ibadan that if you put down, say, a bottle that can attract flies you will kill the flies with a broom. The bottle that attracts the flies is not good, what of the broom that kills the flies? We are aware of these facts, and, at the moment, if anybody should conceive that, unlike that time, we now have the Nigeria Police and the Army to arrest any situation that may arise. (*Interruptions*).

A Member of the Opposition: Point of Order, Sir: Order 27 (v)—It is out of order to use offensive and insulting language. It is an offence to refer to us as uneducated people.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Minister referred to certain uneducated people being misled, not from that side of the House. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Ogundiran: Mr Speaker, Sir, whether they are Nigeria Police or Local Government Police—(*Interruptions*). I can assure you, Sir, that the Councils that my hon. Friend wants us to dissolve have been undertaking social services in the rural areas, the kind of which they have never enjoyed. The Mover of this Motion was elected in Rural I and I was elected in Rural II. He came from my Council area, but he can never go there now and dissolve the Councils. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the wish of the Mover of this Motion is like the old story—the story of the wisdom of King Solomon—of two women fighting for a child, one of whom said that if the ownership of the child was in doubt, the child should be killed and divided. In short, Sir, the wish of the Mover of this Motion is like the harlot who wished that they should kill the child that was not hers. The Opposition want us to kill the child that is not theirs. (*Interruptions*).

I can assure you, Sir, that there is nothing the Opposition can allege against these Councils, because today they are the pride of Ibadan people and Ibadan people today have nothing to say, except in praise of the Action Group. But even then, for the first time, the right to determine their affairs is in their hands. (*Interruptions*). Huge sums of money were collected last year but not a penny was spent in the rural districts. But today, even six months after the Councils were inaugurated, Ibadan City Council is constructing a road—Egbeda to Lalupon.

(*Interruptions*). The Ibadan South-East Council is constructing another one between(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion will be sent to where it belongs. (*Interruptions*). We have allowed this Motion to come so that my Friend, Adisa, and the Mover of this Motion should know that if they think that their freedom will come, they may know that it is not now. Their freedom will not come, and if anybody asks them when their freedom would come, they should reply that it is far, far away.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose. (*Applause*).

Mr N. A. B. Kotoye: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move in terms of Order 32 that the question be now put.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Original question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow, 10.00 a.m., when the Debate on the Speech from the Throne will continue, after the Budget Speech.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 2.47 p.m. until tomorrow, Wednesday, 4th April, 1962, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 4TH APRIL, 1962

The House met at 10.20 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chief A. O. Adeyi): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 33 (2)

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 33 (2) be suspended this day to enable the hon. Minister of Finance to complete his Budget Speech:

Chief Adeyi: I beg to support.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1962-63 APPROPRIATION BILL

SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of—

“A Bill for a law to appropriate the sum of nineteen million, one hundred and eighteen thousand, five hundred and ten pounds for recurrent expenditure and fifteen million, nine hundred and sixty-nine thousand, and ninety pounds for capital expenditure for the services of Western Nigeria for the year ending the 31st day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-three”.

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with section 26 (2) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, to convey his recommendation for the consideration of this Bill.

However eloquent a Minister of Government may be, and however experienced in these matters he may have become, he cannot rise in this House to perform this annual task without feeling a sense of deep emotion at the awareness of how much the happiness and welfare of the entire community depends on the nature and content of the Budget to be presented. And throughout all the years that I have the honour and privilege to perform this task, I must say with all humility that at no time than the present have I felt this sensation more. I say this because I am keenly aware that as a result of certain recent announcements of Government touching on individual pockets and convenience, everyone not only in this House but also in the whole Region is all ears to know the circumstances surrounding the announcement, and to discover whether more surprise shots are yet to be delivered.

In short I refer to those economy measures recently announced by Government and which have for some inexplicable reason been christened by members of the Press as “austerity measures”, an uncomfortable expression that conjures to the mind the picture of lean and hungry-looking ascetic citizens. But I prefer to speak in terms of economy measures, for that is precisely what they were intended to be. They imply a state of contentedness without surfeiting, sufficiency without wastage.

Hon. Members and the community in general might have been wondering why Government introduced these measures at this time. Before I proceed to explain the circumstances, let me hasten to dispel the false and malicious rumours, no doubt fabricated and disseminated by the ill-disposed and the uninformed, that the measures were introduced because the Government was in financial difficulties and were at their wit's end. This is, of course, absolutely untrue and unfounded. It is, indeed unimaginable that the Government controlled and led by my Party—the Action Group—these ten unbroken years, which have seen the Region grow from strength to strength, which have made it the envy and model of other Governments in the Federation and which have earned it universal acclaim for prudence and enlightenment, should find itself so suddenly insolvent and at the brink of financial disaster. (*Cheers*).

(*An Opposition Member: No point.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I appreciate that, perhaps, to some Members of the Opposition I am speaking above their heads.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

As Members will see during the course of this speech, the past financial year ended comfortably and even with a respectable balance left in the kitty, and as for this new year, I am presenting, by the Grace of God, a balanced budget. (*Cheers*). With these remarks, I am sure that our Friends will be re-assured and our critics discomfited.

The recent economy measures are properly to be viewed as reform measures and as a call to the whole nation for self-sacrifice. When in the course of human endeavour it becomes plainly obvious that the pursuit of objectives is being impeded by inherited habits and an attitude of mind nurtured in the seed-pot of foreign yoke and tutelage, prudence dictates that the impediments and shackles should be cast off and the mind properly re-orientated to make it conscious of its role in the task of nation-building. No one, I am sure, will dispute the fact that there is a crying need, and an urgent one too, for a spirit of sacrifice and national consciousness and that the existing tempo of life and conduct is just not the right vehicle in which to ride to those heights where we can rub shoulders with the great nations of the world. The whole lesson could not have been better expressed than did the poet T. S. Elliot when he wrote—

“Sever the cord, shed the scale,

Only the fool fixed in his folly may think
He can turn the wheel on which he
turns”.

As a practical step to severing the cord and shedding the scale which incapacitate our economic progress and development, we have followed on the old saying that example is better than precept. Nothing is more difficult for man than to submit himself to a process of self-immolation. But that is precisely what, as a mark of our earnestness and sincerity, we are now about to do. With effect from 1st April, 1962, the following economy measures will become effective: a ten per cent cut will be made in the salaries of all Ministers of Government, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly, President, Leader, Chief Whip and Whip of the House of Chiefs, Leader of the Opposition, Chief Whip and Whip in the House of Assembly, Parliamentary Secretaries and Members of the Legislature. In addition, motor vehicle basic allowances in respect of all these functionaries will be abolished, together with Drivers' allowances hitherto paid to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

It is gratifying for me to say that judging from the consultations which have taken

place that members of our Civil Service too are no less eager to demonstrate the new spirit of the times and accept their share of the sacrifice.

The measures which I have enumerated are by no means exhaustive nor do they represent the maximum practical contribution we can yet make. Other economy measures may still follow. In fact, certain measures which received no publicity have since become effective, as for instance, abolition of Television advances to civil servants and reduction in the rates of allowances to unofficial members of Regional Committees.

It is important that we should not lose sight of the principle underlying these measures. It is that of the need for sacrifice by all and everyone. On this principle, all the Governments of the Federation are of one mind. The antics and frolics of politics, I am happy to say, have found no room in this matter. We have to find money to finance our Development Programme. Inevitably we cast our eyes across the seas and appeal for aid from the more developed countries. But we must remember that an important factor that these countries will take into consideration when they assess us is the extent to which we are able, from our own resources, to meet the commitment and whether such resources are being used in a manner which is most profitable from the point of view of the community.

And if I may now address myself to the community in general, I hope they will share in the pride which pervades this House today, to see their representatives willingly and proudly making sacrifices for the good of all. (*Applause*). I believe they will not be content to be passive admirers of the courage of their representatives, but will also feel proud to contribute their own quota when called upon to do so. We are a young nation striving to catch up with the developments and progress all around us and to thrive as some other nations have done. Perhaps we shall be more constantly reminded of this fact, if our National Anthem were to have a little refrain tagged on in the words of the old school recitation—

“He that would thrive must rise at five,
He that hath thriven may lie till seven,
He that by the plough would thrive
Himself must either hold or drive”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have dwelt lengthily on this important matter for I believe that it goes right into the root of our problems and is fundamental in the process of our social and economic development. I will now turn

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my attention to the Budget itself and, as is customary, I will make a start with a brief examination of our financial situation during the financial year which ended on 31st March, 1961.

THE YEAR 1960-61

In the review which I made in my Budget Speech last year, it was estimated that expenditure was likely to amount to £19,288,240. As things turned out, actual expenditure exceeded this forecast by as much as £2 million. This was in the main due to additional cost of meeting salaries and wages arising from the increase granted with effect from 1st April, 1959. As hon. Members will recall, the bulk of the sum of about £3 million appropriated at the meeting of the House in July 1960 was for payment of arrears and increase in salaries and wages. The result was a deficit of about £300,000 in the year 1960-61. But because the year was started with a balance of £3.76 million in the Consolidated Revenue Fund, it was still possible, after the transfer of the sum of £1,750,000 to other Government Funds to close the year with a balance of £1.6 million in the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Turning to the Capital Budget, the actual expenditure came to £13,667,212 which was much less than the estimated expenditure of £16 million. With a total receipt of £18,700,359 including a balance of £3.9 million in the Fund at the beginning of that year, the year closed with a comfortable balance of over £5 million in the Development Fund.

REVIEW OF 1961-62

I would now refer to some events of major importance both in the economic and financial sphere over the past year. First, our agricultural commodities. With cocoa, the most significant feature has been the steady rise in total production and consumption in the face of tumbling prices. The net result of this has been a sharp fall in the amount of revenue which would have otherwise accrued to the Region from this source. The experience of this Region in this regard is not an isolated one. Hon. Members would have read in the local press of the steps that are being taken at the international level to bring back some stability into the cocoa industry. This Government in association with the Federal Government has taken an active part in the discussions on a proposed Stabilisation Scheme for Cocoa, the main objectives of which are—

(a) to assure adequate supplies and reasonable prices that will be acceptable to both producer and consumer countries; and

(b) to promote the consumption of cocoa among the nations of the world.

The scheme is to provide for the fixing of basic quota tonnages for all participating producer countries, and for "floor" and "ceiling" prices below and above which export quotas will have to be applied. Judging from the experience gained elsewhere in the operation of similar International Commodity Schemes, the success of the proposed Stabilisation Scheme for Cocoa must depend largely on mutual confidence between the producer and consumer countries. I have no doubt that my Friend and colleague, the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will be telling you something more about this later. Our other agricultural commodities such as palm produce have not fared any better than cocoa.

The following figures relating to revenue from export duties show a most unwelcome trend:—

		Cocoa Palm Rubber Produce		
		£'m	£'m	£'m
Actual	Revenue,			
1959-60	... ..	5.5	1.4	1.4
Actual	Revenue,			
1960-61	... ..	4.6	1.2	1.5
Original	Estimate,			
1961-62	... ..	3.9	1.1	1.4
Revised	Estimate,			
1961-62	... ..	2.4	0.9	1.1
Estimate,	1962-63	2.8	0.8	1.1

Hon. Members will notice that this is a downward trend in respect of our agricultural produce.

In view of this apparent recession in revenue from our traditional sources, Government's attention has naturally turned on finding additional sources of revenue to meet its increasing commitments. One notable revenue feature in the past year has been the tremendous success which has been made of the P.A.Y.E. system of tax collection which was introduced in the Region only last year. In less than one year, the revenue from this source, that is, income tax from employed persons has exceeded £1 million. Unfortunately the same thing cannot be said of income tax from self-employed persons, the administration of which has been entrusted to the Local Authorities. The Government in recognition of the potentialities of Personal Income Tax as a source of revenue, has

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approved the introduction at the current Budget Meeting of proposals to re-organise the administration of Income Tax in the Region. The main objectives of the re-organisation proposals will be to improve the efficiency of tax collection as well as to ensure that every taxable adult in the Region pays his fair share of income tax. Mr Speaker, Sir, may I say at his juncture that as a result of the Local Administration taking over the collection of tax from the Inland Revenue Division of the Treasury, the Region has lost over a million pounds.

No legislation can of itself bring money into the coffers of the Government. And I must therefore appeal again to hon. Members on the question of tax evasion which is still very rampant. It is the duty of all of us—on either side of this House—to educate the general public and make them realise their elementary duties of good citizenship. There were days when the ignorant members of the community might be excused for wrongly believing that Government money was brought from outside by those who then ruled this country. It is our duty not to allow such ignorance to persist. What is more distressing, however, is the fact that those in the upper class of our society are not showing good example. We still get reports of highly-placed persons who try either to pay what they know is not the amount of tax properly due from them or to evade payment altogether.

(Government Bench: *Shame, shame.*)

(Opposition Bench: *Not on this side.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have not stated that anybody has not done his duty. It seems to me, Sir, that Members of the Opposition are rather worried by my jesticulations. (Laughter).

Apart from income tax, there are reports of rubber exporters who evade the payment of sales tax on the produce. Illegal traffic in logs, it is learnt, goes on in the Region. We have also heard of importers of merchandise who, by falsification of invoices and other devious means, avoid the payment of the appropriate import duties on the goods they import. All these sharp practices mean less revenue for Government. As the hon. Premier pointed out during the last meeting of this House, "Independence means nothing if it does not make for progress; and no nation can have progress unless she is prepared to pay for it".

While still on this point, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to the progress which has

been made in the past year in the field of inter-governmental co-operation. Under our present fiscal arrangements, the independent sources of revenue available to the Regions are extremely limited. For instance although revenue from export duty on agricultural produce exported from a Region is returned to the Region in full, the fixing of the rates of duty to be imposed is outside the jurisdiction of a Regional Government. This example has been cited merely to show that a Region desirous of having additional revenue to meet its needs must have to rely very much on the co-operation of the Federal Government. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches.*)

(*The Premier: We made the Constitution.*)

I am happy to say that during the past year the relationship which has existed between the Governments of the Federation in the field of finance could not have been better. In the past few months a regular get-together of the Finance Ministers known as the "Conference of Finance Ministers" has been introduced. The Conference provides a forum for the discussion of common financial problems. And one important conclusion reached at one of our meetings is that the three major political parties in this Country should do everything possible to avoid—if I may use an American word—"politiking" with any fiscal measures designed to improve the finances or the economy of this country.

As my respected colleague, the hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development, has explained to you, the Development Plan of this Region for the period 1962-68 calls for a total expenditure of £240 million of which £90 million is in respect of the capital programme. The latter will be financed partly from internal resources and partly from loans and other forms of assistance which might come from abroad. The other Governments of the Federation are also proposing to finance their Plans partly from their own resources and partly through external aid. A number of overseas countries have already announced the extent of the aid they will be willing to make available to the country during the Plan period 1962-68.

External Aid, as Members are aware, can take any or a combination of the following forms: cash loan, grant, technical assistance and the supply of equipment. It is understood that only a relatively small proportion of the aid which has so far been announced will be in the form of grant or technical assistance. The bulk of the aid will be in the nature of loans tied to particular projects. In other words, a donor country

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will have to select which Government projects it is prepared to assist in financing. Usually, the financing of the projects so selected will be limited largely to the foreign exchange component of the individual projects. There is a further point about external aid which is of concern to a recipient country such as ours. Experience has shown that there is usually a considerable time lag before a decision is reached by the aid-giving country as to which of the projects submitted to it, it is prepared to finance. This makes forward planning rather difficult for a recipient country since it leaves the country in doubt at any point in time as to what amount of aid it has to expect from a donor country with which it is negotiating.

To supplement whatever amount of aid this Government might receive from donor countries which have already announced their intentions to the Federal Government to aid Nigeria, this Government despatched an Economic Mission abroad towards the end of 1961. The Mission was led by the hon. Premier himself, and I had the privilege to serve on its membership. As already announced the Mission was a complete success. *(Cheers)*.

(Opposition Bench: You have not given any report).

The report is forthcoming—within the week.

The Mission visited a number of European countries including the United Kingdom. It also visited the United States of America and Canada. Various promises were made by different Governments, institutions and very important personalities in the different countries visited, of their readiness to help this Government in one form or the other to finance its Development Plan for 1962-68. It would interest hon. Members to know that some of these promises have either materialised or are in the process of doing so. But it has to be remembered that whatever aid this Government can obtain for the execution of its Plan must have to be repaid at some future date. For this reason it is important that every citizen in this Region who is in a position to do so should be prepared to make a financial contribution towards the fulfilment of Government's Development Plan.

Later at this Meeting, I propose to introduce a number of revenue measures which will be aimed at providing the Government with additional revenue. Hon. Members will wish to be informed that discussions are

now going on between this and other Governments of the Federation on the ways and means of promoting small savings in the country. I have in mind the introduction of premium bonds and saving certificates as a means of encouraging saving habit among citizens of this country.

I now turn to the actual accounts of the year just ended. Recurrent Expenditure was estimated at £19,971,950 having taken into account a sum of £1,530,020 for transfer to other Funds of Government. It is now probable that actual expenditure may be about £1 million less than was originally estimated. Revenue surplus will therefore be larger than was originally estimated. The latest forecast of the probable out-turn for 1961-62 is that the estimated revenue surplus of £396,470 shown in the 1961-62 Approved Estimates might be exceeded by as much as £1.3 million—*(Cheers)*—and it is expected that the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund at the close of the year will be of the order of £3.3 million.

At this juncture, hon. Members will no doubt be experiencing that feeling of satisfaction that is often manifested in suppressed smiles, when share-holders of a Company listen to a happy ending of the balance-sheet at the annual meeting. For this satisfactory state of affairs, the credit goes to the various Departments of Government, and in particular to the Treasury, which has not slackened its vigilance on the disbursement of funds. Treasury control, if anything, has grown tighter than ever and Ministries have to prove the absolute justification of an expenditure before it is approved. In addition, they have been encouraged quite successfully to search seriously all their available resources when expenditure has to be incurred for which there was no adequate provision. This commendable practice, known as "quoting savings" in Treasury parlance has ensured that funds are not released just for the asking and has resulted in considerable over-all savings to Government. These Treasury rules and stipulations are not an innovation. I remember touching upon the subject of strict financial control in my previous Budget Speeches, as being an important factor in our financial policy.

As regards the Capital Budget for 1961-62, the Government which my Party has the honour to control has lived up to its laudable ideals in the diversity and magnitude of the development projects which were undertaken. *(Cheers)*. Executive capacity was taxed to its utmost limit in an attempt to provide the basic amenities for the community throughout the

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Region. In its aim to provide employment for school leavers and settle them on fruitful careers, my Government undertook the building and equipping of Trade Centres and a Technical Institute. With these aims in mind and to demonstrate Government's awareness of the importance of agriculture in our economy, the establishment of Farm Settlements and Farm Institutes was given great impetus. Network of roads were improved, water supply extended to several towns, whilst under Special Medical Development Programme, dispensaries, rural health centres and hospitals were built. Our University, financed from the Development Fund and to which I shall make reference in moving the 1961-62 Supplementary Appropriation Bill later, has got on to a flying start. In all it is a record of achievements of which any Government will feel justifiably proud.

Although it was estimated that a sum of £26 million would be available in the Development Fund for capital expenditure in 1961-62, only £13.2 million was in fact available. (*Prolonged Interruptions*). The revised estimate of capital expenditure during the year is £12.7 million; so that there is likely to be a balance of about £500,000 in the fund at the beginning of the new financial year.

OUTLOOK FOR 1962-63

May I, Sir, now turn to our revenue prospects for the financial year 1962-63. As I mentioned a little while ago, we are likely to close the 1961-62 financial year with a larger revenue surplus than was budgeted for in the 1961-62 Approved Estimates. In addition to strict financial control, we owe this fortune to the rise of Personal Income Tax as a source of revenue to Government. As I said some short while ago, the P.A.Y.E. Scheme has proved to be a very efficient means of tax collection. A total revenue of roughly £2 million is expected next year from the P.A.Y.E. Scheme and also from income tax on non-Africans. In accordance with section 65 (3) of our Income Tax Law, revenue from Income Tax is allocated in full to the Local Authorities. Later at this Budget Meeting I propose to present to this House a Bill designed to amend this particular section of the Law.

Mr J. A. Ajuwon: Point of order, Mr Speaker, Sir. Members shall not read their speeches.

(*Government Bench: Shame, shame.*)

Chief Odebiyi: I thank the hon. Member for the support which he has given me

because, prior to this meeting, I have already indicated to him that at a convenient time he should stand up so that I can sit down and rest; so that I hope that before long he will stand up again so that I can sit down and have another rest. (*Laughter*).

In future it is proposed that the Local Authorities will, subject to advice of the Regional Tax Board, be responsible for the assessment and collection of income tax from persons with incomes between £50 and £300 per annum, but excluding all employed persons within this income range who are already covered by the P.A.Y.E. Scheme. The Local Authorities will retain the proceeds of income tax collected by them.

The assessment and collection of income tax from persons with incomes exceeding £300 per annum, including employed persons covered by the P.A.Y.E. Scheme, will be undertaken wholly by the Regional Tax Board. If I may also add, it is proposed to increase the membership of the Regional Tax Board so that the Opposition can be represented for the first time in that Tax Board. (*Applause*).

(*A Member of the Opposition: After ten years!*).

Yes, after ten years, because the Opposition is improving in its constructiveness.

At this stage I should like, with your permission, Sir, to deal with the other Heads of Revenue. Under the Head for Export Duty and Sales Tax on Produce, a total revenue of roughly £6.1 million is expected in 1962-63. Although this amount is approximately £1.4 million less than the corresponding figure for the previous year, this Revenue Head still retains its importance as a source of revenue to Government, now ranking second to the Revenue Head for Statutory Payments from the Federal Government. Under this latter Head, a revenue of £8.4 million approximately is expected in 1962-63. This figure represents a net increase of £1.2 million over the corresponding figure in the previous years' estimates. The bulk of this increase is due to increased revenue from—

- (i) excise duty on tobacco;
- (ii) Mining Royalties and Rents; and
- (iii) grants from the Distributable Pool.

Of our internal sources of revenue, that is besides the Personal Income Tax to which I have already referred, the Head for Licences shows a substantial increase of £270,000. As usual, the bulk of this increase is attributed to revenue from Motor Vehicles and Drivers' Licences. In all, a revenue of £22,328,350

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is expected this financial year, on the recurrent side. This represents an increase of about £1.9 million over last year's revenue.

The theme of economy and sacrifice runs through the new year, for we believe that it is by Government taking the lead and giving practical demonstration of the new spirit of the times that it can be expected to pervade and permeate all sectors of the entire community.

As regards Recurrent Expenditure, the underlying principle was to hold down expenditure to last year's level and if possible emerge with a total of less expenditure than for that year. Advance proposals submitted by Ministries were subjected to rigorous and searching scrutiny and the pruning knife was generously applied in cases where economies could be effected. Increases were only allowed in unavoidable cases, as for instance, normal salary increments or the staffing and equipping of newly completed hospitals, health centres, trade centres and similar institutions.

The total recurrent expenditure proposed for 1962-63 is £20,304,730, an increase of only £332,000 or 1.3 per cent over the original estimate for last year. Of this total, the sum of £1,186,220 being statutory expenditure in accordance with the provisions of our Constitution, will not be subject to appropriation by the House. Of the remaining £19,118,510 to be voted, the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Health and Social Welfare and Works and Transport, our four great spending Ministries and understandably so, account for 75 per cent of the total recurrent expenditure. With revenue estimated at £22,328,350 it is anticipated that the year will close with a recurrent budget surplus of a little over £2 million.

I now propose to deal with the estimates for the Capital Budget. As Members know too well, our resources are at present scanty and limited. We have only just begun to plume our wings for flight into the industrial and economic heights, and in this connection my Government has shown commendable zeal and foresight in its plans to foster and promote the growth of industries. But there is still a long way to go and development projects cost money. We may think of approaching other countries for aid in developing our country. There is nothing, if I may say so, sinful in such a contemplation. But we must constantly remember that the posture and mental attitude of a beggar with cap in hand is a most humiliating one unworthy of a self-respecting nation or individ-

ual. There can be no true independence as long as we are economically subservient to other nations. This view does not require to be stressed with any apostolic fervour as, I am sure, we are all agreed on it. It is the main reason behind recent economy measures and call for sacrifice: the battle for economic freedom.

In the Estimates before you a total of £15,969,090 is proposed to be spent on capital projects during this year. This is a most conservative estimate, arrived at by deleting or deferring all new works for the meantime and concentrating on continuing projects on which expenditure this year is inevitable. The new spirit of the times is being instilled into our Corporations and Local Government Councils as well. As Members will observe from Head 705 at page 189 of the Estimates Book, provision is made for a loan of £2 million to these Bodies, a provision much less than half the previous year's. It is essential that Government agencies, no less than Government itself, should learn to explore more sources than one for their finance and to relate their programmes to ascertainable resources within their means.

Even when all these precautions have been taken, Government will still be hard put to it to find enough money to cover the proposed expenditure of nearly £16 million this year. Members will observe from the Summary of Estimated receipts at page 159 of the Estimates Book that as much as £7 million, that is nearly half of the total estimated receipts or in fact estimated capital expenditure, is expected to come by way of loans or grants—both from internal and external sources. This is not too comfortable a situation to be in. The obvious implication is that the proposed capital expenditure programme for 1962-63 will only be fulfilled to the extent that we are successful in obtaining external aid or raising internal loans.

Mr Speaker, Sir, presenting the Region's Budget for the fifth time in succession, I should perhaps have been tempted to think that the whole matter, as Napoleon said before Waterloo, was no more than eating breakfast. But fundamental issue of great importance has now loomed above the horizon—a call to arms for the battle of economic freedom. It is now that I start to wonder how many of us grasped the full meaning of the words of Mr. Harold MacMillan, British Prime Minister, when during our jubilations over the attainment of Independence he reminded us that "beyond Independence lies inter-dependence". Inter-dependence implies a state in which other countries depend on

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you as you depend on them—a state of equal and mutual association. Such a state cannot exist where a country is subservient to others and depends on the alms and the crumbs which fall from their tables. In other words, the British Prime Minister was telling us bitter home-truths and warning us that independence without economic freedom is a contradiction in terms, for in such a state there can be no mutual economic as well as political association on equal terms which constitutes inter-dependence.

And it is on this important issue that the question of Nigeria as a single economic entity becomes all-important. In the eyes of the outside world, especially to the International finance houses, Nigeria is economically one unit, and what affects the fortunes of one Region in turn affects the whole country. Our balance of payments is not calculated on Regional but on national basis. It is therefore important that all the Governments of the Federation should work out together a common economic policy and pool their resources, since the misfortune of one is the misfortune of all. This common policy should be directed towards securing a favourable balance of payments and a maximum mobilisation and utilisation of local wealth and resources, for our Development programme.

I shall be failing seriously in my duty if I don't say in this House that this Government fully supports the fiscal measures announced by the Federal Minister of Finance in his budget speech last week. (*Cheers*). Although, for obvious reasons, it was impractical to us to go into the details of the changes in duties which have now come into force, the general principles underlying the increases in taxes were agreed by all Governments in the Federation at both the National Economic Council and the Conference of Finance Ministers to which I referred earlier. As it is the case with measures taken by the Federal Government, those for which I shall later during this meeting be seeking the approval of this House are designed with one main objective. That is to increase the financial resources of Government and thereby reduce the gap between the total expenditure envisaged in our new Development Plan and our internal resources.

I appeal to all hon. Members not only to accept with understanding the additional burden of taxation which they will personally bear but also to make it their duty to enlighten the other members of the community in these matters.

I am sure, Mr Speaker, Sir, we have amply demonstrated by reducing our own salaries and perquisites, in addition to making the sacrifice arising from increased taxation which applies to every member of the community, that we are not trying to make it possible for the few—as our detractors would say—to enjoy more abundant life at the expense of the many. I may say that the austerity measures announced were fully agreed by both the Government and the Opposition. (*Laughter*). Such cannot be the contemplation of a Government controlled by a party whose politico-economic platform is democratic-socialism. All we are asking our people is to invest in the future. In other words, to contribute to the cost of the development programme designed to ensure the rapid growth of the national income of Nigeria by sacrificing present luxurious living.

I must also join the Federal Minister of Finance in the appeal to all salary and wage earners in this country not to make the tax measures dictated by the development expenditure programme of the nation the grounds for another agitation for salary revision. Rather, they must accept the challenge of our time. They must now appreciate that the level of individual income in any country depends on the national income which in turn is determined, among other factors, by the productivity per head of the population.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am no war-monger. In fact the very sound of guns sometimes gives me the creeps. But these are the times that demand frank speech. The time has come for every citizen to rise and join in the battle-cry: "No economic freedom, no political independence". The battle for economic liberation has begun.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. (*Prolonged Applause*).

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr K. S. Y. Momoh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Speaker: Debate on the Motion will stand adjourned until Friday the 6th of April, in accordance with Standing Order 69 (2).

Hon. Members, for clarity once more, the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance will be distributed.

I think this appears to be a convenient time for us to have a short break.

Debate on the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill accordingly adjourned till Friday, 6th April, 1962, pursuant to Standing Order 69 (2).

Sitting suspended at 11.42 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.48 p.m.

**CROWN LANDS (AMENDMENT) BILL
SECOND READING**

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Chief J. O. Adigun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Crown Lands Law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the object of this Bill is to amend the Crown Lands Law, Cap. 29, in order to confer upon the Governor in Council power to make regulations prescribing the fees to be paid in connection with applications by lessees of Crown Lands for, and the grant of consent by the Minister to, assignments of leases, sub-leases, or any other disposition whereby the lessee parts with the possession of the land comprised in the lease.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the case of similar transactions under the Native Land Acquisition Law, a sum of £2 is charged, on application, where the period of lease does not exceed three years, and £5, on application, where the period of lease exceeds three years. No fees are charged for such transactions in respect of crown lands, although it is known that the volume of such transactions is fairly large. I consider that approval for the lease and sub-lease and assignments of crown land should also attract some charges. The object of this is to raise more revenue to Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West I): This Bill is essentially not controversial because the aims of the Government are not entirely out of proportion to what Government normally does. I have a very serious note to sound in respect of leases and sub-leases in Warri Division, and the Warri Urban Area in particular.

Now, I am a member for Urhobo West but I reside at Warri and I am very much pleased to apprise the Government of what is happening in Warri. No one will obstruct any Government from collecting small legitimate charges that will assist such Government in its work; after all, no Government, whether Local Council, Regional Government or District Council can go on without finance—without money—but, when certain excessive charges are levied on people such as the hon. Minister of Education is now probing with

regard to secondary grammar schools and teacher training colleges, it becomes obvious that such extra charges or exorbitant charges should not go to Government unnoticed. With particular reference to the application of the Communal Land Vesting in Trustees Law, 1958, and with reference to its application to Warri Division and Warri Urban Area in particular, I wish to say this: that the trustees set up under the law in Warri are at present making certain charges which cannot be explained either in terms of Government Laws or Regulations or by any rule or regulation customary to the people of Warri. A representation has been made on this matter to the former Minister of Lands, and I regret to announce in this House that the hon. Minister has not replied adequately to those representations. Be that as it may, Mr Speaker, my contention is that with particular reference to the application of this Law in so far as it concerns crown lands in Warri—and there are many of them—Government should probe the allegation I have made that certain exorbitant, unwarranted charges are being made by the trustees appointed by the Communal Land Vesting in Trustees Law, 1958.

Mr Speaker: The Communal Land Rights (Amendment) Bill is coming up tomorrow. It appears the hon. Member is spending far too long a time on the Communal Land Vesting in Trustees (Amendment) Bill, and so I think it will be better if he avoids talking about communal land rights.

Mr Rerri: I am corrected by Mr Speaker.

Now the point I want to bring out is this: that it is customary for this honourable House to make laws and regulations that appear to the common man to be quite reasonable; it is a different thing for the agents of the party controlling the Government to use such absolutely harmless laws to create difficulties for the people. That is really my contention. The Opposition is not opposing this Bill for the sake of opposing but the Law should not be used to make things difficult for the Opposition party members in the areas concerned. Well, Sir, that is just because a greater number of crown lands are really from the Midwest. I am therefore praying the Minister responsible, Mr Speaker Sir, that both the spirit and the letter of the Law now to be passed should be made in a sense that will not work hardship on the people.

I beg to support.

Chief Adigun: As pointed out by Mr Speaker, the Communal Land Rights

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(Amendment) Bill has been scheduled for tomorrow. But I would like to correct one mistake. The hon. Member who spoke last referred to certain fees being charged in Warri. To my knowledge, there is a fee of £5 being charged, and on the question of this fee a delegation of the lessees from Warri interviewed me. I explained the whole thing to them and, from what I gathered from them, I think that they were quite satisfied with my explanations. This £5 charged is for the cost of preparing new leases, administrative expenses and postage. When the delegation saw me, and I explained these things to them, they realised that if Government would have to make new charges, the fees they would be asked to pay would be fantastic. The impression that I gathered was that the delegation was quite satisfied at that time. But if there are new charges now levied or being collected there, I would very much like to say that the hon. Member should let me know, and if I know what these charges are, then, certainly, I would make investigations.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendments, read a Third time and passed.

ADAPTATION BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to make provision for the Adaptation by Order of the Governor in Council of existing Regional laws for the purposes of bringing them into conformity with or giving effect or enabling effect to be given to the provisions of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960.

I would draw the attention of the hon. Members to section 3, sub-section (3) of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960 which reads—

“(3) The Governor of a Region of the Federation of Nigeria may by order at any time within six months after the commence-

ment of this Order make such amendments to any existing law, to the extent to which it relates to any matter with respect to which the legislature of that Region has power to make laws, as may appear to the Governor to be necessary or expedient—

(a) for bringing that law into conformity with the provisions of this Order or otherwise for giving effect or enabling effect to be given to those provisions;” or, etc., etc., etc.

The reason for this section was to empower the Governor to make any necessary adaptation orders. Now, with the discontinuance of that law after six months, it has become necessary to have something in its place.

The present Bill now seeks to confer the same power upon the Governor in Council.

The power to be exercised should not, however, exceed the legitimate and constitutional limits conferred by the Constitution upon the Regional Legislature.

This Bill is short and entirely non-contentious. Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Adigun: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr B. Olowofoyeku (Ilesha Urban West): Mr Speaker Sir, for the second time within a week we have had two unconstitutional Bills brought into this House. (*Interruptions*). Last week, we had a Bill on the Parliamentary Electoral (Amendment) Bill which, as I had pointed out to the hon. Premier, is *ultra vires* the power of this House. The Premier has promised to rectify the situation; but, today, here we are faced with another unconstitutional Bill. Mr Speaker Sir, this House—(*Interruptions*).

(*Government Bench: What is unconstitutional?*)

(*Opposition Bench: It is unconstitutional.*)

Mr Speaker Sir, I say that this House has no constitutional right to pass this Bill which has been put on the table of this House. Fortunately, I think we have about three lawyers in this House and they should be able to follow my argument. So, will the back-benchers please allow the lawyers to follow? (*Interruptions*).

As I have said Sir, this House has no constitutional right to pass this Bill. There is no doubt that the Western Region Legislature has a right to amend its own Constitution, but what we are asked to do this morning is to amend the Constitution Order in Council.

[MR OLOWOFOYEKU]

If I may point this out to the Attorney-General, the Constitution Order in Council has four Schedules and the only Schedule which this House can amend is the Fourth Schedule which relates to this Region. The Constitution by which we are governed in this country is designed to be a democratic one and it envisages that all the making of laws, the amendment of existing laws, and the adaptation of existing laws shall be made after a full dress debate in the Regional Legislature. Now, the power which has been referred to by the Attorney-General, conferred by the Constitution Order in Council on the Governor to make certain adaptations to the existing laws, is an extraordinary power. This extraordinary power is intended to be limited in duration. A power which enables the making of Laws in the Governor's chambers, unknown to the Members of the Legislature, not discussed in public and not known to the members of the press, not discussed in the House, is a power which is to be used sparingly. That is why, according to section 3 to which the hon. Attorney-General has referred us, the period is strictly limited to six months. After the six months' duration the Governor in Council is *functus officio* and cannot amend any of the provisions of the Constitution Order in Council.

What has this Government been doing all these months? This Government is supposed to be always first in everything—(*Interruptions*)—but, for six months, this Government cannot review the provisions of the Constitution. Six months between 1st October 1960 and April 1st 1961, this Government could do nothing about what the Constitution has specifically placed upon it.

Now Sir, if the Attorney-General would look at section 18 of the Law which he has cited before this House, he would see that it is the only—(*Prolonged Interruptions*).

(*Opposition Benches: Look at section 18—it is there.*)

Government Front Bench: Mr Speaker Sir, the layman should keep quiet when we talk. (Laughter).

Section 18 shows how the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council can be amended, and it reads thus:

"The Parliament of the Federation of Nigeria may alter any of the foregoing provisions of this Order or any of the provisions of this section or the Fourth Schedule to this Order but no Act of Parliament providing for any such alteration

shall come into operation unless the Governor of each Region has signified consent to its having effect".

It is only the Federal Parliament, Mr Speaker, that can make any alterations to the provisions contained in sections 1 to 18 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council. The present Bill is intended to extend the period of six months, which is contained in subsection (3), and to give the Governor in Council an unlimited period of time within which it can make these adaptations. But if the hon. the Attorney-General would take advice from us on this side of the House, there are only two possible ways open to him. The first way is this: let him bring an amendment to this House and let this amendment be passed in the form of legislation; let all the intended amendments and adaptations be debated and passed into law. On the other hand, the Attorney-General can appeal to the Federal Parliament—(*Deafening interruptions*)—to have the necessary legislation allowing the Governor in Council to have an extended time within which to make the intended alteration. And Mr Speaker, because this Bill is unconstitutional, because this House has no power to amend the Constitution Order in Council, we humbly say that we are vehemently opposed to this Bill.

Mr A. E. E. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir.....

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to see if any other lawyer will support this contention.

Mr A. Adisa: I support the contention.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. For the second time—(*Prolonged interruptions*):

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Continued heckling disturbs us and makes us sit longer than we hope. And will Members keep within the provisions of Order 29 (4) that during a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in under-tone?

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to oppose the Second Reading of this Bill. Every time this Region has often earned the praise of all concerned in the world for its constitutional achievements. Personally speaking, I acknowledge the legal erudition of our son, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of this Region. (*Applause*). There is now a likelihood of an apparent change of minds and opinions as to whether these constitutional achievements are not being used wrongly nowadays.

[MR ATOHENGBE]

The Bill under discussion speaks for itself, in that it is stated clearly that the time limit expired on the 1st of April, 1961; and, today, Mr Speaker, is the 4th day of April in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred and sixty-two. The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General has failed to indicate in the Bill what section of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960 that empowers this Region to act as sought by this Bill. Since such section of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960 was not quoted or indicated in the Bill as having empowered this Region to act as such after the expiration of the time period, I beg to oppose the Bill.

Mr O. Olaitan (Ilesha Urban East): Mr Speaker Sir, my own opinion is that when question of interpretation of law arises during a debate in this honourable House, political consideration must, or ought, not to be introduced. Apart from the fact that the Government of Western Nigeria has failed to effect the necessary amendments within the prescribed time of six-months in accordance with the Constitution Order in Council, I hold to the view that any Regional Legislature can pass a law empowering her to amend its laws. And in so far as the present Bill is not intended to change the Constitutional Order in Council, which under the Constitution no Regional Government can do, it is my opinion that there is nothing unconstitutional in this Bill. Finally section 4 of the present Bill has limited the scope of the amendments that could be made. It reads thus:

“Nothing in section 3 of this law shall be construed as conferring upon the Governor in Council power to make to any existing law any amendment other than such as could have been made directly by a law enacted by the Legislature of the Region in pursuance of its powers to make laws under the Constitution Order”.

In conclusion it is my humble opinion that the Bill is properly before this honourable House. (*Applause*).

Mr Adisa: Mr Speaker, Sir this is a Bill brought to the floor of this House by our affable and energetic Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. There is no doubt that on the Front Bench of the Government he is undoubtedly the most popular personality, and I am sure—(*Interruption*)—he would take our remarks in good spirit.

The first thing is that it is not quite correct or proper for this Bill to be brought by the Government which lays great stress on efficiency, but which is now guilty of unpunctuality since it has failed to make use of the powers conferred by the Constitutional Order in Council which enables that Government to pass laws for the adaptation of all existing laws within six months. This has not been done and, really, it should come here now with apologies. (*Interruption*). There is no reason why anybody out of the Government Bench should come up—whether the Minister of Justice or not—and feel that he is fervently glorious. (*Interruptions*).

Secondly, Sir, I am going to adopt what I am sure every lawyer appreciates and that is a thorough analysis—(*Prolonged Interruption*).

Now, I would say that I do oppose this Bill. I would say that straightaway, for the simple reason that what the Bill purports to do, there is not that power for this House to do it. (*Interruption*). It could have been a different thing for the Minister of Justice to enact an existing law and say that it should be a Law of this Region, but, immediately he begins to mention the Constitution Order in Council which has expired in so far as its operation is concerned, and he begins to confer the very powers now on this Legislature, I do agree with my hon. Friend, the Member for Ilesha that this is *ultra vires* this House. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*).

Now Mr Speaker, I am trying to see whether there should be a saving grace in sub-section (4) of the Constitutions Order in Council—(*Interruption*)—which says: “The effect of this section shall be without prejudice to any powers conferred by this order upon any person or authority to make provision for any matter, including the amendment or repeal of any existing law”; and that was where, probably, the learned Attorney-General did overlook that point. All he needs to do, if he has any existing law which by neglect or by oversight—and that is natural—(*interruption*), if you really, by neglect or oversight, have forgotten to make use of this power which enables you to enact that existing law or amend an existing law, then that could be proper. But immediately he mentioned the existing Constitution Order in Council which limits your power—(*interruption*).

Upon that I do not think there is anything which should worry the learned Attorney-General if he withdraws this Bill at this stage. After all, I do not want to take illicit gin. If you want to amend the

existing law as regards illicit gin, you have to go and beg the Obas. It is they who are looking for illicit gin. (*Laughter*). (*Government Benches: Insult. Withdraw that*).

Mr Speaker: Yesterday morning I appealed to this House to respect the sacred institution of Obas in this Region; I object to the reference being made to the Obas with reference to illicit gin. (*Government Benches: Withdraw, withdraw*).

Mr Adisa: I would begin now to speak of drunken Chiefs. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I told the hon. Member that I object to the way in which he referred to Obas. He continued to say he was going to refer to the drunken chiefs. I want to say that Chiefs and Obas in the Western Region are of the same family, and I refuse to allow this House to ridicule that family. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

Mr Adisa: The Speaker has ruled that there should be no reference to the drunken Chiefs and Obas, I will not make reference to the drunken Chiefs and Obas but I will make reference to the drunken puppets of the Action Group. (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*).

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker Sir, this is a serious question.

I have very great respect for hon. Olowofoyeku. (*Interruptions*). He comes, fortunately or unfortunately, from the same institution like myself, and that is why I attach a lot of credibility to his statements.

I am not taking this opportunity to make any leader's call. It is not in the way of hon. Members in the Bar to cast aspersion on the Obas, and as a leader of the Bar by my office as Attorney-General, it is my interest and it is my duty to safeguard the Bar. (*Cheers from the two sides of the House*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do agree with the interpretation given by Mr Olowofoyeku. He might have made it quite good-naturedly but I am holding, Sir, that it is entirely off the mark. There is nothing unconstitutional in that. (*Interruptions*). Until the Federal Supreme Court decides that a law is unconstitutional in this Region, it is constitutional.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is one saving grace. You would remember that a few minutes ago I put this to the other side that there should be at least one hon. Member, a member of the Bar, who will be able to say what he knows because of his intellectual integrity. Mr Speaker, Sir, one hon. Member has

indicated my stand in the Opposition at least, there is one who has intellectual integrity. (*Laughter*). I commend him on that basis. The other learned man who supported him, to be fair to him, was only trying to go by way of politics. He pursued the political angle.....(*Interruption*). He says that I have no Constitutional Power.....(*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill that I have brought before this House is absolutely proper. I will give a small analogy to explain what it is. The object of this sort of Bill is to enable the Governor in Council to be able—(*Interruption*). For instance, there is a Corporation which is now called the *Western Region Housing Corporation*. I am giving that as an example. The Government wants, in a few months' time, to change it to *Western Nigeria Housing Corporation*. Instead of bringing that Bill to this House to seek approval—(*Prolonged interruption*). I am reminded Sir, this actually does not seem to amend the Constitution Order in Council as a lawyer contended on the other side. (*Interruptions*). Please listen. The Governor of a Region of the Federation may by order at any time within six months order the amendment of this Bill. It was on October 1, 1960.....(*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker Sir, my learned Friends have not paid the attention to my explanations. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am responsible for questions of justice. I can recommend this Bill wholeheartedly to the House and can give this assurance to the whole Legislature that there is nothing *ultra vires* in it. It is certainly constitutional and, if the Opposition have anything to say, I shall wait for them to challenge the validity of the Law.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

THE LIQUOR LICENSING

(AMENDMENT) BILL

SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Mr D. Ogundiran): Mr Speaker, Sir this Bill is non-controversial. The purpose of it is to

[MR OGUNDIRAN]

exempt civilian mess from the provisions of Parts I to VI of the Liquor (Licensing) Law.

The second requirement is to transfer the power to deal with the provisions of the Law from the Minister mentioned in the Law itself to any Minister at present responsible for the operation of the Law in this Region.

A civilian mess is a mess for civilians as opposed to members of the disciplined Forces. (*Interruptions*).

Sir, I recommend this Bill to the House.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): I beg to second.
Question proposed.

Mr O. Olaitan (Ilesha Urban East): Mr Speaker, Sir, although this Bill is non-controversial, yet, at the same time, the Minister is mixed up because he has failed to say in his speech during the Second Reading what the objects and reasons of this Bill are. And he wants us to assume that we have read this Bill.

The only thing I like to point out on the question of this Bill is that certain amendments ought to have been proposed in this Bill as the Law stands. Under section 31 of the existing Law, the Minister is given the power of life and death over any applicant. That is, if the local licensing officer in a District refuses licence to somebody, the only course open to him is to appeal to the Permanent Secretary, through the Minister, and the Minister has the final say, and no appeal lies to any court of law. It is my contention that such provisions in the Laws of Nigeria are *ultra vires* the Constitution of Nigeria, and should have been ruled out, because a person who is aggrieved of anything ought to be given the right to go to the court and test the validity of that decision.

As a matter of fact, the Minister will agree with me that most of the tribunals formed by him in different parts of Western Nigeria are Action Group-controlled tribunals, and, taking nature as it is, these people have disappointed NCNC applicants by unjustly refusing applications by NCNC men. In Ilesha, for example, I had a call to appear for a man who sells beer, but when he applied, the licence was refused because the Urban Caretaker Committee refused his application. He applied to the Minister—the Minister knows about it—but the Minister said no. And that was the end of the trade of that man.

So I would be urging the Minister to consider that, in future, when somebody applies to him and he says no, the law

should be so changed as to give that applicant a right to go to court to test the validity of the act.

Mr A. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): Mr Speaker, on the whole this Bill, as it stands, is non-controversial; but here we are called upon to pass a Bill which will be put into the hands of the Minister who we saw here yesterday throwing challenges upon challenges. (*Interruptions*). The Minister has also indicated on the floor of this House this afternoon that the spirit of throwing challenges was increasing in him. Human nature being what it is, we do not know whether the challenges he has thrown yesterday are to be executed in his capacity as a Minister of Government or, perhaps, in his own capacity as an individual person.

We are here to appeal to the Minister that when the time comes to execute his authority, which this House will now put into his hands, he should throw away politics and act according to the law of the State with human feelings at this heart.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr W. Aghahowa (Benin South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill for only one main reason. (*Interruptions*). The Minister has failed to make provisions for the sale of our home-made stuff, which is normally called "illicit gin". (*Hear, hear*). This Region is committed to a Six-year Development Programme. I pray the Minister that our locally-made gin be included, so that the austerity measures recently announced by this Government may achieve the purpose for which they are intended.

With this observation, Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill as it has failed to make provision for our home-made gin to be sold locally.

Rev. I. Edeki (Afenmai North-West II): I beg to support this Bill.

A Member said that tribunals in the Region are made up only of Action Group members. I can give you examples of all the committees establishing the Liquor Licensing Tribunals. The NCNC party is represented. I think that operates in all other councils in the Midwest. (*Shouts of "No" and "It is a lie" from Opposition Benches*). It is not therefore true to say that only Action Group members are in all the tribunals.

Mr Ogundiran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to answer to some of the points raised by some Members of the Opposition on the amendments to this Bill.

[MR OGUNDIRAN]

I can assure my hon. Friends that there is no time that a complaint is made and is not looked into. There was a time that an appeal came from a lady at Warri. What I did was to see that she was told that before the appeal was heard she should carry on. (*Prolonged interruptions*). There is no time that you report any case without the Minister in charge looking into it, provided the appeal is within the law.

One Member pointed out that this Bill should be amended to include the sale of illicit gin. I do not know whether my hon. Friend opposite expects me to include illicit gin so that he can gather his men together to drink gin that is illegal. I am not going to include the illegal gin here, because illicit gin is not good for health. (*Interruptions*). You know we are responsible for your health and, as such, we do not intend to include it.

Mr R. A. Akinyemi: This is a poor show. I do not know whether he prepared his speech before coming to this House.

Mr Speaker: I am referring Members to Standing Order 29 (5): Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking. I hope Members will allow the Minister to continue. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Ogundiran: I would like to say that Government will not consider the inclusion of illicit gin. (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read a Third time and passed.

Sitting suspended at 2.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.10 p.m.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair).

1961-62 SUPPLEMENTARY
APPROPRIATION BILL
SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to

make Supplementary Provision for the services of Western Nigeria for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1962, additionally to that made under the 1961-62 Appropriation Law, 1961.

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with section 26 (2) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, to convey his recommendation for the consideration of this Bill.

The Bill now before you, and the Estimates which support it, cover a total additional provision of £5,579,532 for the services of this Region during this financial year.

I regret that circumstances beyond our control have made it impossible for the prior approval of the Legislature to be obtained for the supplementary provision to which the Bill relates. But I must remind hon. Members once again that the presentation of this Bill does not necessarily mean that actual expenditure in 1961-62 will exceed the sums appropriated at the last Budget Meeting by the totals shown in the First and Second Schedules. Happily I am already in a position to say that, as against the revised estimated recurrent expenditure of £22.6 million shown in the summary at page 4 of the Supplementary Estimates before you, actual expenditure for the year is not likely to exceed £18.5 million. That is if we exclude transfers to other funds of Government. Similarly, although the revised capital expenditure estimate shown at page 14 is £22.9 million, it is now clear that only about £13 million will in fact be spent.

To the uninitiated it may sound rather anomalous that after voting an extra sum of nearly £6 million over and above the originally approved provision, it is still estimated that total actual expenditure will turn out to be less than even the original estimates. The simple fact is that by the provisions of our Constitution and the Public Administration Law, even though large savings are expected under certain Heads of Estimates, they cannot be transferred to be used under other Heads; the Legislature has to make fresh provision for services which were not foreseen at the time of the annual estimates.

Under the Recurrent Expenditure Estimates, a total supplementary provision of £2,652,023 is required. Of this sum, as hon. Members will observe on top of page 8 of Estimates Book, additional provision to meet Grants-in-Aid in respect of education amounts to £1,436,000, which is more than 50 per cent of the amount to be voted under the First Schedule. I should explain that

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

provision in respect of this service in the estimates presented to the House at this time last year was deliberately held down to the 1960-61 level because, at that time, Government was considering various recommendations for shifts in policy which might reduce the proportion of our total recurrent outlay which goes to education. In the event, Government did not consider it to be in the interest of the community to effect the changes to the extent proposed. Consequently the savings which were anticipated did not materialise.

Our declared policy and commitments on education are nothing new to this House and hardly require further elaborations by me. We are all aware of the big slice that education takes each time in our budget. But however high the costs and heavy the burden, we feel proud and happy that we are, in our own time, laying the solid foundation for a new generation of enlightened and progressive community.

The rest of the recurrent expenditure, besides the provision under Head 329 (Ministry of Education), is concerned with day-to-day essential services on which additional provision is required. I should mention that, in respect of some of these services, more than equivalent revenue accrues to offset whatever expenditure might be incurred on them. Notable examples in the present estimates before the House are items such as some of those appearing under the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources at page 7 of the Estimates, and the provision in respect of Catering Rest Houses under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

And now, Sir, if I may turn to the Capital Expenditure Estimates. The Bill shows a total provision of £2,927,909. This sum, as hon. Members will see at page 17 of the Estimates Book and in the explanatory notes at the end of the Bill, includes a provision of £1 million under Head 710 for the University of Ife. This sum of £1 million is offset by the approved provision under Head 701, sub-head 6 (30), which has been "frozen". It is only shown in the Bill to conform with the accounting procedure whereby a transfer of provision from one Head of Estimates to another requires legislative sanction.

Deducting this sum of £1 million from the total provision shown under the Second Schedule to the Bill there remains a total of £1,927,909 to be voted. If hon. Members will again turn to the Estimates Book and open at page 15, it will be observed from the

explanatory notes on that page and subsequent ones that almost the entire additional provisions are revotes of unspent balances in previous year's approved provision. This often happens with capital expenditure where machinery and equipment ordered may not be received and paid for before the end of the financial year, or the bills for certain contracts settled before the year closed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr K. S. Y. Momoh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Debate on the Bill adjourned till Friday, 6th April, 1962, pursuant to Standing Order 70.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Motion for an Address

Adjourned Debate on Question (28th March)

"That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in the following terms:—

That this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to Your Excellency for the most gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature;

And that this Address be formally presented to His Excellency by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition".

Question again proposed.

Alhaji B. O. Fawehinmi (Ondo West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion to express our thanks to His Excellency, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, Governor of Western Nigeria, the Oni of Ife, for the dignified way he has been carrying on his official constitutional duties in this peaceful Region, and the excellent delivery of his gracious Speech from the Throne to both Houses of Chiefs and Assembly, which lasted almost an hour. I therefore congratulate him and wish him more laurels on his royal elbow.

I have always thought that his life in this law abiding Region, is a living example not only to those Nigerians whose fortune it would be in future to step into his shoes as successive Governors of the Region, but also to the entire Civil Service.

His Excellency is really a thorough breed of a true Yoruba constitutional monarch, who refrains absolutely from any interference in political issues of any sort, realising that he is the father of all. His faithful discharge

[ALHADJI FAWEHINMI]

of his constitutional functions, irrespective of his personal conviction, is worthy of emulation by both future Governors and the entire Civil Service in this Region.

By way of illustration, his method of administration of the Government of the Region compared nicely with those of his immediate expatriate predecessors who kept absolutely aloof from politics, creating no political upheavals in the Region. The apparent calm political situation of Western Nigeria, conceived of supreme rule of law since His Excellency has taken up the post of the Head of the State of this Region, is a great tribute to his political sagacity as first indigenous Governor, who has proved to the world that Africans are capable of managing their affairs and are no more to be regarded as social pariahs as hitherto. (*Cheers*).

Now I would like to place on record my deep appreciation of the overall improvements, in social services, particularly in the field of education and health services extended to the rural areas of the Region. The steady progress and rapid pace of the Nigerianisation policy of the Region, especially as far as Civil Service is concerned is worth praising. It is our ardent hope and fervent prayer that at no distant future the entire Public Service of the Region may be thoroughly Nigerianised, and the expatriates will only be recruited into professional and advisory capacity.

Now, before I wind up my speech, I would like to appeal to the Government that my Constituency looks up to it for more amenities particularly as far as road construction is concerned, and, whenever the Government is prepared to embark upon road projects, I do hope that the Ondo-Lamo road will not be forgotten because it links Ondo as a town with Trunk "A" Federal Government Lagos-Benin road. This particular road is in a commercial area and it is a very important road to my Constituency. (*Interruptions*). Please don't embarrass me. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the next important road in Ondo area is Ile-Oluji-Ipetu road. It is another very important road which I am appealing to the Government not to forget when the plans are on hand to embark upon road development.

It is gratifying that the work of the higher institutions of learning is proceeding nicely and rapidly according to plan. The Ife University is a typical example. Our thanks go particularly to Chief the Hon. S. L. Akintola, the Premier of this Region and

his indefatigable Ministers through whose efforts all the improvements that are now on in the Region have been achieved. We thank them for the interest shown always in the advancements and improvement of this Region.

Very many people have been criticising— (*Interruptions*). Any right thinking man when passing on the roads, unlike the crooked and narrow bridges which we have had in the past when we were under foreign rule, will at once have to praise the work of this Government. Of recent, as part of Government's efforts to bring enlightenment to rural areas and urban towns in the Region, the Minister of Works and Transport needs special commendation from the people of my Constituency. In the year 1961, he gave us electricity. And not only that; pipe-borne water has also been supplied to the people. Not only in Ondo town; electricity supply has also been extended to many important towns in Ondo Province. All these are a sure indication that Africa is completely capable of managing her affairs now that she is trying to disyoke herself from foreign rule. Even the pessimistic Thomas would not hesitate to laud the economic development and progress now going on in the Region since the Action Group took up the Government of the Region in 1952. As an evidence of this, all the narrow bridges are widened, and crooked hilly roads are straightened throughout the Region, and many are undergoing reconstruction whilst others had already been completely tarred for comfortable travelling, to the extent that lorries pass comfortably by themselves without any casualty.

Educationally, thousands of school children in the Region are enjoying the well established free Primary Education today, in spite of the sharp criticisms emanated from all corners of Nigeria. Without fear of contradiction, I make bold to say that it is only the Western Nigeria Government that is capable of putting this scheme of Free Primary Education into full practice, whilst other Governments in the Federation are still struggling tooth and nail to forge out their own way, but they find it still much harder than holding the bull by the horns.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I wind up my speech, it is my fervent prayer that long may we the Westerners live in the glorious sunshine of the good Government of Action Group, whose motto is "Life More Abundant".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr F. H. Utomi (Asaba South-East): I rise, Mr Speaker, to make my humble observations on the speech from the Throne, by His Excellency, the Governor.

Chief J. E. Babatola: Point of propriety. Mr Speaker, Sir, in Asaba, people don't wear the kind of dress—without singlet—that the hon. Gentleman is wearing.

Mr Deputy Speaker: I have never been to Asaba, but I hope those who have been to Asaba know what they wear there. I will allow the hon. Gentleman to continue his speech. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Utomi: I have my respect for the Governor as an individual and I congratulate him for his personal successes, but I have reasons to criticise his Speech from the Throne for its unrealistic portions and lip services to progress in the Western Region. It is simply the old formal routine policy speech.

Starting from the austerity side, I would say that it is a disastrous plan to build up the wealth of the Western Region at the expense of the civil servants and the unfortunate Members of this House—the floor Members of the Western House of Assembly.

Well, the employees of the Western Region Civil Service have no channel of ventilating their feelings and, for the sake of the Opposition, they have been cuddled; otherwise they could have agitated and made their grievances known to the public. Even though the Western Region Government wishes to build up the wealth of the Western Region, they want to do it at the expense of the civil servants and the unfortunate Members of both sides of the House. The Western Region Government is very rash—very rash indeed in its decisions, unlike the North, the East and the Federal Governments who failed to publish their details, making sure in their detailed job within the Government circle about what would happen to salaries and allowances. Well, you are not sincere on that side of the House.

While we wish to be assiduous, we cannot forget to fatten the goose that lays the golden egg. If by your austerity measures you cut by 10 per cent the salaries of civil servants in the upper segments, you withdraw the allowances, you withdraw their basic allowance, how will they run the Civil Service for us? I know you Ministers there; these civil servants draft your speeches for you which you say you read well. (*Shouts of "Shame shame" from Opposition Benches*). It is just like killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

Well, while we appreciate the sacrifices of the Ministers, because we have always told the truth which you know of course is bitter—well, we appreciate that most of you are making sacrifices. But while we will expect your salaries to be cut, we would wish a kind of humane touch to be applied on the allowance, and that is the opinion of the Members of the Opposition side. So that while your own cars draw allowances higher than the salary of floor Members of the House you wish now to cut the basic allowance of the Members of this House—the floor Members of the House!

Mr C. I. Akere: You are living in the past.

Mr Utomi: Well I am not living in the past. You ought to have watched the Governments of the East, the North and the Federal Government. Well, it is pretty certain that there are disappointed elements who charged Members on this side of making certain pronouncements in the paper just as the one we had yesterday. It was not done by anybody on this side of the House. Hon. Members here put you in confidence just as we wish you to have us in confidence.

Well, our Western Region Government ought to have corked all avenues of waste. The money in the past, our own money in the past—public revenue—was wasted in global missions and helicopter campaigns—(*shame, shame*)—and yet they failed the election.

We come now to industrial problems, Mr Speaker, Sir. Here we charge the Government of the Western Region for inefficiency and lack of foresight and for shirking its national responsibility and obligation to the people. The Government has failed to create opportunities for the employment of our teeming population of school children. The few industries it has are sited in Yoruba West to absorb the children of the area to the exclusion of the children of the Midwest. They cannot deny that. In general, Sir, opportunities for employment are limited, giving rise to teeming vagrants who commit atrocities without compunction—burglary, highway robbery, pick-pocketing, are fashions in the West.

I come to industry, Mr Speaker. Industries should be established by the Government on a divisional basis as in the progressive East and the North. Read the speech of the Governor of the Eastern Region on the opening of the Eastern House of Assembly. All the industries were distributed on a divisional basis and they have always done it that way. Industries should be established

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on a divisional basis, as in the Eastern Region, to cope with the tense situation of unemployment in the West.

I come now to education. I must say outright, Sir, that the threat made sometime ago by the Chief Whip of the Government on voluntary agencies is regrettable and I feel he must have been corrected in their party meetings—and that is this. (*Interruptions*). I will tell you, Sir: the Methodist, the Anglican, the Catholics and such other Missionary bodies gave us an organised education, christianised our people, and saved us from mental slavery and superstition. If independent as we are, we can treat the missionary bodies with scorn and contempt, and rape them and their selfless work on the floor of this House, we might say of our Government "how unkind and sharp as a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child". Voluntary Agencies, for over a century, when our colonial Government was planning administration, pillared and championed our cause in education. Even Members on the other side with junior Cambridge Certificates were brought up by the missionaries: even the Premier was brought up by the Methodists.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I have made my religious leaning very well known enough. The hon. Member speaking ought to know that I was not brought up by the Methodists; I was brought up by the Baptists.

Mr Utomi: Yes, by the Baptists, you were brought up by the Baptists!

Chief Akintola: And that is why I always put on a singlet. (*Laughter*).

Mr Utomi: The missionaries championed our cause in education and carried out evangelisation with monies raised by charity outside Nigeria. Is this threat on their existence our gratitude? The threat is to strain and intensify their relations with their teacher devotees and school children. From where do we expect Voluntary Agency Missions to raise money other than Sunday penny collections, tithes and voluntary levies for religious propaganda and expansion?

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I understand that there are people who feel bitter, disgusted and disappointed at the promotion of the hon. Gentleman to the Front Bench.

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! The question has been raised once, and,

maybe, the Opposition Benches have been given sufficient leave to agree among themselves. I hope we can give no more time to them at this meeting. I hope that later on, they will adjust among themselves.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: I think, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Premier of the Western Region is not authorised to speak on behalf of the Opposition. I know, Mr Speaker, Sir, that it is always his nature to find fault where there is none.

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! You will agree that the hon. the Premier was not here when the question was first raised. (*Interruptions*).

An Opposition Member: We have not been allowed to speak. People on the Government side have spoken for over ten times, whilst we in the Opposition have not been given any opportunity.

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order! Order! I hope Members will strictly observe Order 29 (4).

Mr Utomi: It is not the question of building Colleges for training teachers that matters but the attractive conditions of service for them to stay permanently in the profession. Thousands of teachers come out yearly from colleges, and thousands go away yearly from the profession. Our Governments of the Federation are wicked to the teaching profession. Today, Sir, teachers have not a standard national scale; rather what we call teachers' scale is an interim measure scale. Any time there is a national revision of salaries for Civil Servants,—teachers are forgotten. (*Interruptions*). With this plight, the generation has a stable distaste for teaching, and all wish to run to the prosperous clerical field and the mercantile House. Signing of bonds by students is not the solution in colleges; rather it makes them conscious of their social slavery and early exit from this boring low-scale profession. This age is materialistic, and teachers belong to the era: they will rear their children and live happily and healthily; they have families and expect their children to take their positions in the scheme of things in the Federation. In general, they are disappointed. In our Government, through our Minister of Education who is a teacher, we expect solace, but as soon as they are elevated, then they change their views and plan the humiliation of a profession they pretend to be devoted to.

I welcome the Government's idea of having highly qualified non-graduate teachers.

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to man our Teacher Training Colleges and Grammar Schools. These should be trusted with education in this level but with their interest, devotion and experience—devotion in poverty—they know the standard they expect so as not to fall below the par. Our Teacher Training Colleges and Grammar Schools should, as quickly as possible, be Nigerianised with men of this school of thought, and the Government should be vocal on the particular issue of Nigerianisation of our Secondary Grammar Schools and Teacher Training Colleges. The worship of degrees from Toronto, China and Japan in the absence of professional training greatly affects standards. (*Interruptions*).

Our Government should not allow Voluntary Agencies to be tempted by allowing them to raise fees to cover up capital and recurrent expenditure: the Government, I would say, contributes to this muddle and dishonesty which is now compressed against politicians and Voluntary Agencies. They should give sufficient grants to Voluntary Agency Schools and Colleges and control the expenditure. Government should audit the books of these Voluntary Agencies and see that they work in co-operation with the Government in the proper use of public funds. Here I mean honest use of our tax money. A threat by the Government to take over Voluntary Agency Schools and Colleges does not arise, if only the Government would make close supervision on tax-payers' money granted to them. As to the increase in schools fees complained of by the parents and the public, we have very little to say, in that the report of the Commission appointed is not out—but I strongly advise that Government ought, all these years, to have set a ceiling in fees acceptable to the College authorities and parents, based on conditions as obtained in the Western Region. The people are poor with a poor earning capacity.

Well, I come to roads. Here, Mr Speaker, Sir, I must specifically comment on election roads in Asaba Division. Any time an election is looming, attempts at the tarring of roads are made but when the elections are over, a stop is made. Asaba Division is specially marked out by the Government for frustration in vital amenities. We want the Asaba-Ibusa-Ogwashi-Uku-Umenede thirty-four mile road to be completed, a portion of which, though rugged, an apology of a tarred road, has been made. It is a feeder road to Lagos-Asaba road. All the main towns of this Division are situated on this road. Asaba-Ogwashi-Uku—(*interruptions*). Mr

Speaker, Sir, in this connection, there is nothing that we have not done. We have prostrated to the Government, petitioned and sent delegates. It is because our Government is discriminating and vindictive; but I feel that it is worthwhile persistently addressing it on this important matter. Votes have been made for Ogwashi-Uku-Asaba-Issele-Uku; these votes have been frozen yearly to keep the people down. Armies of water experts and surveyors have been sent to herald to the people that we were going to get water. Israeli, Japanese and Swiss engineers, with their mammoth engines, visit us only on the eve of elections. Once the elections are over, they retreat. We have streams at Ogwashi-Uku which can be dammed and piped to Asaba or Issele-Uku; it will cost nothing that can be compared with our lives as citizens and tax-payers in Western Region, to treat this water.

We come now to Industries, which have been given great publicity. When we speak of industries, Sir, we speak of discrimination. It appears that we hate the Yorubas as a race. Not so; the fact remains that no attempts are made for decentralisation of the industries or for their distribution on a divisional basis; all these industries with employment capacity are centred in Yoruba-land. We cannot rest from criticising this Government. We cannot rest. Go to the East and see the spread of industries; no division has any complaint against the Government, even in the C.O.R. State area where, in spite of sheer antipathy for the NCNC, misunderstood as Ibo-dominated, industries are more than in the Midwest. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker is the only capable person who can raise a Point of Order in this House about the seating arrangements of Members.

Mr Amadasun: The seating arrangements for this side of the House is within my portfolio.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I make a request to this House to allow the Opposition to agree among themselves.

Mr Amadasun: We are not disagreeing Sir.

Mr C. I. Akere: Point of Order; Order 27 (i): A Member shall not read his speech, but he may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes.

Mr Deputy Speaker: I thought the hon. Gentleman was referring to his notes.

But if he is reading, would he please only refer to his notes. (*Cries of "Shame, shame" from Government Benches*).

Mr Utomi: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Midwest, particularly Asaba Division of it, is slighted and frustrated. Since 1939 when Ogwashi-Uku people started to demand industries that would help to give jobs to the teeming population of school children in the Division, the Government of this Region has done nothing to help the people. Last year, Sir, an area, about four miles square, was given to the Government for Farm Settlement by Ogwashi-Uku people. After the formal official inspection, the project died there. When will the Government give its blessings to the project?

Mr Speaker, we now come to Local Government. I want to say a few things about Local Government which concerns a Minister—the Minister of Local Government. My people do not like the way in which he handled the matter of some Councils in the Midwest, particularly the Aniocha District Council. You have heard several Members on this side of the House speaking on the dissolution of the Aniocha District Council. It is this point that I am going to speak about.

Mr I. A. Adelodun: On Point of Order, Order 33 (1) the Order reads: "Subject to paragraph (2) of this Order, no Member shall be entitled to address the House or a Committee of the whole House for more than thirty minutes on any subject". (*Interruptions*).

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order, Order, I will give the hon. Gentleman only one minute to finish his speech.

Mr Utomi: Mr Speaker, Sir, you are all aware that Aniocha District Council and Asaba Divisional Council had been praised by this Government; but they were dissolved on political grounds, and since October 1959 till today no elections have been held. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order, Order: I am afraid, the hon. Gentleman's time is up.

Mr Utomi: I oppose this Order.

Mr Deputy Speaker: When a point of Order was raised when you were speaking, you should not have spoken after that, but I allowed you to speak for a minute. Your time is up. (*Shouts of "Shame, shame" from Government Benches*).

Mr J. A. Odutuga (Epe North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion, for an

humble Address of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his Speech from the Throne.

The speech which we were privileged to hear from His Excellency, is a brilliant one, covering all aspects of governmental activities, and points to the future plans of the Government in the field of development.

The programme of road development and strengthening of bridges began during the 1960-65 Development period, which His Excellency referred to in his Speech, is a praiseworthy feat on the part of this Government. Everywhere in the Region, there are evidences of this development in the field of roads and bridges. But I should like to pray the Government to pay attention to the need of the people of Epe Division for the early construction of the Odogbawojo to Itokin road which will reduce the existing distance between Epe and Lagos by thirty miles. There is no doubt, that, if implemented, this road will brighten up the commercial life of the areas through which it will run. I should also like to pray the Government for the construction of the Igboye to Itele road.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is necessary for me to invite the Government to look into the state of affairs in Epe Division. Before doing so, I should like to express my thanks, and those of the people I represent in this House, for the installation of electricity at Epe, which the hon. Premier very kindly opened for us a short time ago. (*Applause*). It now remains for street lights to be extended to the Marina at Epe and for arrangements to be made to get electricity tapped in certain villages in Eredo district, through which the mains pass, such as Pobuna Teacher Training College at Poka and Nazareth College, Ibonwon. This is a matter of erecting a few poles. Likewise, I pray the Government to extend electricity to Ejinrin which is seventeen miles from Ijebu-Ode, and to Ikosi which is nineteen miles from Ikorodu.

Epe Division is rather backward and life is generally dull. Apart from the Boat Yard which employs a handful of people, there are no avenues of employment. Such is the state of affairs in the Region's most peaceful area. Urgent attention is required on the construction of the Epe Water Supply Scheme, and it is necessary to provide Eredo District with supply, in order to ameliorate the sufferings of the people.

Apart from electricity and water supplies, the people of Epe Division desire to have a share in the various development projects now going on in the Region: for example, the Farm Settlement Scheme, Technical Education, and so on.

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I am not unaware that the resources of the Government are limited; even so, a fair distribution of the available resources will give my people greater confidence in the Government.

As I said earlier, we are grateful to this Government for what it has done for us so far.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr M. O. Ijie (Ishan West Central): In supporting the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, I need not recount all the good works of this Action Group Government of Western Nigeria; but suffice it to say that this Government is the best in the whole of the Federation of Nigeria. I say this because of its past, present and future development programmes.

This Government is the most democratic and liberal, in that it thinks of the cities and towns as well as the most remote villages and hamlets of the Region by way of providing amenities. Take, for instance, the rural water supply. We all agree that, of all the earth's treasures, good water is the most valuable. Go to Ishan Division today; you will actually see for yourself what this Action Group Government has done. Every nook and corner has been supplied with pipe-borne water; excepting very few villages like Eko Ojima, Sugheun, Udomi, Ebudin and Idumoza. And as the Ishan stage II water scheme is in progress now, I wish this Government to extend the water to those places.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Governor has carefully stated how this Government will continue to clear all sorts of diseases. You all know that yaws was the most deadly disease in Ishan and other Divisions in the country. My own face, with these beautiful scars, shows that we had actually suffered from that disease—terrible yaws. But today there is no single child or person suffering from this dangerous disease. And this is the work of the Government of this Region.

Now Sir, Ishans live in scattered towns and villages and, to facilitate health services, we pray the Government to give us another hospital, maternity centres and dispensaries, and the Government should expedite the opening of the first-class hospital built at Uromi.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want this good Government to think of rural industries very seriously to enable our children leaving schools to get employment. Industries in cities or towns do not benefit the people in the rural areas, as the so-called "big guns" in

such cities or towns will only get their immediate families employed.

And now, Sir, with these few comments I beg to support.

Mr F. Osuhor (Asaba South-West): I thank the Speaker for having accorded me this opportunity to say a few words in connection with the Speech from the Throne.

In fact, I have not much to say, but I must deliver the message given me by my constituency to this honourable House.

Well a proverb has it that "difficulties successfully overcome give infinite pleasure to a man".

Now, according to the Speech from the Throne, the Governor said that every area should be supplied with water. Now for many years, we people in Ika District in Asaba Division have clamoured for water. We still drink red-coal, tasteful water, and that is a shame to the Action Group Government. (*Interruptions from Government Benches*). However, as far as this question of water is concerned, I brought a sample here, but the Minister of Health—(*Interruptions from Government Benches*) said that they were checking diseases in the area. How can you check diseases when people still drink rain water collected in pits dug along the roads? That is what we drink in our area. Those who travel that way can bear me out in this statement. (*Interruptions from Government Benches*).

In this honourable House people talk of industries, agriculture and others. If a man has no water to drink how can he think of other things? And this Government has the impunity, the courage, of coming to this honourable House to say that they have surplus balances when we are suffering there of thirst! The Government should remember that to give those who are thirsty water to drink is one of the proper works of mercy, so I implore the Government to give us water to drink. If you do not give us any industry, give us water to drink.

Education.—Now we talk of education. In Ika area there is only one Secondary School which is in its infancy, and that is Ika Grammar School situated at Agbor. Now, according to the Governor's Speech—(*Interruptions*)—it is stated that children should be allowed to attend secondary grammar schools in their own homes. I wonder how a child can go over fifteen miles to attend a secondary grammar school when we have only one secondary grammar school at Agbor, a distance of about twenty to twenty-five miles from the neighbouring

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clans? I wish the Minister of Education to take a serious note of this, and to establish two more secondary grammar schools during the current year. (*Government Benches: Where at Agbor?* In Ika District area.

According to the Governor's Speech, he appealed to us all to maintain peace. Well, we of this side of this House usually maintain peace. (*Hear, hear*). I do not blame the top notchers of the Action Group because they just sit down here enjoying life whereas their people, their own partymen in other areas do anything they like. (*Interruptions from Government Benches*). Yes, they do anything they like; that is, arresting people without their committing any offences—*i.e.*, the NCNC supporters.

When we talk of these things here they will not believe us because they do not witness what is going on in our area and other areas. (*Interruptions*). Please do not disturb me. (*Opposition Benches: Go on, do not mind them!*). I started making speeches before winning election into this House. I do not think you can make a speech more than I can do. You just listen.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I remember some Ministers going to their constituencies. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

A Member from the Government Benches: Mr Speaker, Point of Order. Rule 27, section (1), which reads:

"A Member shall confine his observations to the subject under discussion".

The fact that Action Group Members are arresting people and sending them to prison has nothing to do with this.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Well, at this juncture, I would rather observe that under the Speech from the Throne, Members have the right to cover a very wide ground. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Osuhor: Mr Speaker, Sir, I crave the indulgence of the Minister concerned to investigate this point, that is, to go to the Midwest Area and find out whether their Ministers go there to tell their local party men to victimise their NCNC supporters. I quote an example: During the last Local Government Elections, one Minister from the Midwest—(*Interruptions from Government Benches: "Which Minister?"*)—went to his constituency and told his party men to use Customary Courts and Tax Assessment Committees to victimise NCNC supporters.

(*Shame, shame*). The Minister said that they should use that weapon on NCNC supporters. (*Interruptions*). Instead of inflicting punishment on people who have not been able to pay their tax—well, they have been sent to jail without any option of fine which is contrary to the Income Tax Law. (*Interruptions*).

Whatever I say here, Mr Speaker, Sir, I believe that in this honourable House and as far as age is concerned, I do not think that there are more than five persons who are older than myself here. So I do not come here to tell you lies; I just tell you what really happened. (*Government Benches: "The Premier himself is junior to you by five years!"*) (*Laughter*).

Austerity Measures.—In fact, if the Government, the Action Group Government, has been sincere or listening carefully, or has taken advice from the Opposition, the question of austerity measures would not have come in; I mean in this Western Region.

Since the attainment of self-government in the Western Region, we have been warning the Government not to go very fast in expenditure, *i.e.*, getting money into their pockets, not voting money for industries or for education. We warned them when they started to preach "life more abundant". We warned them, but what is the result now? Just a few years, Government has gone bankrupt.

Mr Speaker: I would not have recorded that the Government is bankrupt. (*Interruptions from Government Benches: Withdraw, withdraw*).

Mr Osuhor: Mr Speaker, Sir, now I have reason for using the word "bankrupt". I do not say that the Government has gone bankrupt, but that it has got to go bankrupt. Well austerity measures have—(*Interruptions from the Government Benches*).

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Point of order. That is the main reason why Asaba has not got water: because we have no money. He knows. I think you should tell your people at Asaba. (*Laughter and applause from the Government Benches*).

Mr Osuhor: Mr Speaker, Sir, well, in other Regions of the Federation of Nigeria only the Western Region—(*Interruption*)—has gone so far to abolish basic allowances to Ministers and other Parliamentarians. In Eastern Region, in the Northern Region, and in the Federal territory, the basic allowances are still being paid (*Government*).

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Benches: Go there). Well, this shows that the Government should be very careful in how they spend our money—the money is not for themselves alone, the money is for us all. I see no reason why they should spend extravagantly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, my people require water. We have got one hospital at Agbor; we can use that at the moment. I do not want to request for impossibilities from the Government. If I do so, that is just making a jest of myself. But I have appealed to the Minister of Works to give us water and, the Minister of Education to give us secondary grammar schools because secondary education is very remote in our area.

With these few remarks, I have to support the Motion on the Governor's Speech.

Mr D. O. Orowole (Iwo West II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved on the Speech made from the Throne, the Speech which His Excellency, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, the Oni of Ife and the Governor of Western Nigeria, addressed to the hon. Members of the House of Chiefs and of Assembly.

The Speech from the Throne has given us a vast comprehensive review of Government activities within the short period of time. Mr Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, the Oni of Ife, spoke about the development which his Government had made for the people of this Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, the Oni of Ife, also mentioned in his Speech that a large sum of money had already been voted for the great improvement of this Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the Governor, the Oni of Ife, in his Speech from the Throne, had already mentioned the gigantic Plan which he and his Government already made so as to improve the Midwest area more.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must not forget to perform my duties as an hon. Member for Iwo West II Constituency in delivering the message of congratulation to this above Government for the rapid development already awarded to the people of Iwo and District. Mr Speaker, Sir, in fairness to the Government of the Region, I seize this opportunity to warn every hon. Member, be he from Iwo Township or from Iwo District, never to come to the floor of this honourable House and vilify the Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the people of Iwo and District have realised the innumerable amenities already given by this Government. Out of the number of amenities given to the people of Iwo and District by this Western Government, Iléigbo is fully benefited. Mr Speaker, Sir, I can only say this Sir, so as to make it look fresh in the mind of the Government as regards matters of a Dispensary and Maternity Centre which is to be opened at Agbesile, Iwo District. This was, at one time tabled, before the hon. Minister J. Ola Adigun, former Minister of Health and Social Welfare, on one of his official tours to Iwo District Council in the year 1960. Since that time the people of my constituency have been looking towards the opening of a Dispensary and Maternity Centre for the use of the people of the area. Mr Speaker, Sir, if this is done it will be much glorious to the Government of this Region.

Furthermore, Sir, I would also like the Minister of Works and Transport to recommend the remaining road yet untarred from Iwo General Hospital to Iléigbo to be tarred in due course, for the people of Iléigbo are nice people to the Government of the Region. Only one hon. Member who comes from Iléigbo is just beating around the bush so that they might be ready to lose their votes which is in their hands for the second time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would also like to remind the present Minister of Trade and Industry to add more to his laurels by being vigilant about the prices of cocoa this year. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is the only thing for which farmers of this Region regard the Government, and it will be much glorious if the Minister of Trade and Industry could see to the raising up of the prices of cocoa this year. This should be done, for the price of nearly every article has been increased in the Region and, as such, I have seen no reason why the prices of cocoa should not be increased.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. B. Arowojolu (Okitipupa South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Speech from the Throne, I beg leave to make a few comments. The Speech from the Throne revealed to this House the concrete plan the Government had prepared for the development of the Region.

Last year, a Parliamentary delegation of this House went to Ikeja, Abeokuta and Agege to see the Industrial Estate at Ikeja,

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the Farm Project at Agege, and the Cement Factory at Ewekoro in Abeokuta Province. All right and honest thinking people in this Region will agree with me that the Government deserves commendation for establishing such industries to solve the problem of unemployment.

In the Speech from the Throne, Sir, the Governor said that special efforts would be made during the year to establish industries designed for the processing of our raw materials such as cocoa and palm kernels. I appeal to the Government to establish that of palm kernels in Okitipupa South-East, because the area is the largest producer of kernels. By so doing, Sir, thousands of school leavers who are roaming about in the area today will have something to lay their hands upon. It is a common saying by the people in the rural areas that Government always forgets them when distributing amenities. The members of the Industrial Promotions Commission should include people from the rural areas to give local advice. Ondo is the largest producer of cocoa in the Region; therefore the cocoa industry should be set up in Ondo Province.

The Government of Western Nigeria has improved the condition of roads in the Region. Many roads were tarred and new ones were constructed. I have travelled all over the whole Federation; the roads in Western Nigeria are the best. This shows that the Government has the interest of the people at heart. While other people in the Region enjoy good roads and other modern amenities, my constituency has not been considered for any. Not even one yard of the roads in my constituency is tarred. The Ministers from the various Ministries will do well to come to my constituency to see what life is like in the area. They will be shocked to see the poor condition in which my people live. Roads in the area have been in the most deplorable condition. I appeal to all Ministers to visit this area; by so doing they would be able to see the poor roads and see that there is a complete absence of modern amenities.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I cannot but express my gratitude to the Minister of Works and Transport for voting £200,000 for the Shabomi Igbotu embarkment last year. I have seen his efforts in seeing that the work is done. But up till now nothing has been done. I appeal to him to be kind enough to see that the work is completed without further delay. I appeal to the Minister of Works and Transport to tar Irele-Akotogbo

and Igbotu-Igbekebo roads so that we may enjoy good roads which people in other parts of the Region do enjoy.

It is the policy of the Government to extend medical facilities to all corners of the Region so that everybody may enjoy life more abundant. Medical and health facilities should be extended to all rural areas in the Region, especially to my constituency. Because of the geographical condition of the area, we need three Health Centres: one in Ijaw Apoi, one in Benin Confederation, and the other at Arogbo, to cater for the health of the people. If the Minister of Health will be good enough to tour this area, he would see the necessity for having three Rural Health Centres. Mr Speaker, Sir, the time has come for the Government of this Region to pay more attention to the development of the rural areas. The Government concentrates too much attention to the development of the towns which have already been developed. This attitude should be changed.

I appeal to the Government to extend water supply and electricity to Okitipupa Division. The introduction of the Pilot Scheme, which has been proved successful at Ijero and Badagry, will make the supply of electricity possible in the area. I appeal to the Government to put Okitipupa Division on a priority list for the supply of water and electricity.

I cannot but thank the Minister of Local Government for setting up an enquiry into chieftaincy affairs in Okitipupa North. If we are to maintain the institution of chieftaincy and uphold the honour and dignity attached to the traditional position of our Obas and Chiefs, Government should do something to put a stop to those *Olojas* and *Bales* who call themselves Obas. I have never heard how a *Bale* can be equal to an Oba, a paramount Chief. *Bale* is not a traditional title. Anybody can become a *Bale* of a place. Therefore, for a common *Bale* to say that he wants to share the presidency of a Council with Obas because of the present local government set-up is an insult to all Obas in the Region. I appeal to all Obas during the forthcoming Conference of Obas and Chiefs to view this matter with seriousness and to take a bold stand about it. In Okitipupa Division, we have only six paramount Obas: the Abodi of Ikale, the Olugbo of Ugbo, the Omapetu of Mahin, the Kalasuwe of Ijaw-Apoi, the Ahaba of Ajagba Benin Confederation and the Agadagba of Arogbo. These are the traditional members of the Divisional Council. For any *Oloja* or *Bale* to say that he is equal to

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any of these paramount rulers is an insult to all Obas. I have due respect for tradition and, as such, I appeal to the Government to put these petty chiefs in their proper places. *(Cheers from Opposition Benches).*

Mr Speaker Sir, it is needless for me to say the importance of town planning in the present Nigeria. I appeal to the Minister of Lands and Housing to set up a town planning authority in Okitipupa, as has been done in other important towns in the Region.

Mr Speaker Sir, I want to say something about football pools. We have been having about six or seven pools in Ibadan. The first week that Palace Pools was set up, it realised about £18,000 but, due to avarice, the Company has now folded up. I will advise Government to see that it sets up its own pools business.

Opposition Benches: The Government cannot set up its own pools business.

Mr Arowojolu: Illicit gin Sir. I have heard from reliable sources that no law forbids the selling and drinking of illicit gin in Western Nigeria. *(Interruptions).* I think a law must be made about this.

Mr Deputy Speaker: If there was no law prohibiting illicit gin it would not be called illicit. *(Laughter).*

Government Bench: Point of information. Thousands of people are being committed for the selling or buying of illicit gin, and it was by sheer good luck that my hon. Friend from Ibadan *(pointing to Opposition Benches)* escaped punishment. *(Laughter).*

Mr Arowojolu: I would appeal to the Government to aid our people in Okitipupa Division. I would want the Premier and the Ministers to come to our area.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Deputy Speaker: I suppose, at this juncture, we ought to have a break of about ten minutes. I am making an appeal to Members to come back and form a quorum so that we may continue business.

Sitting suspended at 10.03 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 10.18 p.m.

Mr T. E. Elushade (Ife Town South): Mr Speaker, Sir.....

An Opposition Member: Point of order. Order No. 6 (1). I do not think we

have formed a quorum. In addition to Mr Speaker, we must be more than twenty-five.

Mr Deputy Speaker: The Standing Order being quoted by the hon. Gentleman is an old one. We have a new Order, and with the new Order the quorum is twenty-one.

(Government Benches: Shame, shame).

Mr Elushade: Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for an Address of Thanks to be presented to His Excellency the Governor for the Speech from the Throne, ably moved by my learned and hon. Friend, the Government Chief Whip and Member for Egba East Rural. *(Interruptions).* *(Government Bench: Point of correction).* *(Opposition Benches: What correction? You are from the rural district!)*

In supporting this Motion, I have a few remarks to make. It is an admitted fact that the Speech from the Throne is a monarchical Speech delivered to citizens of this Region on the opening of a new Session of Parliament and which, by convention, is unchallengeable and, therefore, must be acceptable to all.

At this juncture, first and foremost, I have to correct the damaging remarks made by my learned and hon. Friend, the Government Chief Whip, about the role of the Voluntary Agencies in the field of education in this country. From the dawn of this century up to a few years ago, when this country was a colonial dependency, the role of the Voluntary Agencies, especially the Missionaries, in promoting Primary, Secondary and Teacher Training education in this country, and especially in this Region, could not be underrated. In this respect, looking through the length and breadth of this Region today, almost everybody who is a leader, either in this honourable House or outside it, is today inwardly grateful to one or the other of these Missionaries as his educational benefactor. I say with all respect that if my honourable and learned Friend is not a product of Voluntary Agency schools, everybody will bear me out that the hon. the Premier of this Region is a product of Missionary schools. Personally I have nothing but good words for them. It will not be correct, therefore, for anyone to say that the Ajayi Commission was set up purposely to check their profiteering proclivities. I disagree. *(Interruptions).*

Austerity Measures.—Austerity measures have been described in the Speech from the Throne as "prosperity through austerity". For upwards of 10 to 11 years, the Action Group Government has consistently asserted that this Region is richer than any other part

[MR ELUSHADE]

of the Federation—first in everything. This was a period when life was more abundant for the few. We now face austerity measures. One is constrained to ask this Government, where is the life more abundant of yesteryears? What has become of the colossal sums of money ranging between 40 to 50 million pounds (£40,000,000 to £50,000,000) inherited from the old Marketing Board. About 7½ per cent of this money was intended for research; 22½ per cent was intended for giving loans to farmers; what becomes of the remaining 70 per cent? It is common knowledge that, up to date, less than £500,000 have been loaned to farmers.

If the Government had foresight, it ought to have seen the red light, at least a year before now the Government was running to the verge of bankruptcy; the Government either did not foresee this or recklessly neglected to heed the warning. As a result, the Region's funds have been totally wasted.

The position of the Government of this Region to these funds is analogous to that of a trustee to a trust fund. In spending this money recklessly the Government has totally failed to exercise what is known in the law of trusts as "*exacta diligentia*", that is, "as much diligence as a prudent man of business would exercise in dealing with his own private affairs".

Everybody in this Region has been lulled into a false sense of economic security. Fantastic allowances have been paid to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries between £840 and £1,000 per annum, apart from mileage allowances which at the rate of 1s 3d per mile could be any amount every month. More Ministers than necessary have been appointed to boost the prestige of the Action Group party without due regard to the economy of the Region. I am at a loss to know the reason why Ministers must be appointed from every Division. The only reason is that the party in power must have a principal organising secretary in every division in the guise of a Minister. Not quite three years ago Her Majesty's first Minister in this Region received as much as £800 per annum, with retrospective effect, for living in his own house. Hues and cry were raised by the Opposition against this move; but the Action Group Government used the big stick of Government majority to silence the Opposition. All these iniquities were perpetrated within a decade of attaining internal self-government.

With due reference to all my hon. and learned Friends in this august Assembly, I say that this is a flagrant breach of trust. If it is not, I stand to be corrected.

In the interest of this community, I say, with all responsibility, that this is a period of national emergency and no sacrifice will be too great to meet the demands of the time. Development plans must be tackled with serious determination; jobs must be provided for our young school leavers roaming about for employment. Last but not the least, this Action Group Government, in spite of her breach of trust, must be saved from bankruptcy.

Universal Primary Education.—Our Universal-Primary Education, termed "Awolowo" is now outmoded and should be scrapped. It is the most inferior type of education in the whole Federation. I cannot see the logic of spending millions of pounds a year on a type of education whose recipients can hardly be able to write their names correctly after a period of six years. How many Ministers send their children to these schools. (*Government Benches: Where?*) This is a subtle attempt by this group of people to constitute themselves into a class.

The Government has copied slavishly the types of education only suitable to highly industrialised countries where semi-illiterates can be employed as artisans and factory hands. As a result of planlessness our educational system is quite unrelated to the needs of the country, and the Government should have the courage to scrap it and adopt a system suitable to our needs.

University of Ife.—Reference has been made to the University of Ife in the Speech from the Throne. Whilst I am very happy that this Institution of higher learning is sited in my town, it appears that the work on the site is being unduly delayed. Up till now, nothing has been paid by way of compensation to the farmers whose crops were destroyed on the site. The hon. Minister of Education will bear me out.

Government General Hospital.—As far back as 1956, the inhabitants of Ife Division have been promised a Government General Hospital. Up till now, the hospital has not been completed and opened for service. Is the reason for this due to lack of drugs or dearth of medical officers? If it is due to the latter, may I suggest to the Government that my cousin on the opposite side, the hon. the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs, can be better usefully employed in that hospital than keeping him among dusty files at Ibadan to arbitrate over chieftaincy disputes?

Mr Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Gentleman's time is up. (*Shouts of "sit down, sit down" from Government Benches*).

Mr Elushade: Then Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr M. A. Fetuga (Ijebu Central East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with those Members who support the Motion to present an Address of thanks to His Excellency Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., Governor of Western Nigeria, for the Speech which was ably delivered to both Houses on the 28th March, 1962.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I regard the Speech as the best of all the Speeches from the Throne throughout the whole Federation of Nigeria. Mr Speaker, I have been privileged to have read Speeches which were delivered by the Governors of other Regions in the Federation of Nigeria, and I have also read that they have all been presented with Addresses of Thanks. Sir, for this reason, I have come to the conclusion that if these Speeches of other Regions were considered for any thanks at all, we in this honourable House must present to Sir Adesoji Aderemi a superfluous and exceptional Address of Thanks.

Mr Speaker, I have wisely gone through last year's Governor's Speech and have discovered that all promises made by the Governor were being covered, and as such I have my hundred per cent belief that the assurance just given at this Budget Session will surely be fulfilled. Mr Speaker, Sir, I will at this juncture remind the Opposition Members of some of the promises made last year by the Government which the Government has since fulfilled. We all now believe that there was intensification of agricultural projects since last year; there were also more educational facilities; there were more hospitals; we have since been given more technical and trade centres throughout the Region; peasants have received help from the Government; and many people from all parts of the Region have been given advances by the Housing Corporation to build houses. From all these, I say, with all sincerity, that the Government of the Western Region, which is controlled by the able party, the Action Group of Nigeria, is the most stable Government in the Federation of Nigeria—(*hear, hear*)—and should be praised for its stability.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it would appear to everybody as most ungrateful on my part and my people if I fail to show our gratitude to the Government for what it has been able to provide for us, such as Ijebu-Ode Electricity

Undertaking, the extension of pipe-borne water, which has definitely cost the Government almost £200,000; the tarring of Erunwon-Isonyin roads; the building of trade centre, dispensaries and maternity centres, and more grants for both the Grammar Schools and Teacher Training Colleges. Mr Speaker, Sir, may I respectfully say that all these are warmly appreciated.

Sir, there are some areas in my constituency which are still in dire need of the Government's help. Some of these areas are lacking in the provision of good roads and some are in dire need of good water. Mr Speaker, I would most respectfully appeal to the Government that since the new water engines which will generate the Yemoji water extension scheme are so powerful so as to supply water to all areas covered by the Ijebu-Ode District Council, the Government should please supply them with water, particularly in Ilese, because it is the policy of the Western Nigeria Government to give life more abundant to everybody. (*Hear, hear*).

Another issue which has been agitating my mind is the shortage of surgical specialists in the service of the Government of the Region. I will say, in the interest of the public, that many patients have died in the hospitals because of unsuccessful operations, whereas if such operations had been carried out by surgeons many of those operated upon might have survived. I would advise that if we cannot have enough of them in Nigeria, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare should go abroad to recruit surgical specialists.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these remarks I respectfully beg to support.

Alhaji A. L. Adenekan (Egba Central II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his speech from the Throne, and to congratulate this Government on the well-thought-out plans for the educational, social and economic development of Western Region.

Sir, the popularity of any good Government depends mostly on the implementation of its promises. In this connection, the Action Group Government of this Region is exemplary and worthy of emulation.

It will be unfair if I forget to point out the recent inclusion of women on the local government councils in this Region. My constituents express their thanks to the Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall ask for your indulgence to pay more tribute to the performances of our Ministers in the Region.

[ALHAJI ADENEKAN]

(*Hear, hear*). I must first of all, congratulate them for their faithful, honest and conscientious services rendered to the tax-payers of this Region.

Much credit has been given to this Government which has continued to enjoy the confidence of the people, because it never loses sight of its stewardship to the electorates.

Mr A. Adisa: Point of order, Sir, Order 27 (1): Members shall not read their speeches. I do not know whether the hon. Member is reading his speech or just refreshing his memory.

Mr Speaker: An hon. Member wanted to know whether the hon. Gentleman was refreshing his memory. I think he was refreshing his memory. (*Shouts of "Shame, shame" from Government Benches*).

Alhaji Adenekan: Mr Speaker, coming to the question of health, I have to register the appreciation of the people of Abeokuta to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare for giving my Division dispensaries, maternity homes and for the completion of the new out-patient block. Mr Speaker, the people of Abeokuta, that historical town, have realised the advantages of medical health services, and I am appealing on behalf of my people to provide Abeokuta with a modern and up-to-date hospital, a radiographer, a radiologist, more medical officers and nurses.

Sir, I beg to report to the Government that there are available acreages of land freely available at Abeokuta for any industry (*Hear, hear*).

With these few observations, I beg to support.

Mr C. O. Olamigoke (Okitipupa North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion for an humble Address to His Excellency, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, Governor of Western Nigeria, for his Speech from the Throne, and in doing so, Sir, I like to make a few remarks.

First and foremost, I should like to mention that my own Division, Okitipupa, has been neglected by the Regional Government. Some of the Members of this honourable House, particularly two hon. Members on the other side, must be ashamed of themselves because one of them ran home the other time to tell his people that the road from Okitipupa to his home-town—Igbekedo which is four times the size of Ikenne would be tarred. As a matter of fact it was in the 1961-62 Estimates and the people were very

happy and they voted him in. Now, up to the present moment, the road has not been tarred. And another hon. Member left this side to the other side on the pretext that he wanted the Shabomi-Igbotu embarkment constructed. The project was in last year's Estimates but nothing was done about it.

I have to commend the efforts of the Government over the impending population census scheduled to take place in May this year. But I want also to advise the Government not to concentrate their attention on big towns alone; they must create more census centres in the rural areas, particularly in areas where means of transport is difficult. It is not too late, Sir, to create more census centres. We all are of the same opinion that accurate census for this Region should be obtained.

Agriculture.—The Farm Settlement scheme is a criminal waste of the Region's revenue. I advise that it should be abolished because it serves no useful purpose. There is only one purpose it serves and that is that it provides jobs for Action Group contractors. (*Interruptions*).

Acquisition of Lands.—I will like the Regional Government to make a better arrangement for the acquisition of lands in this Region. I want to cite an instance. The case of Irele oil plantation owned by the Western Nigeria Development Corporation was a typical one. The sum of £7,000 was given out to be paid to the land owners and for the crops damaged; the Action Group boss there got the money and shared it to the wrong people. (*Interruptions*). It nearly resulted into a civil war amongst them. I want a better arrangement to be made in the future so that such a situation may not arise.

Small Scale Industries.—Small scale industries should be established in rural areas. I am advising the Regional Government to establish small scale industries, but they should not be established at Ikeja or Ijebu as these places are not rural areas. Okitipupa Division deserves special consideration when next small scale industries will be established. I want Government to note this important point.

Education.—I was surprised to hear the other day either from the leader of Action Group in Ibadan or the leader in Lagos when he announced that the result of free primary education was a success. It is not a success. I am advising the Government to extend the free primary education to

[MR OLAMIGOKE]

secondary modern school level. (*Interruptions*). I emphatically say that the free primary education is a woeful failure.

Local Loans Board.—I sympathise with this Government for their scheme of Local Loans Board. There are now a number of debts outstanding to be paid, and worse still a large number of these debts will be written off as bad debt. Somebody mentioned here yesterday that before you were given a loan of £10 about £3 would be received from you as bribe. Instead of giving these loans to young farmers they are given to traders and friends of ministers who will die very soon. The best thing to do is to re-organise your Local Loans Board and people to be appointed as loan members must be people of means and of good character.

Illicit Gin.—Another point is the question of illicit gin. Yesterday an hon. Member suggested to this honourable House that our local gin should be legalised. I will advise the Government to legalise it in order that it will be refined so that it may be fit for consumption as the unrefined one causes a lot of diseases. (*Interruptions*).

Austerity Measures.—Why is it that this Government has chosen to be abnormal in all their doings? It is because of a mad desire to lead almost in everything.

Television—You want to be first in Africa.

Creation of States—You want to be first in Africa.

Nigerianisation—You want to be first in Africa.

Cocoa fraud—You want to be first in Africa.

Oppression of political opponents—You want to be first in Africa.

Deposition of Obas—You want to be first in Africa.

Austerity measures—You want to be first in Africa.
etc., etc.

You have got to make haste slowly in order to be reasonable.

The cut in the salaries of legislators in the Federal Government is just 10 per cent, in the North it is only 10 per cent and the East 10 per cent. Why have you chosen to do something different? You have wasted this Region's revenue, and no amount of austerity will save the Action Group Government in this Region. (*Interruptions*). You

have taken a wrong step; you must follow what other Governments of the Federation are doing. I will, however, like to suggest certain measures for your "austerity". Apart from cutting the Ministers' salaries you should reduce the number of your Ministers. Reduce the number of your Board members too. It is then and only then we shall know that you are sincere over the austerity measures.

Lottery.—The Western Region Government Lottery should be abolished. It wastes people's money. It does no good at all. (*Interruptions*). Tell this House, what use do you make of your gain from the lottery? (*Interruptions*).

Mr F. Osuhor: Point of order. Standing Order 29 (5): Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order! Will the hon. Gentleman please continue.

Mr Olaitan: Point of Order. Standing Order 29 (1): During the sitting all Members shall enter or leave the House with decorum. I do not know whether the hon. Minister of Labour is properly dressed.

Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro: If you consider the advice that the hon. the Minister of Labour is not properly dressed, you may care to ask the hon. Member for Asaba to come to the floor of the House and let us compare who is more properly dressed. (*Applause from Government Benches*).

Mr Olamigoke: Allow me Sir, to commend the efforts of the Western Nigeria Broadcasting Service for their fine programmes. It is always a pleasure to listen to them. Biripo Orchestra from Okitipupa, Sir, should be given a place in their programme. It is a special play from Okitipupa Division. We listeners in Okitipupa Division will be pleased to hear Biripo play on the air.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs (Mr A. O. Akingboye): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the gracious Speech he addressed to both Houses of the Legislature on Wednesday the 28th March, 1962. Before I go on, Sir, I would like to reply to some of the points raised by the hon. Member for Okitipupa North-East.

[MR AKINGBOYE]

I see no reason why I should blame them so much but, all the same, I will blame them because when the Government was making plans for 1960-65, they were not known and they did not know what the Government had in stock for the nation—(Cheers). That is why they are here without consultation with me. (Interruption). They have come to approach the Government with the question of water, electricity, road tarring, etc., but the Minister charged with the responsibility will be able to explain to them later and they will have themselves to blame. Well, this Gentlemen here, was talking of Education. He has forgotten Sir, that Okitipupa—(Interruptions). He wanted to squeeze himself to the family that owns the plantation in a piece of land at Okitipupa North-East Constituency, but he was not allowed and so—(Laughter). (Shame, shame). Well Mr Speaker, Sir, I better leave that Gentleman and carry on with the Address.

The Governor's address shows in a most comprehensive manner the bold and progressive development envisaged for this Region for the next six years.

It is said, Sir, that a prudent heir takes careful inventory of his legacies and gives a faithful account to those whom he owes an obligation of trust. This saying is true of this gracious Speech from His Excellency the Governor of this Region. In the Speech we have got another recital of our blessings and assets. As our Government is determined on making Western Nigeria a first-class welfare state, I think the greatest of our assets is the willingness of our free and determined people through their elected representatives to face all problems frankly, including that of austerity measures, and try to meet all dangers free from fear and panic. (Cheers).

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is interesting to note that the Government, through the Industrial Promotions Commission, will encourage the establishment of new industries with a view to providing employment opportunities for our boys and girls. It is not only an encouragement which normally favours urban towns but the emphasis is on the establishment of viable small rural Industries. The Government therefore is praiseworthy. This will no doubt make for all-round development which will help rural areas develop *pari pasu* with their sister urban areas.

One cannot but shower some encomiums on the Government for the attention paid to Technical Education in this Region. The opening of more Trade Centres will go on a

long way in helping the country to get a good number of technicians and craftsmen who will be of good use to this Region, and I am sure that the Government will not relax in her efforts along this line. Mr Speaker Sir, the Government has made very good progress by way of water supply to urban communities. It is also proper that the schemes for Rural Water Supply should be given a sort of priority.

The Government has got to be congratulated for what it has been able to do in eradicating yaws and leprosy in this Region. A welfare state should be a state of healthy and robust people, and I am happy to say that our Government has fulfilled this. What further evidence do we need to prove a welfare state?

The attempt the Government is making to improve the performance in Customary Courts is also laudable. The translation of the Customary Courts Laws into the vernacular will help Grades "C" and "D" Courts in interpreting correctly the Customary Court Laws, and will consequently bring more justice to the common man.

Mr Speaker Sir, road development and strengthening of bridges undertaken by the Government is simply superb. (Cheers from Government Benches). But may I say here that attention should also be focussed on development of waterways in this Region more than ever before.

At this juncture, I feel I should express the gratitude of the people of Okitipupa South-West Constituency to the Government for the fabulous amount of money it has set aside for the dredging of Mahin-Erunna Creek. It is to the tune of £133,000 and for the money already approved for the tarring of Igbokoda-Okitipupa Road.

Mr Speaker Sir, before I conclude, I have a message for this honourable House, and that is that the people of Okitipupa would very much like the Government to treat Okitipupa Division as the Western Ijaw Division and have it specially developed as the Western Ijaw is being specially developed through the Niger Delta Development Board.

I do hope that the Government will be in sympathy with the views expressed by me and help this part of the Region accordingly.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu Remo North): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor on his Speech from the Throne which was delivered on the 28th ultimo. Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Speech was a recapitulation

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of the achievements of this Government, and also a list of other things which the Government proposed to do for the people of this Region.

The question of welfare schemes, the question of Agriculture, Education and Forestry have been actively handled by the Government. Mr Speaker Sir, I am particularly impressed by the performances of the Government in respect of matters relating to Education, Agriculture, Forestry and Medical facilities which were provided for the people of this Region. But in so far as Agriculture is concerned, I would suggest that Agriculture must be mechanised and at the same time made attractive for our boys and girls on leaving school, either secondary modern school or grammar school. They should be attracted so that they would not swerve to white-collar jobs, and not only that, Agriculture must be mechanised so that we will not have to go on with the usual way of hoeing and tilling the soil in antediluvian ways.

With regard to Forestry, there was a warning given in this honourable House a few years ago by my cousin, the Alaperu of Iperu, that the rate at which timber was being felled in this Region is such that would denude this Region of timber and lead to "Saharanisation" of the Western Region. (*Laughter and Interruptions*). Mr Speaker Sir, this is very serious an affair and needs to be looked into by this Government. It would be a different thing if these timbers were felled and used for local manufactures—that would reduce unemployment too.

I am really very grateful to the Government again for what it has done for this Region in general, and particularly for my own political Division, namely Remo. I am grateful particularly for the High Court which was established at Ijebu-Ode because previously litigants had to go all along from the Waterside and Epe and from other places to Abeokuta for their High Court cases. Now, since Mohammed never moved to mountain, mountain has been made by the Western Region Government to move to Mohammed. Not only that, Sir, it would be a very good idea if Magistrates Courts can be built in so many places in the Region, and we want one at Shagamu, so that, instead of the litigants having to go all along from Shagamu to Ijebu-Ode or from other parts of Remo to Ijebu-Ode to file their papers and pay their fees, it will be a very good idea

if a Magistrate's Court Registry could be created at Shagamu.

Another thing. Mr Speaker Sir, is the improvement of Customary Courts by making lawyers presidents, especially in the Grade B courts. I need not recount to this honourable House the trouble which we have with some of these illiterate Customary Court Judges. They try to do justice according to their lights, but their best is not good enough for us. (*Interruptions*). Now, Sir, I would say that the jurisdiction of customary courts presided over by illiterates should be narrowed down to dealing purely with matters of native law and custom. Intricate points of law should not be handled by illiterate court judges.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would respectfully say that another thing we want in our Division is a catering rest-house which could conveniently be sited at Iperu which is at the heart of the Division. It is important when we think of people from Lagos either travelling to the North or to the East. They have to pass through Iperu. It will be a very good idea if these people have a place where they can retire from labour and have refreshment.

Mr Speaker Sir, there is another thing which agitates the mind of my people and that is the question of the road between Ishara and Ago-Iwoye. Since last year, we were promised by the hon. Minister of Works that this road would be constructed but, up till now, nothing has been done even though the vote is still there. I should be grateful if this Government will do something in that connection to expedite the matter.

Mr Speaker Sir, I will now have to come to certain points which were raised by Members of the Opposition. It appears that they were crying. They have called for the music and it is high time they face the music. The hon. Member for Ikeja South mentioned about four things, namely, the creation of the Midwest State; he said that the Midwest State was not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. I would remind my hon. and learned Friend that there is something which is called "succession of state" in public international law. It is a fact that the Motion was passed in the Western House of Assembly asking that Her Majesty's Government be approached so that constitutional ways be devised to provide for the creation of a Midwest State. No specific demand was made for the creation of the Midwest State. The substance of the Motion is a request for constitutional steps to be taken for this object. May I remind him that that Motion was not approved by the House of Chiefs, so that it will be improper to say that we are bound by

[MR AWOPEJU]

that Motion. This House is not bound by that Motion and, even under International Law too, when I talk about succession of state, we cannot succeed to the liability of the previous regime. The last regime was the regime of hon. Dr Awolowo. Now the present regime is the regime of the hon. Chief S. L. Akintola. Now what was done, which is good, which agrees with our own interest, we can arrogate such to ourselves; as far as others are concerned we shall have to come by what they call a new, clean slate.

Now there was a hitch somewhere when this Motion was moved—(Interruptions)—sometime this year, and it was discovered that they had blundered and fumbled. We do not want to blunder and we do not want to fumble. Not only that; it will be impolitic and suicidal to give anybody a blank cheque for for them to inscribe anything they like on it.

Now at the time you said everybody wanted the creation of Midwest State there were assurances which were demanded by the Leader of Action Group, Dr Awolowo which were not given, and you will not be accessory to our own cause.

Mr J. A. Ajuwon: Point of information: Awolowo is not a doctor, he is a chief.

Mr Speaker: Nsukka University has conferred a doctorate degree on him not long ago.

Mr Awopeju: Mr Speaker Sir, I am very grateful for the enlightenment and education of the Ibadan man.

There is another point which the hon. Member for Ikeja South mentioned and that is the Delumo Report on Cocoa Price Cut. It is unfortunate that the hon. Member, the Leader of Opposition, who with all fanfare in April last year charged this Government with stealing or being privy to the stealing of the sum of £997,000 from the Cocoa Marketing Board's fund discovered that he had given a wrong information to this House and he has never had the courage to own up the mistake and to apologise to this honourable House or to the Government for that matter. I would say, Mr Speaker Sir, that the hon. Member, Fani-Kayode, is such a ruthless youngman who will never hesitate to expose the Government if he has got any evidence that the Government or any Member of the Government stole any mite. Not only that, Sir; the then hon. Minister of Trade and Industry, and now Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, whose portfolio still includes this Marketing Board

business, stated in the Preface to the Commission's Report that nobody could buy cocoa unless he was a licensed buying agent, and there is no evidence to show that any Member of Action Group or any Minister was a licensed buying agent and did buy cocoa and did commit any act of default in connection therewith.

Now Mr Speaker, it is high time that the Government must do something and take stern measures against such fraudulent, false and malicious allegations and charges being made against hon. Ministers of this Region or members of the Government, and members of the Action Group for that matter. It was not only unkindly meant; it was fraudulent and ill-conceived.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to austerity, we have already agreed that we must make some sacrifices. We must make these sacrifices. It is true that some Members of the Opposition contended that the basic allowance should not be removed, and so on and so forth. We have already committed ourselves, and we must give this thing a trial. If it is unworkable, we can say we wish to reconsider the matter. But we are known for one thing in the Action Group: we do not say what we cannot do. Now I would say that it is only in the case of the civil servants that I have some misgivings in the light of the points raised. Now the Western Region has the best brains in the Civil Service. (*Opposition Front Benches: Mention one*). Chief Adebo, Chief Dina and Chief Taiwo. They are all holders of Masters Degrees. Now, we do not want anything which may lead to the exodus of these brilliant men from our Civil Service, so that they are not lured away to either the Federal Government or the Eastern Region for that matter, because the tendency will be for them to snatch these men away from us by giving them more attractive conditions of service. But as far as we legislators are concerned, we must make these sacrifices.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there was somebody who was talking about the question of breach of trust by the Government. May I say that the phrase "breach of trust", of course, is a legal term. There is no evidence of, and they cannot cite any single instance, where Government has committed any breach of trust. The very fact that we use the money as we like—that the Government uses the money as it-likes so long as it uses it in the best interest of the masses, cannot amount to breach of trust. There can only be a breach of trust where the trustee tries to

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profit from the position of his trust, and the hon. Member has not suggested that.

There was the case of the voluntary agencies and teachers. I still regard myself as a missionary. I am minded to include the Muslim missionary bodies among these agencies. They have done their best and, in point of fact, the Premier of this Region is a product of the Missionary Agencies—the Baptist. The former Premier of this Region is the product of the Missionaries, and so are many of our Ministers including the hon. Attorney-General, the most lettered Attorney-General in the Federation of Nigeria.

I must say that, whatever these Missionary Agencies do, we must pity them and encourage them and, in point of fact, without the spirit of the Missionaries, the boys that we trained out will be thorns in our flesh. Now, a Missionary body which does not embody the spirit of his own religion is no Missionary and would be a dangerous friend. I would say that a Christian gentleman who is not religious, or who is not a Missionary, is a caricature of Christ, just as a Muslim body which has not the spirit of Islam is a caricature of the Holy Prophet Mohammed—peace be unto Him.

Now, we talk of a welfare state and socialism. The socialism that we practice in Western Nigeria is evidenced by what we do. The boys we send to school, health facilities, good roads, good water amenities, and so on and so forth—that is what I know and mean by socialism. It means provision of equality of opportunity and good living conditions for all. I do not believe in the type of socialism propounded by Henri Quatre where he prescribed a chicken in the pot of everybody, but I would agree with Bernard Shaw that that prescription is amiable and kindly. That is no socialism.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor of the Western Region of Nigeria for his gracious Speech from the Throne. Well I will speak very briefly on one or two headings as follows.

The so-called austerity or economic measure. I feel that these measures are healthy and necessary and befitting any sovereign nation—Nigeria is one. Now, Sir, it is time we throw away all our colonial laws, regulations, and all sorts of things colonial, and particularly such colonial

heritage that tends to reflect a kind of sub-national stature of ourselves. I will give examples of that. There are certain moves being made now by this Government to change certain provisions of our Laws to make them conform, or to make it possible for the Governor in Council to make it conform to our present status. I am referring to such things like that, but it is my considered opinion that the economic measures or the austerity measures have come too late. They ought to have come a year earlier because the kind of expansions that we envisage, Government could not possibly say that it has only just discovered the difficulties that we have at the moment. (*Government Benches: Why did you not raise a Motion?*). It is not my position to initiate such move. The hon. Premier or his advisers and Ministers are more capable and are better placed to make such a move.

It is also my considered view, Mr Speaker, that the present measures are inadequate: they are inadequate because I feel that Government can properly get more money from other sources—sources such as I would now mention. I feel—

(i) that our Company Law should be revised to reflect our sovereign status.

Well, if we of the Western Region know that such a move will benefit us, why should not our hon. Premier put such a view across to the Prime Minister of the Federation? I agree that it is a Federal subject but what stopped our Premier from doing that. Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government must learn to take corrections.

(ii) that this Government, either on its own, or on its initiative, can bring about a revision of our forest policies, with particular reference of the application of the policy to foreign firms.

It is my considered view that some foreign firms, particularly in the Midwest, are exploiting our forest to the detriment of the indigenous people of the Western Region, and it is my considered opinion that if Government either initiates—

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: Point of Order—Order 27 (9): A Member desiring to speak shall rise in his place. (*Cries of "sit down, sit down" from Opposition Benches*).

Mr Speaker: We have repeated this. This is the third time that I will remind Members that the Opposition Members have reshuffled and have re-arranged their seats. Will the speaker continue?

Mr Rerri: The point I want to raise, Mr Speaker, is that indigenous Nigerian businessmen are not placed to compete successfully with foreign firms in this matter.

(iii) that the proceeds from these austerity measures should be used to subsidise some basic foodstuffs in the Western Region.

My reason for that is this: As a result of the measures which we have taken, which I think is quite proper, certain difficulties are arising, and these difficulties are bound to affect the economies of this Region. I will mention this later on in my speech.

The other point I like to talk about is the question of agricultural productivity. I note with satisfaction that the research programme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources is satisfactory, and indeed it will be difficult for the present Government to find a Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources of equal talent and resources as the one that has just gone—I am referring to Chief Akin Deko. But I do hope that the present holder of the office will do the best to justify the confidence imposed on him by the hon. Premier of this Region.

Now, the other point on that heading is what I want to complain about. The achievements or the results of our research are not being adequately geared to the production of consumer foodstuffs. For instance, if the Ministry does research—if the present research system will be properly geared to production—many of the problems we have today will not arise. Now, let me give an example, Mr Speaker. At the moment, there is a serious shortage of foodstuffs in this country, particularly in this part of the Region: the part of the Region I refer to is the part of the Western Region other than Midwest. The result of that is an acute shortage of foodstuffs that are normally intended for consumption in the Midwest. I am saying this with all seriousness and sincerity. A foodstuff like *gari* is at the moment in very short supply and we now are faced with a difficulty such as was never faced before. For instance, the price of a bag of *gari* is rising from something in the region of £2 to over £4. (*Government Benches: Is that true?*) That is quite true. Now, the purpose of my suggestion, therefore, is that a special branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources should be developed to face the problem of food production. The aim of the Extension Division should be to develop food production with a view to gradually

handing over the machinery of production to indigenous Nigerians. This was what was done in the case of oil mills sometime ago. Government started the development up to a point and gradually handed it over to the indigenous Nigerians. This is being done now with reference to rubber: a small factory is run by Government and, sooner or later, that is to be handed over to a group of villagers. I suggest something along that line in respect of food production. Students of Economics say that when too much money chases too few goods, there is inflation; but a worst situation arises when both money and goods are scarce. Now the result is generally that of starvation, and I am warning this Government that, unless we are careful, we shall be faced with a serious food shortage, and serious shortage of food can result in some kind of unrest.

If the people have no food to eat, will you be sitting very comfortably here this night? (*A Member of the Government: Nor would you be here!*). Yes, I know, I will not be here speaking to you. (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, I agree that if there is unrest arising from starvation or food shortage, I will not be in this honourable House, and the hon. the Leader of the House cannot be here either. (*Chief Odebiyi: If you can only confine yourself to eating once, you will not feel it*). For your information (*pointing to Chief Odebiyi*) I only eat once or twice a day instead of thrice. (*Interruptions*).

I would like to raise the question of administration: Local Government Administration in the Western Region. The Action Group Government has deliberately allowed members of its party to use the Local Government Police to oppress most political opponents and I must say, in defence, however, that some of these policemen do not initiate these things; but the use to which your agents in the Action Group put them, I am afraid, is very horrible. This is true of the way some Councils are being treated in the Midwest. The trouble is that the advice of Local Government Advisers—experts in their own particular field—is never heeded. We know this. It surprises us to see semi-illiterate or even illiterate Council authorities challenging the authority or the expert advice of men who have not only graduated in Local Government but are also experts in their own right. The result is that both the Government's and the Council's finances and programmes have been thrown into chaos. Local Government staff in many Divisions have not been paid for months. In Western Urhobo, many of the Local Council workers have not been

[MR RERRI]

paid for upwards of three to six months. You should thank the Assistant Commissioner of Police for the help he gave me in helping the Council in Western Urhobo to collect its rates quite recently. I also like to mention what your Government—this Government—has done with regards to the treatment it gave members of my party in Ndosimili and now in Central Urhobo. Now that action should be stopped. If you do not stop it now, sooner or later you will stop it, by the grace of God.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will speak now on Education. Our education has tended to be a one-sided affair. The tendency seems to be for the mass production of academicians. I am most happy to note from His Excellency's Speech from the Throne that, henceforth, more emphasis would be laid on Technical Education. (*Chief Odebiyi: We prepared the Speech for the Governor*). Yes, that is why you have put his feet down. In any case, he has said that Technical Education would now receive more attention. (*Interruptions*). I will not speak on the other side of technical education. I have spoken to the hon. Minister of Education and he has given a satisfactory explanation.

Finally, I would like to speak on the question of the Midwest State. Now, it is most embarrassing that when His Excellency made his most gracious Speech, there was no mention about the creation of the Midwest State. It is regretted that no such move was made, nor did the Action Group Government ever make any attempt to discuss it. We as Members of the Government—yes, Opposition is also a part of the Government of the Region—are entitled to know more about this State than any other issue. Mr Speaker, it is a very serious omission that His Excellency did not include that; perhaps His Excellency is not to blame. The Leader of the House has said that the Speech was drafted for the Governor and the omission of the hon. Premier and the hon. the Leader of the House to make the terms of this clear to this House is deliberate. We of the Opposition demand that the Leader of the House should let us know why this question was not included in the Speech. Now, the creation of the Midwest is something over which all of us are yearning.

Finally, very finally, Sir, I would like to mention, Sir, that the Midwest area has been neglected; no industrial schemes have been sited in the Midwest. We have been told that a number of village or rural or cottage industries like pottery would be set up in the

Region. Pottery is a very important local industry in the Midwest. This Government has done nothing to encourage it. Fishing is also another important industry, particularly in some watery portions of the Western Region. The Government should also consider the possibility of legalising the distilling of "illicit gin", as it is called. There is also the question of boat and canoe industry. Mr Speaker, Sir, these are still being made in the way our great, great grandfathers made them. It is great shame on the Government. (*Interruptions*). It is because this Government has not given any substantial encouragement to the poor persons in the area that these industries have not been developed. I am saying this, that if Government gives substantial encouragement to that industry—boat and canoe industry—it will be amply developed in that area.

There should be a bicycle tube and tyre industry in the Midwest. This also should receive immediate attention by Government. I appeal to the Government to establish a tyre and tube factory in the Midwest instead of depending on overseas markets. We have the necessary raw material and we can do very well if we are encouraged.

Every person in this country—in the Midwest no doubt—knows that *gari* is our staple food and, if the development of our foodstuffs is to take priority over other similar things, *gari*, Sir, should be one of the important foodstuffs that should attract our attention. I suggest that a *gari* industry be established so that many of us can get more of it. Not only that; this will enable us to get it at cheaper rate.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must thank you for the indulgence in allowing me to finish my very short speech.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support. (*Applause*).

Mr M. A. Idodo (Afenmai South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I seize this opportunity to congratulate this able Action Group Government of this Region for its non-discriminatory policy of supplying amenities to the people of this Region. Before I continue, Sir, I must on behalf of the Midwesterners, express my gratitude to the wise and far-sighted Government of the West for the effort it had made in restoring peace and order in this Region, especially in the Midwest area, where lawlessness was once enthroned by the NCNC.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Western Region Government is pursuing vigorously its policy of providing pipe-borne water in urban areas

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Mr Speaker, Sir, the Western Region Government is pursuing vigorously its policy of providing pipe-borne water in urban areas

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and to construct rural water supply. I have to express my humble gratitude to the Minister of Works and Transport for the initiation of this scheme in parts of Afenmai Division and to pray him through this honourable House to make provision for a powerful pump engine for the boreholes in Fugar, Ogbona and Agenebode, where water had been struck.

It is my pleasure to bring to the knowledge of this honourable House that it has been the determination of this Government to give maximum encouragement to foreign investors as to the establishment of new industrial estates in this Region. I would like to mention that investigation and survey work has been conducted at Ukpilla, a town in Afenmai Division, and that it was discovered to be the best place for cement production. Mr Speaker, Sir, the exploitation of our mineral resources is of great importance.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a proposal has long been made for the development of technical education in the Midwest area. Last year, I noticed that some experts came to parts of Afenmai Division and Auchi in search of a site. Mr Speaker, Sir, the people of Afenmai will be highly grateful for the implementation of this proposal at an early date.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have noticed that the Government's road development programme, 1960-65, is almost completed. In connection with this, I have to draw the attention of this honourable House to the Auchi-Agenebode road in Afenmai Division, only seven miles of which have been tarred, even though the work started in 1959 and the mileage is thirty-three. It is my humble submission that more attention be paid to the tarring of this road to ensure that the benefit of this programme reaches every inhabitant of these towns. It will also be highly commendable if the widening and upgrading to Provincial "A" status of the following roads is done without delay:

Auchi-Ukpilla road;

Jettu-Fugar road;

Agbede-Idegun Alibete road.

Mr Speaker, Sir, having the full knowledge that the Government of this Region is noted for its quick action, I have no doubt that leaders of this Government who, knowing too well that the existence of one General Hospital at Auchi is insufficient to cater for the people of Afenmai Division owing to its vast area, promised a second hospital to be built at Agenebode, will at no distant date implement the proposal.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to call upon Members of this great House, both Government and Opposition, to agree with me that the Western Government needs to be praised for its provision for the participation of our female members in Local Government Councils.

Since it has been the policy of this Government to establish more agricultural industries in the Region, I have to point out that Agenebode is the only suitable place for rice production. I humbly pray the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, through this honourable House to consider the advisability of re-opening the rice industry at Agenebode. This project which was begun in 1955 was abandoned due to the death of the officer in charge of the investigation team.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor, for the brilliant and epoch-making Speech he has made from the Throne. The Speech as a whole was truly great and was impressively rendered. It is designed to usher in a year of greater blessings and prosperity in a Region whose extraordinary good fortune has successively and progressively proclaimed itself as being yet unbeaten, unparalled and unequalled in Tropical Africa. I do not expect that the situation can be otherwise, for the Region has the good fortune of being under the wise leadership and Government of the great party—the Action Group of Nigeria.

The people of this Region should be grateful to God for the brilliant catalogue of further prosperity so ably unfolded in the course of His Excellency's Speech. The following points are well worth mentioning.

This Government, in co-operation with other Governments of the Federation, is embarking on a population census designed to afford a statistical basis for the economical emancipation of this country. All hon. Members on both sides of this House should co-operate with the Government in making this laudable project a success.

The Action Group has gone far during the ten years in which it has been entrusted with the reins of government towards transforming this Region into a Welfare State, a model for all to see, and the eternal pace-setter for all other Governments in the Federation. The new projects set out in the Governor's

[CHIEF EKWEJUNOR-ETCHIE]

Speech from the Throne bring us much nearer to the noble end when they come into full operation.

Agricultural Department.—Agriculture, we all agree, is the mainstay of the economy of this Region. This Government has won the praise of the civilised world in its efforts to expand its agriculture throughout the length and breadth of this Region. Farm settlements have been evenly spread all over the Region.

Farm Institutes have been established at suitable points in the Region. In consequence, prospects for employment in this Region are higher than they are elsewhere in the Federation. By the establishment of these institutions the Government has afforded to school leavers the opportunity of going back to the land and making good by honest sweat. The situation in an adjacent Region is worth mentioning at this juncture. There, the teeming millions of unemployed are being fed on empty promises of establishment of farm settlements—promises which are not destined to materialise before doomsday. In passing, I may here exhort all Members of this honourable Legislature to take the lead in commending farming to our people. Farming in economic crops, as well as in food crops, will not only improve our economy appreciably but will also improve our standard of living and diet.

Community Development.—Democratic institutions are the bulwark of progress and economic stability. This Government is taking the lead in fostering and encouraging the prevalence of such institutions throughout the Region. The principle of self-help can advance us very far in the bid to provide the necessities in our towns and villages. The bold steps of our Government in this direction deserve to be commended. The Government co-operates with communities in towns and villages to provide public buildings, playgrounds, parks, markets and other such erections and necessities which they would otherwise lack.

Protection of Forest Reserves.—Events in other parts of the World are pointers to the tendency for Governments to doze away while their forest resources are indiscriminately liquidated. In this respect our Government has demonstrated abundant good sense and impressive foresight only characteristic of our able and dynamic party the Action Group of Nigeria. The Government is not going to rest on its oars but is decided to review the prevailing forest policy

in order to maintain the security of the forest estates situated in various areas in the Region and obtain maximum yield from them. Hon. Members, you should all join with me in giving the Government a very big hand.

Establishment of Industries.—It goes without saying that the Western Region Government is foremost in the bid to establish industries throughout the Region. The Industrial Promotions Commission, which has ably put in dynamic efforts towards the establishment of these industries, is further committed in the ensuing year towards establishing new industries. The Government in order to be fair to all sections of the community is now examining the possibility of distributing industrial establishments evenly throughout the Region and not concentrating them in certain areas which have been regarded by Industrialists as being particularly suitable.

Retail Trade.—One of the major problems of our traders today is the competition with bigger commercial firms in the field of retail trade. It is a matter for relief that the Government of Western Nigeria has taken the initiative with the co-operation of the other Governments of the Federation to put a stop to the unequal contest and secure for Nigerian traders greater participation in this field of our Nation's commercial life.

Education Development.—In the field of education Western Nigeria is indisputably far in advance of the rest of the Federation. In this particular respect, and in most others, our Government has taken the lead and continues to set the pace. I need to just mention a few of our magnificent achievements in this field—Free primary education, Establishment of Secondary Grammar and Modern Schools in all nooks and corners of the Region, establishment of an efficient inspectorate machinery and finally, the establishment of the great University of Ife. This Government has determined to go much further still in its Teacher Training programme.

Provision of Social Amenities.—In other fields, the Government has proved convincingly its capacity to manage the affairs of this Region successfully and provide amenities for all. The Action Group Party slogan of "Freedom for All and Life more Abundant" is impressively put in effect in the determined way whereby pipe-borne water is being provided in urban centres and villages throughout the Region. I make bold to say emphatically that the quantity of clean good water supplied to the lucky citizens of this Region is at least five times as much as is provided in any other Region. Development

[CHIEF EKWEJUNOR-ETCHIE]

of public health and medical facilities is being pursued with the proverbial Action Group determination and consistency. With the welfare of the common man as our aim, we shall leave no stone unturned until the ordinary citizens of this Region can be given the facility of enjoying health and medical facilities which are favourably comparable with conditions prevailing in civilised countries. In this connection again, I make bold to say that Western Nigeria stands head and shoulders above any other Government in the Federation.

Local Government.—In the field of Local Government the Regional Government is in the fore-front. In this respect I must congratulate most of our councils for the efficient way in which they have been tackling their responsibilities. The Local Government Service Board has been doing highly efficient work in its supervision over Customary Courts and Local Government staff throughout the Region.

The efforts of the Government towards improving the standards of Customary Courts deserve to be further commended. The Presidents and members, who have been appointed by an impartial and independent body, unlike the system of appointment by the Minister as in another Region, have demonstrated the democratic spirit of this Government. It is hoped that the training courses which are being projected by the Regional Government will further improve the standard of their performances. The Customary Courts have established the fact of how indispensable and necessary they are in the scheme of justice in this Region.

Efficiency of the Legal Department.—At this juncture I must congratulate the Legal Department of our Ministry of Justice for the efficient way they have been advising the Government in legal matters. Hon. Members will in retrospect conclude that no bungling has ever occurred on the part of this

apartment as has repeatedly been the case with its counterpart in another Government of the Federation.

Local Government Police.—The Local Government Police are no less deserving of praise. Their efficiency in the Region has become proverbial. In crime detection they have demonstrated their impressive tact, resourcefulness and versatility. In no way can they be regarded as being inferior to their counterparts in the Nigeria Police Force.

Fire Services.—The Western Nigeria Government has really deserved the thanks of the whole Region for its establishment of fire fighting services and for the decision to create fire fighting posts in urban and commercial areas outside Ibadan. This move will serve to protect invaluable properties from destruction by fire.

Ministry of Midwest Affairs.—People from the Midwest area will no doubt be grateful for the responsibilities recently assigned to the Minister charged with Midwest Affairs. In this way the needs of this area in regard to local government, chieftaincy affairs and land tenure are assigned to the Portfolio of a Minister already fully conversant with the area. This arrangement which is parallel and analogous to the appointment of a Secretary of State for Scottish Affairs in the British Government will no doubt mark another milestone in the record of this Government to cater for the interest of minorities in the Region.

Further Debate stood adjourned till Thursday, 5th April, 1962.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed That the House do now adjourn.—(Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.27 a.m. until 10.00 a.m. this morning.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 5TH APRIL, 1962

The House met at 10.20 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Water Supply for Aiyede

11/42. Mr S. A. Akerele asked the Minister of Works and Transport to state why the Aiyede Water Scheme has not been commenced.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Transport (Mr A. Ajibola): Only the actual construction of the Aiyede Water Scheme has not yet started. Its planning, investigation and designs are in hand.

Extension of Oye Water Scheme to Egosi, Esheta and Arigidi

11/43. Mr S. A. Akerele asked the Minister of Works and Transport to state why the proposed extension of Oye Water Scheme to Egosi, Esheta and Arigidi has not been implemented.

Mr Ajibola: Investigation to find a more copious supply of water to feed Oye, etc., has been going on since last year. We have now succeeded in finding a good source and it is hoped that work will be completed during the next financial year (1962-63).

Mr A. E. E. Atohengbe: I wish to know when the Uhumuwonde District and Igbanke in Akugbe District both of Benin North-East constituency will be supplied with pipe-borne water.

Mr Ajibola: I need a notice of that question.

Proposed Water Scheme for Ire Ekiti

11/44. Mr S. A. Akerele asked the Minister of Works and Transport to state when the proposed Water Scheme for Ire Ekiti will be implemented.

Mr Ajibola: The proposed Water Scheme for Ire Ekiti is included in the current Development Programme. It is hoped that the scheme will be implemented sometime during this period.

Effon Water Scheme

11/46. Mr R. O. Areola asked the Minister of Works and Transport when the Effon Water Scheme *vis-à-vis* Ilesha scheme will be carried out.

Mr Ajibola: It is hoped that the Effon Water Supply Scheme would be completed during the 1962-63 financial year.

Construction of Imesi-Ile and Oke-Mesi Roads

11/47. Mr R. O. Areola asked the Minister of Works and Transport when the road connecting Imesi-Ile with Oke-Mesi will be constructed.

Mr Ajibola: Active consideration is being given to the construction of this road.

Mr A. E. E. Atohengbe: May I please know when the Igmile road connecting Ehor on the Benin-Ishan Trunk B road and Uhiere on Ibadan-Benin Trunk A road will be taken over by the Government and tarred.

Mr Ajibola: I require notice of that question.

Tarring of Roads

11/48. Mr R. O. Areola asked the Minister of Works and Transport when the following roads will be tarred:—

- (a) Ikole-Ijesha Isu, etc.;
- (b) Ikole-Ara-Isinbode;
- (c) Ijero-Ikoro-Okemisi;
- (d) Okemesi-Awure;
- (e) Igbara Odo-Igbara Oke.

Mr Ajibola: Consideration will be given to the tarring of these roads and other roads in the next road development programme.

Tarring of Igboho-Igbetti and Shaki-Aha Roads

11/58. Mr O. O. Gbolahan asked the Minister of Works and Transport to state when the tarring of the Igboho-Igbetti road and Shaki-Aha road will be carried out.

Mr Ajibola: The tarring of these roads by the Regional Government will be considered along with the tarring of other roads in their order of importance when the time comes.

Water Supply for Towns in Oyo North-West I Constituency

11/61. Mr O. O. Gbolahan asked the Minister of Works and Transport to state when Igboho, Kishi, Igbetti, Sepeteri, Aha,

Offiki and other towns in Oyo North-West I Constituency will be provided with adequate water supply.

Mr Ajibola: Igbetti will be provided with water supply. Design work is completed and materials are arriving on site. Construction work will soon start. The other towns mentioned are under consideration.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Veterinary Control Posts

11/30. **Mr V. I. Amadasun** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources to state the total number of cattle and sheep that passed through the Veterinary Control Posts during the year 1959-60.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye): The following figures indicate the total number of cattle and sheep that passed through the Veterinary Control Posts during the year 1959-60.

Cattle	...	...	...	127,919
Sheep	...	...	...	43,189
Goats	...	...	...	9,630

Dried Meat

11/31. **Mr V. I. Amadasun** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources to state, in tonnage, the amount of dried meat imported into Ibadan and Benin in 1958-59.

Alhaji Opaleye: Figures of imports are not analysed Region by Region. It is therefore not possible to give the amount of dried meat imported into specific towns in the Region. The estimate of the amount of dried meat imported into Ibadan annually is three thousand tons. No estimate is available in the case of Benin.

EDUCATION

School's Vacation

11/53. **Mr O. Fashola** asked the Minister of Education to state why is it that both the Primary and the Secondary Schools vacate and resume on the same dates.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr R. A. Olusa): Both the Ashby Commission and the Banjo Commission have stressed the need for a large programme of in-service training for teachers

and have recommended that a period of long vacation for all schools should be arranged for a part of the year. This period of vacation would be used for organising in-service training, refresher courses and conferences designed to improve the standard of work of teachers at all institutions. Government has accepted this recommendation and arrangements have, therefore, been made for a period of vacation during which all primary and secondary schools and Grades II and III training colleges are closed. This is only possible by the application of a common calendar to all these institutions.

Although most of the courses for in-service training are arranged for the 24,000 untrained primary school teachers, other courses and conferences are organised for members of the Inspectorate, for teachers in secondary schools and teacher training colleges. In many cases the teachers in the higher institutions are also recruited to teach in the courses organised for the primary school teachers. It is, therefore, an essential part of our educational effort that the period of vacation should be the same for all these institutions. Moreover we require the services of experts from the United Kingdom for some of the courses and the long vacation for our schools is arranged to fall when the experts from the United Kingdom are available and the local university buildings are available to accommodate teachers.

School Meals

11/54. **Mr O. Fashola** asked the Minister of Education to state whether or not he is aware of the fact that some schools in the Region usually request their pupils to pay food fee in advance.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education (Mr J. O. Oye): The practice of schools making arrangement for the provision of mid-morning refreshment and/or lunch for their students is supported by my Ministry. This is necessary to ensure that each child has at least one good and regular meal a day. It is not unusual for many children to go to school with little or no breakfast and my hon. Friend will agree with me that a hungry child cannot benefit much from school instruction. The organisation of school meals is not only expected to provide school children with food but also to teach them good eating habits. While many primary schools have found it quite sufficient to invite food sellers to bring their wares to the school during break and the children to go to them to purchase whatever they need,

[MR OYE]

many grammar schools have found it necessary to use the operation as a means of organising communal living and eating. To help effective planning menus featuring balanced diet have had to be prepared well in advance. Also tables require to be properly laid prior to the serving of meals to give children the opportunity of sitting and eating decently at table. To make such an arrangement work, quite a number of schools have found it necessary to make charges for food in advance so that they may know how many of their students would be requiring the services they plan to provide. Charges for food, are, however, expected to be self-balancing and to be separately accounted for and not lumped with any other fees which children have to pay such as for their tuition.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Assessment Committees

11/40. **Mr J. O. Abioshun** asked the Minister of Local Government to state why Opposition Members are generally excluded from rates Assessment Committees in view of the fact that both parties enjoy the confidence of their electorates.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): It is not correct to say that Opposition Members are generally excluded from Assessment Committees. Many of the Committees approved by me during the last five or six months have included Opposition Members whose names were suggested to me either by their own party or by the Local Government Councils themselves. In some cases, it had not been possible to include Opposition Members, and the reason for this was always made known to the Council concerned. Sometimes it was because names were received too late or that members of the Opposition supplied two sets of names to represent two factions of the same party, or that the names suggested were those of persons who were tax defaulters. Whenever such was the situation, I was prepared to allow a one-party committee to carry on rather than delay the work of assessment for the year.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Industries

11/56. **Mr O. O. Gbolahan** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry to state whether the Regional Government has any plan to site any industrial projects in Shaki

and Irepo District Council Areas in order to raise the standard of living of the inhabitants of these areas.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr K. S. Y. Momoh): The Government is anxious to ensure that in the development of the Region, rural areas are given adequate attention, because in the final analysis these areas form the back-bone of the Region's economy. The Government proposes to launch an integrated rural development scheme, which is intended to bring directly to many rural areas of the Region a higher standard of living. This scheme takes a prominent place in the 1962-63 Development Plan.

The integrated scheme covers agricultural as well as rural industrial development. In the industrial field, my Ministry is working in conjunction with other Ministries on two programmes directed towards bringing industrial development to the rural areas.

First, it is proposed to establish industrial estates in various centres of the Region to which every effort will be made to attract suitable industries, and which would bring industrial amenities closer to the people. Such industrial estates have been established at Ikeja and Mushin, and several others are proposed for other centres throughout the Region. Investigation and surveys are being conducted to determine suitable centres for these proposed additional industrial estates.

Secondly, under the auspices of the American Agency for International Development, the Government has procured the services of Arthur D. Little Incorporated, a well-known specialist American firm in economic development, to carry out a comprehensive survey of the industrial potentialities of the rural areas of the Region and to advise Government on suitable small scale and cottage industries to be established in each area. The members of the survey team are already here and arrangements are being made for them to start their work without delay. When the survey is completed, it is hoped that the Scheme will benefit many rural areas, including Shaki and Irepo District Council Areas.

Industrialisation

11/63. **Mr J. O. Abioshun** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry to state whether, in view of the establishment of industrial projects all over the Western Region the Regional Government has any plans to industrialise Iwo and the nearby Districts:

Mr K. S. Y. Momoh: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Member to the reply just given to the last question.

Mr C. O. Olamigoke: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Minister of Trade and Industry to mention places in this Region regarded as rural areas where these new industries would be established.

Mr Momoh: Mr Speaker, Sir, at least I know that his area is one of them. (*Laughter*).

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Leader of the House and Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m. if necessary.

Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES (AMENDMENT) BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Government Lotteries Law. The Bill seeks, *inter alia*, to make it possible for lotteries draws to be held monthly rather than bi-monthly, as is the case at present.

Under the existing system of lottery which was introduced in the Region about seven years ago, applications are sold to members of the public prior to the issue of lottery tickets to them. Subscribers are required to fill in some particulars, such as their names and addresses, before their applications are forwarded to the office of the Principal Lotteries Officer for processing. Thereafter, official tickets, written out by clerks specially employed for the purpose, are then forwarded to the subscribers.

Experience has shown that the processes involved before official ticket can be issued to subscribers impose a limit both on the number of draws which can be held in a year and on the amount of revenue which can accrue to Government from this source. It is therefore proposed to introduce a new system of lottery which would involve the

sale of official tickets to members of the public in one final transaction.

Hon. Members would like to know that the proposed lottery system has been tried in other parts of the world, such as in Malaya, where it has proved more efficient than the system now in operation in this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Oba C. D. Akran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr D. E. Okumagba (Warri East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment. Considering the poor presentation of the amendment itself, it is not easy to see very clearly the necessity for the changes. However, I see in the objects and reasons of the amendment that the purpose of this amendment is to abolish the present system whereby tickets in respect of Government lotteries have to be purchased by means of applications containing, among other particulars, the names and addresses of the subscribers on purchasing their tickets. There will be no necessity for forwarding particulars as to the names of the subscribers from the official Headquarters. I think, Mr Speaker, Sir, that this system will be open to fraud and, compared with the old system, there is nothing to recommend it.

In the old system, subscribers get their tickets and, when the draws are made, the names of the winners, together with the number of winners, are published, and people get to know that the winners are such and such, and from such and such places. I think that the old system inspires confidence in people who buy the tickets; but the present system will only require subscribers to buy the tickets and only wait to be told that the winners are numbers *so, so, and so*. I think this is not good enough, and if the only reason for introducing the amendment is to increase the number of draws in a month so as to make increased revenue, the Government ought to have considered that in introducing the amendment arrangements should be made so that those who buy the tickets will feel that justice is being done. Justice should not only be done but should appear to, be done also.

I seize this opportunity, Mr Speaker, to condemn betting or any lottery of any form in this country. I know our people. Nigerians are very money-conscious. If you look through schools and offices, you will find people getting so interested in lotteries,

[MR. OKUMAGBA]

wasting time filling coupons, and all the rest of it. I think the only reason for introducing any law legalising betting of any form in Nigeria I consider good is to prevent our money flowing outside the country. Apart from that I do not think there is any necessity legalising or giving Government support to betting of any form. If this is to be done to prevent our money flowing outside the country, I recommend to Government that it should be done in a way which will inspire confidence in the people. So, the mover of this Bill should give us an assurance that arrangements will be made so that all people who buy tickets will be satisfied that justice is done and that the only necessity for changing the old system is to increase revenue.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, quite frankly I cannot understand the basis of the argument of the only Member of the Opposition who has spoken against this Bill. The point which he has made does not in any way help the objectives which are intended to be achieved under the amendment proposed in this Bill. For instance, he made the point that, in principle, he was opposed to any form of betting or gambling taking place in any part of the country. I agree, Sir, but surely, if people have certain susceptibilities, what we should do is to divert those susceptibilities into good channels. We have good men and bad men. You cannot say that because you want good men to exist in Nigeria, therefore you will not make a law to regulate the conduct of bad men.

One of the reasons why the lottery was ever initiated here at all was because people were indulging in this kind of thing, and it was felt that if the proceeds were directed to humanitarian purposes, then something good would have come out of something bad. As a result of that, Sir, a large number of dispensaries and tuberculosis clinics have been established from the proceeds of the lotteries fund.

The other point which the hon. Member made is that the old system which we seek to amend here seems to be better than the present one. I think, Sir, that it is better that people should have their ticket numbers only, instead of their names being included, because it is possible, when the draw is being held, for people to see the names of some particular persons they know. Therefore, if numbers are made on the tickets it will make them fraud-proof. It seems to me that the hon. Member's knowledge is limited to the

knowledge that he himself is not a lottery staker; I am not a lottery staker myself. We can only do what the experts tell us.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to the Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

COMMUNAL LAND RIGHTS (VESTING IN TRUSTEES) (AMENDMENT) BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Chief J. O. Adigun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Communal Land Rights (Vesting in Trustees) Law.

Mr Speaker, as Members will remember, when His Excellency delivered His Speech from the Throne he mentioned that certain duties are now assigned to the Minister of Midwest Affairs. One of these duties is in respect of land tenure and this particular Bill is designed to confer on the Minister of Midwest Affairs duties in respect of communal land rights. I do not think there is any cause for long debate on this Bill.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

Oba C. D. Akran: I beg to second.

Several hon. Members rose—

Mr Speaker: When I stand, nobody stands. *(Laughter).*

Question proposed.

Mr V. I. Amadasun (Benin West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, rightly, as the Mover of the Second Reading of this Bill has said, the Bill is indeed non-controversial, but the fact that there is no controversy about it does not make it impervious to the Opposition's criticism.

Now, Mr Speaker Sir, I have said before that this very gesture of the Regional Government is one of the best things they have ever done—that is, by transferring the responsibilities in respect of communal lands in the Midwest to a Midwesterner. I congratulate

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[MR AMADASUN]

them. (*Cheers*). But this also is a testimony of the fact that the agitation for self-determination in the Midwest is a genuine agitation. (*Interruptions*).

Now, Mr Speaker Sir, I am in this House telling the Ministers on the other side that communal lands in the Midwest vary from place to place, and the customs or the tradition governing all these lands also vary. Now, Sir, in the original Law there is a section which says that, before these powers are exercised by the Minister to whom responsibility for communal lands is assigned, there should be an enquiry. That is very good; because without an enquiry, if you want to make politics out of communal lands, there would be a lot of bloodshed. You know of many other Regions where heads of people were flying in the air because of trouble over lands. I pray that this will not happen in this Region.

Mr Speaker Sir, I remember that on 28th July, 1958, the former Minister of Lands and Labour, then the hon. J. O. Osuntckun, instituted an enquiry. The Commissioner was Mr P. C. Lloyds. All parties in Benin—the Action Group, the NCNC, the NPC, and the traditional members—(*Government Bench: Any NPC in Benin?*)—gave evidence, and then all of them were unanimous in saying that, according to Benin tradition, the Oba of Benin, Akenzua II, is the traditional sole trustee over Benin lands. But according to our information (I do not know whether my information is correct or not) it appears, Sir, that some Action Group chiefs in Benin City are angling to be co-trustees with the Oba of Benin. This is diametrically against our tradition. But I thank God that hon. J. E. Otobo, to whom this responsibility has been assigned, is a very good, honest Midwesterner, and I am sure he will make enquiries before the application of these sections to any communal land in the Midwest is made.

Mr Speaker Sir, with this very brief explanation, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr D. E. Okumagba (Warri East): Mr Speaker Sir, I regard this as a very good opportunity afforded me to force the Minister of Lands to hear what the people of Warri have against him. I have made several attempts in this House to get the House to hear the complaints of Warri people through me, but each time I do it there is always a clever manoeuvre to prevent me from discussing the matter on the floor of this House.

I seize this opportunity, Mr Speaker Sir, to disclose the abuse of power that has been

delegated to the trustees all over the Region; and you will see that, as I now speak, the Minister from the Midwest, from Warri Division, is now sitting by the Minister of Lands and Housing. I remember that when I gave notice to speak on the Adjournment Motion on this matter it was he who made it impossible for the House to have a quorum, so that I might not be heard. (*Interruptions*). Even as soon as he saw that I was about to speak, he left his seat at the far end of the front bench to sit by the Minister of Lands and Housing to continue the secret misrepresentation of facts to the Minister.

Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie: Mr Speaker Sir, I would take objection.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Speaker Sir, he should first of all explain why he left his seat. (*Prolonged Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman has got no right to impute improper motives on another Member of the House. And, secondly, all the front benchers on the Government could sit anywhere they like in the front bench because they have collective responsibility. Will the Member withdraw the improper motive on the hon. Gentleman?

Mr Okumagba: I withdraw. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Speaker Sir, it is true that power is being abused. In Warri, everything is being done by the trustees to get as much money as possible from the former crown lessees. I have here in my possession one of the types of letters written to former crown lessees by the trustees in Warri which I will now read to the House, with the permission of the Speaker. This letter was addressed to one Mr Obodo Okorokporo of 2 Urhobo Road, Alder's Town, Warri. It reads:

"Sir,
Expired Deed of Assignment

I have to inform you that your deed of assignment dated the 22nd day of February, 1936 expired on the 4th of July, 1957. From your application form for extended lease dated 16th April, 1959, it is observed that you have applied for a regrant. The trustees will be willing to consider a regrant to you in respect of this plot, upon the payment of the following fees:—

	£	s	d
New ground rent	14	0	0
Balance of deed fee	0	5	0
Registration and stamping ...	3	0	0
2s 6d adhesive stamp for counterpart	0	2	6
Total	£	17	7 6

[MR OKUMAGBA]

2. The regrant also is subject to the fulfilment of the building covenant contained in the original deed of lease dated the 5th day of July 1927 and registered as No. 28 at page 28 in volume 215, Lagos.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,
Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees".

But here is a receipt which shows that the rent for the former year was £6. They have now increased the rent from £6 to £14. This is the letter.

I asked a question in this House last Session and the Minister of Lands replied that there would be no stamp duties or registration fees to be paid in respect of deeds submitted for registration and stamping by the trustees. The question was answered on the floor of this House. But here is a reply sent to one of the lessees notifying him that he would have to pay £3 in respect of a deed as registration and stamp duty fees; whereas the Government has arranged to stamp and register these deeds free of charge. That was the information given to this House as a result of a question asked by me and which was answered by the Minister of Lands. I know that the purpose of the Law was not to get more money, not to enable the trustees to swindle or get money from lessees in a very dishonourable manner. So I seize this opportunity to reveal to the Minister that it was not his intention that this power should be used as is now being done. I am happy to give you this information.

As proof to the House that the people from my constituency have for some time been complaining to the Minister without any sign that the Minister is considering their case, on the 6th of April, 1960, all the former Crown lessees in Warri forwarded a petition to the Minister. They got a reply saying that the matter was being considered. Up till this moment, no action has been taken.

So I am very happy that it is possible for me to reveal to the House and the general public that the purpose of the Law is not to enable a group of people to get money in a very unfair way from the public; if the Government is satisfied that this is not the original intention of the law, the Minister of Lands and Housing should take the proper action.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the Amendment.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West I): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support the Bill. But in supporting the Bill I would like to make a few points.

The first is that I remember that the present Communal Land Rights (Vesting in Trustees) (Amendment) Law was enacted in February 1958, and, shortly after the enactment, Government caused circulars to be sent to very many members of the Warri community. The gist of the circular is to the effect that Government is not going to work any hardship on anyone and that the effect of the transfer is simple—namely, that it was not going to create any difficulties for anyone. In short, Government put it very clearly that the condition of things under the transfer state will not be less favourable than what Government had been doing in the past. Everybody hailed the Government circular. I am sure the hon. Minister is well aware of the circular I am referring to.

Under the old system—(Interruptions)—the conditions for revision were very simple. The revision clause was solidly there. No one got into trouble when it was time to get it done. But in a draft deed which was circulated a few months ago, the revised condition was inserted. For example, if anybody signed those deeds, that is, after thirty years, forty years or ninety-nine years as the case may be.....(Interruptions). That is what it amounts to, since there is no condition for revision or extension of time. Because of this and a number of issues, a delegation was sent to the hon. Minister and, at the time of speaking, the hon. Minister has not made his mind clear on the matter.

Another offensive attachment to the deeds presented by the trustees is that there is an element of personal encroachment on the personal freedom of the lessee. Nobody would spend £1,000 to £2,000 in building a house and would want that house tumbled down in a year or two; so that I am referring to the particular clause in the deed which says that the trustees would go in personally to see that you are keeping your room clean and tidy and that the slightest minor repair you make must be reported to the trustees. The opinion I hold is that if a man could find £1,000 or £2,000 to build a house, he will be zealous to see that the house does not decay or depreciate so fast. So that I regard the clause as encroaching on personal liberty.

The other point I am against in the present lease being given out by the present trustees at Warri is that the fees are excessive.

Mr Speaker: I wish to call the hon. Gentleman to order. The speech on this appears to be going too far and wider than the context of the Bill. The Bill is just to amend certain sections and I can assure the hon. Member that it is that amendment that we should speak upon. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Okumagba: I just follow you when you said that the very portion of that Bill, as amended, is what we should talk upon. Well, that could have been so but I think it would afford us an opportunity to say anything that is actually paining us about the whole Law.

Mr Speaker: That is your opinion?

Mr Okumagba: That is my opinion and I think it is the opinion of everyone of us on this side of the House.

Mr Speaker: The opinion of all of you on that side does not change my own opinion which is contrary to yours. I have told you what I think about the Bill.

Mr Rerri: Mr Speaker Sir, I thank you for the indulgence given me.

In going into a little bit more detail than I have done, I really wanted to assist the hon. Minister in appreciating some of the difficulties that we have been having there; otherwise I can see that the provisions of the Bill are really quite simple. It is the implementation of—(*Interruptions*)—the announcement that the question of Local Government, Customary Courts and Communal Lands is being transferred from one Ministry to another, so that the effect of this, really, is to make the hon. Minister of Midwest Affairs handle such matters. I appreciate that. I was merely trying to put some of the facts that are less known to our hon. Ministers so that in future they will treat us with greater fairness.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie): Mr Speaker Sir, I am rising to correct a wrong impression which has been created on this Bill by two Opposition members. (*Opposition Benches: Reply*). I do not intend to reply. (*Opposition Benches: Sit down*). I am not charged with the responsibility for this Bill but I feel I must bring to light a certain malice which is borne in the minds of the Opposition. (*Opposition Benches: Speak English*). I want the House, as from today, to recognise the fact that my honourable colleagues who have spoken on the other side have come

here with nothing other than malice. Hon. Members will take note that each time we talk about the Communal Lands Law they speak as if the Communal Land Rights (Vesting in Trustees) Bill has been applied to Warri alone. I want them to know that this amendment has been applied not only to Warri but also to Sapele. You can observe that throughout the speech of the two hon. Members they made no reference to the application of this Law to Sapele. (*Interruption*). The fact is that a batch of them sitting on the other side are disgruntled elements who have forfeited their inordinate claims to Warri land in a suit which has been fought as far as to the Privy Council. They have lost; and these are the people who always cause confusion over a judicial decision upon a disputed land. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Rerri: Standing Order 27, section 5: It shall be out of order, it is wrong, to call an hon. Member a disgruntled member. It is an offensive language.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. I do not agree with the hon. Gentleman.

Chief Ekwejunor-Etchie: Mr Speaker Sir, I do not intend to take the time of the House. All I really want to say is that the hon. Gentlemen from Warri and from Western Urhobo Constituencies are people who belong to a family and who are taking us Itsekiris into judicial disputes over Warri land, and they have lost even after dragging the whole question to the Privy Council; yet they do not feel satisfied of the issue of the ownership of Warri by the Itsekiri people; so that, at any time any matter affecting Warri land is discussed, I wish it to be noted that it should not weigh in the minds of Members, because these Gentlemen are labouring under the loss of their own ambition over Warri land. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Oba C. D. Akran): Everybody in this House has agreed that this is not a controversial Bill, and you have all supported it. Where people have gone wrong, you, Sir, have corrected them. I think it is enough to let it be known that we the Government, do not intend any ill in that area. Wherever people think things are not being done in the spirit of this Law, they should bring them to the notice of the appropriate Minister and their grievances will be looked into.

Chief Adigun: I think, for record purposes, that it should be necessary to give a brief explanation of the points raised. The aim of the Bill has been fully treated by me, Sir.

The hon. Member for Benin West I has spoken about difficulties concerning communal lands in Benin.

It is a fact, and it is on record, that one of the reasons why there were complications on the application of this particular Law is the fact that the Oba of Benin contended at that time that the trustees of Benin should be not only himself but also his mother, his brother and his children and we felt that things like that were likely to bring future difficulties. As a result of this, Government decided to make a further inquiry before the Law is applied to Benin. But the fact remains that before this Law is applied in Benin, the Minister who is now going to take charge of the duties as far as the Midwest is concerned could be further advised, not only by His Highness, the Oba of Benin, and the Chiefs of Benin, but also by all other people who know something about communal land in Benin.

On the application of this Law in Warri, Sir, it is a fact that there were some petitioners who felt that certain things were not done in the proper way and they sent a petition to this Government. It will not be correct to say that Government did not do anything about this. Government sent a letter to the petitioners and, if I may mention, Sir, the main reasons for the petition are as follows:

- (1) the trustees wanted to see the existing Deeds of Leases before granting new leases;
- (2) the rents charged on the new leases were too high;
- (3) the periods of rents revision were not acceptable to the leases; and
- (4) the sum of £5 charged by the Trustees for services in connection with the preparation of each new lease was too high.

The complaints were referred to the Trustees and they made their own explanations.

As a result of these explanations, Government sent a reply to the complainants, and Government's view was that there is need for the Trustees to see the old lease, because they must be sure that the lease belongs to the proper person. If the person who claims, let us say the lease, cannot produce the document, then he has no hope to claim a new lease. He must be able to produce the original lease before a new one is prepared in his name.

On the question of rents, it is a fact that Government decided that the rents should be on the original condition, excepting when the rents revision clause will have to apply. The Clause says that after ten years, the rents could be reviewed following the development of the land. Certainly if the rent jumps from £5 to £10, nobody will quarrel, because there must have been some development on the land. The rents revision Clause is the normal revision Clause in all Government leases. It is not meant especially for Warri; it is the normal rents revision Clause.

On the question of £5, as I mentioned yesterday, the Trustees have a number of duties to perform; they have got to pay their staff; they have got to post these documents, and we felt that if they charged a fee of £5 it would not be too high. As a matter of fact, for Government leases it is £6; so that £5 in the case of Itsekiri land will not be too high so long as Government charges £6 for crown lands.

I don't think, Sir, that it is also correct to say that Government did not look into these complaints. Apart from writing in reply to the petitioners, Government also invited a deputation from Warri. This deputation came, and they had a meeting with me, and I explained these conditions to them; the impression that they gave me was that they were satisfied with the explanations I gave them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member for Urhobo West I also mentioned that there is a condition or a clause in the Bill which says that some people have to inspect certain buildings—look into the rooms. I am not aware of any such condition. The conditions are the normal ones in Government leases, and if there is any extraordinary thing put in this document for Warri Communal Land, I would be grateful if the hon. Member would call my attention to it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Bill to the House.

Question put and agreed.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill accordingly reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

Sitting suspended at 11.30 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.15 p.m.

**WESTERN NIGERIA
DEVELOPMENT PLAN, 1962-68**

Adjourned Debate on the Question (2nd April)—

"That this House approve the proposals in the White paper entitled 'Western Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-68'".

Question again proposed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (Mr I. A. Ositelu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of the hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development on the Western Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-68.

The first Development Plan, 1955-60 was introduced in 1955. Under this Plan the Government of this Region, under the able leadership of the then Premier of this Region, Chief the hon. Obafemi Awolowo, succeeded in launching its programme for free primary education, tarring of roads, building of at least one hospital in each of the administrative divisions in the Region, supplying electricity to important towns and establishing small-scale industries. These schemes were financed from the internal resources of the Western Region without borrowing either in the form of foreign loan or grant.

Then came the second Five-year Development Plan, 1960-65, introduced in 1959. Under this Plan, also, the Government embarked on Rural Water Supply, Farm Settlements and Farm Institutes, large-scale industrialisation, supply of electricity to all towns and villages in the Region, and expansion of the existing amenities. The Plan is to end in 1965 but, owing to the belief of the Action Group in the unity of Nigeria and, in order to demonstrate that unity, the Western Nigeria Government terminated the 1960-65 Plan and married it with the new all Nigeria Economic Development Plan, 1962-68.

Under the present Plan the Government proposes to spend £240 million for the services of this Region. Out of this huge amount the Government will spend a little over £90 million on tarring and improving our roads, supplying water to all towns and villages in the Region, building more schools and improving the existing ones, encouraging modern agriculture, encouraging our traders by way of loans, supplying electricity to all towns and villages, expanding social services so that the lives of our people will no more be in danger, and large-scale industrialisation.

In the present Development Plan one is happy to note that great premium is placed on industrialisation and mechanisation of Agriculture.

One should congratulate this Government for having the welfare of the people of this Region at heart. When the Action Group took over the reins of Government of this Region in 1952, there were less than twenty Secondary Grammar Schools and Colleges today we have in the Region 189 Secondary Grammar Schools. There are also about 100 Teacher Training Colleges, 586 Secondary Modern Schools and several thousand Primary Schools. In addition, the Government has recently sponsored the establishment of the University of Ife. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). By the time this institution would start to turn out men, we should have got well established industries to absorb them, hereby solving the unemployment problem.

Under our Constitution, Trade and Labour are concurrent matters. While the Western Regional Government has been busy planning to improve the living conditions of the people of this Region, creating employment opportunities for our school leavers, what has the Federal Government done to help solve unemployment in this Region? Nothing. Whereas in the Eastern Region, the Federal Government has encouraged the stimulation of the Oil Industry and invested in partnership with private individuals the sum of £2 million to establish Nkalagu Cement Factory. The Federal Government is also intending to establish the Iron and Steel Industry that will cost £30 million at Onitsha. Mr Speaker, it is the habit of some hon. Members to come here to accuse this Government of siting industries in certain areas in the Region. I implore such Members to appeal to the Federal Government to please site some of the Federal Industrial projects in their areas in this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (Mr S. A. Adeniyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion which the hon. the Minister of Economic Planning has so ably moved in asking the House to approve the White Paper on Western Nigeria Development Plan for the next six years.

In doing so I will crave the indulgence of the Speaker to allow me to give the White Paper a new name, that is, "Peoples' Prosperity Programme". The White Paper went beyond mere rhetoric. It has a profound meaning for Western Nigeria's future.

[MR ADENIYA]

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is true that political independence has been won. That is not all we fought for. There are many other things which we must do to adorn our national sovereignty with the garb of reality. The battle for the economic emancipation of the masses of the people must be won. Nigerians, regardless of tribe, creed, or political affiliation, are entitled to live a decent life. They must be properly housed, adequately clothed, well educated and decently fed. To achieve these objectives the wealth of the nation must be stepped up and there must be a re-orientation of our economic ideas.

Not only that. Steps must be taken to ensure an even distribution of the wealth of the nation in order to demonstrate to the world that the magnificent achievement of our independence was not a mockery.

The main objectives of the White Paper are—

- (i) to increase productivity;
- (ii) to modernise agriculture and industry;
- (iii) to accelerate the diversification of the economy of the Region;
- (iv) to expand employment opportunities;
- (v) to continue to use and to strengthen the community development spirit as a medium of fostering economic progress;
- (vi) to strengthen the private sector of our economy.

The next six years will witness progress in the development which at the moment seems unattainable.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the question that I will ask hon. Members is, what shall we do as representatives of the people in this connection? My answer is that—

- (i) it is our duty as accredited representatives of the people to interpret correctly the theme of the Government's programme without any political bias;
- (ii) it is our duty to be prepared to make sacrifices and to educate the masses of our people to follow suit when called upon to do so, in order to find answers to some of the intriguing questions besetting the masses of the people;
- (iii) we are in duty bound to encourage in the people of this Region the spirit of community development. It is when this is done that we shall be contributing, partly, our own shares in the progress of the Region.

It must be remembered that the quest for food, shelter and clothing will continue in intensity with the growth of population. Our national stability and survival will depend on how far these great human needs can be satisfied. We must, therefore, be prepared to face the toughest battle Nigeria has ever had to face in order to satisfy the needs of our people. The next battle is economic. It is essential that we must win this battle and, unless we succeed, all our efforts, and all our triumphs during the struggle for sovereignty will be of no avail.

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I end with the words of President Kennedy during his inauguration, but you will permit my changing some words: (*Interruptions*).

"Let everybody know that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, and support any friend or oppose any foe to assure our economic survival".

Mr J. A. Ajuwon (Ibadan East Rural I):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. In doing so, I would like to call the attention of this House to the Five-year Development Plan of this Region and to say that it is a shame to the Regional Government. During the time, the educational programme was very useless. The free primary education of this Region is redundant and useless. Imagine that you cannot easily get a Primary VI boy or girl who is able to spell correctly the simplest word like "want". (*Prolonged Interruptions*). I am telling you now that there must be better education for our youngsters. If the Government cannot provide proper education, the free primary education should be scrapped entirely. My reason for saying this is that in the olden days, when a boy read Standard VI he got a job, but today that is not the case. (*Interruptions*).

Mr A. Ajibola: Point of Order. Standing Order 2: The proceedings and debates of the House shall be in the English Language!

Mr Speaker: As long as you can understand what he is saying he is speaking in English. The hon. Gentleman can now continue.

Mr Ajuwon: Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no provision made for secondary modern schools. I am challenging the Premier of this Region. He should tell us how many of his children are in these secondary modern schools and free primary schools. He should mention two or three of them. (*Interruptions*). I would like the Premier of this Region or the Minister of Economic

[MR AJUWON]

Development to state how many of his children are in these secondary modern schools. (*Interruptions*).

Oba Akran: While I shall not be able to answer for the Premier, may I say that two of my children went to Awolowo School. (*Cheers*). Just now I have nobody young enough to be in any of these schools. Some of them are working, but two went to Awolowo School.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order, will the hon. Gentleman continue his speech.

Mr Ajuwon: We agree with the Minister of Economic Development, but would like to assure you that there must be efforts to get an industrial development for these people to study after leaving primary schools. Now, what I mean is this: the secondary modern school leavers, after leaving the schools, will go back roaming about in the town; no job, no food, nothing at all; and you people are boasting of education in Western Region. I can see nothing done there, Mr Speaker, Sir. Nothing, practically nothing; but the point is that Government is to embark on an industrial project so that when these people leave school they can get their earning easy and quiet.

Mr Adeniya: Standing Order No. 2: The business of the legislative houses of this Region shall be conducted in English. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I have stated that he appears to be speaking in English. (*Laughter*).

Mr Ajuwon: Mr Speaker, Sir, now the Regional Government is always boasting of industries. To me I have never been able to see any industry put up by this Government. (*Interruptions*). The Ewekoro Cement Factory which the Government is claiming to be the highest industry in this Region.....(*Interruptions*). I know what I mean when I say "industry" (*Interruption*). When I was in England—well, many people on that side of the House may accuse me that I have been to England on ex-servicemen's affairs (*Interruptions*). When I say that I was in England as a veteran of the world war—(*Interruption*). Yes, of the World War II. May I say, Mr Speaker, Sir, that he (Mr Osuntokun) was then a very, very young chap. I mean, I can say this with authority. (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker: Order, Order.

Mr Ajuwon: The question of unemployment in this Region is a case for this Government to solve. No doubt our boys are roaming about in the streets. (*Interruptions*). I would like to repeat that the question of unemployment in this Region is a problem for this Government—a great problem and we will not leave you people unless you could do something better in this Region. Whether you like it or not, you must, you are bound to do it. In the past, I remember I went to the Labour Exchange, at Lebanon Street; and before 8 a.m. there were gathered about 1,500 people who were jobless, and you say that you are adopting austerity measures and sending economic missions to England. Where is the result of the economic mission now? Shame; I say "shame".

Another point is this question of farm settlements. The Regional Government says there are farm settlements here and there. I have never seen anything done by the Government about these farm settlements; nothing. Another point is that, when they say farm settlement, farm means where somebody lives, works, earns his living, and after all has plenty of money; but now visit the places where some of the young boys really live; you will know that it is killing. I say this, but you know it, but you did not say it. If you want to be honest to yourselves you will say it. (*Interruptions*).

What I want to tell the Minister of Economic Development is that the money mentioned in this Programme should not be used in touring overseas, not to be used in sending economic missions overseas. I know that when you estimate an amount of money for something, you do so in order that you can get your own share into your pockets.

Oba Akran: It is unparliamentary to say that we estimate money for something in order to make money into our own pockets. I know that some people do not obey the Standing Orders but at least it is your own job to make them obey the Orders. I will leave it at that.

Mr Speaker: It is correct, as the hon. Minister has said, that the hon. Member for Ibadan, Mr Ajuwon, is making some wild allegations against the Members of the Government. (*Interruption*). I know that hon. Members are covered by certain privileges in this House, but I think that it has been rightly pointed out that Members should conform to a standard of behaviour, and I hope Members will take note of this.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, when we say that the hon. Member is making wild allegations, we mean that the allegations are not against the Action Group but an indictment against the Government. (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker: I agree that the hon. Member for Ibadan (Mr Ajuwon) has been imputing improper motives. (*Interruption*). (*Shouts of "Withdraw, withdraw"*).

Mr Ajuwon: When hon. Awolowo went on an Economic Mission to Europe, he made a deal. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. I would ask the hon. Member to withdraw the statement.

Mr Ajuwon: I cannot withdraw. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. At this juncture, I will refer the hon. Member to Standing Order 37 (2) which reads:

"Mr Speaker or the Chairman shall order Members whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of that day's sitting".

Mr Ajuwon: Well, since the Speaker has given the ruling, I withdraw. (*Cries of "Shame, shame" from Government Benches*).

Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to speak again on the question of electricity. For some time now, there has been constant electric failure in Ibadan town. The town becomes very unsafe—thieves are going from house to house. The complaint we had was that the engine in Lagos is giving trouble. To my surprise, Sir, the Government of this Region folded their hands. They are doing nothing at all. Everyday we get breakdowns. Where are we now? I should like the Government to sit up and see that justice is done in the way of electric lights in Ibadan town.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. The hon. Member has two minutes more to speak.

Mr Ajuwon: I can extend the time. Mr Speaker Sir, I have lost some points on which I wanted to speak. I should like to say one thing before I close. If you feel that this Region will continue in the hands of the Action Group, you are deceiving yourselves because time will come when this side of the House will take the chair from you. (*Shouts of "Shame, shame" from Government Benches*).

Alhaji B. O. Obisesan (Ibadan North-East I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the Western Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-68 so ably moved by Oba C. D. Akran.

Mr Ajuwon: Point of information, Sir, he is not qualified to address this House. He is from my own area and he is an NCNC like myself, but during—(*interruptions*).

Alhaji Obisesan: It is my duty as a representative of Ibadan North-East to appeal to this House not to countenance what has been said by my hon. Friend, Mr Ajuwon. I would like to assure this House that the hon. Member is not the best that Ibadan can produce.

I should like to say that I have never been a member of the NCNC—I will always remain in the Action Group.

I feel that any one who had the privilege of listening to the speech so ably delivered by the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development, or of having a copy of his speech, would agree with me that it is praiseworthy.

I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Akerele (Ekiti North-East I): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Western Nigeria Development Plan so ably presented by His Highness, Oba C. D. Akran. The Plan has outlined these points:

Increase in Agricultural and Industrial Production.—The Oba said that agricultural and industrial production should immensely be increased; that income and standard of living may have a steady but surer rise. In order that grounds may be prepared for this type of development, the Western Nigeria Government built many roads, erected pipe-borne water and electricity, undertook universal primary education, improved health facilities, and concentrated a sizeable portion of its expenditure on Agriculture and Trade and Industry, e.g.,

(a) of £32.9 million in the 1955-60 Plan, 20 per cent was spent on Agriculture, Trade and Industry;

(b) of £68.3 million under 1960-65 Plan, 33 per cent was earmarked for agriculture, trade and industry;

(c) of the present £240.1 million under 1962-68 Plan, primary production, trade and industry claim 48 per cent.

The Oba promised better food of high protein, increase in export crops as well as consumer goods. The Government expects

[MR AKERELE]

the income of an average citizen to increase by about 4½ to 5 per cent during this period of six years.

Modernisation of Industry and Agriculture.—The Action Group Government of the Western Region has embarked on a complete revolution of agriculture in this country by establishing five Farm Institutes and thirteen Farm Settlements in appropriate centres throughout this Region. It is determined to develop these fully and wisely and to increase their number. Agricultural equipments suitable to local conditions are being introduced to all the nooks and corners of this progressive Region. For example we have:—

- (a) the hydraulic hand press;
- (b) the improved nut-cracker;
- (c) new tractors and implements;
- (d) more modern variety of rice thresher and winnover;
- (e) cassava grater;
- (f) a research into how to modify our indigenous small farm tools; by this the Government is extremely anxious to bring changes in agricultural technology to individual farmers at the village level.

Diversification of the Regional Economy.—Our Government noticed the danger of a country depending on one particular crop in the world market. It has therefore planned to diversify our economy in two ways:

- (i) development of Oil Palm and Rubber—by introducing new and high yielding varieties;
- (ii) development of cotton;
- (iii) improvement on growing of cashew citrus and mangoes;
- (iv) processing our crops and cocoa;
- (v) desiccation of coconut;
- (vi) manufacture of tapioca out of cassava;
- (vii) improvement of the poultry, live-stock and fishing industry which will offer training, refrigeration and marketing facilities as well as employment opportunities to people in the Delta and Coastal areas of the Region.

The other change promised is diversification away from agriculture. We have the Lafia Rest House. This commercial project, which is established at Ibadan, is wholly owned by the Western Nigeria Development Corporation. Lafia Rest House caters for many important Government and public

functions. It was opened in 1954, its annual income is now about £35,000. Authorised capital for the Rest House is £89,562, and it now operates at a profit. This commercial enterprise, Sir, provides work for hundreds of Westerners and helps to make life more abundant for them all.

Ewekoro Cement Factory.—This factory is established at Papa-Lanto near Abeokuta with a capital of four and a half million pounds. The owners are—

The Portland Cement Company, which has 51 per cent of the whole outlay;

The Western Nigeria Development Corporation, which has 39 per cent of the whole capital; and

U.A.C. which has 10 per cent of the capital. The annual output of the factory is estimated at 200,000 tons of cement per annum.

Bottling Plants.—This project is also established at Ibadan with an authorised capital of £400,000. It bottles Pepsi-Cola beverages for the whole of Western Region. It is wholly owned by the Western Nigeria Development Corporation.

Crittall Hope (Nigeria) Limited.—This industry is also run at Mushin near Lagos with a capital of £200,000.

We have also other plants for employment opportunities. The Industries Division of the Ministry of Trade and Industry has also helped many people in installing and maintaining rubber crepeing machines, saw-mills, scap making plant and food processing machines. It also helps palm oil co-operative societies to maintain and repair oil mills. Our Government has allowed such societies to operate on an experimental basis pending outright purchase after two years' operation, if found viable.

We have other miscellaneous industries. Furthermore, the Industries Division of the Ministry of Trade and Industry is also exploring the possibility of introducing different kinds of industries, like mattress and rope making, purposely to provide useful employment for the teeming thousands of our young school leavers. Some of the projects have been investigated and have proved to be viable.

Mr Ajuwon: Point of Order 27 (1): A Member may not read his speech.

Mr Speaker: I would refuse to uphold the point of order raised, but I would also add that the hon. Member speaking should discuss the subject, which is the Development Plan.

Mr Akerele: Progress through self-help. This is the aspect which I will recommend very strongly to our critics, and especially those who are unemployed, for careful study. The Oba said that the proposals in the White Paper before this House are calculated to ensure a swift and effective decolonisation of that mentality and to achieve the motivation of people to effectively desire to help themselves. We should all go back home, organise our constituencies into farming, trading, or fishing units or companies, willing to contribute money to help themselves. We should also teach our people to be eager to contribute to the enhancement of their own prestige and to foster their own progress and not to expect that the Government of this Region will do everything for them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr F. Ebubedike (Badagry East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Western Nigeria Six-year Development Plan as introduced by the hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development.

This is a paper planned in conjunction with the Economic Council of Nigeria, and everybody in this House should give it his support. The Minister who presented this Bill is more of a statesman than a politician, and I hope that his Ministry is going to make it a success.

The development plan should be planned in such a way as to benefit every area in the Region and it should not be made a vote-catching instrument or money making establishment for the Government Party.

Going more into this issue, the areas which have not benefited by the former development programme should be given priority in this. In the former development plan, many areas were considered not fit to have good roads, water or electricity, and I hope that the Government, in planning this scheme, will remember these areas.

Coming to this development scheme, I will ask Government to organise lectures everywhere to educate the community on the necessity of pulling their resources together.

Turning to the raising of funds for the project, I will appeal to the Government to make it simple for everybody in the Region, both earners and farmers, to contribute to the progress of the project, and it should not be something to benefit those at the top.

Individual industries should be encouraged and those who have been able to think out any way to help themselves and to help the community should be encouraged.

Even it is high time that a plan should be made for the production of our own illicit gin. In my area, we have got a man who spent eighteen years in Spain and is presently manufacturing stockfish, tobacco, salt, kernel oil and such other things locally. This man actually has got no fund to develop. The Government should come to his aid and help him.

As I have said earlier, this Bill does not need much criticism but I feel the only thing which may call for criticism is, when it comes into operation, the way the Ministry is going to follow up the development.

I can remember that in 1957, the hon. Leader of Opposition in the Federal House, Chief Awolowo, said that Ajeromi should be made greater Lagos. I am sorry to say that, even today, Ajeromi is poorer than Lagos. I would like to appeal to the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development that when considering this Plan, Ajeromi should be benefited with industrial estates.

Before I resume my seat, I would like to appeal to the Regional Government to operate this very scheme void of fraud and politics and, that this Region after the implementation of the Six-year Development Plan, will be self-sufficient.

Chief J. L. Tifase (Ondo North-East I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Western Nigeria Government for initiating this bold and dynamic Development Plan for the Region. I have every hope and confidence, Sir, that this Government will continue to contribute immensely to the well-being of the people of this Region, and set more and more examples of progressive Development Plans for other Governments of the Federation.

Sir, in the underdeveloped countries such as Nigeria, it is felt that economic and social development has been hindered by lack of educational facilities in the broadest sense. Nigeria, particularly the Western Region, is largely dependent on agriculture and, in the past, this has always been practised by the small farmer. The nature of this farming has prevented large-scale and profitable development of agriculture in the form known in more advanced countries. This development has been prevented by a number of contributory factors: transport for agricultural products, lack of water, lack of fertilisers and the use of primitive implements. Development in this connection therefore, Sir, must depend on overcoming all these obstacles, and this involves the development of roads, irrigation, and mechanisation of agriculture. It is interesting therefore, Sir, to note that

[CHIEF TYPAGE]

the Government of Western Nigeria has been able in its development programme to project agricultural schemes which will facilitate large-scale and profitable development.

I would also like to add, for further improvement, Sir, that more and substantial agricultural loans should be given to small farmers in the Region so that these farmers may be able to buy cheap agricultural machinery and equipment.

I am happy, Sir, that great emphasis has been placed on the industrialisation of the Region in the Development Plan. But, Sir, as a leading Region in the Federation of Nigeria, I feel, Sir, that the pace of industrialisation is still very slow, and the Industrial Promotions Commission should be more vigorous and vigilant in its responsibility; and effort should be made to see that more productive industries are established in the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I also praise the Western Nigeria Government for its medical and health services to the people of this Region. But, Sir, I feel the time has now come when this Government should think of a more comprehensive medical and health policy which will extend free medical services to both children and adults in the Region. And for the realisation of this policy, Sir, I will suggest that more rural health centres should be built, possibly in every district or constituency in the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is obvious that under this gigantic Six-year Development Programme, the Government of this Region must require financial and technical aid. I will therefore, Sir, appeal to the hon. the Premier of this Region to undertake once more an economic tour of those countries in Europe that are interested in assisting the under-developed countries and persuade them to assist the Government of Western Nigeria in its economic development.

Sir, in the Development Programme, I think it will be necessary in this period of nation building and determination to develop the resources of the Region more rapidly and increase the working hours of the Region's public service from thirty-four hours to forty-two hours a week. This Government should therefore study the working conditions in the large private enterprises like the U.A.C., John Holt, etc., with a view to adopting same in the Region.

Rev. I. Edeki (Afenmai North-West II):
Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Motion so

ably moved by the Minister of Economic Development, and, in doing so, I beg to make the following remarks.

Much thought has evidently gone into the preparation of this Six-year Development Plan which is a startling indication of careful planning and foresight on the part of our Government. All Ministries have apparently lent a hand in its preparation and they deserve to be praised for its clear presentation. There is no evidence of confused thinking anywhere in the brochure but it has shown masterly handling of facts which have been painstakingly collated. Every sector of our economy has been amply provided for. The fact that the Plan is not top-heavy, and priorities are carefully balanced against other projects, goes to the credit of the planner. The summary of capital expenditure for the Ministries during the period illustrates my point. You will find after careful scrutiny, that the Ministry of Trade and Industry, which is a most important one, will make a capital expenditure of £29 million while other Ministries in descending order of importance—the Ministries of Works and Transport, Education, Lands and Housing, Agriculture and Economic Planning and Community Development—are to spend £17, £12, £11, £9, and £8 million respectively. Appendix IV, at a glance, modifies this view in general by reflecting the incalculable importance of agriculture and industrial development to a developing economy in a country like ours.

I would now comment on certain aspects of the Development Plan as it affects rural areas like Iybiosakon District. A survey of the physical resources of the Region is overdue. In my area, there are mica and traces of iron ore, limestone, coal and oil which could be exploited for the benefit of our economy. This Government should therefore, urge the Federal Government to survey our mineral resources without further delay with a view to facilitating or accelerating their economic exploitation. The growing population of the Region will give rise to the need for more schools, Primary, Middle and Secondary-Grammar, Trade Centres, Technical Institutes and Teacher Training Colleges. To reduce the maintenance cost of Primary schools, the Government should insist that new ones should be built with permanent materials such as cement blocks and stones, and, to raise the standard of teaching in these schools, Grade III Colleges should be upgraded and more Grade I Colleges opened by the Government. At the moment there is only one Grade I College in the Midwest which trains teachers for rural

[REV. EDEKI]

science and domestic science. Afenmai Division, a comparatively backward area, requires more Grammar Schools, grant-aided from the outset. There is no community in the Division that can deposit £5,000 with the Treasury at a blow in respect of a proposed Grammar School.

As the wild oil palm continues to be relentlessly destroyed by wine-tappers, oil plantations should be considerably increased during this period. Ivbiosakon soil is particularly favourable to the growth of the oil palm tree. As a result of various factors, food-stuffs are becoming more and more costly in this Region. One of the factors—agriculture—has been left to the illiterates only. Once a boy knows how to read and write, he throws away the cutlass and the hoe and joins the stream of people looking for black-coat jobs with the result that the population of active farmers is decreasing while the prices of the decreasing quantities of foodstuffs produced are increasing with demand. The Government must arrest this most distressing situation by making the countryside attractive so that Primary School-leavers and others may return to the land.

Forestry.—If the objects of Government's forestry policy are to be achieved, the Government must, among other steps, check indiscriminate bush-burning that takes place in the country, especially during the dry season.

Fishery.—Fishing with highly poisonous mixtures, like Gamalin 20, should be prohibited as they endanger the lives of the consumers and may result in the ultimate extinction of certain species of fish.

Industrialisation.—The provision for industrialisation is adequate, but industrial estates should be located near other towns in the Region other than Ikeja and Ibadan. Benin-City is a good site for an industrial estate. The idea of small-scale industries in rural areas is very encouraging. For instance, oil mills and factories for processing cocoa and palm kernels will prosper in the Otwa clan of Ivbiosakon District which produces large quantities of palm produce and cocoa.

Roads and Bridges.—Ivbiosakon District is in sore need of tarred roads, and concrete bridges and schemes for rural electrification, Sabongida, Otwa, Afuze, Sebe and Warrake should be borne in mind. In short, we of the Ivbiosakon District are also entitled to enjoy the good things of life.

Village Planning.—If there is any area in the Region which needs town or village

planning, it is Ivbiosakon where villages and towns are too far from one another. The general introduction of town planning to the countryside is bound to result in economies in the provision of water supplies and rural electrification.

Benin Scheme.—The Benin Historical Scheme must be expanded so that it may employ more hands. We of the Benin tribe will also be happy at the early publication of a definite history of the people.

Community Development.—The plan to encourage community development in the Region is laudable and ought to be started as soon as possible. The Housing Corporation must establish branches in the Midwest before long so that civil servants and others belonging to that part of the Region may be able to buy houses near their towns and villages.

Review of Development Plan.—A machinery for an annual review of the Development Plan ought to be set up whereby it will be appraised against all factors of production. The results of the Development Plan, as can be foreseen, are as follows: progressive urbanisation, gradual elimination of unemployment, diversification of the economy, a high standard of living and more vigorous national life. I pray that those who will execute the Plan may do so with a sense of purpose and mission.

I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Riemu (Urhobo West II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am really happy—very happy—that I am given my first chance to speak to this House since the beginning of this Session. (*Interruptions*). Unfortunately, it happens to fall on the speech of the hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development.

As far as I know, Sir, this Plan is a mere window dressing, particularly as far as it concerns the Midwest. If I should go on with facts and figures, there has been one Plan: 1956-62. In the Plan, the sum of £13,500 was envisaged for pipe-borne water for Sapele. Now some Members on the other side of this House come from Sapele: some are Ministers. That Plan, till now, has not seen the light of day and so, if I see anything envisaged in a Plan of this type, I would always look at it with suspicion—(*Interruptions*)—because we know it will never materialise, especially as it affects us in the Midwest.

Several thousands of pounds were promised in 1956-62 Development Plan for Sapele higher institutions. Till now, nobody has

[MR RIEMU]

ever seen one other than what people call "Awolowo School" and the few Secondary Schools that are there—even there during the colonial days. As such, I would say that I would not bother this House: I would only like to inform this House—and I mean particularly the Minister responsible for this Development—that I pray God so that he could execute whatever he has stated in this Plan. If executed, it will provide, in the first instance, more employment opportunities for the people of this Region. It will also make those of us in the Midwest feel that we are in a state that is catering for the people of this Region. This Plan, Sir, has promised so many firms, agricultural and industrial projects in so many parts of this Region. Since the inception of this Region's self-government, agricultural project or agriculture has always been at what I might call "experimental stage". We have never seen it being improved upon. We have one at Effurun; there is nothing there at all: sometimes you will go there and you will find nothing at all. There is one in Ughelli—agricultural farm—you see so many houses being built. I can assure the Members of this House that so many thousands of pounds have been spent there in a fruitless effort. I can assure you that they are better called "experimental farms" because they have not actually done anything.

Prices of things are rising; one now finds that if the price of one commodity is 1s 3d today, the next day it is 1s 6d. It is the responsibility of this Government—the Marketing Board—to guard against this, so that the people who have business as rubber owners in that area will enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Mr Speaker Sir, this Government ought to do something or envisage something about Tyre and Tube Factory which the hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development said would be established in the Midwest very soon. I must advise that Urhobo Division is the biggest producer of rubber. (*Interruptions*). You will know nothing about that because you are not an Urhobo man. Rubber comes to this Region from Urhobo Division than from anywhere else. (*Government Front Bench: In what part of Urhobo Division do you want the industry to be sited?*). Anywhere in Urhobo Division—Sapele or Ughelli.

At this stage Mr Speaker, I will support.

Mr R. O. Areola (Ekiti South-East I): Mr Speaker, Sir I beg to support the speech of the Minister of Economic Planning and

Community Development, the hon. Oba C. D. Akran, on the Western Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-68. The speech outlines the economic measures to be adopted within the next six years to ensure that the standard of living of the people of Western Nigeria as well as productivity per capita rises much above what it is at the present time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the key-note which rings unceasingly throughout the speech is the complete agreement which this Government has reached with the other Governments of the Federation and its preparedness to cooperate fully with them. Economic measures taken in isolation from the outside world cannot achieve much and will surely be choked and annihilated by the very nature of its insulated position. What is more, a measure taken in Western Nigeria disregarding similar measures being taken by the other Governments, or taken in cut-throat competition with them, may cripple rather than boost our economy. Hence, Sir, the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development deserves much praise on this score.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a purely agricultural country, and I am glad, Sir, that the Minister is constantly mindful of this fact, because the percentage of capital expenditure allocated to agriculture continues to rise. In the 1955-1960 Development Plan, 20 per cent was devoted to agriculture, trade and industry; under the 1960-65 Plan 33 per cent, and in the Plan now before the House, 48 per cent (*Applause*). If, Sir, productivity must be increased in agriculture, I agree with the Minister that a number of steps need to be taken, namely, that the shifting method of cultivation must be discouraged, agricultural implements improved and specialisation in crops pursued. At present, Sir, a single farmer is not only a grower of many crops but an owner of many farms. A farmer recently told me that he had four farms and was contemplating adding a fifth. When I asked him to enumerate the farms, he said, one for cocoa, one for cassava, one for rice and one for yams. He said he had not planted cocoyams yet, which might lead him to have a fifth farm. This system must be discouraged. By all economic standards, it is wasteful and does not make for skill.

The Minister, Sir, has rightly said that agriculture accounts for over 50 per cent of our Region's national product, and for our exports. In this light, no amount of attention paid to agriculture should be considered too great. It is not enough, Sir, to have farm settlements and farm institutes. At present,

[MR AREOLA]

Sir, these institutions are regarded as built and separated for a chosen few who, by the very nature of their abode and work, are among us but not of us. I suggest, Sir, that from time to time, trained agriculturists are sent back to their homes, with up-to-date tools and enough capital to carry on agriculture in their homes and on their fathers' lands. Periodical visits to these people by experts can be arranged for them. They, in turn, will render every year, not only the account of their farms, but also how many converts they have been able to make. School farms, as they are now carried on, are regarded as learned men's method of cultivation and no ordinary farmer copies the method from the teachers. This is not to say that Farm Settlements and Farm Institutes are not useful. In fact, the establishment of these institutions is being copied and vigorously pursued by the Government of Eastern Nigeria. But since they cannot be established in every town or village, the work which they are doing collectively now can be done and brought home to the heart of the people by these trained men.

It is very gratifying, Sir, to note the attempt being made to diversify the economy of Western Nigeria. If all our attempts at stamping out unemployment would not prove abortive, we must diversify our economy. Within agriculture itself, we must start right now to lessen our emphasis on cocoa and to spare some of our arable lands for the growing of locally consumed crops such as yams, cassava, palm trees, rice. This is the more necessary, Sir, in view of the scarcity of food in Western Nigeria today. The other diversification, that is, away from agriculture, is of paramount importance as it involves more careful planning than even the first. This is done by the establishment of industries—large-scale as well as small-scale ones. We need great decentralisation of industries, but at the same time, we have to remember the economy resulting from concentration of industries. If a wise policy should be pursued, and I have no cause to suggest the contrary, the Housing Estates should follow the Industrial Estates to Abeokuta, Ajeromi, Akure, Ibadan, Ijebu-Ode, Ikeja, Sapele and Warri. May I suggest, Sir, that the less expensive types of building should be erected in these places in order that workmen of varying grades may be able to afford to purchase a dwelling. Small-scale and cottage and rural industries such as pottery, textile and gari grating, should be established in various parts of Ekiti.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about retail trade and of road haulage. While I agree, Sir, with the Minister that indigenous people of this Region have gained the technical know-how and business acumen in these trades, I am not particularly happy about the scale at which retail trade is carried on. The number engaged in the retail trade in Western Nigeria is hopelessly too great for the capital they control. It is not unusual to find a man with a push bicycle hawking about a merchandise whose current value is less than £10. It is this type of people who break into other people's houses at night to replenish their wares, or lay hands on innocent people during the day time in lonely places, to strip them of their belongings. Mr Speaker, Sir, if and when the big business combines withdraw from the retail trade, it will be necessary to prescribe a capital outlay below which anybody who engages in retail trade is considered under-employed and therefore a drawback to the society and its economic progress.

I now turn, Sir, to road haulage. There is no doubt that our indigenous people are qualified by experience and knowledge to be employed to advantage in this field. I suggest, Sir, that in order to reduce road accidents with all the loss and sufferings attendant on them, and preserve intact our man-power resources so much needed for a developing economy, that a school of drivers be established in the Region and periodical refresher courses given in driving and road courtesies.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Minister does not rule out the tarring of new roads in his bid to consolidate and improve existing ones. I do not want to anticipate the Minister in what should be his criterion or criteria in deciding which roads are justified to be tarred on "strictly economic grounds". The roads listed below carry cocoa, palm produce and timber in commercial quantities and should be considered for tarring in the Six-year Development Plan:

	<i>miles</i>
1. Ikole-Ijesha Isu-Ilu Omoba Road	15
2. Ikole-Isinbode Road ...	11
3. Igbara Odo-Igbara Oke Road	6

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Layonu (Ede Ejigbo South):
Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion which seeks to approve the proposals in the White Paper entitled "Western Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-68". This Plan, Sir, is a very laudable one indeed, and the

[MR LAYONU]

hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development should be praised for his foresight in healing the wounds of unemployment and underemployment in the Region. The most striking part of the White Paper is on page 25. It reads:

“What is being sought is an economy where both industrial and agricultural activities make sizeable contributions without any factor lagging far behind”.

Mr Speaker, the policy of the Government is to develop industrial estates where sites can be acquired on reasonable terms. I would seize this opportunity, Sir, to remind the Government that my constituency will be prepared to give them sites without any binding terms but free of charge so that our area may be developed. We have very good water supply; at least our water has the best taste in the Federation of Nigeria. (*Applause*). Oshun River always has very sweet taste. My people have electricity and good sites for industrial projects. I would appeal to Government to stop all the development projects they may have at present for Ibadan, Ikeja, Egba, Egbado. The Government should send industrial and commercial experts round the whole of the Western Region for a general survey of the Region and make recommendations as to the necessary development projects. There are sites in different areas.

When this is done, Sir, gradually the whole Region would be eventually industrialised, commercialised and developed adequately. The Government should be alive to the fact that about 60 per cent of us represent very backward and under-developed areas. At least I represent one of the most under-developed areas of this Region. In the Development Plan Programme for 1962-68, the Government would need over £240 million and that this amount will be passed as Estimates of our votes. We cannot pass votes of Estimates to be spent on the construction of sky-scrapers in already developed big cities and towns. Industrialisation of Ibadan and Ikeja should cease too; building of hospitals, rural health centres, and housing estates should also cease in the big towns and cities. Government should allow the backward areas to have theirs. At least, Sir, backward areas must not be kept in perpetual backwardness. We are elected by our people to come here and seek for them life more abundant.

We are not elected to come here, Sir, and be used as rubber stamps to approve large sums of money—approve £36 million annually

to be spent to develop already developed areas. The actual Development Plan has been reviewed and projected to 1968. The programmes for 1960-62 had already been carried out and those of us from under-developed areas have not had any benefit from the development plan. We look forward to the 1962-68 Development Plan.

Some people are of the impression that because my constituency had water and electricity supply about eight years ago, therefore nothing more should be provided for further development of that area. No place is developed until it is developed aright. Ikeja could not be a commercial place if it had not been industrially and agriculturally developed; and, Sir, any other place could be commercially developed as Ibadan and Ikeja if developed aright.

I know, Sir, that if there are industrial projects, unemployment would be eliminated.

Therefore, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support this Motion.

Mr W. Aghahowa (Benin South-East): I rise with joy and felicity to thank the hon. Oba C. D. Akran for the able way in which he delivered the Western Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-68, a few days ago. In doing so, Sir, the Regional Government is in duty bound to extend all her activities to all parts of the Region.

There is one obvious omission in the well blended plan: aerial survey and mapping out of all the villages and some urban areas in the Region. If one takes up the map of Western Nigeria, one will observe that only the provincial headquarters and a few urban towns are on the map. The mapping out of all the small villages will be another milestone in the much-desired economic emancipation of this Region.

The free medical services for children up to the age of eighteen years is still not enjoyed by the people who live in the rural areas. Provision ought to have been made for rural hospital projects in the plan, so that the people may taste of the Government's hospitality. Again, no provision is in the plan for a Government owned Secondary Grammar School, at least one in each of the administrative divisional headquarters throughout the Region.

I am happy to note that the Government has learnt a very bitter lesson for her one cash crop. But it is still much regrettable that there is no provision in the comprehensive Development Programmes for a rubber board—the main economic stay of the Midwest. The setting up of a Rubber Marketing

[MR AGHAHOWA]

Board will go a long way not only towards enhancing the welfare of the producers of the crops, but will as well buttress the finances of the Region which is now going through austerity to prosperity.

Finally, Sir, the activities of the Government will be of lasting benefits to the entire populace of this Region if industries envisaged in the plan are sited on areas where the raw materials for the industries are in quantum. A case in point is the siting of a plastic industry in Ibadan which does not grow rubber. This industry ought to have been sited anywhere in the Midwest.

Before I take my seat, Sir, I beg to add that the Government will be failing in her duties if she fails to carry out the £240.1 million paper programmes so ably presented to the House.

I beg to support the Motion.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr R. A. Olusa): I rise to support the Motion—"That this House approve the proposals in the White Paper entitled "Western Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-68", so ably moved by Kabiyesi Oba C. D. Akran, hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development.

An hon. Member: The word "Kabiyesi" is not an English word. The accepted principles in this House have been upheld from time to time, and that is that the English Language is the basic language in this House.

Mr Speaker: I have to inform the hon. Member for Urhobo East that the word "Kabiyesi" is appropriate as there is no word by which to represent it as such in the English Language.

Mr Olusa: I congratulate the hon. Minister for the master speech he delivered. No other orator could have done better. Though lengthy, it was most absorbing. All Members of the House were compelled to listen with rapt attention, so much so that fear to miss the next sentence prevented all from cheering even where they would have vociferously done so.

I also congratulate this Government for this excellent Plan we are now called upon to approve. I congratulate the Government for more than one reason.

In the first place, I congratulate this Government for its previous Five-year Plan which had run its course and had been of tremendous value to the people of this Region and to her economic growth. I congratulate his Government for joining the other

Governments of the Federation in formulating these economic proposals. In doing so this Government has placed its rich experience at the disposal of the other Governments for the advantage and the benefit of the people of the Federation of Nigeria. This Government believes that economic growth of all parts of the Federation is the concern of us all. This Government believes that the drawback of any part of the Federation would be a drag on any other part no matter how progressive that part may be.

The most outstanding of the achievements of the first Five-year Plan are the Free Primary Education, Secondary Modern and Grammar Schools, Road and Waterway developments and many other social services. Today schools are available for children in all parts of the Region. Networks of good roads connect all parts of the Region and make communication easy. Dispensaries, maternities, rural health centres, cottage hospitals and general hospitals are dotted all over the Region. Much was done to improve Agriculture during the period and to increase the earning capacity of the people of the Region. I therefore congratulate this Government for what it has done for us in this Region thereby placing us far ahead of the other Regions in the Federation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this honourable House is again called upon to approve proposals for another Development Plan. This time it is a Six-year Plan—1962-68. The question that one would naturally ask is, what does this Development Plan propose to do?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to quote the words of the Mover of the Motion.

"The first and primary objective is to increase production—both Agricultural and Industrial—so as to bring about a steady rise in income and in standard of living. The second objective is to modernise agriculture and industry. The third is to accelerate the diversification of the economy of the Region. A large expansion of employment opportunities in the Region is the fourth objective. The fifth objective is the strengthening of the Community Development spirit as a medium of fostering economic progress, whilst the sixth is the strengthening of the private sector of the economy".

I wish to speak, Mr Speaker, Sir, on the first two objectives. If we would increase our agricultural as well as our industrial productions we must learn to love labour in all its connotations. In this Region, Sir, we have the physical resources for healthy economic growth. The land is there in

[MR OLUSA]

abundance and it is fertile. We have plenty of forests rich in timbers. Our land is fairly rich in minerals. There could be limestone, clay, lignite oil, gas, gold, tin, columbite, tantalite, phosphate, etc., etc. These form the basis and means for industrial propositions. As we have natural resources so we have human resources. Hundreds and thousands of youths are turned out of our primary schools and secondary schools every year. The number grows and increases as each year rolls past.

This Government, more than any other Government in the Federation has been creating, and is still creating, and expanding employment opportunities for the people of this Region. Shall we not create the spirit of love for labour? When one sees how our youths work, be they on the farms, or on their school desks, or on their office tables, or on their shop counters, is not one disgusted? We should tell our people to learn to work: to do any honest work that comes their way and work hard. Let the clerks in the offices work hard; let the teachers in schools work hard; let everybody work hard anywhere he is assigned to work. Let no one despise any work. The motto should be "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might". If we all look for white collar jobs it will be difficult for us to increase our production. Unless we all learn to work hard we cannot increase our production. To increase production is our first objective, and this we must achieve.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to quote again: "Our second objective in the next six years is the modernisation of agriculture and industry". Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members are fully aware of the new development in agriculture and farming technique which this Region has blazed forth in the Federation, namely: the farming institutes and farm settlements. Under the 1960-65 Development Plan, five farm institutes and thirteen farm settlements have been established already. It is proposed to pursue a full and judicious development of these and to increase the number of farm settlements.

Other effective measures are also envisaged for the improvement of the techniques of production of both food and cash crops. Special attention is being devoted to the introduction of more modern agricultural equipment suitable to local conditions. Thus the hydraulic hand press, the improved variety of the rice thresher and winnower and cassava grater are being introduced. Research is also being carried out into possible

modifications of our indigenous small farm tools. To this end the agricultural engineering section of our Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources is being strengthened by the training of indigenous agricultural engineers three of whom are expected to arrive shortly. This matter of the development of our small farm tools is of very great importance because it means that, for the first time in the history of this country, changes in agricultural technology will effectively be brought within the reach of the individual ordinary farmer, even at the village level.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the arrival of three agricultural engineers at no distant date from now is a good piece of news and is welcome. It would form a great landmark in the history of agricultural development in this country. Mechanisation of our agriculture by the introduction of the type of tools now envisaged would take many of our youths back to the land and greatly increase our production on the farms. I have no doubt that the Government would continue to encourage co-operative farming. The sooner the Government modifies our land tenure, the better it would be for the development of mechanised farming and increased productivity. Our land tenure must be revised. All uncultivated lands should be made available for anyone who is ready to farm even if as a tenant at a reasonable or nominal fee.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on the 1962-68 Development Plan now under discussion on the floor of this House.

I wish first of all to talk about cocoa. The policy prepared above is for increased efficiency in the production of cocoa. Now, apart from increased efficiency, markets must be found for our cocoa. If there is increased efficiency in the production of cocoa on the part of our farmers, and you have no markets for the sale of the crop, where will you sell them? Our farmers are fed up because prices of cocoa are reduced everyday.

Palm Oil.—Mr Speaker Sir, I can tell this honourable House that in the Western Region, particularly in Okitipupa Division, the U.A.C. is winding up. I have been informed that this Government gave a trade test to this firm after getting their produce, with the result that the firm does not now interest itself in buying cocoa. Now, if you want the people to be interested in the production of palm oil, they should be encouraged.

[MR OMOKOWAJO]

Livestock.—Mr Speaker, Sir, it is said that there will be a good breed of cattle to provide beef. I will say, Sir, that the Ndama cattle we have in this Region are not sufficient, and instead of buying from other places why not introduce artificial insemination into the Agricultural Department as is done in the Northern Region? I think, Sir, that West African short horn cattle called *muturus*, if properly improved, will surely provide us with sufficient amount of beef in this Region. I will say, Sir, that the Ndama cattle should be distributed all over the Divisions in the Western Region if we want our livestock improved. I will say again, Sir, that if we want improvement in our livestock the Veterinary Department should be encouraged. By this I mean that those actually doing the work should be encouraged. We have many veterinary stations in this Region but in none can one find an ordinary microscope, with the result that it is very difficult to prevent the spread of animal diseases.

Brickmaking.—It is said that there will be five centres for the making of bricks in this Region, and Ife again, of all towns, is included. Why not site one at Benin, one at Okitipupa and the others in other towns that have not been cared for? I will say, Sir, as I have said before in this House, that other Divisions that have been neglected should be given priority when considering the siting of these brickmaking factories.

Roads and Bridges.—I mentioned this during the debate on the Governor's Speech from the Throne. If there is any Division in this Region where there are bad roads and bridges, it is Okitipupa division. The bridge between Ikoya and Okitipupa, as I have already mentioned in this House, was dismantled three months ago. There is not a single bridge in the Division, and, apart from the Foriku/Okitipupa road and the Igbotako/Okitipupa road, all the other roads are not tarred and the bridges are bad. There was a time, Sir, when we applied for the installation of a petrol shed, but the people told us that they would not allow their lorries to ply those roads because they are bad. There is no doubt, Sir, that if these roads and bridges are repaired the people in my division will derive some benefit.

Teacher Training.—Mr Speaker, Sir, there is some provision in the Development Programme for teacher training, but I will tell you that sometime ago when some "C" teachers took entrance into a Teacher Training Institution the Principal refused to accept them on the ground that only

Moderners are expected to go into a Teacher Training College. I feel, Sir, that a teacher who has worked for about ten years, and who has the money just this year to enter a training college, should not be refused admission. I feel, Sir, that this order of the Principal should be revoked. There are some teachers who, though have the necessary knowledge and experience, are not allowed to train in any institution and because they have no better teaching qualification they are dismissed from service. Since these people have got the brain and experience, the Government should do something to help them enter Teacher Training Colleges.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker: Order! We shall now have a rather long break and come back at 8 p.m. tonight. The Debate on this Motion is adjourned until tomorrow. The business for the evening will be the Adjourned Debate on the Governor's Speech from the Throne.

Further Debate on the Development Plan adjourned till tomorrow, Friday, 6th April, 1962.

Sitting suspended at 2.20 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.30 p.m.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Motion for an Address

Adjourned Debate on the Question (28th March).—

"That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in the following terms:—

That this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to Your Excellency for the most gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature;

And that this Address be formally presented to His Excellency by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition".

Question again proposed.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chief A. O. Adeyi): The last year witnessed a tremendous expansion in the measures adopted to implement the agricultural, forestry, fisheries and livestock policies of the Government of Western Nigeria. I shall describe the developments which have taken place and I shall also state very briefly steps which we propose to take for the future expansion of the success already achieved.

[CHIEF ADEYI]

As hon. Members are aware, Government has adopted a new means of passing on modern techniques to a new generation of farmers. We all now know of the establishment of Co-operative Farm Settlements. The basis of the scheme is that selected young men should be trained and then established on these settlements and that they should develop their holdings under the direction of Field staff of my Ministry. Free tenure of holdings have been secured and high quality strains of planting materials are being used. Supervised credit is supplied and each settlement or group of holdings is being operated in accordance with up-to-date agricultural techniques. These settlements are intended to show that farming can be both a profitable and an attractive way of life and so encourage young men to look to farming for their livelihood. Thirteen settlements are now being developed and in the coming year fourteen more will be developed.

We have also established five Farm Institutes and over the next few years, their full development will be completed. By the end of this year the farm institutes will be turning out 500 trained young farmers. These institutes provide two-year courses in practical farming under the conditions which will be encountered in typical climatic areas of the Region.

By this dynamic policy of extension education, provision of credit facilities and the bold application of the results of research, we are putting a new complexion on farming so that not only the older farmer but also the school leaver will look up to farming as a highly respectable and rewarding occupation. The Co-operative Farm Settlement Scheme, though designed primarily to appeal to educated young men, is intended to set the pattern for farming in general. The Farm Settlement Scheme will also play a very important role in the economy of the Region by its contribution to the Region's production of both cash and food crops and to the improvement in the diet of the people. 500 settlers are now working on the existing thirteen farm settlements and 1,000 prospective settlers are being trained at the five farm institutes. 7,000 acres of various permanent crops have been established to the Settlements and the poultry units are producing 2,500 eggs weekly.

The cocoa season which ended in August 1961 was a record one. Over 181,000 tons of cocoa was purchased and the current season's crop will be a large one. Peasant production of cocoa has been increasing

steadily and although present indications are that production will continue to increase, the present trend in the World Market makes it difficult, if not impossible, to forecast the trend of peasant production in terms of specific magnitude. The rapid growth in the volume of cocoa production is dependent largely on direct incentives by Government and these incentives have become particularly important. Firstly, there is a cocoa improvement and rehabilitation scheme whereby farmers are encouraged by compensation fees to cut down trees which have become uneconomic. Secondly, linked with rehabilitation, there is a programme of distribution of subsidised seedlings of selected high yielding varieties. The target is to distribute ten million seedlings annually. Thirdly, there is the campaign for eradication of swollen shoots and black pod diseases and capsids. Under this campaign the farmer's purchase of insecticides is subsidised. Up-to-date, Government has spent over £500,000 by way of subsidy. Fourthly, there are training and demonstration schemes designed to bring to the farmers efficient and up-to-date management and processing techniques.

During the past year seven million seedlings were taken up by cocoa farmers and over 1,000 tons of black pod fungicides and 75,000 gallons of capsid insecticides were purchased by farmers at subsidised prices.

A series of extension trials with a type of cotton new to this Region has proved most successful. Following this success 5,000 acres of this cotton will be grown in the Region in 1962. We have also made trials with different types of tobacco in 1961. This was done in collaboration with the Premier Tobacco Company in which Government has a substantial interest. The Company was formed with the intention of growing tobacco in the Region for export overseas.

Concentrated attention continues to be given to the raising of improved rubber and oil palm seedlings for distribution to farmers at subsidised rates and for the free training of farmers in processing and cultural techniques in order to improve both production and quality.

The Western Region contributes about 30 per cent of the country's palm oil and about 50 per cent of its palm kernel supply. Our programme for the improvement of palm produce is varied. We have introduced a scheme for the distribution of over a million high-yielding seedlings per annum at a subsidised rate. There is a programme for training farmers in the proper methods of

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handling fruits and in hygienic and correct methods of processing to obtain high grade oil. We are providing facilities for large-scale mechanised processing, where possible and profitable, and we are encouraging farmers to form co-operative processing units in small factories. 800,000 seedlings of improved oil palm were raised from Government and supervised privately-owned nurseries during the year. Over the year, we have been particularly anxious to introduce, and we have carried investigation into, the use of a variety of simple machinery in order to evolve simple and cheap equipments for oil processing which will lower the present drudgery and yet be efficient and economical to operate at the village level.

Despite competition from synthetic products the production of rubber has increased steadily in both quantity and quality. Over 800,000 seedlings of improved rubber were raised in Government and supervised private nurseries during the last year. In order to encourage processing of high quality rubber small-scale rubber factories and smoked sheets have been established in the main producing areas of Benin and Delta Provinces. We have introduced schemes for the training of local farmers in the various processes of rubber production—tapping, smoking and storing. We have also intensified our efforts to popularise the rubber industry among the youths in the rubber-producing areas of the Region. Over 44,000 farmers have been trained in rubber tapping; 10,000 have been trained in rubber processing, and nearly 1,200 in cultivation and maintenance. There are in operation, to date, seventy-seven improved rubber co-operative factories. The systematic rehabilitations scheme for the replacement of old trees which was introduced over a year ago has been vigorously pursued.

In the production of food crops, we have directed our efforts towards increasing aggregate production in order to meet the demands of an increasing population. Steps have also been taken to investigate ways and means of increasing the nutrient value of food in order to feed the population better. Efforts have also been made to produce high-yielding disease-resisting varieties of various food crops to discover better methods of cultivation and to promote mechanisation where conditions encourage its use. The programme which we have introduced includes the multiplication and distribution of high breed maize, improved variety of rice, groundnuts, melon, cowpeas and guinea corn. Measures have also been taken for the control of yam beetles.

The Livestock programme of my Ministry has been directed at remedying the present situation in which there is a shortage of animal protein in the diet of the Region. The main development efforts were concentrated on poultry and beef production. The Livestock Investigation Centre at Ado-Ekiti continues to provide useful data on local Muturu Cattle. We have achieved satisfactory results on the extensive system of grazing tried out on the Cattle Extension Farm at Shaki. At Agege Dairy, the crossing of imported Friesian bulls with local Fulani Cattle has raised the milk yield from 2,800 lbs per lactation from the Fulani breed to 4,008 lbs from the Friesian—Fulani Cross. Our work on the developments of fattening and production units for beef has progressed satisfactorily. Six of the seventeen Steer fattening units were established in 1961-62 and are now in production. Each unit carries one hundred heads of cattle. Breeding capacity at Fashola poultry farm has been greatly increased and a new station opened at Agege. Poultry feedstuffs depots have been established at Agege and Akure where farmers can buy chicks and layer's mash.

Work in the Veterinary Division of my Ministry has progressed satisfactorily and we have concentrated on a programme of establishing more veterinary facilities, cattle markets, cattle crushes and spraces, cattle routes, off-loading facilities at Railway Stations and abattoirs.

In the field of forestry considerable progress was made in regeneration operations designed to increase the economic stocking of the forest. Some hundreds of thousands of acres are being treated, a figure which surpasses regeneration operations in the rest of the whole of Tropical Africa combined. Government has under consideration a review of the Forest Policy planned to maintain the security of the forest estate and to obtain the maximum return from it. In line with most advanced countries the Western Region Government places great emphasis on the cultivation of fast-growing trees to meet the fast-expanding economy of the Region. This Region continues to be the largest producer and exporter of timber in the Federation. Production continues to rise and it is gratifying to record that within a comparatively short period the number of exportable timber trees has been increased from a few species to many.

The primary need for the development of inland and deep sea fisheries is recognised by my Ministry. Plans have been formulated for an investigation into the sea estuary and

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Delta fisheries of the Region. Investigation into the development of inland fisheries and fish culture is already proceeding.

In concluding this statement I would wish to draw the attention of hon. Members to recent developments: especially, concerning cocoa. Not long ago my attention was drawn to an erroneous statement in one of the daily Press that whilst the world market price of cocoa remained at £400 per ton, a meagre £150 was being paid to Nigerian farmers. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, at no time was the market price of cocoa £400 per ton. The true statement is that the price of cocoa products such as chocolate and cocoa drinks, was about £400 per ton whereas the price of cocoa, that is, raw products, was only £150 per ton.

The second point which I wish to make relates to the increase in the standard of the quality of cocoa produce now required in the international market. Under the current practice, the prescription of grades and standards of quality for cocoa purchased by the Regional Marketing Boards for export is as follows:

Grade I cocoa is that which is thoroughly dry, free from foreign matter and from smoky, velvety or black beans and which contains less than (a) 5 per cent by count of mouldy, weevily, decayed, flat or germinated beans; and (b) 5 per cent by count, of unfermented or insufficiently fermented beans.

Grade II cocoa is that which does not qualify for grade I and which is thoroughly dry, free from foreign matter or from smoky, velvety or black beans and which contains less than (a) 10 per cent, by count, of mouldy, weevily, decayed, flat or germinated beans; and (b) 10 per cent, by count, of unfermented or insufficiently fermented beans.

By a series of legislative acts in some consuming countries, it has now become clear that these grades will not now meet world demands and the Government of this Region, in an attempt to retain its share of the world market, is determined to encourage our farmers to meet the new standards. The standards which we shall be required to meet in future are as follows:

Grade I cocoa.—This is thoroughly dry, free from foreign matter, smoky beans and any evidence of adulteration and contains not more than 3 per cent, by count, of slaty beans and not more than 3 per cent, by count, of all other defects.

Grade II cocoa.—This is thoroughly dry, free from foreign matter, smoky beans and any evidence of adulteration and contains not more than 4 per cent, by count, of mouldy beans, not more than 8 per cent by count of slaty beans and not more than 6 per cent, by count, of all other defects.

It will be clear to hon. Members that a great deal of work has to be done to meet these new standards and I appeal to all hon. Members to take up the issues personally and bring the new standards, which the international market now requires of us, to the notice of farmers in their areas. I am sure that with the concerted effort of us all, this Region will continue to maintain its place in the world market for cocoa.

The third point which I wish to make relates to the stimulation of local consumption of cocoa. We all are aware of the part which cocoa has played and will continue to play in the economy of this Region. It is a matter for concern that although this country is one of the largest producers of cocoa in the world, so little of the product is consumed here. It is the aim of Government to encourage the local consumption of cocoa and cocoa products, and it is our aim to encourage the manufacture of cocoa products in the Region. As a step towards this encouragement we are proposing, in consultation with the Marketing Boards and the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company, to introduce a Cocoa Week Celebration, as part of an International Cocoa Day Celebration in the Federation. I would ask for the co-operation of Members of this House on this matter, and it will be appreciated if, when the time comes, we endeavour to make our people conscious of the possibilities of cocoa as a nourishing food.

In the course of the statement which I have already made I have touched upon a number of points raised by the hon. Members on the Speech from the Throne. The Member for Ondo North-East has referred to Government's intention to review its Forest Policy. I can assure him that our future policy with regard to forest management will help to preserve the security of Government Forest Estates and also check any reckless exploitation of economic trees in the Region.

The hon. Member for Ekiti South-East has referred to steps which Government has taken on the improvement of agricultural techniques and production, the farm settlement scheme and the encouragement of poultry farming and fisheries. I can assure him that we would continue to intensify our activities on these matters. It is generally

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agreed that agriculture is the mainstay of our economy and steps taken towards its further development could not be carried too far.

The hon. Member for Afenmai West II has suggested that our re-afforestation scheme should be furthered by checking indiscriminate bush burning. This is a seasonal feature in some parts of the Region. It has a devastating effect on the forest resources and the fertility of farm land. I wish to point out that in Forest Reserves bush burning is prohibited so that the proposed afforestation scheme will not be inhibited by indiscriminate bush burning. Outside the Forest Reserves, however, efforts are constantly being made to persuade those who live in the country side to desist from wanton destruction of vegetation by annual bush fires. The habits and customs of a people cannot easily be changed except by education and persuasion.

The Member for Afenmai has also asked to know Government's activities on the encouragement of rice production in Agenebode and has asked for more Agricultural Assistants in Afenmai. An Irrigation Engineer was posted to Agenebode to carry out a survey on the feasibility of large-scale rice production in those parts of Afenmai bordering the Niger. The officer died there and, ever since, it has not been possible to obtain the services of an Irrigation Engineer to continue the work. With regard to the request for more Agricultural Assistants in Afenmai Division there are twenty-five Agricultural Assistants in the Division and this figure places Afenmai in a more favourable position, comparatively with the other Divisions of the Region.

A Member for Benin has stated that he would like to see more work done on Research for higher yielding species of rubber and oil palm in the Midwest area. I have already enumerated the activities of my Ministry in this respect. Apart from a total expenditure of about £98,000 and £28,000 for the encouragement of rubber planting and oil palm planting respectively, a Rubber Research Station has been established in the Midwest at a cost of over £14,000 so far.

In concluding, I would refer to the general problem which my Ministry has to face with regard to trained personnel. Almost everywhere there is scarcity of trained personnel. To meet this problem we have to continue to expand facilities available in our training institutions at Moor Plantation and at Akure.

Finally, I must say that there is every reason for us to rejoice at our achievements and we can look forward to the future with optimism.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the Speech from the Throne.

Few Opposition Members criticised our methods in the Ministry of Local Government of making selections to the Assessment Committees in the Region. I would like to say, Mr Speaker, that it was an agreement reached between the Government and all the major political parties in this Region that where a Party is represented in a Council, that Party ought to have adequate representation in the various Tax Assessment Committees in the area. We, the Ministry of Local Government, adhere strictly to this agreement which was reached, but I find it very difficult to understand why some hon. Members, particularly from the areas where the NCNC are not represented on such Councils, now complain that they are not represented on the Assessment Committees. They could not possibly be represented on the Assessment Committees because I consider it very unfair to allow a person who has no voice in the Council, and who has no part to play in the collection of tax, to sit down and assess people. I have however taken care, Mr Speaker, Sir, to see that due allocation is made to the NCNC as a local party in the various Assessment Committees.

Again, one hon. Member from Okitipupa Division alleged that in the selection of women to local government councils, only Action Group members were nominated into both the Ikale Idapomarun District Council and also the Ikale Orisunmeta Council. This is not true, Mr Speaker, because in the Ikale Idapomarun District Council the total number of female members nominated is two, and that has been divided in the ratio of one to Action Group and one to NCNC, and their names were duly published in the official *Gazette*. Again, in the Ikale Orisunmeta, the same quota of two Action Group, because of their representation in that Council, have one and the NCNC also has one. In regard to female members, the guiding principle is the provision of the Law which allows the nomination of women to these Councils: one woman to be nominated for every ten elected male members of the Council. In a meeting of all the Parties together, which was held in my office some-

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time early this year, an agreement was reached as to proportional female representation depending on how many Action Group members we have in a given Council and how many NCNC members we have in the Council. This agreement was reached with the officials of the NCNC Headquarters in Ibadan and also with Action Group officials in the Headquarters in Ibadan. I am sure the hon. Member who made this allegation did not at all check up at home; this feeling comes from Members in the Okitipupa Division.

Mr Speaker Sir, may I say further that we in the Ministry of Local Government have, in so far as assistance to local authorities is concerned, been doing our best to see that maximum assistance is given to them by way of advice and by way of encouragement; and not only have I been visiting these local authorities from time to time, but the Minister in the Ministry and also the Parliamentary Secretary have all toured extensively in order to give encouragement to these local authorities. But may I say, Sir, that the allegation of bribery and corruption in local authorities has completely died down—(Cheers)—because of the guidance that our officers in the field are constantly giving to these local authorities and as a result of the recruitment of really good and qualified staff to man the councils by the Local Government Service Board. As a matter of fact, Mr Speaker, I can tell you that when Government decided to encourage local authorities to assume fuller and greater responsibilities, Government decided that councils which performed well during the year ought to be encouraged by way of greater responsibility being handed over to them by way of self-determination about finances. Since Government decided to grant this financial autonomy to local authorities two years ago, I have the greatest pride, Mr Speaker, to say that not less than thirteen councils do now enjoy financial autonomy in this Region. (Cheers).

I would not bother the House by giving these things, they are published in the *Gazette* from time to time. As soon as this House adjourns, Mr Speaker, I shall have the privilege to present a trophy for the best all-round performance to the Ibarapa District Council in Ibadan Division and also the runner-up trophy to the Akoko-Oke District Council in Afenmai Division. (Cheers).

Mr Speaker Sir, I do hope that the goodwill and mutual understanding that has hitherto existed between the members of the local authorities, shades of opinion in the Region, and my Ministry will continue for

better development and progress of local administration in this Region in the ensuing year. (Applause).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to make a brief reply to the criticisms levelled against the Sports Council by the hon. Member for Ikeja South. Unfortunately he is not in the House now, but I am sure he will read whatever reply I give in the *Hansard*. Mr Speaker Sir, it would appear that the hon. Member has not bothered himself to read the Sports Council Second Annual Report which I had the honour to lay on the Table of this House during the last sitting of the House. He has not been willing, it appears, to avail himself of the facts which are always available from the Secretary of the Western Region Sports Council. He alleged that since the creation of the Sports Council two years ago, the Sports Council has not helped in supporting organisations in the form of loans or grants. Nothing could be further from the truth and to refute these unfounded allegations I will proceed to give you some facts and figures which could be checked up at any time from the records in the office of the Sports Council.

Members of the House will recollect that the Liberty Stadium, which comes under the control of the Sports Council, was opened on the 30th of September, 1960, and in just about eighteen months since the Stadium was opened, the Western Nigeria Sports Council was, through the organisation of its Stadium Management Committee, able to pay a sum of £13,336 16s 6d to the West Council of the N.F.A. and the parent body in Lagos, that is, the N.F.A. itself, as gate collections from various football matches played at the Stadium. Such matches included Ghana versus Sudan, the Western Rovers versus Abidjan, Midwest versus Abidjan, Western Rovers versus Portuguese Guinea, Western Rovers versus Brazzaville, Western Rovers versus Sheffield Wednesday, and so on and so forth. During this period too, a sum of about £500 was paid to the Amateur Athletics Association of Western Nigeria for various athletic sports meetings held at the Liberty Stadium by way of gate fees. I am sure hon. Members would agree that these are very substantial amounts.

Also grants are payable to legally constituted governing bodies who submitted audited accounts for the previous year for purposes of administration, transport, equipment and popularisation of sports. Special transport

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grants are also given to enable Regional teams to travel out of the Region. The following grants have, in fact, been made available to governing bodies of sports during the past financial year:—

	£
(1) West Amateur Athletics Association (Men)	570
(2) West Amateur Athletics Association (Women)	370
(3) West Cricket Association	370
(4) West Table Tennis Association... ..	370
(5) West Swimming Association	130
(6) West Lawn Tennis Association... ..	370
(7) West Football Association	300
(8) West Amateur Boxing Association	370
(9) West Hockey Association	370

In addition to these the Sports Council, with my approval, have just appointed two organising secretaries to organise soccer throughout Western Nigeria. The two of them, with transport allowance and basic allowance, will be costing the Sports Council at least about £1,500 a year. Two buses have also been purchased for the use of Football Associations and other Sporting Organisations at a cost of £5,000, whilst a third and a very large one—a 39-seater bus for athletes—will soon be delivered to the Sports Council at a cost of £6,000. On some occasions the Sports Council gave advance loans to the West Council of the N.F.A. to enable it to organise important football matches, and I have it on record that up till now the West Council of the N.F.A. is still indebted to the Sports Council to the tune of about £400 as loan advance, and if the management of football in Western Nigeria by the West N.F.A. had not been faulty to the extent that led the Government to institute a Commission of Inquiry into its activities sometime ago a sum of well over £13,000 realised for that body by the Western Nigeria Sports Council within eighteen months is a great sum which should make any sports organisation to find its feet financially. I have it on record that never in the history of the Association in Western Nigeria has such a large sum of money accrued to that body, and I therefore feel the Sports Council and the Liberty Stadium Management Committee ought to be congratulated for this efficient performance. (*Applause*).

With regard to coaching, to which the hon. Member referred, I notice that the hon. Member even forgot to mention Mr Balogun who, only recently, did two weeks of coaching in his constituency in Ikeja area. Mr Balogun is a qualified Football Coach and his prowess and coaching ability are well-known

to all and sundry. Since he was appointed he has toured the Region extensively and has covered about fifteen thousand miles giving coaching lessons and practices to a large number of Schools and Football Associations throughout the Region. The Sports Council has already offered appointment to a Chief Coach who is likely to take up appointment sometime in April 1962. It will be appreciated by Members that when one is searching in a world market for a top-class coach the search can be long and drawn out if one is to ensure getting the right person. It will therefore be seen that on football coaches alone, the Sports Council will be spending about £5,500 per annum. This sum includes salaries, allowances, housing accommodation and inducement allowance where applicable. Grants have been paid out for coaching courses to—

(a) Cricket Association, in order to be able to employ Mr George Headley;

(b) Table Tennis, in order to be able to employ Alec Brooke;

(c) Boxing, in order to be able to engage Hogan Bassey for some time;

(d) Football, in order to be able to engage Beth Halevi; and finally

(e) for Hockey, in order to be able to engage Svendarg and Akponwii.

The total sum paid out under this heading is about £700.

As for Les Courtier, who was at one time Chief Coach, his appointment was terminated in April last year because of three reasons:

(1) the West Council of the N.F.A. found it entirely impossible to co-operate with him and they told me that they could not get on with him; as a result the Sports Council did not by itself appoint coaches but the Sports Council appoint coaches for the West Council of the N.F.A.;

(2) his unsavoury remarks about the Government of this Region; the Government cannot cherish such remarks from him;

(3) because of his unwillingness to undertake extensive touring and also inability to impart knowledge.

It is common knowledge that this gentleman, on very many occasions, went to coach on the field in long trousers, in ties and coats, and so on and so forth. I wonder what such an officer could do in such gorgeous dresses!

With regard to Mr Adeniji to which the hon. Member also referred, the West Council of the N.F.A. employed him and, after he has been paid for two or three months by the

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same Council, the Council made an attempt to transfer him through the back door to the services of the Western Nigeria Sports Council. In spite of the fact that the appointment of Mr Adeniji by the West Council of the N.F.A. was most irregular I got the Sports Council to interview him in order to ascertain his ability and suitability as a coach. The result of the interview is that Mr Adeniji did not have any coaching qualification whatsoever, excepting that he has a certificate issued to him by Mr Les Courtier. That certificate merely stated that Mr Adeniji undertook a week's coaching course under him; and Members would again appreciate that just because a person is a football player does not make him automatically a good coach. Again Mr Adeniji was interviewed along with others when the Sports Council was to appoint two organising secretaries in order to co-ordinate the work of the governing bodies of Sports, but it was discovered that he fell far too short of the necessary requirements. In short, the West Council of the N.F.A. has been trying to dump Mr Adeniji, its "baby", on the laps of the Western Nigeria Sports Council; and if the Western Nigeria Sports Council should adopt this "baby" it will be creating a very dangerous precedent because nothing would stop all other sporting organisations from employing the same sort of questionable appointment.

With regard to lack of football stadia all over the Region, the Government is making provision for this in its Six-year Development Plan and the Sports Council had done its part by preparing the drawings, plans and models for the Provincial Sports Centres to be built in each of the Provincial Headquarters and I invite all hon. Members, particularly the hon. Member for Ikeja South, to visit the Liberty Stadium and have some chat with the Secretary and the Chairman of the Sports Council who will show him all these developments.

The hon. Member also complained that no Nigerian has been sent abroad for coaching courses. There are two or three overseas—conspicuous among whom is Mr Omagbemi, "the flying man" who is at present pursuing an athletics coaching course in the United States of America. And if I may say this also, one of the uses of the Chief Coach is to come and organise coaching lessons to those who are capable of partaking of these lessons. In fact, what we are trying to do is that what we would normally go to obtain in Germany, or in England or United States of America, could be brought right to our

own doors in Western Nigeria by appointing this Chief Coach.

The hon. Member also complained that the West lost the Bank-Anthony Cup to the East just because one member of the Sports Council did not release a player from Ado-Ekiti. The fact of the case is that the player in question is a Higher School Certificate Course student and will normally take his studies at this stage of his life much more seriously than anything else since the country has not established professionalism in soccer. As a matter of fact, the boy was released to the West Council of the N.F.A. for two weeks during the match against Togoland. After the match, instead of the West N.F.A., releasing the boy to go back to his studies, he was kept down for another one week until the boy himself managed to escape back to his studies. His father has launched a very strong protest to the Principal of his School for allowing the boy to be absent from his studies even for one day. I am personally very anxious that any football star who is discovered by the West Council of the N.F.A. should not be debarred from playing for the Council by its employers. I therefore held a series of meetings with Government departments and merchantile houses so that such men could be released and camped without any difficulty. And I have mentioned it to the officers of the West N.F.A. that if they come across any difficulty with any mercantile houses or Government Department they should let me know immediately, so that I can take it up; but not a single case has yet been brought before me.

With regard to the hon. Member's allegation concerning the suitability of the present Sports Council, I submit that the hon. Member has not been fully informed about the sterling qualities of these Members who have spared their time to serve the interest of the Region. Mrs Fatayi-Williams, who was specifically mentioned, has put in a considerable amount of voluntary work in many of Nigeria's sporting organisations and probably knows as much about coaching as anybody else in Nigeria. A small point of interest here is that the Chairman of the German Football Team which is currently touring the country is a woman. As a matter of fact, she is the Minister of Sports in the Republic of West Germany. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). Secondly, the reference to Mr Powell as a grounds man is most preposterous. Mr Powell is one of our most knowledgeable sports administrators and, during his very long service in Nigeria, he has done an incredible amount of work in the interest of sports. In fact,

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in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, one of the halls of residence has been named after him in appreciation of his unforgettable contributions towards the progress of sports generally throughout the Federation. The other members such as the Chairman himself, Mr Lanionu, Mr Ogunlade, an honorary coach for Ekiti Amateur Football Association, Chief Begho and Chief D. Iyamu are all well-known to sports fans for their interest in sports and their ability to impart their knowledge to sportsmen for the glory of the Region.

With regard to employment of players at the Liberty Stadium, I think my colleague, hon. Oye, has made a suitable reply to the point raised by the hon. Member. I am glad to say here that I have called a meeting of the West Council of the N.F.A. since the hon. Member made the point, and we will be looking into the possibility of giving some employment under the Sports Council to some of our star players, provided they have the requisite qualifications.

I would not like to take up the time of the House but what is left really now is a sort of reply to the irresponsible, unfounded and mendacious attack on the pages of the *Southern Nigeria Defender* and also on the pages of the *Tribune* purported to have come from the West Council of the N.F.A. I am happy to report that the West N.F.A. has made a categorical denial of these publications on the pages of these two newspapers. So I need not waste the time to reply.

Finally, Mr Speaker, before I take my seat, I should like to reserve my reply to the various requests made by hon. Members until when we are debating the Appropriation Bill.

May I on behalf of the Western Nigeria Government invite hon. Members to the formal opening of the Health Auxiliary Training School at Eleiyele on the 17th April, at 5.00 p.m.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion of thanks to His Excellency, the Governor, I will reply very briefly to certain questions which have been raised by hon. Members in this House on chieftaincy matters. There is very little that commoners can say against the institution of chieftaincy; so my reply will be very, very brief indeed.

An hon. Member from Aboh has complained about the presence of traditional

members in his Council which has prevented him from becoming the Chairman of his Council. May I remind this hon. Gentleman that Obas and Chiefs are part and parcel of the local government system of this Region and in fact of the entire Federation of Nigeria. If the chiefs in his area fail to support his side, it is because of the love they have for the noble work being done by the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria.

In reply to a point raised by an hon. Member for Okitipupa Division, the question of wearing beaded crowns by the natural rulers of the Region is being examined by a Special Committee of Obas and Chiefs of the Region. I am still awaiting the report.

The hon. Members for Okitipupa in this House are all one in asking the Government to do something to clarify the position of the various chiefs in Ikafe Division. A Commission of Inquiry which has been set up has now forwarded its report that is being studied in my Ministry. The recommendations will be placed before the Government at no distant date for final decisions.

Tradition, like history, cannot thrive and survive on wishful thinking, but on truth and honest statements of fact. This Government, because it is always on the side of truth, will continue to maintain the institution of chieftaincy and uphold the honour and dignity attached to the traditional position of our Obas and Chiefs in the Region.

On the 30th April and 1st May this year a Conference of Obas and Chiefs from the whole of Western Nigeria will be held in Ibadan. During this meeting the Obas and Chiefs will have the opportunity to know what is going on in the various Ministries of Government from the reports that the Ministers will present to them. At this meeting the Obas and Chiefs will have an opportunity to exchange views on problems that affect them.

On the social side, it will be possible to hold a Cocktail Party for the Chiefs at the Liberty Stadium, where they will have the opportunity, not only of looking round the Stadium, but also of watching a flood-lit novelty football match.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the gracious Speech delivered from the Throne by His Excellency, the Governor.

I have noted, Mr Speaker, that a number of Members speaking from the Opposition

[DR ONABAMIRO]

Bench on the Motion have levelled some criticisms on the Ministry of Education. May I seize this opportunity, Mr Speaker, to reply to some of these criticisms.

One is concerning Edo College. The allegation was made by the Member for Benin South-East that the promise by the Government for the expansion of Edo College has not been implemented. The correct position is that it took some time for the grant of land to Government to be completed. It was only after this had been done that the land could be properly surveyed, including the production of a contour map which is required by the architects before they could start their work. The architects have now almost completed their working drawing and it is expected that work will start on the new buildings before the end of the year. The financial provisions for the new buildings have been retained in the new Estimates to be considered by hon. Members during this Session.

The Member for Benin South-East also thought that Government was deceiving the people with respect to the plan for a Technical College in the Midwest. The position here is that the Technical College, originally meant for Benin, is now to be built at Auchi. This change of site has resulted in some delay. The site in Auchi has been selected and inspected by experts and is at the present moment being surveyed. As soon as the survey is completed, it would be possible to start on the design of the buildings. Arrangements are already in hand on the recruitment of staff because engineering and other technical staff are in short supply and are therefore difficult to recruit, unless an arrangement is made a long time in advance.

The Member for Aboh East has alleged that the people of the Midwest do not receive as much attention as the rest of the Region with regard to scholarship awards, and that the people of Aboh Division, Aboh in particular, have not received their fair share. He has also complained that Government institutions are not sited in Aboh. Between 1952 and 1961, the Midwest received 627 scholarships out of a total of 2,511. This is 25 per cent of the total. The population of the Midwest at the last Census was 1,492,116 out of a total regional population of 6,092,310. You will see, therefore that the population of the Midwest is less than 25 per cent of the total population of the Region, being only 24.5 per cent. It seems clear, therefore, that the Midwest has received its fair share of the total scholarship awards in Western Nigeria.

As far as the siting of Government educational institutions is concerned, the institutions are so few that it is not possible to place one in each Division. The existing Government educational institutions in the Region are located as follows: Secondary Grammar Schools—there are four Government Secondary Grammar Schools; of the four, two are located in the Midwest. Women Trade Centres—there is one and none so far in the Midwest. Grade II Teacher Training Colleges—there are three and one of the three is in the Midwest. Advanced Teacher Training College—only one in the Region and none so far in the Midwest. Government Primary Schools—there are eight and of the eight six are located in the Midwest. The Midwest thus enjoys more than its fair share of Government institutions.

The Member for Owo South I has raised a question of grammar schools in Oka. There are at present two grammar schools in Oka, and the Committee of the Regional Advisory Board of Education which advised me has expressed the view that the existing institutions are adequate for the needs of the area as there were only 600 primary school leavers in the district in 1961. It is proposed that one of the two existing grammar schools should be turned into a mixed school to provide places for girls. It will not be in the interest of the area to open a new grammar school since the basis on which the Government makes such provision is.....(*Interruptions*).

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member for Urhobo is still wearing "Awolowo cap", or is it ordinary hair? (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Member is wearing his hair. (*Laughter*).

Dr Onabamiro: As I was saying, Mr Speaker, the basis on which the Government makes provision for secondary grammar schools is for the accommodation of 10 per cent of primary school leavers.

The Member for Okitipupa has referred to the proposal by the Government to create a financial pool in each local education authority area which is to be available for building new primary schools and for major repairs to existing ones. He may be assured that when the administrative arrangements are completed, every effort will be made to ensure that funds placed in this pool are properly safeguarded and distributed.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

[DR. ONABAMIRO]

The Minister of Information (Chief E. A. A. Fadayiro): In rising to support this Motion I would like to say that the two hon. Members from Okitipupa Division have criticised the services of my Ministry. For their information I would like to educate them and Members of the Opposition and tell them what my Ministry has done throughout the Region.

The Field Publicity Section of the Ministry has been reorganised in order to cope with the ever-increasing demand for adequate publicity outside headquarters. To this end, the Field Publicity Organisation has been divided into zones with zonal headquarters properly staffed by Senior Information Officers, Information Officers, Assistant Photographers and equipped with publicity vans. The result of this exercise has been the effective way in which coverage of events, tours of Ministers and important personalities, propaganda and publicity for various Ministries have been carried out satisfactorily.

The present disposition of our Field Organisation is as follows:

Ibadan Zone:—Zonal Headquarters, Ibadan.

Senior Information Officer in charge, one Information Officer, one Senior Commentator, Photographer and Driver Projectionist.

Zonal Stations:

Oyo with a Cinema Commentator, Driver Projectionist and cinema van.

Shaki with a Commentator, Driver Projectionist and cinema van and Isehun Station.

Ikeja Zone.—We have another zonal headquarters at Ikeja. It serves the stations at Abeokuta, Ilaro, Ajilete, Otta, Shagamu, Ijebu-Ode, Epe, Badagry. We have now placed order for new vans for the service.

We have another zone known as Akure Zone with zonal headquarters at Akure, with a Commentator and cinema van. It has its zonal stations at Ondo, Ado-Ekiti, Owo, and Okitipupa.

The next zone we have is Benin Zone with zonal stations at Asaba, Auch, Uromi, Warri, Kwale, Ashaka, Bomadi and Ughelli.

At each of these stations we have a cinema van, photographer and also an Information Officer.

Hon. Members will observe that from the foregoing, it is possible at short notice to

carry out campaigns and make announcements on any subject of Government policy to people all over the Region and that the new organisation enables headquarters to exercise proper control on the work of all the field staff.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief S. O. Sogbein): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion ably moved to congratulate His Excellency for his all-embracing and illuminating Speech delivered from the Throne. In doing so, I shall confine myself to the activities of my Ministry and to the observations made by hon. Members.

His Excellency said, *inter alia*, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I quote—

“My Government is proud to announce that the programme of road development and strengthening of bridges began during the 1960-65 development period is now almost being covered”.

The truth of this statement is borne out by hon. Members. For instance, the hon. Member from Ekiti South-East said, and I quote: “The Government deserves to be commended for its road programme in Western Nigeria which has the best roads in the Federation of Nigeria.”

The Member for Afenmai West thanked Government for tarring the Ifon-Sabongida Road. Other roads mentioned in his speech, e.g., Auch-Afuzé; Sebe-Ogbe-Otwa-Uzebba; Otwa-Afuzé and Sabongida-Ekpoma are already receiving the active attention of Government. Without discussing the Estimates at this stage, I refer the hon. Member to some of its pages and I hope that he will be satisfied.

Another Member from Ekiti North-West congratulated Government for its bold programme of road development which he said “has been vigorously executed”. Going further he also said, and I quote: “Those who have had the opportunity to travel far and wide in all the regions of this country..... would agree with me that the Government of the West is indeed worthy of praise as it has by far done more than the other Regions in that connection”; continuing, he said, further, “It will be at least two decades more for the Eastern Region, and perhaps four decades for the North, before they can reach where the West is today in the matter of road tarring. Whenever I travel in the West and remember what the position was up to a decade ago, my heart gives thanks to God and to the Action Group and I always feel proud that I am a Grouper”. (*Cheers*).

[CHIEF SOGBEIN]

But in contrast to this glorious tribute to the achievements of the Action Group Government of the West there are a very negligible few who feel disgruntled. Of course, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is easy to imagine who would have spoken in a sinister tone. It is an NCNC Member from Okitipupa. He said that there are no roads tarred in his area; that bridges were broken down; and keeps on boasting about that the Federal Government is going to give electric light to Okitipupa.

I shall proceed to educate this Member who sees the activities of this very progressive Government with jaundiced eyes and so sees red in everything. It is Shakespeare in one of his immortal plays, when giving the reason why somebody died, who said, "Ingratitude more than the traitors' spears quite vanquished him". This Member is ungrateful to Government. The following roads in Okitipupa were tarred by this Government:—

(i) Lagos-Benin Road to Okitipupa Town ...	£ 75,000
(ii) Okitipupa-Ilutitun-Igbotako ...	83,000
(iii) Olowa-Irele ...	92,000
(iv) Construction of bridges...	130,000
TOTAL ...	£ 380,000

The bridges mentioned in (iv) above were awarded to a firm called Nigerian Halian Construction and Engineering Company. There are seven major bridges involved, and two of these are now complete and, because of the difficult terrain there, piling work is going on the others. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order.

Chief Odebiyi: To me, Sir, Members of the Opposition are not taking their jobs seriously. They are handsomely paid. Look at the Front Bench; it is already empty; the two remaining members of the NCNC ought to wait and contribute to the Debate or listen to the speeches being made by Ministers in reply to the criticisms which they made. They want to leave. I have never seen the kind of irresponsibility which has been shown this evening.

Mr D. E. Okumagba: Who told him that the two Opposition members were leaving? (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: We are told that the Members of the Opposition who are present are not now leaving. (*Applause*). (*Interruptions*).

I pointed out this morning that Members have a duty to maintain a certain standard of decency in this House and, to ensure that, there are some provisions in our Standing Orders which permit the Speaker to correct Members whenever they are exceeding their bounds.

Mr Okumagba: Bounds of what?

Mr Speaker:of decency. I shall quote Order 37 and hope that Members will keep to this order.

"37 (2) Mr Speaker or the Chairman shall order any Member whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remaining of that day's sitting and the Serjeant-at-Arms shall act on such orders as he may receive from the Chair in pursuance of this Order". I hope Members will keep to the ruling of the Speaker.

Chief Sogbein: So hon. Members will now see that they are not just being broken down: they are being repaired. Work is going on on Shabomi Igbotu Embankment which is under design. The dredging of Mahin Eruwa Creek will soon proceed.

The Member for Aboh remarked that Government has not tarred roads in his area. I think he should thank Government instead for tarring Obiaruku-Amai, Abraka-Kwale and Kwale-Ughelli roads and thus opening his Division to traffic all the year round. All totalling £310,000. So it is not correct for him to say that nothing has been done in Aboh.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there are other speeches of hon. Members congratulating Government for its bold road programme. I would not continue with this catalogue of well-dressed praise of Government but would say, in all humility, that the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria will continue in the good work.

As to the Member who boasts that the Federal Government is bringing electricity to Okitipupa, I would add that I pity him for his palpable ignorance. Under the Constitution, Electricity is in the concurrent list. Again with your permission Sir, Mr Speaker, I would like to read from the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960. I am very sorry that the ignorant hon. Member is not here, but I think that his colleagues will tell him:—

"73 (1) Parliament may make laws for Nigeria or any part thereof with respect to electricity or gas:

[CHIEF SOGBEIN]

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall preclude the legislature of a Region from making laws for that Region with respect to those matters.

“(2) The powers conferred on Parliament by this section shall not include powers—

(a) to prohibit or restrict the establishment by or on behalf of the Government of a Region of an agency for the manufacture, distribution or supply of electricity or gas in that Region; or

(b) to regulate the production, distribution, or supply of electricity or gas by the Government of a Region or any such agency.

“(3) In this section “gas” does not include natural gas”.....

But for the unity of Nigeria, this Government chose to act with others, and the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria was formed. We have our members there. The crux of the matter is that when the Western Nigeria Government wanted electricity to be installed in some towns it gave a big sum of £1.3 million as a loan free of interest to the Corporation repayable in twenty-five years. May I say, Sir, that if the Government were to collect interest annually on this sum, at the rate of 6½ per cent at the time the loan was given, it would collect £78,000 annually. With the aid of this loan the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria proceeded to give light to our towns. Remember that they collect electricity rates from consumers, and so they gave assurance that they could also supply light to other towns from their profit. And they have been doing this. Okitipupa was nominated by the Western Region Government as one of the towns to be supplied with electricity because it is the seat of the Division. This Government does not discriminate, nor does it do politics with amenities; but for the NCNC hon. Member from Okitipupa to seek to reap where he does not sow will not be fair. He who pays the piper must dictate the tune. In fact it will be difficult for him to believe that some towns in other parts of the country are being developed from the profit accruing from the West. I think this explanation will stop the hon. Member from crediting to himself what belongs to others.

I note the request of other Members for the supply of electricity to their communities. Suffice it to say that they should be of good hope for it will soon come to their turn.

Water Supply.—Turning to this aspect of my Ministry, I note with great pleasure the remarks of Members. At this juncture it is pertinent to quote the hon. Member from Ishan's statement, and, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quote: “Before the Western Government came into existence in 1952, every part of my division was drinking pond water. Now you can travel to Ishan and find the best and most palatable water distributed everywhere”. In my considered view, this epitomises our programme for water supply namely, to give good water in place of bad one.

But, water supply needs careful planning. In some cases, sources have to be watched for one or two years, when they are in flood and out of flood, to make sure that they will not fail. Therefore, in Oyo, for instance, we are choosing another source for our water supply. Again the design for the development of Fugar borehole will be completed this year.

Hon. Members should rest assured that Government is pursuing vigorously the provision of adequate and clean water supply for our people both at urban and rural levels.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to give an explanation on the extension of water supply from Remo to Aiyeye-Odogbolu, Okun Owa, Ijebu-Ijesha towns forming what is known as the Ijebu Western District Council. Government has approved this scheme for which a sum of £100,000 has been earmarked. As I said earlier, Mr Speaker, Sir, planning of such schemes has to be made and materials are to be ordered. It is natural for Members to learn that their town has been approved for water supply and to expect to drink it the second day. This is not possible. We cannot strike stone like the Biblical Moses and expect water to rush out. Therefore, work is going on on Odogbolu, Aiyeye Okun-Owa Water Supply and materials will be taken to the site as soon as they arrive, and we are expecting them within the shortest possible time.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr K. S. Y. Momoh): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for His Speech from the Throne.

As Members will know I assumed duties as Minister of Trade and Industry seven weeks ago. (*Cheers*). During that period, however, I feel I have been able to acquaint myself with the activities associated with this Ministry. (*Hear, hear*).

[MR MOMOH]

The activities of my Ministry impinge on the economic life of the people. We are, as is commonly acknowledged, a basically agricultural community. But it is essential that we should learn as rapidly as possible to manufacture a variety of goods so that we may draw our sustenance from more than one source. This objective is usually summed up in one word—Industrialisation. It means the stimulation of industrial processes of all types leading to an all-round increase in the tempo of our economy. That, I think is the traditional meaning in all developing countries. But, to this Government, it means even more; it means the diversification of our economy so as to achieve the highest possible standards of living for our people within the shortest possible time. It means the rapid expansion of employment opportunities in this Region.

These are noble aims, which form an important element in the policy of the Government of this Region. His Excellency the Governor was good enough to refer to it in his Speech from the Throne when he said that his Ministers would intensify their efforts to encourage and secure the establishment, and to reduce our dependence on the importation of essential commodities.

Our liberal education policy in this Region, exemplified by our free primary education scheme which is second to none in the Federation, and our generous scholarship schemes, are yielding great dividends in the production of larger numbers of literate and educated young men and women. Opportunities for gainful employment for these young men and women must be found.

The Government's principal instrument for implementing its industrial plans is the Western Nigeria Development Corporation. In addition to its agricultural projects which are scattered throughout the Region, the Corporation has established a number of industrial projects in association with overseas technical and financial partners. The industrial projects fully owned by the Corporation include the Ikpoba Rubber Factory at Benin City. Other projects in which it holds shares include the West African Portland Cement Company at Ewekoro, near Abeokuta. At present the Corporation holds shares on Government's behalf in fourteen associated companies. The percentage of its shares in these companies varies from 15 per cent to 60 per cent. Factories have been established in the Region for the processing of rubber

and the manufacture of such items as steel windows, plastic and aluminium utensils, pre-stressed concrete and asbestos cement products, interior spring mattresses and mosaic tiles.

The Western Nigeria Development Corporation's investment in its fourteen associated companies amounted, at the end of last year, to over £5.4 million. Some of these companies have made a fair start and have even begun to declare modest dividends. We hope and believe that the promising start which has been made in this field will be maintained and that profits derived from these ventures will increase substantially in the coming years and so provide additional funds for further development.

I realise that the location of an industry depends, more often than not, on such basic factors as the availability of raw materials, proximity to a port, and adequate and easy transport facilities. Most of the projects established by this Region so far have been located with due regard to these factors.

Unfortunately, the practical effect of the application of this policy seems to be a concentration of industries in one particular area of the Region. The impression has thus been unwittingly given, and the charge levelled lavishly on the Floor of this House, that the needs of other areas of the Region for industrial development have been or are being overlooked. I wish to give a solemn assurance to Members of this House, who may entertain this view, that the situation which has arisen has not been deliberately created by the Government. It is, perhaps, inevitable that at this early stage of industrialisation of this country, attention should be paid by those whose funds are at stake to areas which, in their calculated judgment, are likely to provide the facilities needed for the rapid and successful prosecution of their businesses. They want to make profit, and surely no one can reasonably question this motive which is the principal aim of all industrial and commercial enterprises. As a nationalist Government, however, our concern is not confined to the strictly profit-making motive. The desire to provide gainful employment for all our employables is equally important. We are mindful of the need for equitable distribution of the means of production of the nation's wealth so as to arrest, if not prevent, the drift of population from country to town.

That is why I sympathise with those who feel that active steps should be taken to ensure a rational dispersal of industries throughout the Region and so remove the

[MR MOMOH]

impression that certain areas of the Region are deliberately neglected. I assure hon. Members that appropriate steps will be taken in this direction without necessarily doing violence to economic considerations affecting the establishment of industries. Hon. Members will have noted the reference to this matter in His Excellency the Governor's Speech, wherein he said that investigation would be conducted, with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development, in order to ascertain the possibilities for industrial growth in different areas of the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have so far been talking about industrialisation in its traditional sense involving the setting up of large-scale industries requiring huge sums of money for their establishment and administration. There is, I believe, room also for industrialisation of the humble and less spectacular type. In his speech during a similar debate two years ago, the hon. Premier referred to the need for small scale industries in the Region. The following is an extract from his speech on that occasion:—

"We should not allow ourselves to fall into the dangerous habit of expecting Government to do all and everything for us. Machinery is available through the Finance Corporation for assistance to men and women who wish to set up their own industries and businesses. There seems to be a feeling that the grander a scheme is on paper the better it is. I am convinced myself that this is a mistake and that we ought now to think more in terms of modest beginnings and to cease to think exclusively in a big way".

I have said that investigation is being conducted into industrial potentialities in the Region with the assistance of the United States Government. That investigation will, as has been said in the Speech from the Throne, extend to the possibilities of medium-scale and rural industries. I think that this is an avenue of development which has not yet been fully explored but which can comparatively be as fruitful as any other. What I feel is required is knowledge of the industrial uses for our raw materials and guidance as to how best rural communities could derive maximum benefit from them. I am inclined to think that one solution may be the banding together of people in more co-operative societies for the pooling of their resources and their skills.

The Co-operative Societies Division of my Ministry has continued to give the maximum

assistance towards the development of the Co-operative Movement in this Region. The number of co-operative societies has risen from 145 in 1952 to 1,180 in 1961. In the same period the total membership of these societies has been less satisfactory than the rate of the increase in the number of societies themselves. My Ministry is fully conscious of this apparent defect in the Co-operative Movement and we are doing our utmost to overcome it. Despite this defect, however, hon. Members will be interested to know that in 1961 the Co-operative Societies sold about 40,710 tons of cocoa valued at over £6 million and that this tonnage represented 23 per cent of the total export of cocoa from this Region last year.

The Co-operative Movement has, of course, so far been less prominent in the field of industrial effort. As I have already said, I think that in the next phase of the development of the Movement, it may be desirable, subject to results of the technical investigation which is being conducted, to encourage the formation of co-operative societies engaged in manufacturing on a medium scale as well as co-operative farms.

The Co-operative Supply Association, which has been mentioned during this debate, is one of the apex organisations in the Co-operative Movement. It has been a useful instrument for the distribution of spraying equipment and insecticides to co-operative farmers in the Region.

The result has been a noticeable increase in the output of these farmers. As I have said, the Co-operative Movement alone was responsible for 23 per cent of the total export of cocoa from the Region last year. This is an achievement of which the Co-operators can be truly proud. Mr Speaker, Sir, in addition to the facilities provided by the Co-operative Supply Association in the field of cocoa cultivation, it owns and operates a super-market at Yaba, a self-service store at Ibadan and another self-service store at Sapele. It owns twenty-six petrol pumping stations in several parts of the Region under an arrangement with Total Oil Products (Nigeria) Limited, and it controls a chain of twenty-six shops throughout the Region. The Association is a worthwhile institution and the Government will continue to support it in every possible way.

An allegation has been made by hon. Amadasun that the grants made available by the Government to the Co-operative Supply Association have been misappropriated. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of this alleged misappropriation, and I must

[MR MOMOH]

ask the hon. Member to substantiate it. Otherwise, I propose to regard his remarks as yet another example of political mischief originating from the other side of this honourable House, and I shall ignore them.

I think that it is the hon. Member for Ife Central who asked to know how much has been loaned to farmers by the Finance Corporation since its establishment. The position is that approximately £1.5 million has been loaned by the Corporation to farmers out of which the sum of approximately £1 million is outstanding. I understand that out of 77,489 farmers who have received loans from the Finance Corporation since its inception, only 34,338 have either completely refunded their loans or are doing so regularly. This is deplorable.

May I therefore take this opportunity to appeal to hon. Members to urge the people of their constituencies concerned to refund their loans to the Corporation strictly in accordance with their contracts. Most farmers do not appear to appreciate that failure to refund loans made to them at the agreed rates and at the specified intervals is a sure means of crippling the Government's activities in this regard. Defaulters make it impossible for other members of the community to benefit from the wonderful credit facilities provided by the Finance Corporation which considerably surpass those available in the rest of the Federation.

His Excellency referred in his Speech to the Government's concern in regard to indigenous participation in the commercial life of the country, particularly in the field of retail trade. I am glad to say that the feelings of the Government of this Region on this are warmly shared by the other Governments of the Federation. The matter was considered at the last meeting of the National Economic Council which took place in Ibadan, and the Federal Government is expected to take the initiative in arranging further discussions with a view to finding the right solutions to the problem of indigenous share of the retail and distributive trade throughout the Federation. Even now one thing is known for certain; the big foreign firms—at least some of them—have proved that they can themselves read correctly the handwriting on the wall. They are already withdrawing in many fields of retail and distributive trade.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said when I began, I am only about seven weeks old in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and this speech is designed largely to give my first

impression of the activities of that Ministry and also to indicate my ideas of how I think the activities of the Ministry could continue to be executed successfully. (Cheers).

Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Labour (Chief J. E. Babatola): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his Speech from the Throne, I would like to repeat what I said here earlier during this Session when a Private Member opposite criticised this Government for what he called "lack of employment opportunities for our school leavers". I had indicated on that occasion the reason why it appeared that Government did not provide jobs in sufficient quantity for school leavers. As a matter of fact, I said at the time that Government is doing what is possible for any progressive Government to do in order to give jobs to school leavers. For two reasons, the efforts of the Government have not been quite successful as it should. In the first place, I said that school leavers are reluctant to seek employment outside what has been termed black-coat jobs. Our school leavers prefer to be engaged as Clerks, as Telephone Operators, rather than to be employed in jobs which require the exercise of their talents. They refuse to be employed as carpenters, furniture makers, blacksmiths, drivers and the like. I appeal to all hon. Members of this House that every one of us has a duty to perform in this regard and I especially said that we should tell our teachers to intensify the campaign for a due regard for the dignity of labour. I think that our Members opposite who are critics of the Government will help in this.

Secondly, I said that our efforts in creating what is known as "Employment Exchange" throughout the Region have not been actually amply rewarded because of what is known to have been the habit of employers of labour as well as of the boys and girls who pass out from Schools and who want to be employed.

We have these employment exchanges at Akure, Benin City, Sapele, Abeokuta and Ibadan, and, of course, at Warri too; but we are surprised that employers of labour have not made good use of these.

What appears to be a lot of unemployment is actually not the case. What you do find is the fact that when perhaps about ten school leavers are seeking for jobs, instead of going to these employment exchanges to register, the ten of them will rather go from office to office and it would appear, at U.A.C., that

[CHIEF BABATOLA]

there are ten people who have no job; at John Holt it would appear that there are ten people who have no job; and everywhere they went it would appear that all of them have no job, whereas there might be vacancies for about two at the G.B.O., and two vacancies in a Government Ministry; but because they do not make use of employment exchanges, it is not possible for these exchanges to help them and direct them to places where vacancies do occur. So if our boys and girls can make more use of employment exchanges, what appears to be unemployment will actually decrease.

As I said on the last occasion, it is our hope that employers of labour in this country, especially in the mercantile houses, will not make it possible for Government to use compulsion before we get their co-operation in this matter.

Before I sit down, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform this honourable House that steps are being taken to help more and more trade unions which have their origin in this Region to be well organised and to be registered because we believe that very strong trade unions and very responsible trade unions will certainly contribute a very vigorous sense of responsibility among workers of this country.

Finally, I would like to remark that it is the hope of this Government that, as far as possible, greater economy in matters of labour will be achieved by this Regional Government as time goes on.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to. (Prolonged Applause).

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn till 9 o'clock tomorrow; but before I resume my seat, I would like to express, on behalf of this side of the House, my sympathy to the hon. Member for Warri who has been left friendless, deserted and companionless. All he needs do is to cross over to this side of the House. (*Applause*).

Chief Babatola: Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr D. E. Okumagba (Warri East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not require the sympathy of the people of the other side of the House. I think my Friends have left because they know I will be in the House and strong enough to hold the fort.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.22 p.m., until tomorrow, Friday, 6th April, 1962, at 9.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 6TH APRIL, 1962

The House met at 9.30 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (3)

The Leader of the House and Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (3) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 12 o'clock, if necessary.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): I rise to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

till Monday, 9th April

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that at its rising this day the House shall adjourn until Monday, 9th April, 1962.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

POOL BETTING (CONTROL AND TAXATION) BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to make provision for the control and regulation of Pool Betting Businesses and for the taxation of Pool Betting in Western Nigeria and for other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

As the long title of the Bill suggests, the Bill seeks to do two things: first, to control and regulate pool betting and pool betting business in the Region and, secondly, to impose a tax of 20 per cent on every stake placed by persons within or outside the Region with any licensed proprietor carrying on a pools betting business within the Region.

For some time now Government has become aware of the outflow of large sums of money from this country to outside pool

betting organisations in the United Kingdom, Australia and Malta, to name just a few of the countries involved. And what is more, the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that a substantial proportion of Nigerian money lost in this way is attributable to stakers in this Region. For a young country like Nigeria, with its low level of national income and consequential shortage of capital relative to its requirements, the need to arrest this trend therefore becomes urgent. One solution to the problem would have been for this Government to set up a State pools betting organisation of its own to the exclusion of all indigenous organisations already in the business. As a result of representations which have been made to Government by these organisations, it has become apparent that some Nigerians would be deprived of their means of livelihood were this to be done. However, recent happenings in the local pools trade have drawn attention to the need for Regional legislation designed *inter alia* to protect the general public against possible fraud by unscrupulous pool betting organisations. This Bill therefore makes provisions empowering the Minister of Finance to issue, renew and revoke licences for the carrying on of pools betting business in the Region. Clause 9 of the Bill empowers magistrates and justices of the peace to issue search warrants in relation to suspected offences under Part II of the Bill. Penalties ranging from a fine of £25 or imprisonment for three months to a fine of five hundred pounds or imprisonment for two years or both such fine and imprisonment have been prescribed for contraventions of various provisions under Part II of the Bill.

Hon. Members will recall that in the course of my Budget Speech on Wednesday it was hinted that a number of revenue measures designed to provide additional funds to Governments would be announced later in the course of the current Budget Meeting of this House. Under Part III of this Bill, it is proposed to impose a tax at the rate of 20 per cent on every stake placed with licensed proprietors carrying on pool betting business in the Region by persons within or outside the Region. This tax is not intended to impose any liability personally on a staker to pay, as an addition to any stake placed by him, the tax chargeable on such stake or to collect or account for such tax. In this connection, the attention of hon. Members is drawn to clause 11 (3) of the Bill. I should also draw the attention of hon. Members to clause 35 of the Bill which confers general powers to the Regional Tax Board for the purpose of discharging certain

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

functions under the Income Tax Law in relation to the provisions of this Bill.

Finally, let me say that this Bill is considered both progressive and non-contentious, in which case its provisions are expected to win the ready acceptance of my hon. Friends on the other side of this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to support this Bill I would like, first of all, to say that, of all the Bills that have come before this House, this one appears the least controversial, but the most technical and most beneficial.

Pools betting and its ally, gambling, have a long-standing history in overseas countries, but it was not possible for Government to control them by way of legislation until very lately after Commissions of Enquiry were appointed—one in 1933 and another in 1949—to make recommendations. To support my arguments, may I beg, Mr Speaker, Sir, to refer to the opinions expressed by one Sir Lawrence Dunne, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate: "The drafting of legislation designed to restrain gambling is an occupational disease to which British Parliaments have traditionally been susceptible".

Nevertheless, when one takes into consideration the number of sincere ambitious stakers who have suffered in one way or the other in the hands of unscrupulous and dishonest pools promoters or agents in this country, one may be tempted to think that the introduction of this Bill was almost too late.

With your permission Mr Speaker, Sir, if I may refer to the publication in the issue of the *Daily Times* of 15th March, 1961: "From Kano, Ibadan and Lagos, stories of money won and not received, pools house besieged. Angry stakers failed to find promoters". But besides this Mr Speaker, many other publications were made that were not possible to be brought to the floor of this House because the Bill is self-explanatory.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my belief that this Bill would receive the full support of both sides of the House for the following reasons:—

(i) the public is widely interested in football pool betting and its interests must be safeguarded;

(ii) no law in Nigeria is yet enacted to prevent insidious publication;

(iii) the special opportunity for fraud on the part of the promoter or agent is very wide;

(iv) the possibilities for the promoter to offer special inducements to unenlightened and uneducated stakers are apparent; and

(v) it would help to increase the Region's revenue by way of taxation and help to boost up the austerity measures recently introduced.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have the following suggestions to make. Since football pools betting, as known and operating in this Region, is sub-divided into two parts, *viz.*, Fixed Odds and Treble Chance systems, the Law should be made to treat them separately in some respects.

The fixed odds system offers open and rigid conditions to stakers, yet it is more susceptible to fraudulent practices. The promoters in this case should be made to deposit a substantial amount of money with the Government apart from the licence fees.

Promoters in the case of the Treble Chance system should be made to publish weekly the list of winners to avoid fraud and for income taxation purposes.

This is very important, Sir, because the twenty-four and the highest possible points which were not possibly obtainable during the operation of overseas pools organisations in this country have become the order of the day with our locally established pools.

Another suggestion is with reference to Clauses 8 and 11. In the case of clause 8, Sir, it appears the penalty there at this initial stage is a little bit high. At the moment, we still have a very large number of unenlightened and uneducated stakers, as I have said earlier on so that if one who has, say, at least 2s 6d or less than that, or a little bit above that, in his pocket strikes at the doors of fortune and has to face imprisonment or perhaps a fine of £25 or more, I think many people will suffer imprisonment; hence, Sir, I suggest that this clause 8 should have received the consideration of the Minister in charge.

Another suggestion, Sir, is in respect of Clause 11. It also appears here, Sir, that a tax of 20 per cent is too exorbitant because in pools organisations 25 per cent is paid to collectors by way of commission; another 25 per cent is utilised by promoters to pay for their expenses, and if Government takes 20 per cent, it might appear that the promoter would be tempted to dip his hands

[MR ATOHENGBE]

into the total collections and may not appear sincere enough to the innocent stakers.

Well, Mr Speaker, Sir, as the mover of the Motion has earlier on explained that the Bill is out to cater for every person in this Region, I would like to speak a little and take my seat because the Bill is self-explanatory. Mr Speaker, Sir, although it is true that the Act of Parliament cannot make bad people good, yet we also believe it will go to some length to prevent bad people from making good people bad (*Cheers from all sides of the House*).

Mr F. C. Ebubedike (Badagry East)
Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. In supporting this Bill, I should describe it as a timely one. This Bill aims to protect the public from the pool betting business and also to tax pool betting houses and bring more money to the coffers of the Government. But there are some things that we have to take into consideration.

Presently, we have many pool houses in the Western Region and these pool houses have provided employment for many applicants. I am appealing to the Government that a specific period of time should be given to those operating to obtain licences instead of closing them abruptly. Consideration should also be given to those who open pool houses and collect money as agents. They have their commissions from the pool business; they rent places where they carry out this business. If they are automatically stopped, they should be liable to debts to their landlords.

Going more into this, I think the Minister of Finance deserves praise for bringing this timely Bill: the Federal Government has already passed such a Bill and we have been expecting that this Region should be able to pass the same and therefore stop the outflow of money going out of this Region to the other Regions and even to the outside world.

I need not say too much on this than to appeal that consideration should be given first to the cost of the licences. Secondly, there should be extension of time to allow those operating already to obtain their licences. Thirdly the reduction of the percentage of tax which, as it stands, is really something that will kill the aspiration of those who have organised pool houses. Fourthly, to consider the fate of those who are already working in pools and even making their honest living from the pool business.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Government Chief Whip (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Speaker, I rise to endorse the very able speech which had been made by my hon. Friend and Member for Benin North-East on the Bill before this House. As a matter of fact, when in his very excellent speech he referred to the pools betting Bill as a most technical one, I was a bit amused but, listening to him towards the end, a simple layman like some of us will really appreciate that pools betting is really a technical business.

Well, those of us who live in the Lagos area, that is, Lagos and its environments, including Mushin and Ikeja, will really agree that this Bill has appeared to be a little bit late because we find, all over these places, pools betting houses which are trying to escape the very rigorous laws and regulations in the Federal territory of Lagos, and I think that Government cannot be congratulated too much for introducing this Bill and trying to redeem its reputation because there is no doubt that in the minds of some people in this country, the impression is being created that Government is keeping indulgent eyes and harbouring the very questionable and disreputable characters who have been chased out of the Federal territory of Lagos through the very stringent pool laws introduced in that place. I would also wish to say that the tax of 20 per cent that Government has imposed on pools' promoters and agents does not appear to me to be excessive if one really knows—at least one does not need to go into facts and figures to know that pools promoters and agents in this country are really making money: we only need to see them in their appearances and flashy cars to know that a tax of 25 per cent or so, or even more, would, in my own humble opinion, be an adequate means of curtailing the very excessive profits which they are making.

It only remains for me, Sir, to urge that Government, through its Nigerian and Local Government Police officers and the revenue officers, should ensure that vigorous steps are taken and fully enforced because there is no doubt that a very long time indulgence had been given to these pools promoters and agents to harbour themselves in this Region, and it would really require very strong, vigorous and vigilant steps to be able to bring pool betting affairs in this Region to the level where it is in the Federal territory of Lagos. I have no feeling that in taking this one step we are really trailing in some others.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu Remo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill in the light of the explanation given by the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Member for Benin North-East. I would only emphasise two or three aspects of the Bill and the suggestion which was made by the hon. Member for Benin North-East. In point of fact, he is a past master in the art of pool betting business and enterprises (*Laughter*). As far as I am concerned, I am a complete illiterate as far as the whole business is concerned. I do not know how to fill coupons because I am not interested. I know it is a money-making concern because so many of those proprietors—some of them who were on the brink of bankruptcy—have soared up in wealth and have been building houses and so on. I know very many of them who are my friends, who say that it is pool business that has helped them up; and now, Mr Speaker, Sir, it will be very necessary, as was suggested by the hon. Member for Benin North-East, that these proprietors should be asked to deposit certain sums of money with the Government. This is very, very necessary and vital on the score of facts that it would exclude financially impotent proprietors from engaging in the business. Secondly, Mr Speaker, Sir, it will always safeguard the interest of stakers. We have had very many people who have been brought into misfortune—I would not say fortune because it is a way of spending some money and getting it back into their hands—who were deprived of the benefit of their wind-fall. I won't talk of their labour for that matter, because they put in wrong and disastrous speculations. Now if there are any deposits to the Government, such persons could be recouped. I am not saying that these deposits would become the property of the Government but that such deposits should be used to recoup any staker who fails to take his money and, as soon as such staker has been recouped, the proprietor, after his licence is withheld or impounded, can be asked to deposit another amount so that constantly the proprietor will have the maximum amount of deposit required each time with the Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in so far as publication is concerned, it is very very necessary that winnings and winners thereof should be published so that these could be seen every week, and if there is any fraud it will easily be detected. The question of this publication would be very necessary to detect frauds and unkind manoeuvres by unscrupulous pools proprietors. Mr Speaker, Sir, it was said that the fine of £25 stated in section 8

in respect of failure to publish names of stakers in any pool betting carried on by unlicensed persons is excessive. Now, if somebody is not licensed to engage in a trade and he does so, it is at his own peril, and a fine of £25 or two months' imprisonment in default would not appear to be too much.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr D. E. Okumagba (Warri East): Mr Speaker, Sir, my opinion about pools and of betting of all forms is well known. I would have been very happy if the Minister of Finance had brought a Bill to this House to make pool betting of any form illegal; I should have been happier. I think this is an evil that should be condemned without any reservation. It is impossible for me to compromise in this matter. I was disappointed when the Minister disclosed that, during debate on the Appropriation Bill, he would disclose various ways of increasing Government revenue. If we agree that pools betting is bad, why haven't we the courage to bring legislation to stamp out all the evil? Now, perhaps, you won't be surprised if the Minister of Finance, in his attempt to get more money for the Government, brings for debate into this House a Bill legalising prostitution because he is trying to increase revenue. I can see from the spirit of the Bill that Government sees pools betting as an evil and that they are trying to reduce the evil. Now that we are satisfied that it is an evil we should have the courage to stop it completely. However, I support this Bill in that it is the best that has been put before us and I have no alternative but to support it because it goes a little way in improving a situation that is already bad.

I will, however, draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance, who will be in charge when the Law will be applied, to the section dealing with the issue of licences and the determination of tax by the Board. Left with me I should have suggested that the tax should be increased with the hope that if the tax is so heavy it will help to stamp out pool betting completely; a tax of 20 per cent or 25 per cent is not enough in my opinion. I would like it to be raised to 50 per cent so that, at least, it will help to reduce pool betting all over the Region.

This Bill is supported by both sides of the House and, in my opinion, it is not in any way regarded as a matter which should be affected by politics, and I expect that in the application of the Bill the Minister of Finance will use his good offices to see that the taxes

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are not arbitrarily assessed and that the Board will be fair in dealing with all people who apply to the Minister for a licence.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill.

Mr W. Aghahowa (Benin South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Minister for introducing the Bill, but the Bill ought to have been introduced immediately the Federal Government barred the operation of overseas or foreign pools in this country. The introduction of this Bill has gone a long way to eradicate fraud and corruption from our society through pool betting. But it is most regrettable that the power given to the Minister under the Bill has gone a long way to destroy the much cherished Freedom Charter under the Nigerian Constitution. I refer to section 3, clauses 2 and 5 of the Bill. I read with your permission, Sir:

“Section 3, clause 2: Licences shall be in such form and shall be subject to such conditions as the Minister may, in a particular case, impose;

Section 3, clause 5: The issue, renewal, refusal to issue or renew and the revocation of any licence and the addition to, alteration or cancellation of, or exemption from any prescribed or special condition shall be at the discretion of the Minister who shall not be required to assign any reason for such issue, renewal, refusal, revocation, addition, alteration, cancellation or exemption”.

Further, Sir, it is seen that section 5 of the Bill has further reduced the Legislature, which is the highest law-making organ of this Region, to a mere shadow in the hands of the Minister. The power sought for, Sir, if approved and handled by a callous Minister, will be a breeding room for corruption in these days of austerity.

Again, Sir, under section 9 of the Bill.....

Mr Speaker: Order, Order, I am not calling the hon. Gentleman to order because he is reading, but I hope he will take note.

Mr A. Aghahowa: Thank you, Sir; your order is appreciated.

Sir, section 9 of the Bill—the power given to the Magistrates and Justices of the Peace for issue of search warrants and the power granted to the Police to remove any document, money or valuable things therein, is out of proportion to the purpose for which it is intended.

Under section 20, clause 3, I would like the last sentence, which gave power to the

Judge to hear an appeal *in camera*, to be deleted as it is not equitable with legal procedure. This will only be fair if it were a Juvenile Court. Under the same section 20, clause 3, Sir, power granted to the Chief Justice to make rules is too great. It ought to have been given to the Attorney-General.(An Opposition Member: Teach them Law). (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these observations, I support the Bill.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, in the first place, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for bringing out this Bill this time, and, with the wordings of the Bill and the sense behind it, I would say that our Minister of Finance is as good as anyone in the world. (Applause). When I first heard of this Bill, a friend phoned to me that there was a Bill coming up in the House and that I should try to oppose it. I replied that although the NCNC form the Opposition in this House, we shall not oppose anything good. (Applause).

Many people have spoken about the question of deposits. If we check up from these pool promoters, Sir, we will see that 25 per cent of them are ex-convicts—people who have no jobs or people who have lost their jobs. When they have nothing on hand, they say to themselves: “Let’s go and arrange and print things all about”; so that, Sir, anybody who is to be licensed as a pool promoter must at least be sponsored by reputable people who would say whether or not the persons they sponsor are of good character.

There is one other point, Sir: when a pool promoter is to be licensed, he should be required to present his regulations, because I happen to move with people who are so keen on pools. When you win, these people will tell you that according to Regulation *so and so* you have not won anything. These pool promoters should, when applying for their licences, send also their regulations which should be scrutinised by the hon. Minister of Finance.

The other point I have, Sir, is that when these pool promoters are licensed, the hon. Minister of Information should please publicise the names of the pool agents licensed, so that our people would not fall victims to the unlicensed pool promoters.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few points, I beg to support the Bill.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my thanks for the constructive suggestions on the Bill. I am afraid, Sir, that I myself am not a staker or a specialist in pool betting, so I do not know the difference between "Fixed Odds" and "Treble Chance"; in any event, those who are competent to advise me when we make these regulations under section 36 of the Law, will go properly into the question of technical difficulties which you have raised.

Under clause 8 of the Law, the punishment which is imposed is the maximum under that section. It does not mean that the Magistrates are obliged to impose the maximum penalty; it all depends on the type of offence which is committed.

One hon. Member also raised the point that 20 per cent tax is too high. I would like to remind the hon. Gentleman that the charge is not arbitrary.

With regard to the section dealing with the advisability of the Judge of the High Court hearing the case *in camera*, I think it is necessary, if in the interest of public order and security, the case should be heard *in camera*.

I think, Sir, that, in effect, the reason why it is necessary for people to have their names registered, and for the Minister to issue the licence, is to eliminate fraud and to enable those who are pool promoters within the Region to get their licences, so that outsiders cannot come here and receive licences; after all it is the people—pool promoters in the Region—who will pay to the Region's coffers.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

Mr A. Atohengbe: Clause 8 (2): Mr Chairman, Sir.....(*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman: Yes. There is no notice of that. What have you got to say about it?

Mr Atohengbe: The explanation in respect of clause 8 (2) made by the Minister of Finance is appreciated, but if he would accommodate my amendment, I would have liked to suggest that the portion between the words "of" and "20" should read like this: "conviction to a fine of not more than £25....."

Mr Chairman: It is a pity, I cannot accept that.

Chief Odebiyi: As it is, we are not the interpreters of the Law. Those who are going to interpret the Law know exactly what to do (*interruptions*). (*An hon. Member: When they say £25 that is the maximum; it is implied.*)

Clauses 8 to 10 agreed to.

Clause II.

Mr A. T. Rerri: Mr Chairman, Sir, I thought I might say something which will help the Government in respect of the tax under this Bill. The Law itself seems to be silent, as it is, on the provisions against false declarations. I hope it will be there because a number of Pool Betting Houses are fond of declaring what they, in fact, have not the intention of paying; so, I feel that Government, under this Regulation, should require that they submit their declarations, and, if possible, make them to comply with it, and if they fail to comply, I think something should happen to them in respect of Regulation 4 or 7 or 8. They should be brought in under the penalty stated in Regulation 4 or 7 (1) or 8 (1) and (2).

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, as I said before, under section 36 of the Law, all the points which have been raised by the hon. Gentleman are adequately covered. For instance, it says that the Governor in Council may make Regulations providing for any matter for which provision appears to be necessary for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Law, and, in particular, without prejudice to the generality of the following:—

(a) prescribing fees to be paid for the issue of licences;

(b) prohibiting misleading advertisement in respect of any pool betting business;

(c) making provision for the purpose of preventing fraud on stakers or on the public at large on the part of licensed proprietors, their agents and employees, or any other persons, and so on and so forth, so that necessary Regulations will be promulgated.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clauses 12 to 36 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

**WESTERN NIGERIA
DEVELOPMENT PLAN, 1962-68**

*Adjourned Debate on the Question (2nd
April, 1962)—*

"That this House approve the Proposals in the White Paper entitled 'Western Nigeria Development Plan, 1962-68'."

Question again proposed.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Oba C. D. Akran): I rise, Mr Speaker, Sir, in all humility to express sincere thanks to Members of both sides of the House, even including the Member for Ibadan—the hon. Mr Ajuwon—who certainly has no idea about Development Plans or how Governments operate. When, a few days ago, I introduced the Six-year Plan, which now seems to be acceptable to hon. Members, I held myself ready for a close and searching examination by Members, and I must confess that I am greatly encouraged by the thorough but considerate and business-like manner in which the examination has been conducted. It has confirmed me in the view I have always held that he would be a fool who would hope to get a poor job past the very vigilant Members of this House.

Credit for the Plan must really go to the Cabinet. The Plan is a joint venture, and I am only a messenger of good tidings.

In the second place much credit must go to the Civil Service as a whole. The Plan, as hon. Members have seen, touches all Departments of Government; ministerial and non-ministerial. I take this opportunity to pay well earned tribute to the very loyal and devoted civil service of this Region. But when all is said and done, one must add that it was in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development that all our ideas were given shape. They it was who gave to our ideas a local habitation and a name. The real marvel of it all is the speed with which the task was accomplished. As you know, Mr Speaker, Sir, we had a 1960-65 Plan which this new Plan will replace, and should not have had to draw another Plan before 1965. But, with us, the unity of Nigeria is a religion and so, when the National Economic Council decided that a national Plan be introduced, our officials accepted the challenge and, Mr Speaker, Sir, our Plan was the first to be ready. I felt you might like to know how our Civil Service conducts the business of this Region. I am truly grateful for their co-operation.

Any moment from now, Mr Speaker will put the question and Members will, I hope, adopt the 1962-68 Plan of this Government. Before that final act I feel in duty bound to assure hon. Members that it is the intention of this Government to execute the Plan honestly and without any discrimination to the full advantage of every part of this Region in order to ensure an even development of the Region. Members need not have any fears. I must observe, Mr Speaker, that this is a Plan with a big difference. It is a Plan which throws a challenge to every hon. Member of this House, nay to everybody in this Region. It is a Plan, Sir, which demands great sacrifices from all of us; and it is a Plan which dares all of us who lay claims to leadership in this Region to go forward to preach the doctrine of hard work and the dignity of labour everywhere in the Region and finally to undertake very solemnly the sacred task of completely decolonising the slavish mental attitude which expects Government to do everything for us even in spite of ourselves. From now on our people must be made to understand that no one should expect to get out of the kitty more than he has contributed.

Once we all believe sincerely that the task is not beyond us, and bend our will resolutely to its accomplishment, then success is already ours for, as the learned poet puts it:

"The human Will, that force unseen,
The Offspring of a deathless soul,
Can hue a way to any goal,
Though Walls of granite intervene."

Sir, I beg to report that Members have considered the Plan and I beg to move that it be adopted.

Question put and agreed to.

**1961-62 SUPPLEMENTARY
APPROPRIATION BILL
SECOND READING**

*Adjourned Debate on the Question (4th
April, 1962)—*

"That the Bill be read a Second time"

Question again proposed.

Mr V. I. Amadasun (Benin West): I rise to oppose the Second Reading of a Bill for a law to make Supplementary provision for the services of Western Nigeria for the year ended 31st day of March, 1962 additionally to that made under the 1961-62 Appropriation Law, 1961.

"Whereas by the 1961-62 Appropriation Law, 1961 hereinafter referred to as the Appropriation Law the sum of £19,153,990 for current Expenditure and £20,994,570

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for Capital Expenditure will be provided for the services of Western Nigeria for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1962 to be applied and extended in the manner described and for the services set forth in the Schedule to the Appropriation Law” etc. etc.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I took the trouble to read all that I have read to let the House know that what was required now is to seek the approval of this House for the spending of £5½ million not for the services in this current year but for the last financial year.

I am opposing this thing because the Bill is already belated in coming to this honourable House. Now, what an ordinary Member of the House will think the Minister was trying to make him understand is that the Ministry wants approval for the spending of this additional sum. But I can say, with all air of certainty that this £5 million has been spent already. If this Bill had been introduced in January, when we had a meeting here in January, then there should have been no trouble.

Now Sir, in the explanatory note, something like this is written:

“The provision of £1 million shown under Head 710 in the Second Schedule will be off-set by an equivalent saving under Head 710 where provision was made in the main Estimate for the University. The classification of the expenditure is merely to avoid accounting difficulties.”

Now, what does this mean, Sir, when the Minister was moving for the Second Reading of this Supplementary Appropriation Bill? He made us to understand that good savings were quoted from Head 701 of the Appropriation Law—that is the 1961-62 Appropriation Law and in this, Mr Speaker, I am going to prove with your permission that the Capital Expenditure embodied in the original Law was spent in such a way that only one section (only the privileged section) of the Region got all the necessary benefits from the huge capital grant given under that section.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I took the trouble to go over the 1961-62 Appropriation Law and under Head 701 simply to make mention of the Building Section—that is, the money devoted for buildings all over the Western Region—from my careful examination I found that the amount devoted for building all over the Western Region was £4,101,230, but, unfortunately, when I read through this

very Head carefully I found out that, of more than 150 items, only about 26 items affect the Midwest.

Government Benches: Is that not enough? (*Interruptions*).

Mr Amadasun: Now, Mr Speaker, with your permission I beg to quote the following:—

Sub-head 4: Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Item 13, One Type “B” Quarters, Effurun Rubber Station, £1,400.

Item 15, One A3 Quarters, Benin, £4,240.

Item 21, Benin Rubber Research Station, £6,800.

Item 29, One A3 (WR) Quarters, Agbor Agricultural Extension Division £4,990.

Item 30, Two A3 (WR 3) Quarters, Benin Agricultural Extension Division £9,980.

Item 41, One Type B Quarters, Bomadi, Western Ijaw £1,900.

Sub-head 6 of Head 701: Ministry of Education:

Item 6, Dormitory Accommodation, Edo College, £19,000.

Item 11, One A3 Quarters, Government College, Ughelli, £2,100.

Item 12, One three-room classroom, Government Teacher Training College, Abraka, £1,500.

Item 14, Four Staff Quarters, Government College, Ughelli £8,500.

Item 20, Technical Institute, Benin £110,000.

Item 22, Rebuilding of Edo College £140,000.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I now continue with Sub-head 8 of Head 701—Ministry of Home Affairs.

Item 4, Catering Rest House, Ishan, Afenmai Area £1,000.

Sub-head 9, Item 9 (1) for Information Officer, Benin—£4,250.

Sub-head 10 Ministry of Midwest Affairs:

Item 10 (1), Midwest Secretariat, Benin £130.

Mr Speaker, Sir, only an amateur mathematician can come to the conclusion and be satisfied with only £446,660 earmarked for capital expenditure in the Midwest area. Now, I have said before that a sum of £4,101,230 was meant for the entire Region, so that, assuming that the population of the Midwest is to that of the remaining part as 1½: 4½ or 3: 9 or 1: 3, it means therefore,

[MR AMADASUN]

Mr Speaker, that the Midwest ought to have got out of the huge estimate of four million pounds just about one million pounds; but instead of that only a sum of £446,660 was spent there. Even though I have made this calculation, there are some other vital items not being fulfilled by the Government of Western Nigeria. On Sub-head 6, Item 22: Rebuilding of Edo College, Benin, £140,000; sub-head 10, Item 10 (1): Ministry of Midwest Affairs, Benin, £130,000; Item 6, Ministry of Education, Technical Institute, Benin, £110,000. All the above have been left undone. Now when you add these three items together, Mr Speaker, you will see that we have a sum of £380,000 which ought to have been used or spent for the building of Edo College, building of the Secretariat at Benin, and also for the Technical Institute. But I say with certainty, Mr Speaker, Sir, that none of these projects was done in Benin, with the result that the Government has a saving of £380,000. I am sure, Sir, the same thing will be attributed to many items also in other parts of Midwest area. In future, the Minister of Finance, when bringing the Supplementary Appropriation Law to this House, should examine it carefully to see that the provisions already made in any principal Law have been followed and that all sections in the Western Region, including the Midwest, have their appropriate share.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very important point: it is very important. The Edo College you want to build at Benin has not even been started, and the building of the Midwest Secretariat, the foundation of which was laid recently, has not also been completed. The Technical School which was meant for Benin has now been built at Oshogbo. (*Government Benches: Is that so?*) The question is: Did you build it at Benin?

I am opposing this very Second Reading of this Bill because of the injustice done to the Region as a whole, and particularly to the Midwest area.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support. (*Cheers*).

Government Benches: Do you support it?

Mr Amadasun: I am sorry, Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose it. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: The honourable Member supports the Opposition.

Mr W. Aghahowa (Benin South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in associating myself with the last Speaker, I have to draw the

attention of this House to the false claim which this Government is noted for. It has always claimed to be First in Africa in this and in that, but no other Government in the Federation has failed to introduce its Supplementary Budget for the year in which it is sought for. All the Governments of the Federation usually introduce their Supplementary Appropriation Bills within the year for which that fund is required.

The Minister again got up when he was introducing the Supplementary Appropriation Bill for 1961-62 to say that there was a surplus here and yonder. In fact many major projects were left out uncompleted. A case in point is the Oronigbe Umutu Water Scheme and the Benin Water Project which are not yet completed. If these projects had been executed there could have been no imaginary surplus as the Minister wants us to believe.

Now, we have what is called "the Midwest Advisory Council". This Council has made various recommendations for water schemes and rural electrification and all other things but, unfortunately, I do not think the Government of this Region has ever at any time gone through their reports. For example, places like Ewosa, Obadan, and Osanusi were recommended for rural water scheme but this Government failed woefully to implement the scheme as contained in the report of the Advisory Council. Why set it up then? Mr Speaker, Sir, there is what is known as Backward Area Scholarship. Mr Speaker—(*Government Benches: Is that in the Appropriation Bill?*) No, Sir, I am speaking generally.

Mr Speaker: Don't fire at that, Sir. I shall disallow it.

Mr Aghahowa: We have heard much on the building of the Midwest Secretariat which was even published in overseas papers, but, unfortunately, Sir, nothing has been done about it practically, and the Government says it attaches importance to it. If this Government continues to insert items in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and fails to implement them, it means that the electorates are being deceived, and under the circumstances, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the 1961-62 Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I want to say that in the preparation of the 1961-62 Appropriation Bill the Minister of Finance shows no foresight. (*Interruptions*). Item 19: Upkeep of Premier's, Ministers'

[MR OMOKOWAJO]

and Parliamentary Secretaries' Quarters. Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to ask, how many quarters do we have belonging to the Government? If one of us, for God's sake, is the owner of these buildings, can he spend £5,620 in repairing it or keeping it? This is a serious waste of money. You do not renovate your building everyday. Do you, you Minister of Finance? (*Fire, Fire*).

Motor Vehicles: Item 42—Maintenance and Up-keep.—The cost of maintaining vehicles in the Premier's Office, for which an additional sum of £1,600 is required, is too much. I would say, Sir, that the cars they are using are too many. The best thing to do is to sell some so as to have less to spend on maintenance.

Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.—A sum of £63,000 additional sum has been spent for feeding stock in the depot. How many animals have you got in the whole depot?

Government Bench: Quote the Head of Estimate.

Mr Omokowajo: I am speaking generally. If we spend £1 per goat, I think that the whole sum will go on animals. I feel that this is a complete waste. We have grass in the Western Region; let these animals go to the bush to feed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Head 721: Purchase of Motor Vehicles—£5,420. I am surprised that people will use such a huge sum for buying cars. What actually do you use the cars for? I heard some time ago that if you go to Dugbe Market you will see Premier's Office cars; if you go to Mokola you will see Premier's Office cars. Do you buy the cars for the purpose of going to market?

Head 345: Legislature.—Some Chiefs and Members of this honourable House have an estimate of £12,000. These Gentlemen went overseas for just a few days and spent £12,000.

Government Bench: Six weeks.

Mr Omokowajo: Our people who live in hired quarters in London cannot spend £12,000 for one year. How many of you went? (*Fire, Fire*). According to one paper, it will cost a reasonable gentleman a sum of £500 a year to keep himself well in London, but you have, for the few days spent there, spent about £12,000. If we had known that you are going to waste this money, we would not have allowed one of our Members who went with you to go at all.

Head 337: Encouragement of Oil Palm Planting.—That is an additional sum of £21,000. I wonder why you plant oil palm when the whole of the Western Region is filled with palm trees! And you require an additional sum of £21,000! This is a waste and I wonder how you waste this because, throughout the whole area, I do not see any of your staff coming to the Midwest to advise on palm produce.

Mr T. E. Igugu (Central Urhobo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill, a Bill which seeks the approval of this Legislature for the sum of about £5 million to be spent in excess over the original amount estimated for the 1961-62 Estimates. In opposing the Bill, Sir, I should like to remark that I have in the past had admiration for the hon. Minister of Finance and especially for the way and manner he performed his duties as Leader of the House and Minister of Finance in this Legislature, but, Sir, I think there is something wrong in the fold of most of these Action Group Members or Ministers in performing their duties outside this House.

It must be noted, Sir, that the efficiency of a Finance Minister is judged by his foresight and ability to make adequate and precise provisions for all the items in the preparation of his Estimates. On the contrary, Sir, here we are with a Supplementary Estimate asking this honourable House to approve excessive expenditure of about £5 million being public fund that must have been carelessly spent. To be frank, Sir, we must let the Minister of Finance know that this amount was due to inefficiency and lack of foresight on his part. I may be correct, Sir, in saying that the Minister is dancing too much to the rhythm of the Action Group than to the rhythm of the people of this Region.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member says that I am dancing to the tune of the Action Group. After all who are beating the drum?

Mr Igugu: Mr Speaker, Sir, what I mean to say is this: "Dancing to the tune of the Action Group". You don't understand what that means?

Chief Odebiyi: No. Tell me.

Mr Igugu: However, I wish to sound a note of warning that the Minister should scrutinise the 1962-63 Estimates already presented to this House in order to avoid this careless way of spending public fund.

Now, I would like to deal with the items on the Supplementary Estimates. Under Head 703: Urban Water Supply, an addi-

[MR IGUGU]

tional sum of £958,320 is now required to enable Government balance its account for excessive expenditure already made by Government. Of this sum, Sir, only £92,025 was spent for Benin City, Umutu-Oronigbe and Agbor in the Midwest. The remaining balance of £866,295 was spent in the Yoruba West. This is very unproportionate.

Under Head 704, £37,560 is also additionally required for Rural Water Supply. It is very lamentable to note that not even a farthing of this amount was spent in the Midwest. These things are very annoying, Sir, and I pray the Government to make sure that the Midwest always gets a proportionate share of amenities.

Again, Sir, I turn to Head 323: Miscellaneous—Item 18—Interest on Overdraft. I understand that Interest on Overdraft amounted to £320,705 and that it is also additionally required in order that Government would balance its budget for 1961-62. Just imagine, Sir: if £320,705 will be interest on overdraft, how many millions of pounds do you think the overdraft will be? I want the Minister to tell us the amount of the overdraft and I would like to know from the Minister whether the overdraft is fully paid. Previously, Sir, a token figure of £10 was approved by this House under this Item and, owing to the inability of this Government to collect revenue during the last financial year, the people of this Region are robbed of £320,705 which could have been spent on other projects.

In conclusion, Sir, I would advise the Minister of Finance to be careful in handling the finances of this Region. If not, I envisage that this Government will soon run itself into financial strangulation.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank the last speaker for being as precise as he ought to be. My trouble, Sir, with some Members of the Opposition is that, having been a party to the spending of money provided, they now have the courage to come forward to the floor of the House to deny responsibility for the amount of money spent—the amount of money spent in respect of the overseas delegation.

Not only, Sir, did members of the NCNC treat themselves to turkey and chicken, they also enjoyed themselves with pigeon. (*Laughter.*) If the hon. Member wants to know what I mean by pigeon, he can ask hon. Oviasu when he comes here. (*Laughter.*)

Well, be that as it may, what was provided originally was £1,000, purely as a token

figure. Surely if you are going to send abroad as many people as, say, nine—there were five members of the governing Party, two from the Opposition, two from the House of Chiefs, and then three officials (the Clerk of the House, my Private Secretary and an Information Officer) for six weeks, I do not consider £11,000 too much. (*Interruptions.*) Surely Sir, it is not being suggested that, having received hospitality from Parliamentarians in the areas which we visited, we ourselves should be so niggardly and so miserly as not to give them hospitality in return.

One man spoke about inadequacy of amenities in the Midwest. I think Sir, that what people have to remember is that the 1961-62 Supplementary Appropriation Bill, which we now want to pass, is the final to the 1960-62 Development Plan which has been advanced to 1968 and, therefore, any amount of money which has been provided here is being spent in accordance with that Plan.

Somebody said that the sum of money spent in the Midwest was not adequate. Surely the thing would have to depend upon needs as they arise on any occasion. It may well be that at a particular time the needs of the Midwest may be greater: it may well be, Sir, that at another time the needs of this part of the Region will be greater. In any event, Sir, the best advocates of the needs and requests of the Midwest are on this side of the House. (*Applause.*)

Somebody spoke about Government not being able to pursue vigorously the rebuilding of Edo College. I happen to know myself, when I was Minister of Education, that there were arguments about siting. Secondly Sir, when the question of siting was settled, there was also a request from the College authorities for certain hostels to be built. The question was whether the hostels should be built on the present site or they should be left over until they moved to the other site. It is a question of having to find out which would be to the best advantage of the boys who are being trained there. In any event, Sir, this much I can say: that nothing is dearer to the heart of this Government than the progressive development of education in all its ramifications throughout the Region.

Somebody spoke about purchase of vehicles in the Premier's Office. People should know, Sir, that one thing that really bedevils the position of the Western Region, particularly the capital of the Region, in regard to this type of expenditure is the fact that because we are so near to Lagos all visitors

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

who come to Lagos always like to visit the University capital of Nigeria—which is Ibadan—and, when they do come, they ought to be given the type of transport which really befits their dignity. It is not being suggested that if the Premier of Mali or the President of Ghana comes here he should ride in the Volkswagen, which is the mark of austerity all over the Region now. (Laughter.) Be that as it may, one hon. Member suggested that some cars in the Premier's Office ought to be sold. I can assure him that if he is unable to recover his car from the U.A.C. all he needs do is to see me in confidence and I will help him out. (Laughter.)

I think, Sir, that, on the whole, all the points which have been made by the speakers from the other side are points which we need not bother about.

I did mention, when I was making my main speech, that the sum of £1,000,000 which was originally included in the Ministry of Education Head of the Estimates was wrongly put there for the University of Ife and it was therefore necessary to have that fund transferred as a separate Head, and that is what has been done here. And may I also repeat, Sir, that the fact that we are making provision for as much as 5.5 million pounds does not mean that all the money has been spent. It does not mean that at all. And the suggestion which has been made that it is the Minister of Finance who has not been particularly careful in his estimating is, I think, beside the point. No person can adequately estimate how much he is going to spend in the course of a year: that is why we have what we call Supplementary Appropriation Bill in accordance with section 55 (3) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria. I want to read for the information of the ignorant Members of the House.

Mr Speaker: Ignorant? Or you mean uninformed?

Chief Odebiyi: Uninformed Members Sir.

Opposition Benches: Withdraw, withdraw.

Chief Odebiyi: As far as I know, the uninformed, the unintelligent, the ignorant—they belong to the same class. (Laughter.) I quote—

"If in respect of any financial year it is found that the amount appropriated by the Appropriation Law for any purpose is insufficient or that a need has arisen for

expenditure for the purpose for which no amount has been appropriated by the Law or that any moneys having been expended for any purpose in excess of the amount appropriated for the purpose by the Appropriation Law or for the purpose for which no amount has been appropriated by the Law, a Supplementary Estimate showing the sums required or spent shall be laid before both Legislative Houses of the Region and the Heads of any such expenditure shall be included in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill."

In other words, the point I am making is this: Sometimes you make provision for a particular thing and, in the course of the year, the bills do not come to your hands. For instance, you will remember that last year four luxury buses were bought for the use of hon. Members of this House and the other House but the bill did not come until the course of the year. Therefore if when you get your bill you still have to pay the money, surely when you are estimating for the Appropriation in respect of the ensuing year you have to make provision for that at the next available opportunity when the House will sit. It is only necessary that something must be done to cover this. For instance, there is the Contingency Vote where, in the course of your normal expenditure, if something extraordinary crops up, you have to make provision for it and then come back to this House to have the money re-appropriated to the fund.

In any event I thank the Members of the Opposition for doing their duty. I know what my duties are and they know what their duties are. In so far as there is no common ground as between what my own duties are and what their own duties are, I think we shall not see eye to eye. So far, in regard to other Bills which have come before the House they have done their duty as well as they could. They have been incisive in their criticism and constructive in some, and some (because they are uninformed) have been all the time unimpressive. In any case I thank those of them who have made constructive suggestions about the running of the affairs of the Region. (Applause).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to the Committee of Supply.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

HEAD 321.—PREMIER'S OFFICE

Question that the sum of £285,690 for Head 321—Premier's Office—stand part of the Appropriation Bill be agreed to.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

HEAD 322.—TREASURY

Question that the sum of £20,740 for Head 322.—Treasury—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 333.—MISCELLANEOUS

Question that the sum of £382,610 for Head 333.—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 354.—PENSIONS AND GRATUITY

Question that the sum of £40,000 for Head 324.—Pensions and Gratuity—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 327.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Question that the sum of £98,200 for Head 327.—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 328.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Question that the sum of £24,700 for Head 328.—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 329.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question that the sum of £1,436,000 for Head 329.—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 330.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question that the sum of £170,100 for Head 330.—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 331.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question proposed that the sum of £120,415 for Head 331.—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to move that this Ministry's Vote be reduced by £5.

During the last financial year a huge sum of money was allocated for the printing of stationery. Up till now the last copy of the Hansard—the omnibus copy of November 1960—is not available, not to mention those of 1961. I understand that a supplementary amount is an amount required.....

Mr Chairman: Order, Order. *Hansard* does not come under Home Affairs. It is the Legislature.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 332.—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question that the sum of £7,000 for Head 332.—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 335.—MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING

Question that the sum of £22,650 for Head 335.—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 336.—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Question that the sum of £7,900 for Head 336.—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 337.—MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Question that the sum of £3,768 for Head 337.—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 339.—MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Question that the sum of £20,850 for Head 339.—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 344.—JUDICIAL

Question that the sum of £400 for Head 344.—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 345.—LEGISLATURE

Question that the sum of £11,000 for Head 345.—Legislature stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Question that the total sum of £2,652,023 stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

SECOND SCHEDULE

HEAD 701.—BUILDINGS

Question proposed that the sum of £8,545 for Head 701.—Buildings—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that this Head be reduced by £5.

We on this side of the House, as well as Members of the opposite side, have been told and are well aware too that various sub-heads and items were intended for the last financial year, but money intended for them were not so utilised: for instance, A 3 quarters for Information Officers for Benin City, a Technical College intended for Benin City, as well as a Midwest Secretariat intended for Benin City. If all those sums were not utilised and there was no indication in the Supplementary Appropriation Estimates that they were either transferred or re-allocated or used to augment certain items on the Estimates, there is no reason why such a huge amount which is now being put up should be allowed for this Ministry.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Head be reduced by £5.

Amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, all that I would request the hon. Member to examine is page 15 of his Estimates book. He will notice that certain improvements are being made to the Jericho Nursing Home. The original revised estimated total cost was £20,600; the approved Estimate, 1961-62, was £10,600. Now what was spent in 1961-62 was £11,875; in other words, you need an additional sum of £1,245. The same is the case with the new hospital at Ogbomosho. £70,000 was the revised estimated total cost; all that has been spent and an additional sum of £1,300 was required in order to bring it up to the standard which every General Hospital ought to conform to. Therefore, under that Head, you have £2,545, which must be spent. If you look under Buildings General, you will also see replacements of refrigerators. The revised estimated total cost is £50,000. Now, what has been approved for 1961-62 was £10,000, £12,000 was spent out of that revised estimated total cost. The whole thing is done in phases, and, therefore, whatever additional sum is required would be £2,000. The same thing is true about air-conditioning of Government quarters and offices. There was no provision, and therefore you have to insert a new provision of £4,000. Therefore you have a total of £8,545 which is provided for under Head 701. It does not refer to those institutions for which financial provisions have been made in the main Appropriation Bill for 1961-62.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, I shall take time to add up the figures already quoted and compare them with the total of £244,250 which I got for the total money for the three projects which I enumerated earlier on and compare. Whatever difference will be available will be raised again during the debate on the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill.

Chief Odebiyi: The point you are making can adequately come under the Ministry of Education Head of the Estimates.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £8,545 for Head 701—Buildings—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 703.—URBAN WATER SUPPLIES

Question that the sum of £958,320 for Head 703—Urban Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 704.—RURAL WATER SUPPLIES

Question that the sum of £37,560 for Head 703—Rural Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 705.—LOANS

Question that the sum of £49,000 for Head 705—Loans—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 707.—SPECIAL MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT

Question that the sum of £118,595 for Head 707—Special Medical Development—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 709.—SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Question that the sum of £133,968 for Head 709—Special Agricultural Development—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 710.—UNIVERSITY OF IFE

Question that the sum of £1,000,000 for Head 710—University of Ife—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 720.—GOVERNOR

Question that the sum of £4,640 for Head 720—Governor—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 721.—PREMIER'S OFFICE

Question that the sum of £57,800 for Head 721—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 722.—TREASURY

Question that the sum of £3,500 for Head 722.—The Treasury—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 723.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Question that the sum of £55,684 for Head 723—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 724.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Question that the sum of £50,000 for Head 724—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 725.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question that the sum of £41,490 for Head 725—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 726.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Question that the sum of £23,725 for Head 726—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 727.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question that the sum of £8,820 for Head 727—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 728.—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question that the sum of £3,610 for Head 728—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

HEAD 731.—MINISTRY OF LANDS
AND HOUSING

Question that the sum of £297,360 for Head 731—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 733.—MINISTRY OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

Question that the sum of £13,797 for Head 733—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 735.—MINISTRY OF TRADE
AND INDUSTRY

Question that the sum of £7,230 for Head 735—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 736.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND
TRANSPORT

Question that the sum of £53,485 for Head 736—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 737.—AUDIT

Question that the sum of £185 for Head 737—Audit—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 741.—LEGISLATURE

Question that the sum of £145 for Head 741—Legislature—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Question that the sum of £5,579,532 stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

Sitting suspended at 11.38 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.20 p.m.

1962-63 APPROPRIATION BILL
SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (4th April)—

“That the Bill be read a Second time”.

Question again proposed.

Mr A. A. Adesanya (Ijebu North I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, may I congratulate this Government for a job well done during the financial year 1961-62.

In spite of the fall in revenue from Cocoa from £5.5 million in 1959 to £2.8 million in 1962; Palm Produce from £1.4 million to £0.8 million; Rubber from £1.4 million to £1.1 million, that the Government can still present a balanced Budget shows quite clearly that the politicians on this side of the

House are very hard-working, seasoned, mature and conscientious. It shows, no doubt, that the Minister of Finance and, by the Grace of God, the Leader of this House, is a genius. I congratulate him and in Biblical language would say—“well done thou good and faithful servant.”

Behind an able man there must be many able men. It will, therefore be sheer ingratitude if at this stage I do not remember to pay my tribute to the Civil Service in this Region, particularly the Treasury headed by that world renowned Economist, Chief I. O. Dina. It is an accepted fact that, in the whole of the Federation of Nigeria, our Civil Service is the best. Our Civil Service is not only efficient, it is also considerate and patriotic. But for their co-operation this Government would have found it very difficult, if not impossible, to achieve this near impossible task. To them I offer my big “thank you”. (Cheers from Government Benches).

“These are the times that try men’s souls”, says Washington on the eve of the American Independence. The economy measures introduced by the Government of this Region are very stern indeed. They are so stern that, even before they started to take effect, they have started to affect many M.Ps from all sides of this House. But was it not Shakespeare who said:—

“Sweet are the uses of Adversity which like the Toad, ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel in his head”?

The economy measures, or call them “austerity measures” if you like, will let us know the true politicians of this Region. They will let us know those who entered into politics so that the common men of this Region may have “life more abundant” and those who entered into politics with a view mainly to line their own pockets.

For my part, Mr Speaker, if by these economy measures, unemployment in this Region will be a thing of the past, or at least reduced to the minimum; if by these economy measures we in this Region shall have better roads and bridges; if these economy measures will bring improved health services to the people of this Region; if these economy measures will mean more scholarships to the teeming millions of students in this country yearning for higher education, Mr Speaker, Sir, I whole-heartedly support it and I am prepared, if when called upon to do so, to surrender the whole of my pay in this House. In this I am sure I am expressing the sentiment of all the people from this side of the House.

[MR ADEŞANYA]

I am appealing to the Government to please give Ijebu-Igbo the following items. I am asking for them, not because it is customary to do so during this time of the year, but I am asking for them because they are necessities.

The tarring of the road between Ijebu-Igbo and Ijebu-Ode via Aparaki, Imope and Oke-Eri is overdue. For the information of Members, may I here mention that this road passes through Imope—the famous pottery centre in the Western Region—and through Eriwe where we have the grave of that illustrious lady known by the Ijebus as “Sungbo” and by the Moslems as “Brikisu.” Every year, pilgrims go to see this wonderful tomb kept clean by nature itself.

The road between Oru and Ijebu-Igbo should by now be taken up by the Regional Government.

The teeming population of Ijebu-Igbo deserves a Government hospital and, in the award of scholarships for higher learning, we do not want to be forgotten.

The farm project known as Apoje Farm Project is situated at Ijebu-Igbo, but it is a matter for deep concern to my people that in Government pronouncements and announcements, the name of Ijebu-Igbo is rarely (if at all) associated with it. We believe that this is an oversight, and we are now appealing to the Government to rectify the mistake. My people also feel that the question of compensation for the vast area of land taken for the farm project needs to be gone into by the Government.

With the vast Apoje Farm Project, and with the large games in our forest, Ijebu-Igbo will be a popular tourist centre. I therefore appeal to the Government to let us have a first-class Catering Rest House to cater for the needs of such tourists. We will also like the Government to look into the possibility of building a road to connect Ijebu-Igbo and Ife via Alagutan village.

In the establishment of industries, I pray that the Government should not forget Ijebu-Igbo. There, there is a vast expanse of land, and among the mighty population are skilled and unskilled hands and, therefore, such industries will not have to go too far to recruit their labour.

I view with very great concern the deletion from the Estimates of the Urban Water Supply for Aiyeye in Ijebu and the non-inclusion of the Rural Health Centre at

Ago-Iwoye. I believe that this is an oversight and that they will be included in this year's estimate, *i.e.*, the 1962-63 Estimates.

I thank the Government for having spent so liberally in the Midwest. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

May I take this opportunity to put one or two words across in respect of the creation of the Midwest State. Some Members of the Opposition, and particularly my Friend for Ikeja, had expressed disappointment that this Government had not at this Session stated its stand on the creation of the Midwest State. They also went further to infer that, because the Government of this Region passed a Motion for the creation of Midwest State about five years ago, therefore this present Government cannot now back out. For the information of my learned Friend and people who think like him, may I point out that it is an accepted constitutional and legal principle that “No Government by its Resolution or Legislation can bind its succeeding Government”. The Government that passed that Motion is not the Government of today, and, if even it is, it is also an elementary legal and constitutional principle that the sovereignty of government is that a Government can change its mind any time. May I here again inform our Friends that in spite of Motion passed by the Northern and Eastern Houses of Assembly and confirmed by the House of Representatives in Lagos, the creation of the Midwest State is still nebulous. Speaking for myself and all the right-thinking citizens of this Region, the creation of the Midwest State must depend on whether or not new states will be carved out of the other Regions, *i.e.*, North and East.

Not all the waters in the sea can wash the hands of the NCNC Members in the Western Region of Nigeria clean of their disservice to this Region and to the whole of Nigeria, for not only do they conspire with others to break this Region of their origin, but they are taking active steps to preserve the North and the East and also see to it that instead of breaking those homes, they are preserving them and in fact building out houses in addition. This confirms my impression that the NCNC has accepted the hard fact that that party will never hold power in this Region and, therefore, they are all out to destroy it. In this attempt they shall fail. Let me make it clear also that if and when the Midwest of their dream is created, my party the Action Group shall be in power. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. I hope the hon. Gentleman will speak about the Midwest in so far as its development is concerned. *(Interruptions)*. *(Shame, shame)*.

Mr Adesanya: I have not spoken about the Midwest State, Sir. May I refer again to this particular Head 338 of the Estimates, where it is stated that.....

Mr Speaker: Order, order. According to Standing Orders, we can only discuss generally the policy of the Government; we are not referring to details, heads or items at the moment. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr Adesanya: May I say Mr Speaker, Sir, that I am particularly happy about the conference of Obas and Chiefs that will soon be held in this Region. We hold a noble heritage which I would have wished our friends from the opposite side to share with us. That heritage is respect for the elders and tradition. *(Cheers)*.

Mr Speaker, Sir, some Members of the Opposition referred to the dispute or misunderstanding in the Action Group Party in Jos. May I remind such people of that Roman saying which today is still true of my party, that "The fight of lovers is the renewal of love". Rather than break us, the incident of Jos had strengthened the bond of friendship between the leaders of my great party, the Action Group. Thanks to good discipline, respect for the elders and tradition.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr E. O. Imafidon (Benin Central East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Bill entitled the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, congratulatory expressions may be pouring on the Finance Minister, so I am not going to contribute to that. *(Interruptions)* Review of the 1961-62 revenue from export duties shows a most unwelcome state:

Revenue	£ million
1959-60	
Cocoa	5.5
Palm Kernels	1.4
Rubber	1.4
1960-61	
Cocoa	4.6
Palm Produce	1.2
Rubber	1.5
1961-62	
Cocoa	3.9
Palm Produce	1.1
Rubber	1.4

Revised Estimates, 1961-62			
Cocoa	...	...	2.4
Palm Produce	...	...	.09
Rubber	...	...	1.1
Estimates, 1962-63:			
Cocoa	...	...	2.8
Palm Produce	...	...	.08
Rubber	...	...	1.1

Mr Speaker, Sir, you will see from this review that, in view of the recession in our traditional sources of revenue I wish to say that the recent steps taken to enhance and promote cocoa trade in this Region, had always failed. The result is that there has been a steady decline in price since 1959, and if this Region wants to develop and enhance the trade of rubber what I see from this review is that rubber has been very steady from 1959-63. I think the Government of this Region will do well to get more revenue from rubber than they do today. Our dependence on cocoa crop alone as cash crop of this Region is not sufficient. In the Midwest which has much rubber, although I think that we have got something at the Ikpoba Processing Factory and some Plantations in Uronigbe, yet I think that these are mere window dressings. Much effort has not been made by this Government: just a camouflage, by telling the people of the Midwest that they have not been neglected; but this attitude of the Government towards the community of the Midwest has also affected the Government adversely in the way of losing revenue.

It is shown in the Budget Speech from the Finance Minister that there are some tax evaders of rubber and timber. Yes, of course. It is well to say that the Government has started to plant rubber at Uronigbe but what of the rubber plantations of the peasant farmers from where the money at the moment is accruing? There has been no development, no encouragement; there has been no trade, no Board arranged to enhance this trade for these people. I think this has been over-stressed in this House and it is overdue for this Government to take necessary steps to see that rubber in this Region is encouraged.

Well Sir, I wish to speak on the educational system. From the speech, I will say much about the Midwest because I am from that Area. In the last years there has been in the Estimates of this Region a provision for the rebuilding of Edo College, the only Government Secondary School in Benin Province, and I am surprised that it has always been left over to freeze, and not a penny of this extra big vote has been spent on the rebuilding of this College. It was said earlier that there was no site available. I am aware

[MR IMAFIDON]

that a site has been provided for almost over a year and there has been nothing done on that site. We are always told that the Government is prepared to do something.

Look at these primary schools; it is known that all of you will agree that the free primary education has turned out thousands of children, and they have not benefited from the primary education when they are entering secondary schools in this Region. Children from these primary schools cannot gain entrance to secondary schools unless parents of such children have done something else to enhance the education of these children. It is not easy to pass to secondary schools, as a result of which the people of the Western Region as a whole are paying higher price to educate their children—more than any other people in the Federation of Nigeria. We are paying a higher price in secondary modern schools; for instance, all those amounts left unpaid in the primary schools will be paid and yet, when the children pass out from the secondary modern schools, the children do not seem as those who have passed out from secondary modern schools; so that education in this Region is not very encouraging, and I suggest that the Government of this Region should review the education system.

Look at some secondary modern schools in Benin. Of late the Government of this Region takes pride in disallowing or disapproving secondary modern schools put up by private individuals in Benin City for simple and only one reason, to my knowledge: that the schools are not properly built and that they have not got approval of the Ministry of Education before they were built. They built the secondary modern schools in the area to the standard of every other secondary modern schools in the area and I was surprised, Sir, when they were disallowed to continue with the school. The school building, equipment, etc., compare more favourably with other secondary modern schools in the area and these are the people who will help people of this area to educate their own children who have just left the primary schools. Today those who have just left primary schools cannot be accommodated in farm settlements and farm institutions and all the rest of it. I think that before you can expect any school leaver now to enter into farm settlements he must have passed Class III in a secondary modern school; but, to our surprise, in our area these secondary schools which cater for the education of our children have been disallowed, and I think

that this Government will reconsider its decision on these two secondary modern schools.

Sir, this year, I notice in the Estimates that the building of Edo College—

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. I shall read to Members what the Standing Order says about discussion at this stage on the Appropriation Bill: "Detailed items in the Estimates may not be debated on Second Reading." I want to point out this for the attention of members. Please continue.

Mr Imafidon: I do not intend to discuss the estimate item by item, but I only refer to that item to say that, last financial year, we have £140,000 under that item, which I think was not spent; it should have been right for this Government to have transferred such an amount of expenditure to the new Estimates, and I am surprised to see that, instead of transferring from the old Estimates to the new one, they have only provided for only £100,000, and I think this is not fair enough, Sir.

This Government has done well to provide facilities for scholarships for children of this Region, and, year in year out, Mr Speaker, when we look through the list of awards of this Region, it is alarming that children from the Midwest Area are not available in this list. If they are at all, you can hardly get one to a ratio of 100 for the remaining part of the Region. This is sufficient for the people in that area to agitate for the creation of a Midwest State, to ask for their own Government, and I think this contributes a lot to the agitation of the people for their demand for the creation of their own Region. Whether this Government is prepared to say something about the creation of the Midwest or not, according to the last speaker, the people of the area have the final say. The referendum will show whether the people support this creation or not.

Mr J. O. Kehinde (Ede-Ejigbo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with those who support the Appropriation Bill for 1962-63. In doing so, Sir, I wish to say that anybody who sees the developments in this Region will actually appreciate that this is the most developed Region in the Federation of Nigeria. (*Cheers*). Those on the other side who come to this House need to rejoice, and I believe they do so in secret if they cannot do it in the open. They will do so when travelling through other Regions within the Federation. The development of this Region is designed in the best interest of the people of the Region.

[MR KEHINDE]

In the field of Agriculture, Sir, this Government has set aside a fabulous amount. *(Interruptions from the Opposition Benches)* I am a teacher—I come here to teach you. A very huge amount has been set aside for research in Agriculture and, as well, a huge amount has been spent for the development of Agriculture. Farm Settlements and Farm Institutes have also been established. But I wish to make a remark here, Sir, that in those Farm Settlements our youngsters in these days do not wish to pursue agriculture for the fact that they think, Sir, that agriculture is laborious, that it does not bring in much money, that it is not so much encouraging to be a farmer. Here, Sir, I will suggest that agriculture be much more improved. In addition, Sir, I will suggest that insecticides be used to improve crop production to deal with pests. At the same time, Sir, I would suggest that payments in the Farm Settlements be made more attractive. As well, I would suggest that working hours be improved so that youngsters may be attracted to attend these Farm Settlements. If this is done, I feel so many of our boys coming out of school will like to take up agriculture as a profession.

In the field of Forestry—*(Interruptions)*—

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Any Member in the House may doze but should not snore. *(Laughter.)*

Mr Kehinde: The Government has been doing a lot to see that the forests of this Region are maintained and put into more economic uses.

An hon. Member: Point of Order.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I would insist that Members who are putting up Points of Order should quote the specific Order concerned.

Mr Kehinde: As I was saying, Sir, Mr Speaker, for the development of Forestry I suggest that an Act of Parliament be passed to prevent bush burning in this Region. This destroys a lot of our trees and the beauty of the forest is also destroyed. In spite of this, I think the Region will benefit much from timber.

In the field of Education, Sir, I say firmly that some of our Members opposite do not actually know what is going on in the schools. As a school teacher, I can reply to some of their points. In any entrance examination taken into secondary schools and colleges in the Federation of Nigeria,

the pupils in our Primary VI schools are more successful than those pupils in Class VII in the North, Standard VI in the East and standard VI in the Federal Territory. If these Members will only take statistics, they will see that what I say is correct. Our Modern Schools are doing very fine work and the standard of education in this Region, compared with the standard of education for the past years when Awolowo school had not been introduced, is much higher. I would like to say firmly, Sir, that hon. Members of this House should praise this Government, Sir, for the foresight they have and for spending so much money on education. In fact our children are there; you know the standard of education they receive; and so it is a sort of injustice to come here and criticise for criticisms sake.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the Region, electricity supplies are—*(Interruptions from members of the Opposition)*. *(Fire, Fire)*. Electricity supplies have received this Government's attention to the fullest grade, Sir, if I may be permitted to say so, and so many of those in the Opposition side have been enjoying these developments for years. I would say here, Sir that this Government is trying to consider some places where electricity has not reached, but we wish that the Government tries more to extend electricity to these places, especially in Ejigbo District area, because electricity has reached Ejigbo and we want it to be extended to that District Council area.

As well, Sir, road tarring is receiving the applause of any right-thinking person and we want that road tarring be given special attention in my Constituency which is Ede Ejigbo North (not rural). Every place in Oshun is civilised.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. I think that some other Constituencies designated "Rural" are also civilised. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Kehinde: Mr Speaker, Sir, I say it because those who are saying it, do not actually understand what it means. Mr Speaker, Sir, we would like these two roads to be put into the priority list. The two roads are the one starting from Ede, going through Ara to Ejigbo, down to Awe, and these places I have mentioned are within Ede Ejigbo and Oyo District Councils. We would appreciate it if the Government would put these roads into the plan for road development and as well, Sir, another road starting from Eware, going through Oha to Agerudo, on to Aye, Ajana and then going to Oyo road. These roads that I have mentioned Sir, are within Ejigbo District Council and Ogbomoso

[MR KEHINDE]

District Council Areas. These two roads are very important because they join very many important towns and villages, and no articles Sir, are economically useful without being taken to places where they will be used, and those roads pass through places where cocoa is grown as well as many economic plants like cocoa and palm trees.

Again, Sir, the economic development in this Region is wide. We would like, Sir, that in Oshun a project be sited in one of the towns there.

Industrial Development.—I would suggest that rural industries be given priority these days because so many of our people in this Region live in villages and hamlets and schools have been extended to cover those areas. I would suggest, Sir, that rural industries be given priority, especially weaving industry and poultry. These will give work to our people and will be more beneficial than siting them in already civilised places or already developed areas. I shall live to see this Western part of Nigeria being so much developed and, in my dream, Sir, I see that it will soon become the Paris of Africa.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lands and Housing (Mr C. A. Williams): Mr Speaker, Sir, the stride that this Region has made is far in excess of that of the other Regions of this country. I say this with every confidence because I had cause to travel to the Eastern Region the other day and I was surprised to see how backward the things there are.

Mr Speaker, Sir, here people talk of austerity in this Region. I wonder why people want development. We want development; everybody wants development; everybody talks of development; how can we develop if we do not have the money? Now there is no way of achieving these developments unless we can pay for them. This Government is taking the necessary step by introducing the rather popular austerity measure. It is popular with the Government but it is unpopular with the Opposition. We on this side of the House would like the austerity measure to extend more than that, because every town, every hamlet and every place wants electricity, good roads and water supply. Everybody wants this and everybody wants that. Where will they get money? Where will the Government get money for all these? Except through self-sacrifice. We must contribute something ourselves so that we can get the help we want from other people for our development.

Now, Mr Speaker, let us talk about agriculture. It is wonderful that the stride this Region has made in agriculture is so widened that it will take years before the other Regions can meet up. Now look at all the farm settlements and agricultural centres. I can make bold to say that we have actually seen real development. It is there that those who are taught will come back to teach the people of their villages and towns how to carry on with agriculture.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am a bit sorry that the Government has not given much attention to the question of fishery. The people that take to fishing are occupying the coastal land of this country. They have no land due to water and seas that have occupied their land. They have no land for agricultural project. But equally, Mr Speaker, Sir, fishing pays a lot. It pays far more than cocoa. I say this with authority because I am a fisherman. Now there is no speculation in the fish market. There is always a large demand for fish and even the amount of fish that we buy from foreign countries is enormous, so that if much attention is paid to fishery, I think that we shall be far much better in our own area than the people that occupy cocoa areas. Now Mr Speaker, I shall be grateful if the Government can give attention to the question of fishery.

Now, Mr Speaker, let us turn to the field of health facilities. This Government has spent enormous amounts on the health of its people. Many people may not know because many do not travel, but we who travel in our constituencies and travel to other peoples' constituencies know this very well. Let us take the Medical Field Unit for example. The medical field unit is doing a wonderful work in this Region and it is doing it free of charge. There is no charge made from anybody who is served by the Medical Field Unit. They have helped to get rid of yaws. Yaws has been very common in most rural areas. I do not want to mention any place. Yaws has been very common in most rural areas but, today, Mr Speaker, Sir, if you go to these places, you will find that these people are without yaws. Leprosy has been very common. Some people go about with cut fingers and feet but, due to the help of this Government, Mr Speaker, Sir, leprosy is not very common again.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to make one observation, and that is about the amount of beggars that go about our streets in this Region which is far too much. I would like this Government to take quick action about the restriction of these beggars, because we know these beggars pack everywhere. They

[MR WILLIAMS]

have not been given proper care. They go about and in their going about, unfortunately, they transfer disease to other persons. Therefore I beg this Government; I know that it is going to cost enormous amounts of money to control the beggars, because I know that health is very important. I know that time will come when Government will restrict the movements of these beggars.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to touch the question of education. Education in this Region is making wonderful strides: In every place, in every corner and nook, we find schools. It was not so when I was young, with the result that very few received education in days gone by; but, today, where I was born you can count schools in great numbers. There are primary schools and secondary schools.

Opposition Benches: Where were you born?

Mr Williams: I was born at Epe.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the only thing is this. There are ill-informed persons about education, with the result that boys in our modern schools and primary schools do not want to go to the farm, do not want to go to harvest palm nuts, and so on. Of necessity this means that the schools will be turning out numbers of boys unemployed, who will be going about causing disturbances in this Region. So I shall be very pleased, Mr Speaker, if arrangement can be made so that people who know about palm-wine and palm nuts could be placed in these schools and trained to do these jobs so that when they leave school, if they cannot get jobs, they will take to professions so that they will not fall to the temptation of hunger and privation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the other thing that I want to touch is that we should try to exercise our best possible to encourage these young school leavers by grouping some of them and encouraging them to take to farming because, at present, Mr Speaker, Sir, the villages are being depopulated because, immediately these young people leave school, they just travel straight to big towns in search of jobs.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to talk of roads. The wonderful road network in this Region is remarkable. Everywhere you go, you go on tarred road. It is a feather in the cap of the Government of this Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, that is why every time you open our Estimates you find that it is very fabulous. It must be fabulous because these things

cost money and, because these developments cost money, people must not express any wonder when they see that the cost in the Estimates is so enormous.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to mention that as we go on, it is always like that; that is the way of nature, some people suffer, some people really suffer, and some get more. It is not the fault of anybody, because that is how things move in the world. People in the coastal areas, Sir, suffer a great deal from lack of good roads. Now we rely on river transport since the days of yore, and it is time when all these things should give way to modern roads. Now there is a road, Mr Speaker, Sir, from Letu to Orimetu to Lagos road which is in Epe Division. This road is very much essential to help the fishermen in that area. Well, Mr Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned to you that, oftentimes, when these poor men make large catch from the sea, they cannot get the way to transport them to Lagos. The next thing to do is to dump them back to the sea. Well, Mr Speaker, this road in question will help if it is made to get to the community of the Apostles at Aiyetoro; there is every possibility of getting from Lagos to the land of the Apostles. This will help the Apostles, too, who are very civilised and are able to get all their catch transported to Lagos.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I congratulate this Government in spite of any criticism that the Opposition may levy; and, although that soldier and ex-service man who had been to England could not say, Mr Speaker, that this Government is doing a lot, I have cause to congratulate this Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to take my seat.

Further Debate on the Appropriation Bill adjourned till Monday, 9th April, 1962.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Monday at 9 o'clock.

Oba C. D. Akran: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.25 p.m. until Monday, 9th April, 1962 at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1962
(The House met at 10.15 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension on Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Labour (Chief J. E. Babatola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Redescription of Regional Constituencies

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House approve the proposal of the Electoral Commission of the Region to redescrbe, as set out in the Schedule to this Motion, the areas of certain of the Regional constituencies established by the Schedule to the Electoral Districts (Establishment) Proclamation, 1960, published as W.R.L.N. 226 of 1960.

The Schedule is as follows:

Description of Constituency Area
Constituency Name
Constituency No.
Egba South II
26
22

Division		Constituency No.	Constituency Name	Description of Constituency Area
EGBA...	...	26	Egba South II	The Otta District Council area (see W.R.L.N. 172 of 1955).
EKITI...	...	32	Ekiti North-East II	(i) The Ado District Council area (see W.R.L.N. 3 of 1955 as amended by W.N.L.N. 265 of 1961); (ii) The Gbonyin District Council area (see W.N.L.N. 21 of 1962)
IBADAN	...	39	Ibadan Central East	In the Ibadan City Council area, the Wards— 1-2—Areas C 1-2 3-4—Areas N 1-2 36-37—Areas E 1-2 (see W.N.L.N. 238 of 1961).
		40	Ibadan Central West	In the Ibadan City Council area, the Wards— 5—Area N 3 11-13—Areas NW 1-3. (see W.N.L.N. 238 of 1961).
		41	Ibadan North-East I	In the Ibadan City Council area, the Wards— 6—Area N 4 40-42—Areas E 5-6 (see W.N.L.N. 238 of 1961).
		42	Ibadan North-East II	In the Ibadan City Council area, the Wards— 7-8—Area N 5 43-45—Areas E 7-9 (see W.N.L.N. 238 of 1961).
		43	Ibadan East Rural I	In the Ibadan East District Council area, the Wards— 10-11—Offagbo/Adedokun 12—Ogburo 13—Ogunjana 14-15—Lagun Township 16—Ajara 17—Arun/Arulogun-Ehin 18—Olodo/Ikumapayi 19—Wakajaiye/Agodi 20—Akin-Ajo/Agbedeyi 21—Sagbe Pabi-Ekun 22—Ogunremi 23—Ogunbode/Ogo/Kuji 24—Apatere Township 25—Oyedeji/Olodo. (see W.N.L.N. 240 of 1961).
		44	Ibadan East Rural II	(i) In the Ibadan East District Council area, the Wards— 1—Erunmu 2—Aiyede 3—Owobale/Odedeji/Kasumu 4—Lalupon/Odo-Oba 5—Ejioku

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- 6—Ariku/Igbon/Elegbada
- 7—Lalupon Township I
- 8—Lalupon Township II
- 9—Oludan/Ajiwogbo
- 26—Egbeda
- 27—Osegere/Awaye

(see W.N.L.N. 240 of 1961);

(ii) In the Ibadan South-East District Council area, the Wards—

- 1—Baeaku
- 2—Gbada-Efon
- 3—Ojoku
- 4—Ajia

(see W.N.L.N. 241 of 1961).

4. Ibadan South-East Rural ...

In the Ibadan South-East District Council area, the Wards—

- 5—Mogaji-Seriki
- 6—Bioku
- 7—Olorunda
- 8—Odi Aperin
- 9—Fada
- 10—Odi Odeyale
- 11—Olubode
- 12—Okoga
- 13—Akanran
- 14—Gbeleyi
- 15—Gbedun
- 16—Elese Erin
- 17—Akinkemi
- 18—Eripa Fawande
- 19—Fajoye
- 20—Araromi
- 21—Amadu
- 22—Ogo
- 23—Afolabi/Apasan
- 24—Amosun
- 25—Ojebode

(see W.N.L.N. 241 of 1961);

(ii) In the Ibadan South District Council area, the Wards—

- 2—Oyedun
- 5—Egbeda Atuba
- 7—Jagun Olukade
- 9—Oloju-Oro
- 12—Agbeia
- 13—Odekeye
- 16—Papa
- 17—Latunde

(see W.N.L.N. 242 of 1961)

Division

Constituency No.

Constituency Name

Description of Constituency Area

Division	Constituency No.	Constituency Name	Description of Constituency Area
IBADAN—contd.	46	Ibadan South-East Suburban	<p>(i) In the Ibadan City Council area, the <i>Wards</i>— 21-22—Areas S 4-5 23-24—Areas S 6 38-39—Areas E 3-4 (see W.N.L.N. 238 of 1961).</p> <p>(ii) In the Ibadan South District Council area, the <i>Wards</i>— 1—Aiyegun 3—Oba Ado 4—Lafiku 6—Ajota 8—Laguna 10—Olode 11—Rujobi 14—Igbodo 15—Apadi 18—Lawande (see W.N.L.N. 242 of 1961).</p>
	47	Ibadan South Central	<p>In the Ibadan City Council area, the <i>Wards</i>— 17-20—Areas S 1-3 27-27—Area SW 1-2 (see W.N.L.N. 238 of 1961).</p>
	48	Ibadan South Suburban	<p>(i) In the Ibadan City Council area, the <i>Wards</i>— 25—Area S 7 (see W.N.L.N. 238 of 1961);</p> <p>(ii) The Ibadan South-West District Council area (see W.N.L.N. 243 of 1961).</p>
	49	Ibadan South-West Central...	<p>In the Ibadan City Council area, the <i>Wards</i>— 28-33—Areas SW 3-7 (see W.N.L.N. 238 of 1961).</p>
	50	Ibadan South-West Suburban	<p>(i) In the Ibadan City Council area, the <i>Wards</i>— 34-35—Areas SW 8-9 (see W.N.L.N. 238 of 1961);</p> <p>(ii) In the Ibadan West District Council area, the <i>Wards</i>— 1—Omi-Adio 2—Siba 3—Bakatari 4—Arisere 5—Famuwa 6—Onigbagbo 7—Ogundele-Alako 8—Abemo 9—Onikede 10—Kungbona</p>

- 51 Ibadan North-West Rural ... In the Ibadan North District Council area, the *Wards*—
- 1—Ojedeji
 - 2—Ijaiye I
 - 3—Ijaiye II
 - 4—Ajibade
 - 5—Olorisa-Oko
 - 6—Mele/Okegbemi
 - 7—Alabata
 - 8—Elekuru/Laleye
 - 9—Iroko
 - 10—Olode/Amosun
 - 11—Onidundun
 - 12—Ojo-Emmo
 - 13—Akinyele
 - 14—Moniya
 - 15—Isabiyi/Irepodun
 - 16—Ikereku Town
 - 17—Olanla
 - 18—Oboda
 - 19—Labode
 - 20—Osanyidoyi
 - 21—Iwokoto
 - 22—Talontan/Idi-Oro
- (see W.N.L.N. 244 of 1961).
- 52 Ibadan North-West Suburban ... (i) In the Ibadan City Council area, the *Wards*—
- 9-10—Area N 6
 - 14-16—Areas NW 4-6
 - 46—Abadina (comprising Federal Registration Areas 200/G 65 C.E. and 200/G 47 K).
- (see W.N.L.N. 238 of 1961);
- (ii) In the Ibadan West District Council Area, the *Wards*—
- 14—Akufo
 - 15—Araromi
 - 16—Apete
 - 17—Idi-ya
 - 18—Idi-Igba
 - 19—Akindele
 - 20—Akinware
 - 21—Olorunwe
- (see W.N.L.N. 244 of 1961).
- (iii) In the Ibadan North District Council area, the *Wards*—
- 23—Agoro

Division	Constituency No.	Constituency Name	Description of Constituency Area
IBADAN—contd.	52	Ibadan North-West Suburban—contd.	24—Emi-Osa 25—Arulogun 26—Ojo-o 27—Ajibode/Laniba (see W.N.L.N. 239 of 1961).
ISHAN	75	Ishan West Central	(i) The Irrua-Ewu District Council area (see W.R.L.N. 211 of 1955); (ii) The Central Ishan District Council area (see W.N.L.N. 225 of 1961).
	76	Ishan North-West	(i) The Ivie-Uda-Esaba District Council area (see W.R.L.N. 212 of 1955); (ii) The West Ishan District Council area (see W.N.L.N. 224 of 1961).
ONDO...	81	Ondo North-East I	The Akure District Council area (see W.R.L.N. 95 of 1955 as amended by W.N.L.N. 263 of 1961).
	82	Ondo North-East II	(i) The Idanre District Council area (see W.R.L.N. 135 of 1954 as amended by W.N.L.N. 193 of 1961); (ii) The Ifedore District Council area (see W.R.L.N. 96 of 1955).
	84	Ondo West II	(i) The Ile-Oluji-Okeigbo District Council area (see W.R.L.N. 281 of 1955); (ii) The Ondo Western District Council area (see W.R.L.N. 283 of 1955); (iii) The Ondo Southern District Council area (see W.R.L.N. 282 of 1955 as amended by W.R.L.N. 55 of 1959).
OSHUN	91	Ogbomosho North-East	In the Ogbomosho District Council area the Wards— 2-4—Abogunde 13—Arowomole 24-25—Ilogbo 30-31—Isale Alasa 34-35—Isale Affon 36—Isale Ora 37-38—Lagbedu 47—Oke Elerin B 55-57—Saja (see W.R.P.N. 157 of 1953 as amended by W.N.L.N. 422 of 1960).
	92	Ogbomosho North-West	In the Ogbomosho District Council area, the Wards— 5—Aguodo 14-16—Gbede 39-41—Masifa 46—Oke Elerin A 58—Sabo 59-60—Tara

93	Ogbomosho South-East	...	...	...	(see W.R.P.N. 157 of 1953 as amended by W.N.L.N. 422 of 1960). In the Ogbomosho District Council area, the <i>Wards</i> — 18-23—Ijeru 26-29—Iressa 42-43—Ogunbado 44-45—Oja Jagun 48-50—Oko (see W.R.P.N. 157 of 1953 as amended by W.N.L.N. 242 of 1960).
94	Ogbomosho South-West	...	...	...	In the Ogbomosho District Council area, the <i>Wards</i> — 1—Aaje 6-8—Akata 9-12—Ajawa 17—Ibapon 32-33—Isoko 51—Oke Olla 52-54—Oshupa (see W.R.P.N. 157 of 1953 as amended by W.N.L.N. 422 of 1960).
95	Oshogbo North I	...	....	...	In the Irepodun District Council area, the <i>Wards</i> — 8-11—Olufon (Ifon) 12-14—Elerin (Erin) (see W.N.L.N. 175 of 1961).
96	Oshogbo North II	...	...	...	(i) In the Oshogbo District Council area, the <i>Wards</i> — 19-21 Balogun Oshogbo (see W.R.P.N. 151 of 1953 as amended by W.R.L.N. 329 of 1960); (ii) In the Irepodun District Council area, the <i>Wards</i> — 1-7—Olobu, Bara Ilobu (Ilobu) (see W.N.L.N. 175 of 1961).
97	Oshogbo South-East Urban...	...	...	...	In the Oshogbo District Council area, the <i>Wards</i> — 3-5—Ataoja C, D, and E 10—Akogun Oshogbo A 12-13—Otun Jagun Oshogbo 17—Esa Oshogbo 18—Bale Gbonmi Oshogbo 25—Sabo Oshogbo 26-27—Oba Oke, Oba Ile 28—Ilie (see W.R.P.N. 151 of 1953 as amended by W.R.L.N. 329 of 1960).
98	Oshogbo South-West Urban	....	...	...	In the Oshogbo District Council area, the <i>Wards</i> — 1-2—Ataoja A and B 6-7—Jagun Oshogbo 8-9—Babakekere Oshogbo

Division	Constituency No.	Constituency Name	Description of Constituency Area
OSHUN— <i>contd.</i>	98	Oshogbo South-West Urban— <i>contd.</i>	11—Akogun Oshogbo B 14—Eketa Oshogbo 15-16—Alagba Oshogbo 22—Ekerin Oshogbo 23—Areago Oshogbo 24—Otun Balogun Oshogbo (see W.R.P.N. 151 of 1953 as amended by W.N.L.N. 329 of 1960).
	102	Oshun South-East II	(i) The Aiyedade District Council area (see W.R.P.N. 144 of 1953 as amended by W.N.L.N. 173 of 1961); (ii) The Orile-Owu District Council area (see W.N.L.N. 229 of 1961).
WESTERN IJAW	123	Western Ijaw I	(i) In the Western Ijaw Northern District Council area, the Wards— 7—Abari 8—Adagbabiri 9—Asamabiri/Elemebiri/Ekperiwari 10—Kaloware/Aven 11-13—Patani 14—Trofani 15—Angoloma 16—Toru Apelebiri/Boluo Apelebiri 17—Boluo Angiama 18—Toru Angiama/Owumbiri 19—Sagbama 20—Agoro/Agorogbene 21—Kabiama 22—Ogobiri 23—Okumbiri/Eriama 24—Avamassa 25—Agbere 26-27—Ebedebiri 28—Agbidiana/Egbemeo-Angalabiri 29—Isampou 30—Angalabiri 31—Adode 32—Bulou Orua/Toru Orua 33—Odórubu 34—Ofoni 35—Uduovori (see W.N.L.N. 246 of 1961); (ii) In the Western Ijaw Central District Council area, the Wards— 1—Adekagbene/Ogriagbene 2—Akugbene I.

- 3—Akugbene II
- 4—Bomadi
- 5—Kpakiamia
- 6—Ezebiri
- 7—Ogodobiri
- 8—Kameta
- 9—Okoloba
- 10-11—Syama
- 12—Ogbeinyama
- 13-15—Ayakoroma
- 16—Kiangbodo
- 17—Bikorogha
- 31—Edegbene/Edemogbene
- 32—Kpukpugbene/Oboro
- 33—Nkorogha
- 34-35—Okpokunou
- 18—Gbekebor
- 19—Ogbeingbene/Okirika
- 20—Ogbodobiri/Iwurogboro/Ughotor
(see W.N.L.N. 247 of 1961).

124 Western Ijaw II

- (i) The Western Ijaw Southern District Council area (see W.N.L.N. 245 of 1961);
- (ii) In the Western Ijaw Northern District Council area, the Wards—
 - 1—Adagbabiri/Kunou/Angalaweighene/Lalagbene
 - 2—Akede
 - 3—Isoni/Osiamia
 - 4—Aleibiri
 - 5—Odoni
 - 6—Ayamabenin/Ogbosunware/Torubenni
 (see W.N.L.N. 246 of 1961);
- (iii) In the Western Ijaw Central District Council area, the Wards—
 - 21—Abadiama/Grangbene/Ebebergbene
 - 22—Ekogbene/Ekumugbene/Orugbene
 - 23—Amabulou
 - 24—Foutorugbene/Obirigbene
 - 25-26—Ojobo
 - 27-28—Peretorugbane
 - 29—Ekeremor/Amameghagbene
 - 30—Ndoro
 - 36-37—Tuomo
 - 38—Ogbodogbene
 - 39—Tamegbe
 - 40—Tugbebe
 - 41—Torugbene
 (see W.N.L.N. 247 of 1961).

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[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

As the House is aware, section 14 of the Constitution for Western Nigeria makes provision for the division of the Region into constituencies "in such manner as the competent authority, acting with the approval of each Legislative House of the Region signified by resolution, may prescribe". The "competent authority" is the Electoral Commission of the Region and it is that Commission which has put forward the proposals contained in the resolution.

As hon. Members know, the existing Regional constituencies are described in terms of the Local Government Councils contained within them. Since July 1960, when the Electoral Districts (Establishment) Proclamation was published, a number of new Local Government Councils have been created, with the result that the descriptions of a number of constituency areas are no longer expressed in up-to-date terms. The Electoral Commission has accordingly thought it desirable that the necessary amendments should be made to the description of those areas and has been advised by the Law Officers that the appropriate way for this to be done is to have its proposals placed before the Legislature for approval by resolution.

The House will wish to have an assurance that these proposals do not in any way seek to alter the area or boundaries of any of the constituencies referred to in the Schedule to the Motion. It would be contrary to the Constitution were any attempt to be made to do this now. Section 14 of the Constitution says that the division of the Region into constituencies shall be reviewed by the competent authority at intervals of not less than eight and not more than ten years, provided that such a review may be carried out as a result of the census of the population.

Hon. Members will observe that these proposals are not of a controversial nature: they only seek to bring existing legislation up to date. I commend the Motion for the approval of the House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Dr Onabamiro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief F. Oputa-Otutu (Aboh West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the proposal. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the first place, I consider the proposal uncalled for because I do not believe the Premier when he said that the people of these areas have been consulted and that they have given their consent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Premier also said that the proposal is non-controversial. I do not agree with him. Akoko Oke, which is usually known as Akoko Edo, has been in the news for quite a long time. It is one of those areas that are included, Sir, in the recent Motion passed by the Federal House when they tabled the Motion for the Midwest State; and to say, Sir, that Akoko Oke or Akoko Edo is non-controversial is untrue.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in 1959 when the proposal to re-name certain constituencies in the Region or to revise the 62 constituencies of this Region into 124 was made, there was appointed, Sir, a Committee of this House, on which the Opposition was represented, and I would like to say, Sir, that I was a member. We looked into the proposals and suggested some amendments which were later approved by this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, in this case the Opposition was never consulted. I believe, Sir, that the people of Akoko Edo have not been consulted also. What is the basis of my belief? Mr Ayeni, who is a Member of the House of Representatives and represents Afenmai Division in that House, is one of those who supported the Motion for the creation of the Midwest State, and he has never, at any time, indicated Sir, that the people would have this Division or constituency re-named.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few comments, I beg to oppose.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr D. K. Olumofin):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion, and while doing so, I would like to express the gratitude of the people of Akoko to the Government. (*Opposition Benches: Are you a representative of that area?*). Yes, I represent Akoko as a whole. I am expressing the gratitude of the people of Akoko and, as far as I know, we have only one Akoko. In the past, of course, due to what used to be called "administrative convenience", the old colonial, bureaucratic Government used to slice one tribe or one family into two. The yearning of Akoko for this change has now been granted. I want to speak specifically now about Akoko South and Akoko North. I think that in future, when constituency boundaries come to be re-delimited, Government will give the people a further opportunity to express a greater measure of gratitude by seeing to it that Akoko North and Akoko South have each two constituencies and I think the result of the next census will justify this.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion. The reason why I oppose it is because I remember that in July last year, when the Government of this Region wanted to create some more districts in Ibadan, we, NCNC had a majority in Ibadan and this bad proposal.....(*Laughter and Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: NPC or NCNC?

Mr Oyewole: NCNC.

Mr Speaker: Oh, I beg your pardon. (*Laughter*).

Mr Oyewole: I have one aspect of the question which I wish to bring to the floor of this House, and that is the practice of the Government to the Opposition. Before the creation of more districts in Ibadan at all, we people of Ibadan disagreed that we did not want more districts, but the Government refused.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. On point of relevancy or irrelevancy. This Motion does not seek to create new districts or new constituencies. It only deals with renaming. It is not regrouping, and anything that comes contrariwise to that I shall rule out of order.

Mr Oyewole: I really understand, but what I am trying to point out is this, Mr Speaker Sir. In the first place, in Ibadan here, we have Ibadan Central East according to the new.....(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. In this Motion there is no mention of Ibadan.

Mr Oyewole: Page 18, Sir, under "Description of Constituency Area"....(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. May I direct the hon. Member's attention to the fact that he is dwelling on another Motion which has not yet come before this House. We are only dealing with the Motion on the Order Paper.

Mr Oyewole: At any rate the Government could have done this before this time and that is the reason why I oppose it. (*Laughter*).

Mr T. E. Igugu (Urhobo Central East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion. In doing so I wish to state that Constituency Nos 5 and 6, 117, 118 are within the Midwest Region, a Region which the Federal Government is doing its best to carve out from the Western Region.

Mr Speaker: Sir, I think that this Motion is very untimely. If the hon. Premier, the

Mover of this Motion, in the past saw any necessity for bringing up this Motion in this honourable House, I think it could have been done long before now. (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*).

Mr Speaker: Sir, hon. Members are no doubt aware that there has been a very long controversy over the question of whether Afenmai North-East I, should be Akoko-Oke or not. I think this Motion is merely intended to carve out what we knew in the past, and what we still know to be Afenmai Division, from the Midwest Region.

Turning to Constituencies 117 and 118, I am very sorry, Sir, that the Minister for Midwest Affairs is not here. Urhobo, as we very well know, consists of three districts, the Western Urhobo district, the Central Urhobo district and the Eastern Urhobo district, and I think that was why it was in the past known as Urhobe East I, Urhobo East II, Urhobo Central East, Urhobo Central West, and Western Urhobo I and Western Urhobo II.

Mr Speaker: Sir, the Mover of this Motion has not been able to tell us any reason why he should like to style Urhobo East I as Isoko North and Urhobo East II as Isoko South. We who are from Urhobo Division know very well that we belong to the same stock. I would very much like to know from the Mover of this Motion why he should like to change Urhobo East I and Urhobo East II to Isoko North and Isoko South, without consultation too.

Mr Speaker: Sir, as far as all the Constituencies connecting the Midwest Region in this Motion are concerned I very much like the hon. Premier to withdraw.

With these few remarks, I beg to oppose this Motion.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr R. A. Olusa):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support this Motion because it sought to do nothing other than to remove anachronisms that remain in the former Electoral Law; and in doing so, Sir, I wish to say it has satisfied the desire and wishes of all of us who live in the areas named in the amendments proposed. We in Akoko have always desired to be identified with our name, Akoko, and the alteration is done to satisfy our wishes. Akoko, which was wrongly termed Akoko Edo, was Akoko Oke, and this amendment has done the right thing to rename it what it should rightly be named, and that is Akoko-Oke.

[MR OLUSA]

It is an anachronism to leave it as Akoko-Edo or Afenmai district. It is unfortunate that we were cut and joined to Benin by the old bureaucratic Government. Akoko-Oke is part and parcel of Akoko, and it shall remain part and parcel of Akoko for ever.

The hon. Member for Aboh challenged the Premier that he did not consult the Members of the Opposition. (*Government Benches: Who are those who were not consulted. Was it him?*) I know every part of the Region. I know more of Aboh than the Member for Aboh himself and the Member for Urhobo who spoke. An Isoko man would never like to be called Urhobo but Isoko. Yes, you people have not been to any part of Isoko. I travelled to all parts of the Midwest and I travelled to all parts of Isoko. I know all the nooks and corners of Isoko. (*Laughter*).

This amendment affects part of Owo Division, part of Urhobo, which is now correctly named Isoko. (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, we express our gratitude to the Regional Government for this amendment.

Mr E. O. Imafidon (Benin Central East): Mr Speaker, Sir, we are opposing this on the following grounds: It is usual for any Government, before it renames a place, to consult the people of the area. I challenge this Government to a referendum in Akoko Edo area. (*Interruptions*). I am sure the people will oppose the renaming of this area as proposed by the Government. Suspend this Bill and go back to the people (*Interruptions*). (*Government Bench: We have been consulted*).

It has been in the news that the Government of this Region is trying to carve out Akoko Oke and Warri from the Midwest, and I think, Sir, that as my hon. colleague on the other side of the House has already known, this is not the right time that such a Motion should be brought before this House. It is out just to prejudice the course of the Motion proposed by the Federal Parliament. So we oppose this Bill.

Chief Akintola: May I say this, that the Government is prepared to accept any challenge provided it is reasonable and logical. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). No unreasonable challenge will ever be accepted by us. I do hope that hon. Members followed closely what I said in introducing this debate. The recommendations for altering the names were submitted by the Electoral Commission; the hon. Member will therefore have to study his Constitution carefully. The Electoral Commission is an independent body

set up by, and with a chairman appointed by, the Federal Government. If you have any complaint at all, the best thing is to direct your complaint to the Electoral Commission. (*Applause*). May I say, too, that the attitude of the hon. Members opposite me was dictated by their—shall I say—ignorance, which may not be the appropriate Parliamentary language; I might say it was due to the inadequacy of their geographical knowledge. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

But, after all, the area formerly described as Afenmai North-West I is geographically within the area now known as Akoko-Oke. By giving accurate geographical nomenclature to an area, is one not acting within the bounds of reason? Is it contended that the area is not Akoko-Oke? If it is so, then the Commission is recommending an appropriate name for the area; and if you move down Afenmai North-West II, the only difference, Sir, is to change it to Afenmai North-West. If you have not got North-West I, why must you have North-West II? Now, what is being removed in that place is the figure "II"; Afenmai North-West remains simply without North-West II.

The hon. Member—Oputa-Otutu—well, after all, if he becomes a king in his own area tomorrow, which is not unlikely, the choice may fall on him, when perhaps, lobsters, fishes, along the creeks may want to choose a king—(*Laughter and interruptions*). I am quite sure that if Oputa-Otutu decides to become a king, he won't be His Highness Oputa-Otutu II but he would sign Oputa-Otutu simply; it is only when a son of his or a descendant of his in future becomes a king for the tribe that they will have Oputa-Otutu II in the case here, they have put "Afenmai North-West II" instead of leaving it as "Afenmai North-West", simply. This is logical and reasonable: there is nothing to oppose in it and, further, he has told me he has agreed to drop the first "II".

Now, I refer to Owo North I and Owo North II. All these two places are in Akoko area, not in Owo and, geographically, it is wrong to describe these areas as Owo; and, since the area is Akoko, the proper thing is to change it to its proper description, that is, Akoko North and Akoko South. What is wrong in giving a man his own proper name? (*Opposition Benches: The people did not ask for the change of their name*). I am not going to the question of renaming or not renaming; it is the proper geographical description which is being given here.

Urhobo East I and Urhobo East II, all of them are in Isoko area, and by using the

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

words "Urhobo I" and "Urhobo II" you are misleading a lot of people. What has happened here is to give the name its proper description. If you want to name a constituency in Ife, or you want to name a constituency in Oshogbo, why must you give it an Ibadan description? And for a constituency in Ibadan why must you say "Lagos North-West II" or "Lagos North-West III"? What we are trying to do here is to agree with the Electoral Commission because what have been recommended are reasonable and fair.

I understand one hon. Member said that this may be used as a pretext for renaming, for re-distributing, for re-dividing Ibadan area. Where is the need, where is the relevancy in it? If there is any local authority area you don't want, all you need do is to get to the area and call the people and tell them to disband their councils, and if they agree by a unanimous resolution, the hon. Minister of Local Government is prepared to dissolve it. (*Opposition Benches: He won't do it*). But it is one thing for a man to speak here; it is one thing for a man to make a declaration here within the cool embrace of the legislative hall, but it is a different thing to go to a constituency and tell the people in the area that the independence given them to manage their own affairs does not befit them. May I repeat that I shall allow the hon. Member for Ibadan to go to any of these areas and request people to dissolve. The man who does not want independence, not even he will dare go to any area to tell them to dissolve their councils. So I do hope that with this simple explanation, my good Friend Oputa-Otutu—he too has agreed that this is a legitimate request—will accept the Motion. (*Applause*).

Question put.

The House Divided:

Ayes—59; Noes—16.

AYES

1. Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro
2. Mr Y. Adekunle
3. Mr S. T. Adelegan
4. Mr J. G. Adeniran
5. Alhaji A. L. Adenekan
6. Mr S. S. A. Adeniyi
7. Mr A. A. Adesanya
8. Mr M. A. Adewunmi
9. Mr J. O. Adeyemo
10. Mr N. A. Adibi
11. Chief A. O. Adeyi
12. Mr J. O. Adigun
13. Mr E. Aina

14. Mr A. Ajibola
15. Mr C. I. Akere
16. Mr S. A. Akerele
17. Mr S. O. Akerele
18. Mr A. O. Akingboye
19. Chief S. L. Akintola
20. Oba C. D. Akran
21. Mr I. O. Aniyi
22. Mr R. O. Areola
23. Mr E. B. Arowojolu
24. Mr M. Atie
25. Mr D. Atolagbe
26. Mr J. E. Babatola
27. Mr A. A. Babayemi
28. Rev. I. Edeki
29. Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie
30. Chief A. A. Fadayiro
31. Mr B. O. Fawehimi
32. Mr A. Fetuga
33. Mr O. O. Gbolahan
34. Mr J. O. Kehinde
35. Mr N. A. B. Kotoye
36. Mr R. A. Lana
37. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi
38. Mr J. O. Odigie
39. Mr J. A. Odotuga
40. Mr D. Ogundiran
41. Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa
42. Mr Y. Ogunleye
43. Mr E. O. Oke
44. Mr S. A. Okeya
45. Mr B. Olaniyan
46. Mr I. A. Olukoju
47. Mr D. K. Olumofin
48. Mr R. A. Olusa
49. Dr J. O. Omitowaju
50. Dr S. D. Onabamiro
51. Mr D. O. Orowole
52. Mr I. A. Ositelu
53. Mr S. A. Otubanjo
54. Mr D. A. Popoola
55. Mr S. A. Sanni
56. Mr C. A. Williams
57. Chief S. A. Tinubu

Tellers for the Ayes

58. Mr S. A. Layonu
59. Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye

NOES

1. Mr J. O. Abioshun
2. Mr M. A. Adedigba
3. Mr A. Adisa
4. Mr J. A. Ajuwon
5. Mr A. Atohengbe
6. Mr T. E. Elushade
7. Mr T. E. Igugu
8. Mr W. Aghahowa
9. Mr P. V. Okwesa
10. Mr C. O. Olamigoke
11. Mr J. O. Omokowajo
12. Chief F. Oputa-Otutu

13. Mr J. A. Riemu
14. Mr A. S. Somotan

Tellers for the Noes

15. Mr S. O. Oyewole
16. Mr E. O. Imafidon

Renaming of Regional Constituencies

Chief S. L. Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House approve the proposal of the Electoral Commission of the Region to rename:

Constituency 5, Afenmai North-West I, as Akoko-Oke;

Constituency 6, Afenmai North-West II, as Afenmai North-West;

Constituency 103, Owo North I, as Akoko North;

Constituency 104, Owo North II, as Akoko South;

Constituency 117, Urhobo East I, as Isoko North;

Constituency 118, Urhobo East II, as Isoko South.

These proposals have been made by the competent authority acting in accordance with section 14 of the Constitution. The proposals to re-name all of Afenmai North-West II were received by me from the representatives of the communities concerned and placed before the Electoral Commission of the Region to determine whether it may make proposals for the re-naming of the Constituencies concerned. The Electoral Commission has done this and at the same time proposes the consequential alterations of the same and that the name of Constituency No. 6 should read "Afenmai North-West".

I should like to emphasise that these proposals do not alter the existing boundaries of the constituencies; and may I explain that I have been advised that, consequent upon the Motion just passed, it is necessary specifically to alter them in order to give the new names specifically in a Motion flowing out of the first one.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move this formally and to say that this evokes no fresh debate. It is in a pure legalistic form, which more or less flows from the Motion just passed. (*Applause*).

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Description of Constituency Areas

Chief S. L. Akintola: I beg to move the Motion standing against my name—

"That this House do now approve the proposal of the Electoral Commission of the Region to re-describe as set out in the Schedule attached to this Motion the areas of certain of the Regional Constituencies established by the Schedule to the Electoral Districts (Establishment) Proclamation, 1960, published as W.R.L.N. 226 of 1960.

This does not evoke any debate at all. Since these constituencies were created there has been a fresh division of wards; some constituencies now contain many more wards than they contained originally. Since constituencies are described with reference to the wards within the Local Government areas constituting constituencies, it is necessary to re-describe all these constituencies in the light of the new Local Government boundaries created as a result of the creation of the new wards.

One hon. Member mentioned, not long ago, changes that have taken place in Ibadan. The description of constituencies in Ibadan will now be in line and in keeping with the creation of the new local government areas; and if hon. Members go through the Schedule here, they will find that the only changes will be in the last column giving a description of the wards within each constituency. I do not think that this will necessarily evoke any controversy at all. Where a constituency contained originally forty wards, as a result of recent adjustments the number of wards have risen to forty-four. All that is being done is to re-describe the wards comprising the constituency. It therefore confirms what previous administrative arrangements have been made and I do not think that Members will pick any quarrel with so clear an action of the Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

**INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL
SECOND READING**

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to further amend the Income Tax Law.

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with section 26 (2) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, to convey his recommendation for consideration of this Bill.

The purpose of this Bill is two-fold: first, to provide for a re-organisation of income tax administration in the Region and, secondly, to provide for the imposition, assessment and collection of a development contribution from every taxable adult in the Region. (*Hear, hear*). Clause 1 of the Bill provides that the Bill shall be deemed to have come into operation on 1st April, 1962.

Two years ago, the assessment and collection of income tax from every taxable adult in the Region were made the responsibility of Local Authorities and, as a result of a further amendment to the Law which was enacted a year later, the Regional Tax Board took over from the Local Authorities the administration of income tax from employed persons in the Region. This is what is generally known as the "Pay As You Earn" Scheme. By the same amendment, responsibility for the administration of income tax on non-Africans was vested in the Board. In section 65A, sub-section (3) of the Law, the whole of the revenue collected from the tax imposed by the Law has, since 1960, been allocated to Rating Authorities. As I did mention in my Budget Speech last week a tremendous success has been made of the "Pay As You Earn" Scheme—that is, income tax from employed persons. Within one year of its inception, no less than £1 million has been collected from this source (*Hear, hear*). Unfortunately, the same thing cannot be said of income tax from self-employed persons which is administered by Local Authorities. The following comparative figures relating to the 1959-60 and 1960-61 years of assessment would help to illustrate this point:

Taxed Districts	1959-60					
	Assessment (by the Regional Tax Board)			Collection		
	£	s	d	£	s	d
Abeokuta ...	11,256	11	8	4,600	7	6
Akure ...	19,667	3	11	8,769	18	6
Benin City...	19,318	4	7	8,656	9	3
Ibadan ...	61,967	4	1	14,719	19	8
Ijebu-Ode...	12,032	9	4	5,424	1	10
Ilesha ...	17,120	10	3	3,207	2	7
Sapele ...	15,671	14	3	12,066	5	0

1960-61 that is to say the period during which Local Authorities were given responsibility for assessment and collection

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Abeokuta ...	5,258	2	8	2,537	9	1
Akure ...	2,353	6	0	1,219	16	3
Benin City...	11,552	8	11	2,139	4	5
Ibadan ...	2,650	0	0	1,154	0	0
Ijebu-Ode...	3,528	19	6	1,364	12	4
Ilesha ...	2,160	14	3	1,166	18	8
Sapele ...	6,245	11	6	161	8	11

I would like to repeat, Sir, that as against the year 1959-60, when the assessment in Sapele was £15,000 odd and the collection £12,000 odd, when the Local Authority took over the assessment and collection the figure £15,000 which was the assessment the previous year dropped to £6,245 and the collection was limited to £161 8s 11d.

The figures I have quoted reveal a wide gap between assessment and collection respectively for the two years for the taxed districts mentioned. They also go to show how ineffective the Local Authorities are in the administration of income tax placed under their control. Considering the poor performance of the Local Authorities in the administration of income tax under their control, there is no doubt that Government's decision to introduce the Pay As You Earn system was indeed a wise one as this system ensures a steady in-flow of revenue from income tax.

It is, however, bad training in citizenship to allow the burden of taxation to fall only on people who are in regular paid employment while well-to-do members of the community, namely, lawyers, doctors, contractors, transport owners and big traders are allowed to enjoy, as it were, a tax holiday. To improve upon the efficiency of income tax administration in the Region the following provisions have been made in the Bill under clauses 5 and 13:

The functions of Area Assessment Committees and the Rating Authorities with respect to the assessment and collection of income tax shall be limited to persons who are not subject to the Pay As You Earn system and whose individual total income for any year of assessment is within the range of £50 to £300. The attention of hon. Members is invited to clause 8 of the Bill which confers powers on the Regional Tax Board in relation to Area Assessment Committees and Rating Authorities. These bodies will now be required to discharge their functions under the Income Tax Law subject to the advice of the

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Regional Tax Board. Under clause 7 of the Bill the Regional Tax Board shall now be responsible—that is, in addition to the Pay As You Earn Scheme and income tax on non-Africans—for the direct assessment and collection of income tax in respect of persons whose individual total income for any year of assessment exceeds £300. In other words, the administration of income tax on—

(a) self-employed professionals such as doctors, lawyers; and

(b) big traders and contractors etc.;

will now be undertaken by the Regional Tax Board assisted by Area Assessment Committees and Rating Authorities.

To cope with its increased functions, and to provide representation for the Opposition, clause 6 of the Bill provides for an increase in the number of independent members on the Regional Tax Board from five to seven, thus increasing the total membership of the Board from ten to twelve.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should now like to deal with the provisions which have been made under clause 13 of the Bill with regard to Development Contribution and the allocation of revenue from Income Tax and Development Contribution.

My respected colleague, the hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development has already laid on the Table of this House the Government's Development Plan for 1962-68 which provides for an estimated total capital expenditure of roughly £90 million. Approximately £23 million of this is expected to come from our internal resources and the balance of £45 million is expected in the form of loans and grants from both internal and external sources. This leaves a gap of about £22 million to be filled from Government resources. As I did mention in my Budget Speech last week, one notable revenue feature in the past year, that is, 1961-62, has been the apparent recession in revenue from our traditional sources. For instance, whereas actual revenue from export duty on cocoa amounted to £55 million in 1959-60, the revised estimated revenue from this source for 1961-62 has been put at £2.1 million. In other words, within an interval of roughly three years the revenue yield from export duty on cocoa has fallen by as much as £3 million. To ensure that Government has necessary funds to meet its increasing commitments, provision is made under clause 13 of the Bill for the imposition of a Development Contribution

in every year of assessment upon the chargeable income of every taxable person in the Region.

Still on this point I should like to refer Members again to clause 5 which confer responsibility on Area Assessment Committees and Rating Authorities for the assessment and collection of Development Contribution from persons whose individual total income for any year of assessment is between £50 and £300 and who are not persons covered by the *Pay As You Earn* Scheme. The functions of assessment and collection of the Development Contribution in respect of the employed persons and those whose individual total income in an area of assessment exceeds £300 are conferred on the Regional Tax Board by clauses 7 and 13.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, may I, with your permission, deal briefly with the remainder of the provisions under clause 13 concerning the disposal of revenue from Income Tax and Development Contribution.

In future, that is, with effect from 1st April this year, revenue from Income Tax collected by Rating Authorities will be retained by them. Revenue from Income Tax and Development Contribution imposed by the Income Tax Law and revenue from each Division collected by Rating Authorities shall accrue to the Government.

As the bulk of tax payers in the Region are within the income range of £50 to £300 per annum, it is expected that the proposed revenue allocation arrangements will ensure for the Local Authorities a substantial amount of income. In this connection, may I, in conclusion, Mr Speaker, Sir, implore hon. Members of both sides of this House to use their good offices to ensure that Area Assessment Committees and Rating Authorities in their constituencies carry out efficiently their functions as provided in this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Further Debate on the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill adjourned till Tuesday, 12th April, 1962.

Sitting suspended at 11.50 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair).

**THE STAMP DUTIES BILL
SECOND READING**

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Stamp Duties Law.

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with section 26 (2) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria to convey his recommendation for the consideration of the Bill.

Under the Law as it stands, the British Red Cross Society is exempted from the payment of stamp duty on receipts given for or upon the payment of money amounting to £2 or upwards. The purpose of this Bill is to grant a similar exemption to the Nigerian Red Cross Society which was created by a Federal Act in 1960, and to discontinue the existing exemption granted to the British Red Cross Society.

Hon. Members will wish to know that the Nigeria Red Cross Society has made a similar approach to other Governments of the Federation and it is understood that these other Governments are already taking steps to meet the Society's wish.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Adeoye Adisa (Ibadan South-East Rural): I am not opposing this Bill but supporting it. We note with great satisfaction the fact that the Nigerian Red Cross Society has taken over from the British Red Cross Society, and this is a very good thing for all African nationalists. For this reason, we do support the Bill whole-heartedly.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendments, read a Third time and passed.

**1962-63 APPROPRIATION BILL
SECOND READING**

Adjourned Debate on Question (4th April)—

"That the Bill be read a Second time".

Question again proposed.

Mr Y. Adekunle (Oshogbo South-East Urban): I rise to support the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill, and I heartily congratulate the Minister of Finance for the able way he has presented the Bill. Having looked carefully through the speech of the hon. Minister, it is no gainsay that the speech covers all that we require for the development of this Region. Sir, I shall have the following comments to make.

Health.—Since it is the general belief that "Health is Wealth", my own interpretation is Health is foremost. The Government has planned the building of hospitals, health centres, dispensaries and maternity centres into every nook and corner in this Region. May I seize this opportunity to say that the male ward in Oshogbo should be made up to date; the existing one is out-dated.

Agriculture.—Since all that would be done in the field of Agriculture had been considered in the hon. Minister's speech, we all realise the establishment of Farm Settlements and Farm Institutes, and at this stage I will urge the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources to speed up work at the Oshogbo Farm Settlement and also to include the rearing of pigs and poultry keeping in the project.

Roads.—The Action Group Government of this Region is second to none in the whole Federation of Nigeria. The Government has almost completed the tarring of all Trunk B and C Roads in this Region. It has also taken into consideration the reconstruction of the old bridges through the B.I.C.C. The old bridges were at times the causes of major motor accidents; the Government also deserves the praise of the people of this Region in this field. But I will like to remind the Government that one good turn deserves another. The people of Oba-Ile, Oba-Oke, all under Oshogbo District, are loyal to this Government. They are also law-abiding people and I believe that the tarring of the roads to these towns would be welcome.

Water Scheme.—Three things are of importance to human life: Air, Water and Food. Air is provided by nature; food by self. I believe it is the responsibility of any Government to provide water to its people, whether in the urban or in the rural area. The Government of this Region is doing all it can about the supply or extension of water to rural areas. The people of Obale,

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Oba-Oke and Ilie do travel as far as seven miles to get brook water during the recent dry season. At this stage, I must let their feelings be known, and I appeal to the Minister of Works and Transport to extend the Oshogbo/Ede water supply to all these places.

We all realise why Government spends more and more on education every year. The free primary school and also adult education scheme have helped to wipe away mass illiteracy in this Region. Other Governments copied and failed. The Government also undertakes to pay all the teachers in both Primary and Secondary Grammar Schools, while we all appreciate all these, I would rather appeal that teachers in Secondary Modern Schools be paid their salaries rather than leave them at the mercy of their managers or proprietors. In the hon. Minister's speech he said that a Judicial Division of the High Court would be established at Oshogbo; the people will heartily welcome this move. But I advise that the Government would see to the urgent need of a High Court building that befits any judge. The present Council Hall building earmarked would not serve the purpose.

Before I come to the verge of my conclusion, I wish to say that His Excellency reported that the development of University of Ife, under its Provisional Council, is proceeding at a satisfactory rate. I appeal, on behalf of my people, that when the Varsity is completed, one of its constituent colleges, which would be attached to the University, be located at Oshogbo.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr R. O. Areola (Ekiti South-East I): May I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Western Nigeria Government on the carefully prepared Estimates, for 1962-63, couched and worded in a clear, simple, concise and elucidatory language understandable even to the least educated Members of the House. The speech on the Estimates is a credit to the teaching profession to which the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House belongs.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall like to speak very briefly on the economic measures which the Press has correctly and pungently termed "Austerity Measures". These measures, as we are made to understand, were taken as a result of an agreement reached by all the Governments of the Federation in

their bid to find money to finance their gigantic 1962-68 Development programme. But, Sir, this Government being the forerunner of all the others, has had to carry these measures to a pitch to which the other Governments, fearing the odium and the unpopularity arising therefrom, have hesitated or refused to follow.

Mr Speaker, Sir, our industrial and economic development programme depends, among other things, on our capital resources, our managerial ability and our labour force and the goodwill of the workers contented with their wages and the conditions of service. However co-operative the civil servants may appear to be, however willing to make sacrifices, we must remember that labour is a factor of production, and unless it is given its due share of the national income, it will be foolish and futile to expect maximum contribution from it. Moreover, Sir, labour is a mobile factor, however slow the movement may be. While we legislators must not go back on our words on these measures, the civil servants may. After all, Sir, we are not mobile. Any of us who, through discontent abandons his seat in this House, must await future elections, if he intends to get to another Legislative House. We cannot change our seats here for seats in the Federal Legislature. But it is not so with the civil servants. If, Sir, our veteran Adebo becomes dissatisfied with his salary and conditions of service, and he is willing to go to the North or the East or the Federal Territory of Lagos, any of the Governments will be prepared to have him. But if we have not many Adebos, we have at least near-Adebos who are equally envied by the other Governments. Even if these people are too much married to this Region and wedded to their present occupations to move to other Regions, however adversely altered their terms and conditions of service may be, we must remember, Sir, that future school leavers will hesitate and think twice before entering into the Civil Service of this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have two suggestions to make about the "Austerity Measures" as far as they affect the civil servants: (1) This Government should put pressure to bear on the other Governments of the Federation to respect their pledge by raising their measures to the same level as those of Western Nigeria. But if they had given no such pledge, this Government, Sir, should try, by advice and persuasion, to induce them to do likewise. (2) This Government, Sir, should, for once only, go back on its words as far as civil servants are concerned, and remove whatever

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is the excess of the measures and put these public servants on the same footing as their counterparts in the North, the East and Lagos. After all, apart from the Action Group, what political party has been consistent in this country? At one time the NPC would not have ministerial posts which are today the object and aspiration of any member of that Party. The cry for a unitary form of Government was very loud in the mouth of the NCNC who, later, thanks to the sagacity and foresight of the Action Group of Nigeria, declared that federalism was imperative. Mr Speaker, Sir, if this Government errs on this score, it has got forerunners in the NPC and NCNC. To be a good politician, we need not be forward-looking always: we may sometimes be backward-looking at least to have a glance at our followers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am glad at the steps being taken by this Government, both on the national and international levels, to improve the output of our agricultural products and, at the same time, to keep their prices fairly steady in the world market. This international co-operation and the regulation of output to keep steady the world market prices, especially of cocoa, will go most of the way, but does not go all the way to remove anxiety. Unlike the manufacturing industries, the supply of cocoa depends largely on nature; the output cannot easily be curtailed as it is not wholly under man's entire control. Before we can get over the problem of the unsteadiness of cocoa prices, we must increase the local consumption of cocoa, and this can be done to a considerable extent only when we have set up a cocoa manufacturing industry in Nigeria. After all, our farmers continue to increase their output. It is not until then, and only then, Sir, that the "Eat or Drink more cocoa" campaign, initiated by the students of Ibadan Branch of the University of Ife, will be of much avail.

Mr Speaker, Sir, tax evasion, whether in part or in whole, and illegal traffic in logs and in any other commodity must be discouraged by all the loyal citizens of this Region. The practice, Sir, should be regarded as heinous criminal offences as heavily punishable as any other form of corruption in our public life. The evaders are cheats for they enjoy the amenities provided with the money collected from taxes and the protection of their lives and property under our Constitution. The increase in income tax, resulting from the Pay As You Earn system of taxation, Sir, has been due to the increased taxation of the salary-and-wage-earner members of our

society. From now, Sir, steps must be taken to make the self-employed members of our society pay their full share of taxation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one is gratified by the inter-governmental co-operation in the fiscal arrangements of this country. But the co-operation must be on a footing of equality. There is room for improvement in the arrangement which makes it possible for a Regional Government to have all the revenue accruing from its export duty on agricultural produce, but to have no voice in determining the rates of duty to be imposed. If this arrangement is unaltered, the Regional Governments are bound to feel that they are subject to the whims and caprices of a Federal Finance Minister and can be cheated any time. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Finance of this Region should endeavour, in consultation and co-operation with the other Regional Finance Ministers, to persuade the Federal Government to allow them have a say in fixing the rates of duty to be imposed. Not until then, Sir, can we repose full confidence in the arrangement.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the steps being taken by this Government to secure external aid to finance its gigantic economic projects. But, Sir, if the donor country must select the project which it is prepared to help in financing, will it not dictate the location of the industry and control its output? If the donor country has to decide the location, Sir, some of the industrial estates may have no industries located in them, while a few others may have too many. If, Sir, the donor country controls the output, then we have invited an economic master to reign on our God-given Region, and the aim for which it has been invited may be destroyed. To reduce this economic dependence on other countries, we must tap to the full our own resources for the supply of capital, and, for this reason, the Minister should take immediate steps to introduce the premium bonds and savings certificates referred to in his speech.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government continues to show keen interest in education. This is reassuring. Whatever may be the strains and stresses on our finances, the education of our children must not suffer. The existing primary schools, grammar schools and teacher training colleges must be adequately catered for. And where new ones spring up from necessity and not for decoration, they should be looked after. The Ansar-ud-Deen High School, Ikole-Ekiti, is the only Grammar School for the Muslim Community in Ondo Province. It is in its fourth year now. It

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has an efficient staff and the excellent report it had from its last year's inspection shows that the school is being run on the lines and principles laid down by the Ministry of Education. The school is in great financial difficulty. The Government, through the Ministry of Education, will be rendering to the Muslim Community in Ondo Province an invaluable service if it wakes up to the need of this school this year; next month, even now, Sir.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is marked down as one of the Ministries that will utilise the bulk of our recurrent expenditure during the 1962-63 financial year. Although this Government deserves praise for having successfully built a General Hospital in every Division of the Region, Ikole District in Ekiti Division unfortunately does not enjoy this amenity to any great extent because it is far from the General Hospital. Certain towns and villages in the District are about 50 miles away from the General Hospital. The saving grace we have at present is the Methodist Maternity Hospital at Ikole. This hospital needs expansion into a General Hospital but such an expansion is not possible for lack of funds. The Mission is quite prepared to run it jointly with the Government. Here is the time for the Government to come to the aid of this hospital and give it a generous grant so as to demonstrate once more, in unmistakable terms, its faith in the physical and mental well-being of its people—a sound mind in a healthy body.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in my speech on the Economic Plan, 1962-68, I had already spoken on the need for tarring the following important roads in Ekiti South-East I constituency, and I am reminding once more the Minister of Works and Transport that these roads should be tarred during this financial year. The roads are—

1. Ikole-Ijesha-Isu-Ilumoba road—fifteen miles.
2. Ikole-Isinbode road—eleven miles.
3. Igbara Odo-Igbara Oke road—six miles.

Mr Speaker, Sir, since 1958 a sum of money earmarked for rural water supply for Ikole has continued to appear in the Estimates of this Region. Last year, a feeble attempt was made to start work. The Ikole District Council rose to the occasion and augmented the labour force needed to execute the plan. The hopes of all and sundry were raised.

A few months later, we discovered that we had been tantalised. This sum appears again in the 1962-63 Budget. However encumbered the Ministry of Works and Transport may be, to raise fallen hopes and restore confidence in place of disappointment and despair, priority consideration should be given to the immediate execution of the proposed water scheme. The Ikole Community is still ready to lend a hand if called upon to do so.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government places great premium on communal work. Certain projects were undertaken by the Aiyedun-Ekiti Community during the years 1958-59. These projects were inspected and their costs estimated. Grants were made in respect of these projects. In one case, the grant was paid fully; in one case it was not paid at all and, in two other cases, only fractions of the grants made were paid. On investigation from the Community Development Officer, we learnt that the situation arose as a result of some administrative mishandling or inter-ministerial rearrangement. These grants should be paid at once if the communal and self-help efforts on which the 1962-68 Development Plan depends are not to be stifled, starved and killed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief F. O. Oputa-Otutu (Aboh West): I should like to begin my speech by paying my tribute to the Minister of Finance, Chief Odebiyi, for his very brilliant speech made in this House. The Minister presented a very bold Budget and this deserves some praise.

Before I proceed with my speech, I would like to ask a few questions.

Mr Speaker, Sir, about three months ago it was announced over the N.B.C., and published in one of our national newspapers, that a certain grant of a sum of £80 million from the United States of America was given to this country primarily for development. I know that the people of America, some of whom have come to this country for one mission or the other and had the opportunity of visiting several places in this country, must have felt very deep in their hearts after seeing what we now know as rural areas. I wish to know, Sir, what arrangement has been made by the Federal Government and the Regional Governments as to how these developments are to be planned? Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to seize this opportunity of asking that our Government should make sure that a reasonable sum of money is diverted to the improvement of the standard of living of the people in rural areas; that is to say,

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that for many, many years certain amenities had been considered to be luxurious, but it is not luxury, Sir, for someone to obtain clean water to drink or to have a good road in any part of the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have said that the handsome sum of £80,000,000 should be fairly distributed as to make it possible for all the people of this country to be benefited from it.

Sir, I would like to say that I have observed with the greatest pleasure, this Government's determination to go ahead with its measures announced some few weeks ago. These measures, to some great extent, have affected Members of the Government very severely—some of them losing about 25 per cent of their income. This is welcome, Mr Speaker Sir, and I seize this opportunity again to congratulate this Government for this marvellous sacrifice. Yet I would like to say that this Government did not go far enough. I consider it, Sir, a bad economy for this Government to have two Ministers in one Ministry. (*Government Benches: What about the Eastern Region?*). I am happy to say that the Minister of Finance did not accommodate any Regional Minister in his Ministry—no redundant officer in his Ministry. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Odebiyi: On point of information. Any Minister who has been appointed to help in a Ministry has been appointed and approved by this Legislature. This is not the first time that such things have happened. The question of when or how soon a Minister will be appointed in my Ministry is a question for the hon. Premier. (*Applause*).

Chief Oputa-Otutu: Mr Speaker Sir, I think his explanation is unacceptable. (*Interruptions*). We are now on austerity, and we are trying to curtail all unnecessary expenditure. I hope the Minister of Finance will accept the fact that it is unnecessary to appoint two Ministers in one Ministry. Mr Speaker, Sir, I do hope that in the very near future the Premier will consider it really necessary to find these redundant Ministers some specific jobs.....(*Prolonged interruptions*). In any case, Sir, I used to be annoyed if I look at the Estimates only to find two classes of Ministers. I am only trying to offer some advice on some means through which more money will come in. Mr Speaker Sir, that is point number one.

Now point number two is this: I should like to know why it is actually necessary for our Ministers to be accompanied by police

officers? (*Laughter and interruptions*). With the exception of the Prime Minister, the Premiers, Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Justice, I consider it unnecessary for police constables to accompany Ministers. The question is that some of our overseas visitors would be made to think that our Ministers are not really trained to move among their people, and I think it is time the Inspector-General of Police withdrew these policemen. (*Interruptions*). I repeat Sir, that except the Prime Minister, Premiers, Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Justice, there is no necessity for providing Ministers with police officers as orderlies. (*Interruptions*). These police officers should have been given other jobs to do. Now that we are self-governing, a sovereign State, we must show that our Ministers can go about without police officers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, point number three. I am really happy that this Government has now begun to consider public opinion. Some years ago in this honourable House I always considered it a duty to point out on several occasions to this Government that it was a waste of public funds to provide luxurious buildings for civil servants. That is my personal view. There are some categories of civil servants—Judges, Magistrates, Clerk of this House and, of course, Ministers; with the exception of these categories of workers, Mr Speaker Sir, I think it is unnecessary to continue to spend our money on building houses for certain classes of civil servants. That is robbing Peter to pay Paul. The civil servants should live among their people and not make a class of themselves. I am happy that the Government has considered building houses for sale. That is point number three.

Point number four is a question which, I think, applies to all the Governments of this Federation, and I would like the Minister of Finance to listen to this point. It is a very important point. Mr Speaker Sir, I would like the Minister to make his Government to lead the way in this connection. Mr Speaker, Sir, is it necessary in your heart of hearts to have almost six systems of broadcasting and television in this country—the West, the East, the North and Lagos? This country can save more than £3,000,000 every year if all the Governments of the Federation will come down and be more reasonable and pool their resources together and have one television service, as has been done in England where they have had civilisation over five hundred years ago—yet they have decided to have one television

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service and one broadcasting service. This is the time for you to think in this direction as regards unity. This Minister of Finance should bring this idea to the Premier and I am asking you to lead the way. (*Interruptions*). I am talking about austerity measures now. We can save about three or four million pounds every year if all the Governments will pool their resources together.

Chief J. O. Osuntokun: Where were you when the Federal Government set up its own service? We were in the field first.

Chief Oputa-Otutu: Point No. 5. I would like to say, Sir, that this country generally has had.....(*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to mention, at this stage, that this country has had enough of economic missions overseas. This year should be devoted to local or internal missions. Some of these economic missions have been very beneficial to this country and I would like to mention, too, that some of these missions unfortunately have turned out to make Nigeria a dumping ground for a large number of useless stocks. (*Chief Odebiyi: Like what?*). I should like to..... (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, some of the Economic Missions have benefited or will benefit this country or this Region in particular, but the results have not all been very useful. I have in mind, Sir, the fact that too many drugs have been dumped into this country and, as a result, this country spends not less than £3 million in buying from overseas for 1961-62, and this has made practically everybody in this country to be a medicine man or other, parading all over the country, giving all sorts of illegal injections and giving drugs, and so on.

Mr Speaker, with your permission, I would like to read a very serious and dangerous report on the effects of the dumping of such drugs into this country. This is an American magazine—*Time*:

“THOSE RISKY SIDE EFFECTS”

“Carney Love was 42, a slight and pretty woman, with two grown children and a record of generally good health; it was nothing more than bleeding gums from a recent tooth extraction that led her doctor, John Wolf of Redding, California to give her the potent antibiotic Chlromycetin. She got the drug again six weeks later for bronchitis—eight prescriptions in all, counting renewals.

“Now Mrs Love’s face is beet-red and scarred with acne, and she has to shave daily. She has muscles like a male..... athlete. Doctors warn that because Mrs Love has a tendency to bleed heavily, she cannot risk a cut or undergo ordinary surgery. A fortnight ago, a jury awarded her 334,046 dollars in damages from Dr Wolf and Parke, Davis and Co., the drug’s manufacturers. Her case, the first of its type to go to a jury, dramatised what are laconically called the “side effects” of many valuable drugs and the problems of balancing a drug’s usefulness against its dangers”.

What I am saying, Sir, is that this particular antibiotic.....(*Interruptions*). I am saying that this is because of so many drugs that are being dumped into this country, and, as a result, I think there is a sort of licence for everyone in the country to become a medicine man. Most of these drugs are very dangerous as we have heard just now, and I feel that the time has come to check—(*Interruptions*).—all these goods. The Economic Missions have done a great deal of good to this country, but, on the other hand, Sir, the results have not been very beneficial as we had expected. The time has come that there should be some control about importation of many other things into this country.

As a matter of fact, I recommend that the time has come for the re-introduction of import licence.

Mr Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Gentleman’s time is up.

Mr I. O. Aniyi (Iwo West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the speech on the Appropriation Bill which was nicely and ably delivered by the Finance Minister, Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi.

The presentation is so fascinating that even any person who never went to school could adequately understand the whole speech. Mr Speaker, it is a bundle of wisdom in itself.

The hon. Members who will speak on this Bill will observe that the phrase “austerity measures” is not only a common phrase in all present-day publications, but it is also a common chorus which many people sing in the streets, in working places, in markets, in buses; in short, in every nook and corner of the Federation. (*Hear, hear*).

The chorus, Mr Speaker, is getting to be part and parcel of us. The measure, at the moment, is likened to a new child which needs tender care of the parents. In like manner, it is the duty of all hon. Members

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and civil servants to prove to the world that we are capable of running our Government democratically. As from now on, whatever we do or say to make the new introduction workable, will go down in history for this generation. In this respect, I therefore congratulate the Leader of the House on this fine and beautiful speech.

One of the prominent factors to be reckoned with in the progress of a nation is agriculture. I am indeed happy because the speech is never silent on this important aspect of our lives. No wonder a huge sum of money is earmarked for agriculture alone. When the plan to improve and encourage poultry farming, livestock, forestry, research and fishery agriculture is begun in earnest, the whole Region would have completely turned out to be a worldly "paradise" and a happy place to live in. Many Western Nigerians will be able also to use their latent skills, and thereby help place the Region on the same and proper footing with other advanced countries of the world. When this programme will start, Mr Speaker, a glance through Iwo soil by a soil expert will make him agree with me that Iwo people really need these. I remind the Government that we have very good and suitable soil.

Health is wealth, that is perhaps why Health is one of the spending Ministries. With the present amenities which we and our children enjoy, all of us should praise God for giving power to the Action Group Government that makes everything possible. (*Hear, hear*). Besides those amenities, arrangements are on to eradicate all sorts of diseases, to control smallpox and to prevent epidemics. As hon. Members are aware, these are tropical diseases. The disappearance of all these will mean enjoyable old age and long life for us and other generations yet unborn.

Already each Division has been given a General Hospital and these hospitals cater for health needs of Western Nigerians, irrespective of location, religion and political belief. The hospital in my town is doing fine and all workers do their best. The said hospital is congested and needs an extension of its wards. To facilitate the work of the doctor, an additional doctor is needed. The few nurses in this hospital are not sufficient to cope with the great work. I therefore appeal to the Government to come to our aid in Iwo.

The eyes of the world are now on us, Sir. Many people of the Region are anxious to have industries in existence; particularly my people from Oshun desire very much that some industries be sited in their areas. Land is in quantum in Oshun Division. I am sure the Government cannot regret any move to industrialise this Division. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is high time we, as a Government, encouraged our own men and women to benefit from the articles of their trade. The foreigners tend to monopolise trade by selling whole and retail. These foreigners should be confined to wholesale trade. The sooner the operation is begun, the better for our people who have less capital to compete with the aliens.

Education.—The Government's plan to educate all the people of the Region needs to be loudly praised. When free primary education began seven years ago in this Region, enemies of progress vehemently opposed the scheme. What has now become of the scheme? The answer is simple—prosperity, life more abundant for all; poor and rich parents enjoy more Grammar Schools, awards of backward area scholarships and the University of Ife. What is more, Sir, various people of different nationalities have expressed full satisfaction with the scheme. The teachers of our Primary and Secondary Schools are doing their best to see that education as a whole receives the best attention. The Government will also see to it that efficient teachers are promoted on merit. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

It is interesting also to see the stride the technical and commercial education takes. This will help primary school leavers to choose their vocation at the age of twelve plus.

Roads and Bridges.—It admits no doubt that many important roads in the Region are now tarred. The Government, under the able leadership of our Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, and a team of his capable men deserve praise. In praising the Government, I have this humble request to make; to provide bridge on Oshun River on Ile-Igbo/Kuta-Ede road, to tar Iwo-Ikire-Ile-Bode-osi road, to tar Bode-osi-Ikonifin-Ife-Odan road.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support.

Mr S. O. Akerele (Ife-Ila): In rising to support the Speech made by the hon. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi, the Minister of Finance, on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1962-63, I would like to congratulate this dynamic Government of ours upon the progress it continues to bring to the fortune

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of the people; with apology to the eloquent Premier of our Region, it can be truly said that—

“Anything that is Federation deserves veneration,

Anything that is North is of some worth,

Anything that is East is by no means the least,

But anything that is West is certainly the Best”.

The West Regional Government is indeed the pace-setter for the other Governments of the Federation. Mr Speaker, Sir, we lead and the others follow. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

If anybody doubts this, let him take a trip round each of the three Regions. In this Region, villages are joined to urban centres by tarred roads; rural electrification and water supply have been extended into the remotest hamlet; maternity centres, dispensaries and hospitals are no longer the exclusive preserves of town dwellers. Even my hon. Friends opposite will not deny that there is a marked difference between the level of development of this Region and that of any other Region in the Federation. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

Speaking about the austerity measures, this matter is an economic measure as stated by the hon. Minister in his speech. We on this side of the House whole-heartedly support this measure for the progress and development of our Region. I particularly, Sir, want more amenities for my people. Since the people of this Region want more amenities, I am sure the people shall be ever ready to make their share of sacrifice, if they are called upon to do so.

Mr Speaker, Sir, speaking about the produce of this Region, cocoa is one of the most important produce. The hon. Minister has said a lot about the plan of this Government to see that cocoa price is raised. I am taking this opportunity to call on this Government to work hard so that the next year's cocoa season may be better than the past. I shall also advise this Government to introduce beniseed to the farmers of this Region. It is an annual crop. I have gained experience of this beniseed in Tiv Division of Northern Region. If this is considered it shall also increase the revenue of this Region.

Tax Evasion.—This is one of the most important matters affecting the local government councils in this Region. Many councils are in financial difficulties today. There are so many people in this Region who have no interest of their people at heart. Many of them are on the other side of the House. Mr Speaker, Sir, as an experienced person in local council—this is my seventh time of being in office as Chairman of the Ila District Council, an all-purposes District Council for that matter—I know that many people, after being assessed their normal income, run to other Local Councils to get flat rates of £1 17s 6d. It is sometimes very difficult to get such people into court. And in some cases, if they are taken to court, they sometimes put courts into difficulties before giving judgment. It will relieve the councils, if legislation is introduced by this Government for such an offence.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to mention some of my troubles relating to tax and rates in my own Council. Ila people are well known as palm-wine tappers in this country. These people are scattered all over the Region. They spend half of their time in their different working places and sometimes spend the other half at home, for it is not always easy for them to tap during the wet season. They all pay their taxes and rates at home and they all cast their votes at home. But, at present Sir, the different councils, where they work, make it compulsory that their taxes and rates must be paid to them. Mr Speaker, Sir, if this is so, Ila District Council shall not be able to stand; thus I shall be very much pleased if this Government would give Ila consideration.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before going further, the Ibadan East Local Council is now proposing to build its Secretariat. I shall also take this opportunity to call on this Government to see that the Secretariat is built at Lalupon town which is the centre of the said council. And Lalupon had been the headquarters for that part of Ibadan as far as administration is concerned.

Premier's Economic Mission.—There had been a private Member's Motion by hon. Layonu which I am sure has met the support of all Members of this honourable House. I shall not go much into detail. I, on behalf of myself and the entire people of my constituency, congratulate the hon. Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, for his successful mission. I pray to the Holy Father, that in the very near future, such a delegation will be led by an Action Group Prime Minister for the Federation of Nigeria,

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when power would have come to the hand of the Action Group. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). I would also place on record the services of one illustrious son of Ila. He is Prince Isaac Adebayo and was, until recently, the Private Secretary to the Premier. We are very proud of him in Ila. We are confident that he was of great help to our Premier during the economic tour.

Mr Speaker, Sir, coming down to the large sum of money, amounting to £15,969,096, which is proposed for Capital Expenditure for the year 1962-63. Mr Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member for Ila, I will be failing in my duties if I do not extend my gratitude to this Government for the various amenities already made available to my people. My people are especially happy for the plan to extend pipe-borne water and electricity to Ila-Orangun and District. It is hoped, Sir, that these plans will come to fruition in the immediate future.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my people, with a population of over 50,000, are also confident that the Government of this Region, through its hard-working Minister of Health, will provide us with a modern hospital in the nearest future. I am not, Sir, asking for an hospital for sentimental reasons. My request is based on actual need borne out of practical experience.

Customary Courts.—At the moment, Sir, Ila has a Grade "C" Customary Court. We pray that this is upgraded to Grade "B" and that Grade "D" Courts are set up at Ora and Oke-Ila.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the speech on the Appropriation Bill, made by the hon. Minister of Finance, Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi, contains a number of admirable plans in the field of agriculture. I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate our new Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Chief A. O. Adeyi. My people have asked me to inform the Minister that a large parcel of fertile land has been provided for him as an Easter present. It is our hope that he will consider building one of the proposed farm settlements on the land.

This is a convenient time for me to thank our hard-working Minister of Education for the great advice and help which he has always placed at the disposal of the Ila Grammar School. With the assurance given us in the past, we are confident that the Grammar School will be raised to public status this year. I need scarcely say, Sir, that it is the only

Secondary Grammar School in Ila and district which form an education authority.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will call on all Members of this House to co-operate with the Government in the forthcoming census. Anybody who does not co-operate must be an enemy of progress. At present, the Western Region is not as small as is generally believed. The result is that the Federal Government has not been giving us our fair share of the amenities which are deployed from the centre. There is no doubt, Sir, that if the forthcoming census produces the desired results, the lot of the people of this Region will greatly improve.

Finally, Sir, may I thank this Government, through the honourable House, for upgrading the Orangun of Ila to an *ex-officio* member of the House of Chiefs. This shows that Government, under the able leadership of Chief S. L. Akintola, the Ashipa of Ogbomosho and Premier of this Region, has respect for history and tradition. (*Interruptions*).

Mr J. A. Ajuwon: On point of Order. I think the hon. Member should confine himself to the subject of the discussion.

Chief Odebiyi: The hon. Member has a right to refer to his constituency when speaking on the Appropriation Bill.

Mr Akerele: By this upgrading, the Orangun has been placed on the seat to which he is traditionally qualified as a direct son of Oduduwa. On behalf of my people and myself, I say thanks, Sir, and wish the Action Group Government long life and a peaceful reign over our people. By the Grace of God, the whole Government of the Federation will one day be under Action Group control. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). God bless our father, the Governor of this Region, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, Oni of Ife; God bless Chief the hon. Obafemi Awolowo, the venerable leader of the Action Group; God bless our great and noble S. L. Akintola, the hon. Premier of this pushful Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Members of all these sides of the House in relation to this Budget. In doing so, I wish to direct the attention of this honourable House to certain points in the Budget. The first point, Sir, is the question which is being circulated in many circles in the Region, at present, in relation to the Ministry of Agricul-

ture and Natural Resources under Head 332 page 47 sub-head 91.

Mr Speaker: We are not discussing Heads and Items at this juncture. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Odebiyi: I think Members on both sides of the House should listen attentively to whatever contributions people are making; otherwise Ministers will not be in a position to know what the questions are, and be able to offer adequate replies.

Mr Oyewole: When I referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, I meant to say something in connection with this Ministry. I wonder what is the wisdom of allowing an expatriate officer, who goes on leave normally, to do two or six weeks study leave and to return to this country and be made a Research Officer. I could just recollect one day that I went to that Ministry I could find out that one officer, an expatriate officer, who has got..... (*Interruptions*).

Chief Odebiyi: Point of order. The hon. Member must confine himself to the economic and financial situation of the Region. He will have plenty of time for digressions when we are discussing the whole thing in the Committee of Supply.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member please address himself to the ruling of the Standing Orders that during this stage we should confine our observations to the economic and financial policy of the Government.

Mr Oyewole: I am now talking on the economic and financial policy of the Government. I see no reason why the Government of this Region should be wasting money. Why I say this is this. It is not fair that anybody with a B.Sc. (General) should be controlling somebody who is holding a Ph.D. degree. (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker you can judge that.

Mr Speaker: If you ask me to judge that, I should say that I think that a person holding a B.Sc. may control a holder of a Ph.D., all depending on experience and other things.

Mr Oyewole: In any rich country, Sir, where there is interest for Africa, all these Africans with their degrees should be considered first before expatriates with the same degrees are considered. There is wastage of labour in that very Ministry. It appears that Agricultural Assistants and

Agricultural Superintendents are being turned out in great numbers; what has the Government done to distribute them for efficiency and for profitable work for the Government? There are many people who had been trained by the Ministry who never—(*interruptions*).

Chief Odebiyi: The hon. Member must confine his speech to the economic and financial policy of the Government. He will have an opportunity to discuss the question of labour and recruitment when we are in Committee of Supply.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member is advised to suspend his observations on that particular Ministry until we come to the Committee of Supply.

Mr D. K. Olumofin: Order 68. I think the hon. Member has never seen it.

“B.—(1) After the Motion for the Second Reading on a Bill has been moved and seconded, the debate thereon shall be adjourned for not less than two days and when resumed.....” and so on and so forth. “Detailed items in the Estimates may not be debated on Second Reading”

The financial and economic state of Western Nigeria and the Western Nigeria Government's financial policy will only be debated. I think the hon. Member should read the Standing Order.

Mr Oyewole: I now come to the point of pensioners. What I mean about pensioners is that you know, Sir—well, I know you waste money about this Budget. (*Interruptions*). There is something I like to say about pensioners. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Osuntokun: Point of information. Was the hon. Member present during the last Budget Session of the House?

Government Benches: He was at Ogbomosho.

Mr N. A. Adibi (Ogbomosho North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to give a very hearty support, which I think any reasonable person will do in this circumstance, to the Budget Speech on the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill, so ably prepared and presented to this honourable House by the hon. the Minister of Finance, Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi.

During the last year's Budget Session of this House, Sir, the hon. the Minister of Finance, in presenting his Budget, rightly named it “Operation Take-off”. Well, Mr

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Speaker, Sir, we have since then "taken off" with him smooth-sailing in his aircraft to the promised land of peace, progress and prosperity. The desired peace, progress, and prosperity, Sir, cannot be had just for a song; we have to work for them. In the words of the hon. the Minister of Finance himself, Sir, "the battle for economic liberation has begun". Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, we are landing with him to face with manly courage and unflinching faith—faith in the great future of this Region in particular, and the country in general, faith in ourselves and in our future generations—the challenges and excitements of the promised land which we shall together, God helping us, build to become a living, monumental witness to the courage, ability, determination, self-sacrifice, foresight, industry and purposefulness of this Government of Western Nigeria, representing our great Party, the Action Group of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this our great Party will go down in the annals of this country as a golden pillar of all that is good, peaceful and progressive; and its leaders as heroes—heroes of light, heroes of unity and peace, heroes of selfless services, heroes of freedom, heroes of prosperity, heroes of life more abundant for all—including the Opposition Members on the other side of this honourable House. Along with other things, Sir, this enviable position of our Party is being achieved by the judicious management of the Region's revenues. In this respect, Sir, the hon. the Minister of Finance, on whose shoulders lies the heavy responsibility of managing the finances of Western Nigeria, deserves the most hearty congratulations and support of all Members in this honourable House. A man in his position, Sir, but with little or no stuff for mental and arithmetical gymnastics, will certainly mess up things and render difficult the undertakings of a well-intentioned Government. To our able and competent Minister of Finance we say a big "Thank You". Up with you we go to the hill of salvation in the promised land of freedom and economic liberation.

The economy measures, as announced by the hon. the Minister of Finance, in the cuts in the payments and allowances of the Members of the Legislature, right from the hon. Chief S. L. Akintola, the Premier, through the Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and down to the floor members are, Mr Speaker, Sir, very timely and reasonable. As such, Sir, these economy measures should be fully endorsed and given our most faithful and loyal support and co-operation. This, Sir, is only reasonably necessary, if we are

to fight and win the "economic battle for liberation" which the hon. the Minister of Finance told us some few days ago has just begun. And, please God, *win* we shall.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Budget Speech, throughout, gives a clear indication of the warm spot the people of Western Nigeria occupy in the hearts of those holding the reins of this our ever-progressive Government. Different schemes have been made to meet the various needs of the people in the most beneficial ways.

Electricity development in urban areas is lending new life and opportunities to places, like Ogbomosho, already served with electricity. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Ogbomosho people are very grateful for all that this Government has done to make this service possible in Ogbomosho. Electrification of more rural areas should be undertaken as far as it is financially practicable to do so in order to provide a means of attraction to rural areas for our young men who find urban life more attractive and are, consequently, leaving in large numbers the rural for urban areas. All efforts possible should be made to arrest this undesirable trend by making rural life worth living for our young men and women.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government is making wise investment in the lives of the people of Western Nigeria by establishing public health and medical facilities in all the Divisions and other important centres in the Region. A look around in our respective communities will convince us of the great improvement in the health of our people who go about their daily work in radiant and bouyant health. Guinea-worm, a water borne disease, has been stamped out in many areas as a result of improved source of good water supply. The Government, Mr Speaker, Sir, also deserves thanks for the mass vaccination of people carried out from time to time throughout all nooks and corners of this Region in order to prevent the spread of that dreadful disease—small-pox—among our people. All these health and medical facilities form an important aspect of our development. We all recognise, I think, Sir, the fact that health is wealth. The Government, therefore, in improving our health, is certainly providing us with a most necessary means of increasing our wealth. It is hoped, Sir, that the Government will give the problem of understaffing in some of our hospitals the necessary and urgent attention it deserves. At this point, Mr

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Speaker, Sir, I wish to place on record the deep gratitude of Ogbomosho people for the magnificent new water scheme which, when completed, will be a pride of Ogbomosho and an eloquent testimony to this Government's good intentions for the improved health and general welfare of not only Ogbomosho people, but also of every inhabitant of hamlets, villages and towns throughout this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this year's Budget for education is a reflection of the high premium this Government places on the mental freedom of its subjects. We can fully realise the importance of this mental freedom when we consider it as a requisite for further developments in these days. Mental freedom is necessary for successfully carrying out schemes in agriculture, industries, business, technology, and social services designed to benefit the generality of our people, who we should expect to derive the maximum enjoyment from them. Any amount, therefore spent on education, whether in this Region or any other in the Federation of Nigeria, will eventually yield rich dividends to our people. It is my fervent hope that the people of Western Nigeria will make the best of the golden opportunities provided for them through this Government's generous educational policies from the level of primary education through to the University. Mr Speaker, Sir, a Government which can vote such a colossal sum of £8,807,980, *i.e.*, approximately £9 million, which is about 47 per cent of its total revenue, has done in this respect all that is governmentally possible to enhance the happiness, well-being and upliftment of its subjects. We the governed, Sir, can only show our appreciation by fully utilising the schemes intended for our good by such a progressive Government.

In the field of Agriculture, Sir, which claims nearly £2½ million, and which is approximately 16½ per cent of the Region's total revenue, this Government has once again demonstrated its faith that, for the people it governs to fully benefit from its schemes, both mental and economic freedoms should go hand in hand together. Mr Speaker, Sir, Agriculture, in all its branches, is the mainstay of the economy of this country. Western Nigeria has great agricultural potentialities which are yet barely scratched. If these potentialities are fully developed and utilised, our unemployment problem will be more than half-way solved; while the proposed new industries will absorb a greater percentage of the rest of the

unemployed. Those of us following with keen interest the recent speeches of Chief S. L. Akintola, the Premier of Western Nigeria, will, Mr Speaker Sir, readily agree with me that finding solutions to the problem of unemployment in this Region as well as in the country as a whole, is a matter closest to his heart. This attitude of the Premier, Sir, reflects the minds of his able cabinet Ministers who hold the reins of this Government, and strongly emphasises the policy of the Action Group of Nigeria for the welfare of the masses of this Region and those of the Federation of Nigeria as a whole. Therefore, the opportunities this Budget provides in agricultural and technical fields should be fully utilised in order to solve our unemployment problem in this Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, our sympathy should go to many parents and also school leavers who are still haunted by the ghost of the colonial type of education, and who still strongly believe that a child's education must finally land him in a white-collar job. Even if we desire it so, everyone of the educated young men and women, both in this Region and the Federation of Nigeria, cannot just have enough white-collar jobs to go round. Our students.....

Mr Tabiowo: Point of Order. Order No. 33—"Time Limit of Speeches: (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this Order, no Member shall be entitled to address the House or a Committee of the whole House for more than thirty minutes on any subject."

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman has not spoken for more than 30 minutes.

Mr Adibi: Mr Speaker, Sir, our students should be made to recognise the dignity of labour, and that Education is just a means to an end. We should educate our young men to know that our wealth is in our soil and there we must go to get it, and also that opportunities abound galore in agricultural and technical fields as they do in the other professions.

Mr Speaker Sir, the assurance has been given by the Governor in his splendid Speech from the Throne that the proposed new Industries will be dispersed throughout the Region, and I am humbly praying the Government, Sir, that having given due consideration to the conditions necessary for locating an Industry, important towns in Oshun Division like, for instance, Ogbomosho, Iwo, Oshogbo and some others be considered for appropriate industrial establishments.

Mr Speaker, Sir, apart from giving encouragement to the Government by making good use of the opportunities it provides for

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us, we need to strongly resuscitate the spirit of community development through self-help—a spirit which was greatly cherished and widely practised by our predecessors in the good old days. This will not make us lean heavily on the Government for financial assistance in some of our community development programmes. Each of us has, in this respect, some contributions to make according to our ability, talent and position or status in the community in order to help our Government's budget to go a much longer way in filling the other more important needs of the people in our communities. This, Mr Speaker, Sir, will encourage the Government the more, and urge it to embark with greater assurance, on further developmental programmes for the benefit of the people of the Region as a whole.

The Pay As You Earn system of tax collection was introduced last year as a means of ensuring a steady improvement of income tax and of helping income earners to pay their taxes by easy monthly instalments, thereby sparing these payers the annual headaches resulting from one lump sum payment. The system is generally working well and the Government deserves our thanks for introducing this very helpful measure of tax payment.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to make a solemn appeal to our able Minister of Finance, to please consider the establishment of a Sub-Treasury at Ogbomosho as early as possible, in view of the growth and development of the town in recent years. Ogbomosho people are experiencing a lot of difficulties when they have to do transactions connecting the Government Treasury. To cite one or two instances, Sir: students willing to sit for entrance examinations to various Government institutions are required to produce Treasury Receipts for their entrance fees. Those concerned will have to travel at least thirty-six miles to get 5s or 10s receipts to be attached to their application forms. The inconveniences involved are obvious. Another instance, Sir, concerns some members of Government established committees who have to travel fifty-seven miles to Oyo Sub-Treasury to claim their transport allowances averaging £2 for each month. It is prayerfully hoped, Sir, that the Minister of Finance will take a sympathetic view of our condition and come, as soon as possible, to the rescue of Ogbomosho in this respect.

In closing, Sir, my appeal goes to the Members of the Opposition on the other side

of this honourable House. Until very recently when they are showing some improvement, thanks to the political sanity which the present Leader of the Opposition had gained when he was with the Government party, the Opposition has never been known in the House to see anything good in the programmes and schemes of this go-ahead Government, no matter how good and sincere the intentions behind those measures. They are just not given to seeing such good things. They have had, and still have, a formidable array of poets, legal luminaries, QC's and near-QC's—"seasoned politicians", they call themselves, chemists and druggists, teachers and contractors, traders and Ministers of Religion, big chiefs, medium chiefs, small chiefs and quite a handful of empty talkative back-benchers, but alas! their political prejudices and frustrations are badly working against them and their sense of judgement. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am now appealing to them to give a whole-hearted support to this master Budget by making healthy contributions to its debate and desisting from making blind and destructive criticisms which can do nobody any good; and to let us, like a team, support this Budget and together work for the progress and welfare of our people, not only in this Region, but also throughout the Federation of Nigeria.

Sir, while some civilised Western nations are busy making and testing their atomic and nuclear bombs of destruction, let this Government continue with its humanitarian work by making and testing its own bombs of atomic peace and nuclear prosperity. (Cheers).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Sitting suspended at 2.15 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.15 p.m.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

Mr R. A. Lana (Oshun North-East II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to commend the efforts of the Minister of Finance and to congratulate this Government for the comprehensive Budget presented before this House. In the course of speech the Minister of Finance, as usual, has given a true picture of the whole Budget as sound and balanced. This portrays the careful planning, perfect foresight and the superiority of this Government over its counterparts.

One thing figures very prominently in the budget speech, and that is the austerity measure. Many Members opposite have indicated

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their dissatisfaction on the extent to which this measure has been applied in this Region. May I mention this, that this measure is a bitter pill prescribed by the Action Group Government of the Western Region to heal our economic disease; therefore, everybody should swallow it in good faith. In fact, we have set out hands on this measure and there is no going back.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Budget, no doubt contains catalogue of amenities for many parts of this Region. I am hereby registering my sincere gratitude on behalf of the people of my constituency for all the amenities already provided.

Of course, like *Oliver Twist*, we will always ask for more. These are a few of our urgent needs:

(i) *Water Supply*.—On behalf of my people, I have to thank this Regional Government for the rural water supply at Inisha, Okuku and Oyan. And, Sir, we have to appeal to the Government for an improvement as the present position appears unsatisfactory and inadequate. We hope efforts will be put forth to change the present system to urban water supply to meet the needs of the people.

(ii) *Roads*.—The geographical situation of the towns and villages in my constituency has caused the network of roads now constructed to cover several miles—as many as fifty-two miles. Of these, only fourteen miles have fortunately been tarred. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am taking this opportunity to appeal to the Western Region Government to help us to tar the remaining thirty-eight miles which link the places of centres of produce and local foodstuffs in abundance.

(iii) *Medical and Health Centres*.—I am registering, on behalf of my people, our sincere thanks for the dispensaries and maternity centres and rural health centres already provided in Odo-Otin District Council, particularly the Rural Health Centre at Oyan. I hope this centre will be opened very shortly. I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Health to the S.D.A. medical unit at Inisha. The attendance at this dispensary and maternity centre built by communal efforts at a cost of over £6,000 is wonderful and it is increasing at an alarming rate. The average attendance is over 300 a day. The reason for this is obvious. The management is missionary and therefore the workers are sincere and the treatment effective. I am therefore conveying the wishes and needs of my people through this medium to the Govern-

ment for special grants to raise the standard and increase the volume of work and therefore save more lives of the people of Western Region.

(iv) *Electricity Supply*.—As civilisation grows, electricity is indirectly becoming a necessity of life. The live-wire from Oshogbo to Offa passes through the Odo-Otin District Council area. We look anxiously up to the Western Region Government to extend the advantage of electricity to Odo-Otin people and thereby allow them to make use of the advantage of the live wire that passes through. I am confidently saying that we are prepared to foot the bill of the running expenses.

Mr Speaker, Sir, looking at the volume and catalogue of the amenities that are available in the budget speech, one cannot just ask for too much. Therefore, in conclusion, I am appealing on behalf of the people in my constituency, that when the time comes for the consideration of the distribution of the amenities, Oshun North-East II be placed at the forefront.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these little observations, I beg to support.

Mr A. Atohengbe (Benin North-East):
Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill as follows.

There is no doubt that the hon. Minister of Finance is a clever orator. There is no doubt also that he has got an appreciable amount of the power of conviction in him. He has employed classical and technical English to convince this House that there is nothing wrong in the Estimates. We of this side of the House are prepared to spotlight the dark spots because money matters are not matters of fancy but matters of facts and figures.

Last year, he estimated that a sum of twenty-six million pounds would be available in the development fund for capital expenditure in 1961-62. He has failed to tell us now why, of this sum, only 13.2 million was actually available. Last year as well, he told this House that he presented a balanced budget and described it as "Operation take off". He failed also to tell the House where the take-off will land this House. Sir, very unexpectedly, the twelve months flight was interrupted before the sixth month, and the budget plan developed engine troubles which forced him to land us in the field of austerity measures. Mr Speaker, Sir, the type of austerity measure applicable

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to Western Nigeria is crude, hopeless family-wrecking, uncomfortable and highly disproportionate in its entirety for the following reasons:

(i) An identical percentage of sacrifice was required of all wage-earners—Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, other legislators, the Premier and civil servants alike without taking into consideration the differences in their annual salaries.

(ii) That one is a Minister is a question of opportunity and not of merit; therefore, Sir, where a civil servant or other legislators whose annual salary is merely an equivalent of the Minister's basic car allowance was made to sacrifice 10 per cent of his annual salary, the Minister who receives various forms of allowances—in the office, at home, on the road, on overseas tours and in Nigeria and elsewhere—in addition to his salary of almost thrice that of the civil servant or the other legislators would have been made to sacrifice 30 per cent of his annual salary.

(iii) The other Governments in Nigeria refused to abolish the basic car allowances of those engaged in their services in order that the standard of their civil service may not drop.

(iv) By the abolition of the basic car allowances in this Region, civil servants and the other legislators would be compelled to spend from their insufficient salaries for all minor or major maintenance of their vehicles for which the self-same Regional Government gave them advances to buy.

(v) With the school fees getting increased, prices of commodities going higher daily, more and more call on the people to bear patiently.....

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order, Order.

Mr D. K. Olumofin: Order 27 (12). The Order says that a Member may be allowed to offer explanation on some material fact. I am offering an explanation so far as the Government is concerned. The civil servants' basic allowance is no longer withheld.

Mr Deputy Speaker: You have been given that information that civil servants' basic allowance is no longer withheld.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Speaker, Sir, if before I started my speech, I had no information that the basic car allowance for civil servants was no longer to be abolished,

then it was my speech that moved the other man to give the information, and I have scored a point. (*Cheers*).

With the school fees getting increased, prices—of commodities going higher daily, more call on the people to bear patience under the already heavy burden of taxation for additional increase, the civil servants and the other legislators are faced with a difficult problem of burning their candles at both ends. Unless the basic car allowance is reconsidered for restoration with the austerity measure re-arranged, Sir, in order that the percentage of sacrifice is proportionately graduated on the basis of rank and grade groupings, I am afraid that there will be a situation where, perhaps, the Government of this Region may not be numbered—and I pray that may God forbid—among those Governments in the Federation that do not only preach but also practise democratic socialism in this country.

Development Plan.—Mr Speaker, Sir, it is on record that this Government had its 1955-60 and 1960-65 Development Plans respectively. You will agree with me, Sir, that it is not possible that every corner of the Region receives a fair share of these Development Plans and my district Uhunwonde District Council area is not the best for it. I now appeal, on behalf of my people, to the Government to give our area the most beneficial priority in the execution of the 1962-68 Development Plan. In my constituency, Sir, we are in need of good motorable roads, tarred and widened. We are also in need of water supply scheme and the existing one in Ishan Division could be extended to Ehor and Uhunwonde District Council area and from Iguenben via Igbanke in the Akugbe District Council area. The establishment of cassava industry in my constituency to produce gari, tapioca and its allied products for home and overseas market will be welcomed by my people. The taking over and tarring of the 19-mile road bisecting Ibadan/Benin road at Uhiere, a distance of 37 miles, would have reduced the distance from Benin to Ekpoma by about more than 15 miles, a journey of almost one hour. My people are in dire need of tangible amounts of money in the form of loans and other agricultural assistance towards the rehabilitation of their rubber. I should not forget to express my thanks to the Government for the completion of the tarring of the trunk "B" Benin-Ekpoma road passing through my constituency.

Governor's Tours.—Mr Speaker, Sir, about twenty months ago, His Highness the Oni of Ife, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., was appointed Governor

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of this Region. We, the people of the Midwest as well as other parts of Western Nigeria, rejoiced happily for this good gesture of the Western Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, we were happy because, in His Excellency, two unique factors and qualities were combined: one of a great ruler and another of an experienced leader: but we are disappointed, Sir, that up till now, His Excellency has not found it possible to visit the people of the Midwest area. In spite of this, we are looking forward to welcoming His Excellency to our area at no distant date not only to strengthen our loyalty to the throne but also to establish a lasting and friendly neighbourliness between the Yoruba West and the Midwest, for, in a little while, we shall be with you and after a little while we shall be on our own in the Midwest Region. "Better late than never".

Local Government Police.—Mr Speaker, Sir, as "Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" so also the success of Government does not depend upon the balanced Estimate alone but also by the efficiency in every department of Government set-up. The latter depends upon the amount of encouragement and improved standard of performance introduced by the Government itself.

Time is long overdue when Government should consider improvements in the style of Local Government Police uniform. Those of us who wore khaki uniform during our early school days know how one feels on a sunny day. This requires so much emphasis; there are various sorts of light clothing for the Local Government Police uniform so that the khaki should be occasionally used as in the case of the Nigeria Police.

The Customary Courts.—Some judges of Grades "B" and "C" Customary Courts in the Region have profaned the institution of Customary Courts and made them weapons of their own for the treatment of other human beings mercilessly. We know of accused persons sent to Ubiaja and Ogwashi-Uku prisons in Ishan and Asaba Divisions respectively from Igbanke in Benin Division either on remand or to serve terms of imprisonment. We are also aware of others sent from Uromi in the Midwest to Ado-Ekiti in Yoruba West to serve prison sentences. We are further aware of offences committed in certain customary courts' areas of jurisdiction in Benin Division and which were tried in the Ishan Division's Customary Courts. All these were done in order to render impossible or difficult the granting of

bail while awaiting trial or on appeal by the near relatives or defence counsel in the case of the remanded or convicted persons respectively. Are we to believe, Sir, that such is the motive of the Government in instituting these courts? The Government's action in this respect shall decide the answer. For purposes of uniformity and equitable justice in the Customary Courts institutions, only persons who are legal practitioners should be eligible for appointment in the Customary Courts Grades "A" and "B"; the plea of areas of jurisdiction and the remanding or conviction of accused persons within their areas of jurisdiction should be more enforced.

The preparation of a vernacular version of the "Notes for Guidance in the Customary Court Manual" that would shortly be made available to Presidents of Grades "C" and "D" Customary Courts should be written in all the principal languages or dialects of this Region, including Western Ijaw.

Educational Programme.—The people of the Midwest have not adequately benefited as far as educational facilities are concerned. The area deserves a University, not unequipped mushroom Technical Colleges. To come nearer home, a Technical College was proposed to be built at Benin City some time ago, but nothing has been done so far. We were recently informed that the Technical College would now be taken to Auchi—we wish them good-luck. Whether the Government intends to make it a bone of contention between Benin and Auchi people, no one knows; but whichever is the case we would not go into dispute with our Auchi kith and kin and we would like to assure the Government that whether we are given a Technical College or not, the Binis shall continue to be heard like the Trojans of old.

Medical and Health Facilities.—The development of medical and health facilities as they affect Benin Division is very poor indeed. The Minister of Health and Social Welfare would no doubt agree with me that there is a great shortage of very qualified and specialist doctors in the General Hospital there for some time now. The Ossiomo Leper Settlement also requires immediate increase in their medical and health facilities. These require very serious consideration.

Problem of Unemployment.—The rate at which the unemployment problem increases in the Region today is appalling. It differs in degree in different areas of the Region and is more pronounced in the Midwest area than in the other areas put together because—

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(a) we have less number of Secondary Modern Grammar and Technical Schools compared with other areas of the Region;

(b) the area is less industrialised and obviously neglected;

(c) we have been treated with the worst type of Nigerian colonialism in that our unemployed sons and daughters are forced to drift to the industrialised area with the result that we are getting depopulated; and

(d) to a greater extent, all sorts of tribal discrimination in appointment and promotions have been practised bitterly against the people from that area as we have noticed of those of them we have always come across in the streets and office corridors in Ibadan, Ijebu-Ode, Ikeja, Ogbomosho and, with your permission, Mr Speaker, Sir, Shagamu towns.

We now appeal to the Government of this Region to put the matter of the unemployment of Midwesterners into serious consideration and see to it that even distribution of amenities and industrialisation is practised throughout the Region. For R. G. Ingersol once said that, "The flower that gives its fragrance to the wandering air leaves its influence on the souls of men".

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Budget which has been so ably moved by the Finance Minister wherein it has been proposed that the Western Nigeria Government is going to appropriate the sum of £19,118,510 for recurrent expenditure, and £15,169,090 for capital expenditure for various services of the Region for the year 1962-63.

The Government is to be highly congratulated on this very laudable project, and mark it, Mr Speaker, Sir, 1962-63 is going to be the beginning of a wonderful era in the annals of Nigeria. It will be the beginning of a progressive and steady march towards our economic emancipation.

Viewing these proposals as they are set out one would almost think that it would be impossible for the Government to put them all into thorough execution, but looking back from 1952 up till now, the Action Group Government has been carrying out successfully all its plans; therefore the one for this year, so huge as it looks, will also be carried through with success.

Agriculture.—Government has got many schemes on agriculture such as cocoa processing, palm produce processing and so on. On this I would wish the Government to note that, hitherto, rural areas are not cared for enough; they are overlooked; they are being overshadowed by big cities. For instance, Ibadan has overshadowed the small towns or rural areas around it. Ibadan has got more than enough of development projects. There you have the biggest University in West Africa; there you have the best Secretariat; there you have the industrial projects such as Pepsi-Cola, Canning, Tyre-moulding and so on and so forth. My people will be grateful if they are not forgotten, for Aiyedade, where you have Ikire, Apomu, and Ikoyi, are the centres where cocoa, palm trees and kola-nuts are grown in greatest quantities. We want cocoa and palm produce processing in these areas. The Pepsi-Cola industry will thrive well there.

Also we want trade centres to be established there. We also need one farm settlement in Ikire. When all these would have been accomplished, we would reduce unemployment in the place to a negligent minimum. The school leavers will no more go abroad seeking for jobs and, above all, you will make the farmers very wealthy indeed. So please divert more attention to rural areas.

Health and Social Welfare.—On this I have cause to thank the Government for providing Aiyedade, my Constituency, with a rural health centre, but we are not yet quite satisfied. The rural health centre contains only five beds. If one could witness the attendance one morning, it would be found to be almost as equal to the attendance in the University College Hospital or Adeoyo. People flock there from Apomu, Ikoyi and even from Gbongan and Ode Omu. We would be very grateful if the beds could be extended to fifty or more.

Information.—There is one officer of this Ministry posted to Iwo to serve Iwo, Aiyedade and Egbedore. One officer cannot cover these three Districts efficiently. We want more officers to be posted to each District Council area.

Lands.—Last Friday, Mr Speaker, Sir, I remember one hon. Member from Ijebu-Igbo referred to the Government Farm Estate at Apoje, saying that he had never heard Government to connect the name of Ijebu-Igbo with the Farm Estate. In the first place, I wonder why such a matter should be raised on the floor of this House. Secondly I am sure Government would not like to cause confusion of any kind by associating a

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name or names of persons to a place that does not belong to such persons. Apoje Farm Estate and all the lands between Oshun River and Shasha belong to Aiyedade. The people of Aiyedade would have cultivated the whole length and breadth of the land but the Forest Reserve created by the Government from Shasha to Oshun, which is about ten miles prevents people from Aiyedade from penetrating through to enable them cultivate the whole land. Rivers always form natural boundaries between two important places; Oshun River between Aiyedade and Ijebu-Igbo has shown clear demarcation. And not only that, Sir, Mr Speaker, a letter of authority to collect taxes in the said area has been given to the Aiyedade District Council by the then Resident of Ibadan Province in the year 1953. This has shown beyond all reasonable doubts that the area belongs to Aiyedade, *i.e.*, all the land between Shasha and Oshun up to the sea belongs to Aiyedade District Council, and it is non-controversial. Therefore, I think, Mr Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend from Ijebu-Igbo will turn his attention to somewhere else.

Works and Transport.—The Government has done a lot in tarring some of our roads in Aiyedade and Orile Owu for which we thank the Government; yet there are certain very important roads that are not yet tarred and we shall be very grateful if Government's attention is focussed on them with a view to tarring them during this financial year. They are: Apomu-Ago Owu, Ago-Owu-Araromi and Mokore, Ikire-Odeyinka-Womonle and Ago Owu, Ikire-Akan, Apomu-Awala and Ikoyi-Alagutan-Apoje and Ijebu-Igbo.

We are in urgent and dire need of water supply in Aiyedade. It is hoped that Government will soon start work on this essential project. The last but not the least is light or electricity supply.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I commend the Western Nigeria Government to the care of the Almighty God and pray that it may grow from strength to strength.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr E. O. Oke (Ogbomosho South-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my highly favourable opportunity to stand and support the Motion on the Appropriation Bill. In supporting this Motion, I cannot but first of all thank the Western Regional Government for the great achievements gained within a short gap of time in the Region.

Casting a retrospective view to some past events in the Western Region, and imagining the different obstacles confronting the vast majority of the people in all spheres of life, and comparing and contrasting the then situation of things with the present condition, one cannot but shower some words of encomium on many of the dynamic and respectable Western Region teachers, who in the midst of many odds and dangers fought tooth and nail to see that the people of Nigeria as a whole, are a free sovereign and independent country—possessing all the rights, powers, and functions of Government. Not only that Sir; the Minister of Finance and the other Ministers who have worked together co-operatively and harmoniously, deserve big thanks for the special consideration given to the different headings while preparing the Estimates for the year 1962-63. As a teacher would award marks to his pupils at school, I would award them 99.9999 per cent.

In the field of Education, Sir, the Government of the Region voted a fabulous amount of money to pay the salaries of Western Region teachers, to recruit specialists, tutors, and lecturers, to increase the different aspects of primary schools, modern schools, high and grammar schools, in-service training courses, adult education programme, various colleges and technical schools throughout the Region. As a matter of fact, it is really an intellectual awakening which has raised the average intelligence of the people and has reduced the horrors of mass illiteracy which is inimical to any national progress.

The institution of the University of Ife has paved the way for higher education that will ensure higher responsibilities which will automatically contribute generously to the progress and upliftment of the Region academically.

Again, Sir, it is understood that much has been done by the Western Region Government to standardise the system of education in the Region and the effort on this is highly realised and appreciated by the vast majority of the people who are lovers of academic freedom and who are intellectually honest. But, in order not to make the education of these pupils to cling to artificialities and superficialities, it will be highly appreciated if the Government considers the immediate possibility of introducing multilateral or comprehensive schools in the Region as an experiment.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I also suggest that much will be realised from teachers if the hon. Members of this House recommend to the Ministry of Education the proposal that the

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promotion of teachers in the Region should strictly be by efficiency on the job rather than mere academic achievements.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the avenue of agriculture, trade and industry, the constant and systematic effort by the Western Government in the economic potentialities of the Region has resulted in most wonderful expansion of the range of industrial production throughout the Region—for example, a cement factory at Ewekoro with an annual capacity of not less than 200,000 tons of cement plays an important part in the economic aspiration of Western Nigeria.

Again, Sir, the canning and preservation of fruits and vegetables, the manufacture of miscellaneous food preparations, the manufacture of rubber product at Ibadan, the manufacture of soft drinks, the manufacture of wood at Sapele, tobacco manufacture, etc., introduced by the Western Regional Government illuminate the different corners of the Region in trade, and trade brings prosperity even in the time of austerity measures, and prosperity encourages wise men, knowledge increases, method of living becomes better, and people become healthier and happier. Are these things of little value to the community?

I say, Sir, that if today the intellectual centre of gravity shifted from the known to the unknown place, and even from East to West for that matter, agriculture is not only responsible for it. To meet the needs of capable farmers to extend their farms, Government spent fabulously and constantly to institute Farm Settlements where the young men of the Region will be trained in the modern scientific way of farming so as to maintain the physical rigidity and turgidity of the Region through the activities of the farmers. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I am now telling this to those on the Opposition side of this House, that if they prove to be by-standers while the Government of the Western Region is trying to reshape and reorganise, and trying to put something good in the Region, they will not be blamed, they will not be punished, they will not be killed, they will not be chastised, they will not be imprisoned, but the only epitaph and epigram on their grave will be "Born man, died zero".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr C. O. Olanigoke (Okitipupa North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill which was cleverly presented by the hon. Minister of Finance.

I am however, worried a bit over the downward trend of the revenue of our main crops as shown in the Minister's speech, copies of which were distributed to members later. In 1959-60, the actual revenue on cocoa was £5.5 million, on palm produce £1.4 million, while on rubber it was £1.4 million. Now, for the same crops in 1962-63, the actual revenue dropped to £2.8 million on cocoa, £0.8 million on palm produce and £1.1 million on rubber. That means that within three years, we are expected to lose on cocoa about £3 million; on palm produce we are losing by £.6 million, and on rubber £.3 million. In order that the finances of this Region may not collapse some drastic measures must be taken to arrest the situation. I must warn the Minister of Finance that the masses of this Region cannot pay more than the 9d on a £1 on the income of taxable adults which is reasonable. I do not expect the poor masses of this Region to pay more than that.

The Government should speed up its plan for industries particularly small-scale industries for rural areas of this Region. The Minister of Finance was very correct when he said that many of those in upper classes of our society in this Region were not showing good examples. To be precise, the upper classes of this Region, some of them are habitual tax evaders. It is rather distressing to note that many of these top-notchers are members of the Action Group, the ruling party in this Region. (Interruptions). They draw much reward from the Government and they spend less. The Government should, without fear or favour, take drastic steps in order that people should have to pay commensurate taxes and rates. Rate collection in the hands of some local councils in some areas is a failure, and the Government should have to take control of this and have to improve the collection or devise ways and means of improving the collection. Large number of taxable adults still evade rates.

Ports.—Several of the ports we have in this Region are in the Midwest and the only one outside Midwest and worthy of note is at Okitipupa. This port, Mr Speaker, Sir, should be improved and developed because, if the Midwest is created a Region as I sincerely hope, then we shall be left with that port alone. I know the importance of ports in this Region; that is why I am stressing that Okitipupa has to be improved and developed.

The Government must invite experts to make research on minerals in this Region. I want to mention that there is a certain

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mineral in Okitipupa area, tar; the people of that area are making use of this local tar. If the Government can go into it, send experts to this area and find out what we can make with it, it should be to the advantage of this Region. The place is in Okitipupa Division.

Electricity.—Okitipupa is the only Divisional Headquarters in Ondo Province that has not been considered for electricity. I am praying the Government to consider Okitipupa town for electricity. Okitipupa is about five or six times as big as Ikenne and is almost as big as Oshogbo.

Roads.—In Okitipupa Division, we have few roads but the unfortunate thing is that some of the roads in Okitipupa Division are not well cared for by the Regional Government. Some of these roads are tarred but the bridges are bad. We have committed no sin in Okitipupa Division, and I think the Government of this Region should please strengthen our bridges and tar the road from Okitipupa, the home-town of your Parliamentary Secretary—the place is called Igbokoda. It is the worst road in the whole of the Division. There is also the Igbokin-Sanbome Embankment. Sometime ago, one hon. Member from this side of the House left this area to join the other side. He wanted the embankment to be reconstructed. (*Interruptions*), and up to now, it is not in the Estimates. (*Interruptions*).

Economic Mission.—Although we all praise the Government Economic Missions, yet it is as yet too early to assess the success. Some people say that the Economic Mission was a success. Much of this Region's revenue was spent over the Economic Mission led by the Premier, from which we have not seen any fruitful result yet; and you are praising him and you continue to shower praises and encomiums and such other like complimentary exaggerations. I say that, it is yet too early to assess the success—(*Shouts of sit down, sit down from the Government Benches*).

Education.—We have about 250 Primary Schools in Okitipupa Division, and there are only eight Secondary Modern Schools to cope with the children coming out of these Primary Schools. I am praying Government to encourage an individual or Voluntary Agency wishing to put up Modern Schools in the Division in the interest of children coming out from these Primary Schools. I will mention, Sir, that fake Secondary Schools are rampant in this Region and charge exorbitant entrance examination fees. I am

advising that the Government should control entrance examination fees in this Region. (*Government Benches: Go and tell the Ajayi Commission*). There are Secondary Schools which charge about 15s for entrance examination. They have an inducement allowance which they give to the Headmasters; they promise them commissions. These entrance examinations must be controlled and regulated in this Region.

Mr Speaker, I will describe the austerity measures as poverty through prosperity to the masses of this Region because prices of food are soaring higher and higher everyday. (*Interruptions*). You have just cut 10 per cent off your Minister's salaries. We want you to remove from the Ministers' salaries 20 per cent and from hon. Members' salaries 10 per cent; it is only then that we shall know that you mean prosperity in this Region through austerity.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to stress this point again: the question of roads in Okitipupa. I do not know what sin Okitipupa Division has committed. You have neglected that area; I hope that you will one day develop it. In fact, we want development now; we all pay tax and rates, and that is why I am asking you to develop the area (*Interruptions*). You all know that part of Okitipupa Division is on water. There are certain teachers in these rural areas of the Division. Those places are very difficult to live in, indeed. I am advising the Regional Government to consider paying teachers in these places some inducement allowance (*interruptions*); otherwise, they will refuse to go there to teach, and if you force them to go there, they will not do their very best, unless you encourage them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I remember a point—a very important point. The Government of this Region is doing its best to establish in-service training courses for untrained teachers; there are no sufficient centres for the untrained teachers, with the result that only a handful of these untrained teachers do enjoy this training. More centres must therefore be set up. At least in Okitipupa Division, there must be three centres: one at Okitipupa township, one at Irele and one at Ilutitun or Igbotako.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Midwest Affairs (Mr B. E. O. Osagie): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill for 1962-63. (*Applause*). I am seeking this opportunity to congratulate the Western Region Government for the many amenities provided for my area and the Midwest as a whole. (*An Opposition Mem-*

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ber: *You have to mention them*). Some of the many amenities are as follows:

(a) the three bridges already constructed on Benin-Siluko Road over River Ovia;

(b) the proposal in the current year's Estimates (1962-63) making provision for the tarring of Benin-Siluko Road which is twenty-five miles from Iguorhiakhi to Siluko town;

(c) the provision in the 1962-63 Estimates for the bridging of River Ovia at Iguoriakhi;

(d) the provision for boring rural water supply for the Iyekovia District Council Headquarters, Iguobazuwa, and

(e) the provision for grant to improve Usen-Omifunfun Road.

Besides, it is very gratifying that the Government has close interest in the people of the Midwest, especially in assigning to the Minister of Midwest Affairs, the honourable J. E. Otobo, the portfolios of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Crown land within the Midwest area. This is a recognition of the entire Midwest and peace-loving people of this vast improving area. More so, it clearly shows the keen interest and respect the Western Region Government has for our people.

I also assure the Western Region Government a sound and renowned publicity and popularity in the whole of the Midwest. Mr Speaker, Sir, before I sit down, I will like to mention more of the amenities which the Government of this Region has promised my area—the Midwest; some of the promised amenities have been got: I refer to the three bridges already constructed in 1960-61 and also the tarring of a sixteen-mile Benin-Siluko Road. This shows clearly that the Government of this Region has a great regard for us. So it is not being fair to the Government if some of us should attack the Government on the floor of this House; instead we should show some sign of gratefulness. (*Applause*).

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr A. Adisa (Ibadan South-East Rural): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to speak on the Appropriation Bill, I am of the opinion that this Budget, if it is to be correctly given a name, should not be "Prosperity through Austerity". I think it should be called the "Realisation Budget". The reason why it ought to be given that name is because, going through the speech of the hon. Minister of

Finance, one could see that he was absolutely frank; but then, the nature and the diversity of the problems which now beset the Government are too clear for me to laugh about. It is also the Realisation Budget because it appears that the scheme of the founding palace of the Nigerian nation, when they went to draw up the Constitution of Nigeria, would appear to go round now. At that time, we had arch tribalists on the other side and they set out to carve an empire or dominion or freedom for themselves. Unfortunately, they were not quite versed in the history of all Federal Constitutions, so they thought it would not be good to allocate to the Central Government those responsibilities for the problems which are common throughout the Federation. They realised when they went to draw up the Constitution that they must have to co-operate with the Federal Government; that is why I went through the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance and found that he was trying to do justice to the present Constitution whereby he feels and admits that there is no happiness, no destiny for this Region—even for this Government—unless they co-operate fully and effectively with the Federal Government.

First, I turn to, with your permission, Sir, page 235 where the hon. Minister of Finance says "I shall be failing seriously in my duty if I do not say in this House that this Government fully supports the fiscal measure, announced by the Federal Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech last week". Again, on page 227, he said: "While still on this point, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to the progress which has been made in the past year in the field of inter-governmental co-operation". This emphasises just one point: before those days, the Action Group Government of this Region used to parade openly, shamelessly, that they are first in everything; that they alone possess all knowledge, all power, throughout the whole Federation; and now, they admit, they accept, that they are part and parcel of the Federation of Nigeria, and that their problems could only be solved by their being co-operative with the Federal Government. I say this because most of what I am going to tell this Government will relate specifically to a redrawing of the areas of authorities, areas of co-operation of the Regional Governments in contra-distinction with the Federal Government. If this is not done, there is no need kidding anybody; even a fool cannot be deceived. If you have prosperity, you would not just like to exchange it for austerity. This is too obvious and there is no reason why anybody should come here and try to cast

[MR ADISA]

wool over our eyes by speaking of prosperity through austerity. Nobody is interested in their new stunt—"prosperity through austerity". Have we forgotten that the Action Group used to proclaim from the top of their roofs that there would be life more abundant for everybody? And did we have it? No, my Friends. Now they have come here, shamelessly and ingloriously, to say that there is no such thing as life more abundant and that what everybody should have is a life of austerity. If one is not dead before their austerity ends, perhaps one will get prosperity! As far as I am concerned, I do not want to be on the receiving end of austerity measures; I do not want to be at all.

The hon. Minister of Finance has said that he deprecates the kind of propaganda going on as to this Government being bankrupt or otherwise. Well, frankly, I have not heard people saying that this Government has gone bankrupt, but we know that the Government is going bankrupt; that is all we say; we do not say that the Government is bankrupt already. I know, Mr Speaker, Sir, that this aspect of the matter is the one which caused a lot of internal crisis in the Action Group Party. It is the cost of this economic policy, the idea of having wasted almost all the money which the former Premier saved in his regime, and which the one who has taken over has almost squandered.....(interruptions). This is one of the reasons which caused the internal troubles in the rank and file of the Action Group Party.

We note, again, that the Minister of Finance spoke of the Economic Mission, a report of which he said would be presented to Members. Up till now, Mr Speaker, we have not had that report and that shows the utter futility of these Economic Missions. I believe that the proper thing for this Government to do is to rely on the data supplied to it by the Federal Government. Apart from that, we do have, I think, the Agents-General in almost all these foreign countries and it would be quite proper for us to make use of these agencies than to engage on sprees whereby you will go to appear on television screens in the United States of America and where people will refer to you, not as the Premier of this Region, but as the Prime Minister of Nigeria; and even then, you will not have the grace to correct the man who may announce you as the Prime Minister of the Federation. You would just keep mute and say, "Oh well, this mistake is not intentional"; then you would say to yourself that you have looked

very big and very powerful. So, I feel that all these Economic Missions, undertaken by you, are not helpful to us; after all, we are no experts. We should allow the experts—the civil servants—to do these things for us. It is they who really do the planning for you, and if anybody should be sent abroad, it is these civil servants who should go abroad, learn what should be learnt, and come home to teach us what should be taught.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I notice that the hon. Minister of Midwest Affairs is not quite happy this evening. Well, there is a good reason why he should not be happy.

The Minister of Midwest Affairs (Mr J. E. Otobo): I am entitled to dictate my own attitude in the House, and, secondly, I am entitled to keep mute over a speech which is uselessly meaningless. (Applause).

Mr Adisa: I will draw myself in touch in my vituperative language in which my good Friend has indulged; that is the characteristic of the people from where he comes.....(Government Benches: Ah! ah!!).

Mr Otobo: It is unparliamentary to impute motives not only to a Minister of the Government but to a section of the Region. For this reason he has got to withdraw.

(Government Benches: Withdraw, withdraw)

Mr Speaker: The hon. Minister did not quote the number of the Order but I will help him—it is Order No. 27 (5)—

"It shall be out of order to use offensive or insulting language about Members of the House".

I hold that the reference to the area from which the Minister for Midwest Affairs comes is unparliamentary; therefore please withdraw.

Mr Adisa: Withdrawing under your order that part referring to his Region, I say now that the hon. Minister of Midwest Affairs has indulged in vituperative language which may only be related to the party to which he belongs (Interruptions from Government Benches: "Shame, shame").

I was saying that this hon. Gentleman was not happy this evening and there are very good reasons why this is so. If the Midwest is created he will be a shadow minister; that being so, how do I expect him to be happy? That is the point to which I was referring. I mean that if other people have been offended—well, there is no need to be offended these days. When you go to the Midwest to campaign, that is the time for you to lose your temper.

[MR ADISA]

Now, Sir, again we heard of the reference made to cocoa calamities; so I call it, because ever, one knows that since the fall in the price of cocoa in this Region things have not been too good and I myself I sympathise with the Government of this Region. It is the sort of calamity which partly derives from the nature of their own economic doctrine and partly derives from the nature of their political belief and, thirdly, derives from the way they spend their money, and I do sympathise with the farmers of this Region who have been so deceived, so well deceived, that the Action Group had always and constantly received the votes of the poor farmers only now to be repaid by falling prices in cocoa and I say that this should not be so—there is no reason why the price of cocoa should take the downward trend. During the time of the allocation of revenue, millions of pounds belonging to farmers were passed over to the Action Group Government so as to cushion the prices of cocoa at fourteen million pounds, if my information is correct. £14 million were passed over to this Action Group Government, and if the millions of pounds were given to them readily to cushion the prices of cocoa and the price has fallen that is the cocoa calamity as I call it.

Now I feel that the Action Group Government of this Region will cover their face with shame for having squandered and wasted these millions of pounds which were given to them in trust so that the farmers might not be affected in any downfall in the price of cocoa. On the other hand, we rejoice that the Federal Government has taken appropriate steps to alleviate the position of the farmers, and we are sure that the farmers of this Region will appreciate the action of the Federal Government, take it upon themselves that in all future elections in this Region they will only vote for that Party the NCNC which has actually supported them and tried to come to their aid in the way of the formation of the "Cocoa Producers' Alliance".

Now, anybody who was in this town last year will remember that when we were discussing this question of the fall in the price of cocoa the Opposition made certain constructive suggestions. Some of these relate to the establishment of industries for the manufacture of cocoa products like chocolate and cocoa beverages. But it is most surprising that the Action Group Government had not yet embarked upon the realisation of this scheme. We do not know what their reasons are; perhaps it might be that the 10 per cent could not be easily paid from such an exploit; it might

be that they had not the interest of the farmers; only God knows; only Heaven knows. But we of the Opposition are not happy over that kind of indulgence and inactivity of the Action Group Government of this Region.

Now, Sir, about the Civil Service which the hon. Minister of Finance spoke on page 223 of the Hansard of the 4th April, 1962—(*Government Benches: What is that?*)

I mean the Official Report. The Minister started by saying:—

"It is gratifying for me to see that judging from the consultations which have taken place that members of our Civil Service too are no less eager to demonstrate the new spirit of the times and accept their shares of the sacrifices."

Now reading that and giving it the literal meaning, all one could draw from that is that civil servants have agreed to the withdrawal of basic allowance and other cuts in their emoluments; that is all that one would draw. But, just about two days ago, insult was added to injury in that the information about the restoration of the basic car allowances to the civil servants was not announced to this House but it was announced outside this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, I do implore this Government to respect this House and to note that it is the tradition in all parliamentary democracies that all these points of information should always be given to the House when the House is in Session, and I believe, too, that it was out of place for the Minister of Finance to speak in this wise. Even before the debate on the Budget was concluded, we know that civil servants were most unhappy about the cut in their basic and car allowances. (*Interruption*). (*Government Benches: How do you know?*)

I know that if they were very happy there is no need to restore these basic and car allowances, and in fact, I know that even an ignorant man will know that civil servants were most unhappy. The trouble with the Regional Government here is that it is in a hurry. I mean that the Government of this Region discussed all these points with the other Governments of the Federation and there was no reason why it should go alone. There was no reason, but because the Regional Government wants to take undue advantage and to say that it possesses originality, because of that it has rushed first into iniquity, first in errors of omission—(*Interruptions and laughter from all sides of the House*). I do not know, Sir, what kind of Government we have. It is so difficult to know their kind of mentality.

[MR ADISA]

Now, Sir, I find that the Minister of Finance has not brought the correct thing. I find that what will save this Region in the way of taxation could be related to the fact that party politics plays a considerable part on this question of the allocation and collection of taxes. I believe, Sir, that what should be done is to insulate the question of taxation completely from party politics. This would be the best thing because one is reminded to note that if you are asking all of us to make sacrifice, then we would like not only an assurance that there would be equality in respect of the demand for these sacrifices but that when the harvest will begin to pour in all of us will be equally benefited. Well, I do not know when we would start the harvesting. I know that the Action Group Government would witness during their own regime the harvesting of all these projects and also that within the next one or two years, when we take over either as the result of any election or as a caretaker government after the formation of the Midwest State—well, I am not prepared to spoil your harvest for you, but I am sure that all these are questions which have been weighing very heavily in the minds of the Action Group Party leaders.

Now on the question of Courts, Sir, I have to say that the premises of the High Court, particularly the Registry is an eye-sore—there is no doubt about it that the place is not commodious enough to house all the officials of the High Court. In fact if one wants a record of the proceedings of judgment, it takes as long as two, three, four, six months even, Sir. I do not mean that the Members of the Government should be happy over this. I think it is a need that weighs heavily upon their minds that the quality of mercy will be affected by the kind of provision that is given to the permanent officials of the Department. Again, Sir, in respect of this Court, I do wish that the Registrars for Customary Courts should be appointed as the Customary Court Judges because they are quite familiar with the procedure and administration of justice and this would be quite a far better way of insulating judiciary from politics. I would not say more about this until we come to the Head (*Interruptions from Government Benches: Is it a "big" head or a small head, your honour?*)

It would be as big as the heads of those who always fail.

Now, Sir, going to the agricultural policy of the Government all I wish to say at this stage, Sir, is that it appears to me that this Government is trying to create more problems

than it set out to solve, particularly in the establishment of these farm settlements. The point is that thousands of poor peasants are driven out of their own farms. They are given some sort of compensation. They are not traders, they are not businessmen. What happens? These people jump to the cities; within a few days or weeks they spend all the money given to them and, of course, become unemployed. (*Government Benches: But you are not a farmer*). I am a son of a farmer and I am quite proud of that. (*Interruptions*).

Now what happens is that I would rather prefer that instead of the establishment of these farm settlements the Government should formulate policies whereby the farmers themselves could modernise their farming and be able to employ as many workers on their land as possible.

Television Service.—It is necessary, at this time of austerity measures, that the Television Service of the Western Region should be scrapped totally. It is a waste of money if it is allowed to exist, as the Federal Television service covers the whole Federation. The poor people in this Region do not need this service since a majority of them have no means to buy a set. Only a few could afford to buy sets. So if this service is merged with that of the Federal Government, there will be a considerable saving for this Government.

I have just heard outside this House that the Government will not cut off basic car allowances as recently announced. This may be a good idea but I wish to say that it has not been announced on the floor of this House. We are the people responsible for making laws in this Region and such things should be discussed first in this House. We have heard a lot about it in the town but we shall await the confirmation of the rumour from the Government before this Meeting is over.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to say that the recent cut in the salaries of all politicians is not sufficient. If we want to make actual sacrifice the Ministers should receive not more than £1,500 per annum, Parliamentary Secretaries £840 per annum, and all other Members £250 per annum. This will be an example for all other Governments in the Federation to follow, and even the civil servants who do not wish to make any sacrifice at present will follow our footsteps. Mr Speaker, Sir, again in order to save money the number of Ministers in this Region should be reduced to ten and Parliamentary Secretaries to six. I will say here, this evening,

[MR ADISA]

that this Government is wasting money by creating unnecessary posts for their political friends. Briefly, Sir, if all my suggestions are taken into consideration, as I am sure you will, we shall have sufficient money to establish industries throughout the Region and this will reduce unemployment to a certain extent, and there will be no need to tour round the world to borrow money.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the farmers are not happy with the compulsory acquisition of land for farm settlements. Why is it that this Government is very fond of using force, or very fond of acquiring land by force without giving the farmers concerned adequate compensation? This is a very bad act to the people who have voted you in power. I am sure that many of you will definitely lose at the next election because of this ignominious attitude. I am sure of this, because I come from a rural area where this type of thing has happened.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr O. O. Gbolahan (Oyo North-West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill which was ably presented by the hon. the Minister of Finance.

I am not going to waste the time of this honourable House unnecessarily, but we should be grateful if the Government of this Region would consider the tarring of all roads in my constituency as soon as it is possible. We are grateful for all that the Government has done but, if all roads are tarred completely, it will help all traders in my area and the Region as a whole. We need pipe-borne water in my area also, as this will contribute to the health of my people. We find it difficult during the dry season to get water to drink, and people in my area always travel some miles before they get water. I think if pipe-borne water is introduced our trouble will be minimised.

The poor farmers in my area should be helped. Elephants are troubling us in my area by destroying our crops. It is from the produce of the farm that the farmers live; it is from the proceeds of their labour that they educate their children and pay taxes to the coffers of this Region. Elephants always destroy our cash crops annually and so render the farmers' labour unprofitable. Mr Speaker, Sir, my people and myself are loyal to this Government of the Action Group and shall therefore be grateful for any help which this Government can render to curb the destructive activities of elephants in our area.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr S. A. Okeya):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill, 1962-63, and in doing so, I must congratulate the hon. the Minister of Finance, Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi, for the characteristic way in which he delivered the goods.

It is a Bill which reveals the Action Group Government Party's activities coupled with fertile brains under the worthy leadership of Chief S. L. Akintola. It is often said, in the history of the Egyptians, that without Nile there would be no Egypt. We can say the same thing in the West here; that without the Action Group Party, there would be no good Government in Western Nigeria. Take all the Action Group members from the Western Region and there will be little or nothing left.

Reading through the Appropriation Bill, one would see clearly that the financial position of the Government of Western Nigeria shows from year to year its determination to make this Region a Welfare State.

I am seizing this golden opportunity to appeal to the Government to spread the benefit of industrial enterprises uniformly throughout the Region. In particular, if a suitable industry could be located in Ekiti, the people will make a generous offer of land.

The efforts of this Government to cater for the welfare of the people in the remote areas is already well known. The rural areas are so much entitled to the basic social amenities for their comforts and welfare as the large urban or municipal areas. In this connection, Sir, may I remind the Government of my appeal last year for rural water supply for certain parts of my constituency as soon as possible. These places include Ise, Emure, Ekiti, Igbara-Odo, Ilawe and Ogotun. The towns that I have mentioned above stand in urgent need of pipe-borne water supply. I am seizing this opportunity to thank the Government of Western Nigeria for the supply of urban pipe-borne water to Ikere, costing the Government of this Region £445,000. The places mentioned above can also do with electricity when such amenity becomes available.

In your road programme, we would pray that the Emure-Supare-Ikare road, about 26 miles from Ikare, which had been constructed by the communal efforts by the people of Emure and Supare be given attention. We pray that the Government should help in constructing bridges over little Osse and Oyimo. If the road is completed, it will provide a considerably shorter route from Ilesha to Akoko via Emure Ekiti than the

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[MR OKEYA]

present route through Akure and Owo and the same thing with Ilesha via Ado-Ekiti and Ikare. The Ekitis and Akokos have much in common. Many people in Akoko live and farm in Ekiti soil and there is a wide exchange of goodwill between the two divisions. The roads should therefore receive the attention of the Government, and we pray the Government for immediate action.

I thank the Government of this Region for the valuable work being done in tarring the thirty-four miles of road between Ikere, Ise, Emure and Owo, and thirty-two miles of road between Ado Ekiti, Ilawe, Igbara-Odo, Ogotun and Ipetu-Ijesha. Nearly all our important roads had been tarred with the exception of the Ikere-Igbara Odo road; Igbara Odo, Ikogosi, Emure, Supare, Akingba via Ikare.

We have to thank the Government for the Dispensaries and Maternity Centres being provided. We still need more in Ekiti Southern District Council Area. In short, we need one General Hospital to cater for 80,000 people in that area.

The Government of this Region, deserves a great deal of praise for voting a large sum of money for Agriculture, knowing fully well that Agriculture is really the backbone of this Region. The establishment of farm settlements throughout the Region deserves commendation. More farm settlements should be established, particularly in Ekiti, where soil is rich in plant food. It is a land of plenty—a land flowing with milk and honey.

The Government should see that more money should come in to run our Six-Year Development Plan. We cannot run a Region on cheap, generous aids, as grants from Britain are no more coming after our National Independence. Rich Nigerians must be taxed, and heavily too. A heavy income tax should be imposed on all such Nigerian incomes, with severe penalties for all attempts at evasion and failure to render truthful accounts for assessment. Government must exercise a far more effective control than at present over the commercial combines. The wealth of this country should be kept in the country, and for that reason all native trading must be encouraged, but no monopolies. Trusts or concerns can be allowed in the hands of either faithful firms or Africans and there must be drastic punishment for all who deal in the black market.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr T. E. Igugu (Central Urhobo East):
Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill, ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance, and in doing so, Sir, I think it is customary and courteous for me to commend the efforts of the Government, and the effort of the Minister of Finance in particular, for this comprehensive and progressive Estimate which is designed to balance the Budget. I appreciate that it is not an easy task to present a well-balanced Estimate like this, but if this Estimate is pursued without prejudice, if this Estimate is judiciously operated upon, the Minister and his Ministry must have gone a long way in improving the social and economic welfare of the people of this Region during the current financial year. But, Sir, we of the Opposition of Western Nigeria entertain fear from time to time as to how Government will be able to distribute its major development projects evenly among the people of the Region. I am saying this from experience. The last Budget or Estimate was as promising as this one, but the outcome was very poor.

As hon. Members will remember, millions of pounds were approved by this House for the services of the Region during the last financial year. The outcome was that some places in the Region were made to feel the existence of Government, and others did not know that Government existed at all. The Government, instead of sharing evenly the benefits that accrued from the Estimates, simply concentrated the resources in their reach to a very privileged few people in the Yoruba West. This, Mr Speaker, Sir, is the fear of the Opposition in a nutshell. I am not attacking the hon. Minister of Finance by so saying. He has done his job.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is advisable for Government to show the benefit that shall accrue from this Estimates on a Divisional basis. I should like to repeat that it is of no use for Government to concentrate its development programme in the already developed areas or to a privileged few. If John is the Minister, never should he concentrate his development fund in Ogbomosho because John is from Ogbomosho. Mr Speaker, Sir, this amounts to an abuse of office.

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order, Order. I say that the hon. Member wouldn't be in order by mentioning John even hypothetically but still I see that something is wrong. He referred to "abuse of office"—it is rather too low on the floor of this House.

Mr Igugu: Mr Speaker, Sir, I withdraw, without shame, on your request.

[MR IGUGU]

Mr Speaker, Sir, Government should not launch its development programme in places already developed—places like Ikeja and Agege. Before any programme is said to be good it must contribute to the resources of the community which Government controls. If this is not done, then the less fortunate areas which Government has neglected will hold Government to ransom. Care should be taken to ensure that every Division in this Region shares the benefits that will accrue from the Estimate.

I am not satisfied with Government's plans to improve cultivation of rubber and timber in the Midwest Area. You are no doubt aware, Sir, that rubber and timber are the only two main economic crops for the people of the Midwest. I would like to deal with these two items one after the other. I will deal with rubber first.

I see that Government is establishing farm settlements in some parts of the Midwest and rubber is being cultivated in the farm settlements. Not only that, this provides employment for a very few people who are unemployed. This farm settlement is not intended for the farmers but for students of agriculture. I think this an unscrupulous thing for a Government to do. I know that Government is trying to compete with rubber farmers in the Midwest.

I therefore suggest that Government should pay greater attention to the farmers. Government should educate the farmers on how they could get the best yields from their farms. Government should organise Rubber Farmers Co-operative Societies in the Midwest and give loans to them to enable them to build modern Rubber Processing Factories from village to village as it is in the case of Oil Pioneer Mills. I think this will improve the quality of rubber production in the area and thus increase the demand for our rubber in world markets. This done, Sir, the Government should establish a Rubber Marketing Board with a view to regulating the rapid fluctuation in producer prices.

Now Sir, I will deal with timber next. I note Sir, that Government has no intention whatsoever to think about the ways and means of improving the timber industry in this Region. Timber is an important forest product which has contributed largely to the promotion of this Region's revenue for some years past. I am sure that it shall continue to do so as time goes on. Now Sir, there is nothing wrong in it if this Government spends half of the money or revenue collected from timber in the way of

export duty in improving the timber industry. With your kind permission Sir, you will find that during 1960-61 a total sum of about £230,036 was collected from timber. The Minister of Finance has, during his Budget Speech, accused some timber dealers of failing to comply with the Forest Ordinance which he described as illegal traffic in logs. He also made mention of importers of merchandise who, by falsification of invoices and other devious means avoid the payment of the appropriate import duties on the goods they import. But Mr Speaker Sir, this is not a very good report which the Minister has given to the House. If the Minister thinks that this Legislature has not made the appropriate law which will hunt these offenders, then the right thing to do is to introduce a Bill or Amendment Bill which will empower those in authority to bring the offenders to book. As I have said during the debate on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, Government is not caring to collect revenue. If the authority is covered by legislation or ordinance to check the offenders of this fraudulent action, who I understand are Action Group members—(Interruptions)—the Minister must have gone a long way to confirm my statement that Government is almost giving up the ghost in the collection of revenue. This honourable House need not be bored with loss of revenue which Government has sustained as a result of the dishonesty of Action Group businessmen. (Prolonged interruptions.)

If Government wants funds to meet up its various services, it must be prepared to work hard and improve the main sources of revenue. I am therefore calling on Government to pay particular attention to the timber industry. Government should establish Timber Settlement Farms and plant timber in them. Government should assist timber dealers by organising Timber Co-operative Societies and establishing Timber Marketing Boards in the Region. Government should grant loans to the co-operative societies so that they may not be overthrown by foreign capitalists. These suggestions, if practicalised, shall no doubt improve timber trade in this Region and thereby increase the revenue of Government from timber.

Talking about the Development Plan, Sir, or community development, I will like to inform Government that the people of Orogun embarked on the construction of Orogun-Salubi road some years ago. Through the help of the Orogun Progressive Union, about £5,000 was raised by the men and women in the clan. The Central Urhobo District Council, appreciating the

[MR IGUGU] efforts (about £ the road in dista to be co the £8, the road motorab. Orogun District to encour Central that the further a the Gov people road for the Gov

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[MR IGUGU]

efforts Orogun clan have made, contributed about £3,000 towards the construction of the road. The road is about twelve miles in distance and there are so many bridges to be constructed on the road. As a result, the £8,000 was not sufficient to complete the road, so that at present the road is not motorable, despite the efforts made by Orogun people and the Central Urhobo District Council. Mr Speaker, Sir, in order to encourage the people of Orogun and the Central Urhobo District Council, in order that the people of the area might make further attempts in community development the Government need to encourage the people by completing the Orogun-Salubi road for them. This, I think, will not cost the Government more than £8,000.

I have spoken about how Government spends funds for development and social projects during my contribution to the Governor's Speech from the Throne. I will not like to bore this honourable House with repetitions since I think that the appropriate Minister shall heed my demands as contained in my speech. I will however like to say something about austerity measures—call for personal sacrifice—the appeal which the hon. Minister of Finance has made to hon. Members in respect of evasion of tax. At this crucial moment when the Government has just introduced austerity measures, at this trying period when Government is calling on the people of this Region to make personal sacrifices, I understand that Government is already planning, or has planned, to establish what is called "Premier's Pool". I understand that the Pool shall take over the old cars of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and other leading Action Group members in this House. The Pool shall absorb the balance of advances remaining unpaid on such cars, the assessable value on the day of handing over to the Pool notwithstanding. I am informed, Sir, that about five Ministers have already handed over their cars to the Pool. Some of these cars have been carelessly used and Government has to undertake the major repairs, including the payment of the balances of advance left unpaid. The most ridiculous thing, as I am given to understand, is that these Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and leading Action Group members have the right to take the very cars at any time to anywhere. In short, Sir, what I understand this to mean is that these hon. Gentlemen are trying to evade the austerity measures in a very clever and crafty way. I have, during this Session, warned Government to

be very consistent and be prepared to do what it preaches. Lest I forget Sir, I understand that the Premier of the Region is opposed to the "Premier's Pool" and that is why the "Premier's Pool" has been operating *in camera* and publicity has not been given to it. If members of the Government are not prepared to make their personal sacrifices, if members of the Government can plan and evade the austerity measures, then, Sir, we on this side of the House shall not blame any other person who refuses to make sacrifice or who tries to evade tax.

Mr Deputy Speaker: Order, Order. I think it is too much a statement to make in this House for an hon. Member to declare openly that he would evade tax. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Igugu: I think Sir, the Speaker has misunderstood me. What I said is this: I said that if members of the Government can attempt to evade the austerity measures, what blame have we Members of this House for an outsider who can evade tax? Before we of the Opposition can assist as requested by the Minister, Government should state whether it is prepared to abolish this Pool, if it exists at all. We shall not like anyone to lead us by the nose. We do not support anybody who tries to avoid his own share of contribution, be it financial or otherwise, to the welfare of this Region. So, Government should make a statement on this "Premier's Pool" business.

I have also learned from reliable sources that Government intends to increase tax and that this increase shall be called "Contribution to Development Plan", and shall be collected at the same time as tax. If this statement is true, then it means the lowest tax to be paid in this Region will be increased from £1 17s 6d to any amount the Government will decide. I sincerely appeal to the Government not to contemplate increasing tax or imposing any rate or contribution on the people of this Region at this time of austerity. The prices of cocoa, rubber, timber and other economic products have fallen, while imported goods are getting dearer. If the Government makes the mistake at this time of imposing any form of rate on the people of this Region, and as the people may not be able to pay such extra charges or rates or contributions, the result shall be mass exodus to other Regions of the Federation, and we might lose thereby.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I have earlier praised the Minister of Finance for the able way the Budget has been prepared and, as I have warned earlier, those who shall

[MR IGUGU]

implement the services for which provisions have been made should do so judiciously and without prejudice to any particular area.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Further Debate on the Appropriation Bill adjourned till tomorrow, Tuesday, 10th April, 1962.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until tomorrow morning at 10.00 a.m.

Chief Adeyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

House accordingly adjourned at 10.33 p.m. until tomorrow, Tuesday, 10th April, 1962, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 10TH APRIL, 1962

The House met at 10.15 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Leader of the House and Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m. if necessary.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

The following Motion stood upon the Order Paper against Mr V. I. Amadasun who was not present:—

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR JOE ALLEN WORKERS

"That this honourable House calls on the Management of the firm of J. Allen and company Limited of Nigeria to effect necessary change in the disgraceful condition of the Company's Workshop at Benin or in the alternative, the Company should be advised to leave Benin Area."

CONGRATULATION TO THE HONOURABLE PREMIER

Adjourned debate on the Question (3rd April)—

"That this honourable House congratulates the hon. Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola for the successful completion of his 1961 Economic Mission to Europe, the Middle East and America and affirms its belief that the activities and achievements of the Mission will enhance the progress and prosperity, welfare and development of the people of the Western Region in particular and further the progress of Nigeria as a nation generally"

Question again proposed.

Mr. A. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, all of us on this side of this honourable House are always prepared to see good in anything properly done. We are

fully prepared, too, to congratulate the Premier at the appropriate time and not when it is unnecessary and uncalled for. But this Motion, Sir, is premature in that the proper Motion would have been to welcome the Premier back home from his economic tour and he would only be due for congratulation when we shall have been told of the outcome of his economic tour.

Here we are this morning, Mr Speaker, being supplied with copies of the Report of the Goodwill and Economic Mission led by Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola, Premier of the Western Region, to Western and Southern Europe, the Middle East, United States of America and Canada. As we have received it this morning, Sir, you can imagine what time we have got to read of to have been informed of the outcome of his economic tour! Therefore, Sir, I am moving that the Motion should be amended to read: "To welcome the Premier back home and to give him due congratulations when the House shall have been fully told of the possible yield as a result of the outcome of his Economic Mission".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr Speaker: For the information of the hon. Member, the report was not distributed this morning. It was distributed yesterday and, maybe, it got to you this morning. Perhaps you were not here yesterday morning. (*Interruptions*). I beg your pardon. If you got the report this morning that does not mean that it was sent to you this morning.

Mr Olusa: I got the report yesterday. Mr Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members walk about with their eyes closed. (*Interruptions*). You are expected to get your papers in your pigeon-hole.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North-West): We got it only this morning.

Mr Olusa: The hon. Member for Okitipupa is telling a lie. (*Shouts of "withdraw, withdraw" from Opposition Benches*).

The hon. Member for Okitipupa called me a liar.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member for Okitipupa did not say so. You said so, and please withdraw it. (*Shouts of "withdraw, withdraw" from Opposition Benches*).

Mr Olusa: I was reporting that the hon. Member for Okitipupa said that I told a lie, and I was asking him to withdraw it.

Mr Omokowajo: You are now lying against a Member of this House. (*Interruptions from both sides of the House*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Will the hon. Member, Mr Olusa, who retaliated by saying that the hon. Gentleman was also telling lies please withdraw that statement.

Mr Olusa: Mr Speaker, Sir, in obedience to your ruling, I am withdrawing it. (*Shouts of "shame, shame" from Opposition Benches.*)

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman from Okitipupa please withdraw his own statement that the hon. Gentleman, Mr Olusa, was telling lies. Will you please get up and withdraw.

Mr Omokowajo: Mr Speaker, I withdraw. (*Shouts of "shame, shame" from Government Benches.*)

Before I start with my speech I will talk on the Mover of the Motion himself. No man ever became great all at once. I think the Mover of this Motion brought it out because perhaps he wants something from the hon. Premier.

Mr Speaker: That is a motive and please do not impute motives of that nature.

Mr Omokowajo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. This Motion should not come out at this time at all and, in opposing it, Sir, I would wish to bring out these points.

According to one of the speakers from this side of the House, I am saying that no reasonable gentleman can read this report in twenty-four hours and grasp all that the Premier and his team did overseas. Even if this report was distributed yesterday, I can say that I was here last night and the report was not given to any Member. Even I went to my pigeon-hole and I couldn't get the report. So I feel, Sir, that even if we are going to debate this Motion, we should be given sufficient time. I am saying that the report is so voluminous that no reasonable gentleman can read and grasp the contents in less than forty-eight hours.

The Mover of this Motion said that this honourable House congratulates the hon. Premier for the successful completion of his tour.....(*interruptions*). Whether you call it "completion" or "complation", you all understand me. (*Laughter*). You just want to congratulate the Premier for his safe arrival from Southern Europe, the Middle East, and the United States of America. Why thanking him for what you have not got? After all, what you are thanking him for is for this report, and that is all. In thanking the Premier hon. Members will wish to know how much the Premier and his

team spent on this economic tour. To get just this paper! I say this, Sir, we all contributed the money. This is a Motion to thank the Premier for distributing these pieces of papers! The Premier has not done anything, and therefore he should not be congratulated for touring with our own money overseas, probably with some people who should not go with him officially.

I feel that if the Mover is a conscientious man and he wants to be grateful to his constituency and to the Western Region, he should withdraw this Motion and then proceed with other things we have in the House.

Mr Speaker, if the hon. Mover of this Motion will please honourably stand up now and withdraw this Motion, I think we shall be grateful to him.

I beg to oppose.

Mr P. V. Okwesa (Aboh East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate myself with the views expressed by Members on this side. It is too premature to congratulate the Premier on the completion of his tour of Europe and America when we have not seen the result of this Economic Mission. And, in fact, this is just a report of the Economic Mission handed over to us less than twenty hours ago! It was given to us at the close of yesterday's meeting, and we had other more important things to think about and to read than going through a piece of paper which was meant to congratulate somebody, the results of whose tour are not yet known. I would ask the Mover of this Motion to withdraw the Motion and file it again after a year. We want to wait to see the results of the Economic Mission. I should not stand up to congratulate somebody when we have not seen what he has achieved.

Perhaps the economic tour to Europe and America is going to achieve nothing; perhaps it will sink us into financial ruin; and yet we stand up to praise him for just embarking on the economic tour, and spending a huge sum of money. I do not know what the Mover of this Motion has at the back of his head at this time. Perhaps he wants to curry favour. He wants to enter the Cabinet of Western Nigeria.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member is going out of order.

Mr Okwesa: What I am saying is that this Motion should not come up now. The Premier does not deserve to be congratulated.

Mr Speaker: Please withdraw the motive.

Mr Okwesa: I have withdrawn. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Speaker, what I am saying is that the Premier does not, at this time, deserve any congratulation. All we need do is to welcome him back from the Economic Mission and then wait to see the results of the Mission. It is when we have seen the results of the Mission and seen how successful the Mission has been that we can congratulate him.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: For the edification of some Members of this House the Motion does not seek to praise or congratulate the Premier for the outcome of the result of the Mission. The important words there are "successful completion". It was completed, and I believe everybody agrees to that; whether it is successful or not is another thing; it is not the result but the completion of the mission. He has gone and has come back; that is all. *(Laughter)*.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr K. S. Y. Momoh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with the Mover of this Motion which reads as follows:

"That this hon. House congratulates the hon. Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola for the successful completion of his 1961 Economic Mission to Europe, the Middle East and America and affirms its belief that the activities and achievements of the Mission will enhance the progress and prosperity, welfare and development of the people of the Western Region in particular and further the progress of Nigeria as a nation generally".

I am reading this text of the Motion, Sir, to show the correction which you have kindly made. The Motion does not seek to congratulate the Premier for the achievements of the Mission. On the contrary, all it seeks is that this House affirms its belief that the activities and achievements of the Mission will enhance the progress and prosperity, welfare and development of the people of the Western Region in particular and further the progress of Nigeria as a nation generally.

I cannot imagine, Sir, any reasonable man who would suggest that we should not have any belief that the achievements of the Mission would be for the benefit of the people of this Region. *(Cheers from Government Benches)*. Anybody, any human-being, would like to feel that when he does a good thing people should appreciate it. Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola is a human-being.

I think it is only fair, Sir, that when he does anything which we consider to be right and proper we should come here and say so. It does not only make him to believe that he is doing the right thing but it will also encourage him to do a similar thing in the future.

It is well known that the standard of living in this country is relatively low. Our national income *per capita* is, on the average, £29 as compared with £300 and above in some of the more advanced countries of the world. The aim of the Regional Government, therefore, is not only to participate in the joint efforts by all Governments of the Federation to increase Nigeria's total national income, but also to adopt such economic measures and policies as would raise productivity and effect as soon as possible a rise in income *per capita* of every citizen of this Region.

Some of the obstacles to the attainment of this noble goal are lack of technical knowledge and skill, limited executive capacity and shortage of capital, all of which are characteristics of underdeveloped countries. With regard to capital, there is a wide gap between the finance and the service of our development programmes. As the hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development informed this House last week, we look forward to assistance from outside sources of over £45 million to help finance the capital requirements in our 1962-68 Development Plan. Also the hon. Minister of Finance stated in this House last week that the extent to which our capital budget 1962-63 will be accomplished will depend largely on how much money he will get by loans from outside sources. The first important task, therefore, is to explore the possibilities of this external assistance to help bridge the gap in our resources if the rate of economic growth envisaged by the Government is to be achieved.

The Government is very much alive to the exciting demand of the present and the future, which is to ensure that the old problems of poverty and unemployment shrink to manageable proportions in the shortest possible period. With this aim in view, the hon. Premier led an economic mission to overseas countries during the latter part of last year, in order to publicise the needs of the Federation in general and those of Western Nigeria in particular, and with a view to interesting overseas investors and industrialists in the aspirations

[MR MOMOH]

of the people of this country. It was also the aim of the Mission to seek economic and technical assistance from friendly democratic countries, not only in developing the Region's vast potentialities in physical wealth and human resources, but also in tackling the economic-educational and social problems of the Region. All these call for urgent solution in order to raise, as speedily as possible, the level of living of the Region as a whole.

The Mission explored various possibilities of expanding our external trade and of finding new markets for our primary products, especially cocoa, the prices of which have fluctuated widely in the world market, particularly during the last couple of years.

As a result of the Premier's overseas tour, trade and economic missions from the United States, Canada and Sweden—to mention a few—have visited this Region. Negotiations are progressing satisfactorily. *(Cheers from Government Benches)*.

Mr P. V. Okwesa: Is he making a Ministerial statement? He should speak on the Motion and not read something that appears to be a Ministerial statement.

Mr D. K. Olumofin: The hon. Minister of Trade and Industry, I observe, is refreshing his memory. I think the person who is citing the Standing Order has read Order 27 (1) out of context. He only read one part of it and did not read the other part. Perhaps he does not understand it. The hon. Minister is merely refreshing his memory.

Mr Speaker: I rule that the hon. Gentleman is not making a Ministerial statement and I also rule that he has only been referring to his notes. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Momoh: There is no doubt, Sir, that certain sections of the Opposition are worried about the facts we are revealing. *(Interruptions)*. The Republic of Western Germany has offered thirty scholarships to the Western Region Government tenable in German institutions in various technical fields for the benefit of students and trainees from this Region. An offer of assistance has also been received from the same source in connection with the University of Ife.

The Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia has indicated its willingness to establish industrial projects in the Western Region and to provide training facilities for Nigerians. Furthermore, negotiations are continuing

with various other interests with whom contact has been established during the tour.

By all these, Sir, one might wish to draw some contrast between the assurance we now have as a result of this Economic Mission and the results we have seen as a result of similar missions by certain other Premiers sometime last year. When, Mr Speaker, a certain Premier returned from his Economic Mission he told the world that he had got some £10 million. He was not speaking from his own conviction, knowing that that was not true. What he did in order to divert the attention of the public from discovering the untruth was that he went to certain parts of the Region and incited people to disorder.....*(Interruptions)*. The result is that in that part of the Region people are still, today, suffering as a result of the misguided statements of that man. *(Cheers from Government Benches)*.

From all indications, the Mission was a huge success. The Premier and his party were well received everywhere they went, and anyone who cared to follow intelligently the published reports of the Mission at every stage will, I trust, acknowledge that, in all his public utterances, and in the manner in which he comported himself, the Premier was very careful to demonstrate to the outside world the oneness of this great Federation. *(Cheers from the Government Benches)*. To my mind, this was a fine exhibition of the qualities of an accomplished politician and statesman.

I would like at this point to re-iterate the assurance which His Excellency the Governor gave in his Speech from the Throne at the opening of the current Session of this House, that the financial as well as technical assistance which have been offered by our overseas friends will be utilised to the best advantage of the people of Nigeria in general, and of the citizens of the Western Region in particular. Soon, the full fruits of the Premier's labour will be reaped abundantly by all sections of our community. *(Cheers from Government Benches)*. He and his entire party on the Mission deserve to be congratulated on a task well done.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to rise to support this Motion. I am very grateful that Mr Speaker has been able to remove the misgivings and utter ignorance exhibited by Members on the opposite Benches in not being able to

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understand the simple English used in this respect. The only thing I want to add is that the NCNC Opposition—(Interruptions)—complained that they did not receive their copies of the report of the Economic Mission—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that to say that copies of this Report were not distributed yesterday or were not received by the Opposition Members yesterday—(Interruption)—proves the ignorance of the Members opposite.

Mr A. Atohengbe: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is out of order to refer to hon. Members as ignorant.

Mr Speaker: To be ignorant of something is not an insult, but to call a person an ignoramus is an insult. (Laughter.)

Mr Olumofin: I thank you Mr Speaker, Sir, for putting the Members opposite right. They always raise pointless points of order.

What I was about to say was that the fact that all the NCNC Members said that they did not receive their copies of this report which were distributed yesterday is a conspiracy of oversight; they had a motive behind it and I would like to say this, that when—(Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Point of information. The hon. Member, Mr Okwesa, had clarified that point. He made it abundantly clear that copies were distributed yesterday.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Speaker, Sir, I was present at yesterday's night sitting.

Mr Speaker: Your presence notwithstanding, Mr Okwesa has cleared the air.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Speaker, Sir, Mr Okwesa has no right to speak for me, Sir.

Mr Olumofin: I think that the Opposition fears the revelation I am about to make. What I wanted to say is that when the Premier of Eastern Nigeria went on an economic mission he was given a formal welcome and congratulated in Benin City by Mr Okwesa and Company even when he had not reached his headquarters. So I see nothing wrong in the Motion as read by the hon. the Minister of Trade and Industry which is lucid enough, precise enough, and is understandable enough. Those who do not understand this should go back to school and try to understand English. What the Opposition should have told us is that they do not want the activities and achievements of the Mission to enhance the

progress and prosperity, welfare and development of the people of the Western Region in particular, and the progress of Nigeria as a whole.

Now, when a certain Premier went on a globe-trotting tour, what he did there was to emphasise regionalism, by repeating "My Region, my Region". The hon. Premier of this Region is singularly nationalistic for when he was there he was speaking of Nigeria as one Nation. He made no mention of the Western Region of Nigeria, but a certain Premier merely mentioned "the region, the region" without relating it to Nigeria. I think it is disgraceful that the Opposition Members must be afraid of hearing, or rather must be disturbed to hear, that we are congratulating our Premier on his successful Mission, on the successful completion of his Mission. What I want to say now, Sir, is that the Members of the Opposition have read the Motion upside down. They are always like that.

I beg to support, Mr Speaker.

Mr W. Aghahowa (Benin South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion. In doing so I want this honourable House to deprecate the action of the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, for going on his 1961 Economic Mission to Europe, without the approval of the House.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Is the hon. Member giving notice of a Counter-Motion or of an amendment to the Motion?

Mr Aghahowa: No, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member continue his speech.

Mr Aghahowa: The point I am raising is that ever before he left for his Economic Mission he ought to have received a mandate on the floor of this House or a Motion allowing him to go and an Opposition Member ought to have been included in that Mission because we are all nation-builders. Whatever benefits come out of the mission is all meant for the electorates of this Region irrespective of political ties. If an Opposition Member had been included, the Report of that Mission ought to have been received earlier, than now. It was only yesterday, as said earlier, that the Report was received when, in fact, the Premier arrived on the 10th of November, last year.

Mr Speaker, Sir, since the arrival of the Premier school fees in the Region had gone up by 75 per cent and the main economic cash crop which this Region has been pursuing relentlessly has been falling in the world

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market; wherein lies the achievements of the so-called Economic Mission to Europe or other parts of the world? It is nothing short of globe-trotting. In the Report we were not told what was actually spent on the Mission. This in fact ought to have been included in the Report, although, unfortunately, we have not read it. For I know, Sir, that when the hon. Premier of Eastern Nigeria, Dr M. I. Okpara, went on a similar Mission last year it was immediately that we all heard of various agencies in the world coming to the aid of Eastern Region; but since the arrival of the hon. Premier of Western Nigeria we have heard nothing. Wherein lie the achievements of the so-called Economic Mission to Europe and America? With these observations I condemn or rather discard the Mission as an unholy Mission because it received no approval of this House. (*Laughter from Opposition Benches.*)

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Opposition has led us to the drama of a man who is properly married and who, on any occasion he is to kiss his wife, must get permission from his younger brother. How that can ever be done in this world I do not know. The Premier is the head of this Government and he does not require the approval of the Legislature before he can decide to tour the Midwest or go to London or go all over the world in aid of economic assistance. (*Cheers*) (*Interruptions*).

As I was saying, Sir, before I was interrupted by the Members on the Other Side of the House, what the hon. Premier and his colleagues (and I happen to be one of them) who went with him on that occasion did was to try and find out what help was forthcoming in order to advance the interests and the welfare of our people in this Region. The Premier does not require legislative sanction before he or any Minister goes on an Economic Mission. But it is only right that, when that Mission returns to the country, the Report should be made available to hon. Members of the House so that they themselves can see whether the Mission was successful or not; and this is exactly what has been done. As has been rightly pointed out by the hon. the Minister of Trade and Industry, what we are saying is that the House should welcome the Premier for the successful completion of his 1961 Economic Mission and to affirm our belief that what has happened in that Mission will contribute to the advancement and the economic progress of this Region. What is wrong in that? We have

not said that the Premier should be congratulated for the achievements of the Economic Mission; this is a matter for the future. And as a matter of fact, we have already started to reap the achievements of the Mission. (*Cheers*).

A big industrialist in Athens promised to come here to investigate the possibility of establishing a textile mill because most of the textiles used in Nigeria come from Japan. (*Interruptions*). The Industrial Promotions Commission is handling all these requests. Surely these are the requests which should not come to the floor of this House for Members to haggle over. Business contacts are not done in a forum like this. There must be a sort of secrecy and investigation before people can come out with their capital. Secondly, one of the States of the Federal German Republic gave scholarships to this Region, ten technical education scholarships and five University scholarships. Not only that; the Minister of Trade and Industry also read to you the proposal of the Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia to come and establish some industries here. I think, Sir, that what the Members of the Opposition need do in a case like this is that, at least for once to congratulate the Premier (*Interruptions*). What is wrong in extending courtesy to the Premier? What is wrong in that?

Your Leader of the Opposition, as I am speaking this morning, is in London, while the business of the House is being transacted here. (*Cries of "Shame, shame" from Government Benches*). If he comes back and says that while he was in London such and such were some points that were placed before him, we will not ask why he has gone there. We will not ask him that. Surely, even travel alone is itself a form of education. The trouble with people on the other side of the House is that they do not travel; the only place they travel is from the Midwest to Ibadan to collect their allowances, sit two or three days in the House and, when the proceedings of the House are getting rather protracted, to slip off; the result is that, out of a total number of about thirty, those here are the remaining ones (*Hear, hear*). (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, one experience which I have gained from some people who have been hit very badly by austerity is that they always wax strong in eloquence; they talk, talk, and talk, because they are so worried about these austerity measures that they cannot even allow me to finish my speech.

Be that as it may be, Sir, I think that there is nothing controversial about this Motion. I think, Sir, that if the Motion is passed it

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

will only encourage those who are risking their lives flying over the world trying to get something for the Western Region. It is not a pleasure to have to spend in a year a total of about three months outside Nigeria, trying to see what you can get to help the country. When you fly, you hold your life in your hand; when you are over the air, you do not even know whether you will arrive safely or not. I think, Sir, that, even for that alone, purely from the humanitarian point of view— isn't that a sufficient reason for you to say "Welcome, Mr Premier?"

On the other hand, you can see what the hon. Members on the other side are saying. When you are still alive and you undertake these tours, and you come back, they won't say welcome. If any one of us had gone on that tour and had failed to come back safe and sound, then when Mr Speaker says "We beg to announce with deep regret the death of Mr. so-so-and-so", they will join other Members of the House to rise for five minutes, and say "May his soul rest in peace". Incidentally our souls are not yet resting in peace—(Laughter)—so that, in any event, whether they like it or not, we have gone and come back safe, and if they don't welcome us, we say thanks to God that we are back safe and sound. (Cheers).

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs (Mr J. L. Adeniran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion and, in doing so, Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Premier and his colleagues for the successful completion of their tour. I think the Members of the Opposition have now understood that the purpose of this Motion is to congratulate the Premier and his colleagues for the successful completion of the tour and to affirm our belief that the tour will bring prosperity and happiness to the people of this Region (Cheers).

Mr Speaker, Sir, one hon. Member on the Opposition side mentioned that the Premier did not get the mandate of this House before he went on the Economic Mission. I say, Sir, that this is wrong, because he has failed to understand the handwriting on the wall. The Premier is the Head of the Government of this Region and he is having the majority of the people of this Region behind him and the majority of the people of this Region know much about the tour and they sent him there and they welcomed him.

(An hon. Member: Your master told us that—it is the same old story).

Mr Speaker Sir, one hon. Member said that he would move a Motion that only this side of the House will congratulate the Premier for his Economic tour. Another Member, Sir, said that they would want to know how much the tour cost the Government. Well, Sir, this is not the thing we should fight about, because this is not the first Mission sent out by any Government of the Federation, and Members of the Opposition will reap daily the benefits of this Economic Mission.

Government will continue to send goodwill missions abroad. The Members of the Opposition were anxious to know the result of the Mission. I say, Sir, that the result will not come at once in a day. The result will not come altogether in a year and not even in ten years' time. (Interruptions)—(shame, shame).

I will remind you that the Economic Mission which hon. Obafemi Awolowo undertook in 1952 resulted in all the development projects we are having in this Region now. The result of the Economic Mission of 1952 has brought us a great deal of prosperity and happiness. The Economic Mission which the hon. Premier has undertaken last year will equally bring prosperity to this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, the old adage says "Honour to whom honour is due". In like manner, I rise to give congratulations to whom congratulations are mightily due. One does not need to be told of the ponderous duties that befall the day-to-day life of the Premier of any Government. That there exists a man who can carry these onerous duties with the greatest effect and is able, over and above this, to make time to go on an Economic Mission abroad is the first reason I have for urging this House to pay congratulations to whom congratulations are specially due.

The Premier of this Region and also his worthy predecessors are well-known for being men of action. Mr Speaker, Chief Akintola, is not one who would go on a tour merely for the purpose of breezing all over the place. Chief Akintola has gone on a tour—on a planned tour—with specific objectives. It is a business tour that he has undertaken. It is not a holiday as all who accompanied him will testify and as his achievements will

[OBA AKRAN]

testify much more loudly still. For the business-like way in which he has accomplished the tour, I urge the House that it is our noble duty to congratulate this man, for here is one who can truly be said to have sacrificed himself for the glorification of the Region he serves.

Mr Speaker, the achievements of a tour such as the Premier had undertaken are items that manifest themselves more and more as the years go by. As economists say, the yield from a particular investment is both direct and indirect; in particular cases, the magnitude of the indirect benefits may entirely outweigh the economic effects of the direct and more immediate ones. This is not mere theorising. In like manner, there is no doubt that the magnitude of the achievements of this tour will become more and more apparent as the days go by. The praises we sing today will be nothing compared with what future generations will say.

I will, however, recount a few of the more immediate benefits. Firstly, much more than all the newspapers in the country can do, Chief Akintola has placed Western Nigeria permanently on the map of the world. This in itself, to those who appreciate the value of publicity, is a tremendous achievement. Secondly, I am in a position to say that the tour has had a tremendous effect on the vital issue of the attraction of industrialists and investors into the country. Active negotiations are at the moment going on between potential investors and the Industrial Promotions Commission. We on this side are not in the habit of counting our chickens before they are hatched, even though in this case discussions have progressed almost to the point of finalisation.

Mr Speaker, another important achievement is that the Premier has brought back firm offers of credit facilities in respect of an appreciable proportion of capital equipment which this Region might need, and inquiries are still coming in from several foreign financial houses. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Plan which I present to this House the other day has to a very large extent in its broad outlines been effectively sold to foreign governments, international agencies, and the foreign private business world. And I ask, what else would hon. members require of the man at the helm of Government? He has gone to the world telling the world who and what we are and what our aspirations for the future are. On the other hand, he has brought back to us from the world concrete offers of further help and a climate of international friendliness

and goodwill. Mr Speaker, Sir, let us congratulate this worthy son of Nigeria, the hon. S. L. Akintola, Premier of Western Nigeria. (*Cheers*).

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Sitting suspended at 11.15 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.18 p.m.

1962-63 APPROPRIATION BILL SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (4th April)—

“That the Bill be read a Second time”.

Question again proposed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr J. O. Odigie): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with my colleagues who praised the Minister of Finance for introducing the present Budget. Before going into detail, I have to congratulate the Western Government for all that it has been able to do within this short space. The Government, in comparison with the other Governments of the Federation, stands out prominently in its economic policy.

Turning to the Estimates, it will be seen that this Government has provided for nearly all the needs of the people of this Region. But for our people on the other side if the House to be fully aware of Government activities, I would urge this Government to devise a means whereby most of them will be taken round to study the work already done by this Government. I may say without fear of contradiction that most of the Opposition Members have not known even all the Ministries within Ibadan. They have not taken the trouble to go round the Ministries, to study the work of the Ministries, to study the economic planning, and to study the work of every member of the civil service. It is also necessary, Mr Speaker, Sir, that these men be taken round to visit the farm projects of this Government, to visit all the agricultural enterprises and, in addition to this, they should be taken to the East to see what the Eastern Government has been able to do so that they may be able to compare.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I happen to have toured extensively in the Eastern Region. I discovered that the people of the Eastern Region would ever pray to belong to the Western Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, this can be seen from day to day when you stand at the cable point at Asaba. Although the NCNC have accused the Western Region Government of nepotism, yet if you

[MR ODIGIE]

stand at the cable point at Asaba on Monday morning at 8.30 you will see people from the Eastern Region coming to admire the Western Region free primary schools. Mr Speaker, Sir, not only that. If you stand at the cable point at Asaba, you will even be astonished to notice that the ordinary firewood of the Western Region is sold in the East; cassava, bitter leaves and nearly every article of the West is shipped from the West for the maintenance of the people of the East. So it is a very good thing for Members of the Opposition to belong to this rich Government, and it is useless for them to criticise Government's policies, because such policies can never be found anywhere in the Federation.

Well, Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to thank this Government for all that have been done for Ishan. Everybody knows, as is apparent in this House, that Ishan people in the pre-British Government days suffered a lot, mostly for lack of good water. Well, nearly every corner of Ishan is now supplied with pipe-borne water. The old adage has been that Ishans were the best in the whole of the country. We were being displaced by guineaworm but, now that pipe-borne water has spread over Ishan, well, guineaworm is unknown.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will have to praise the Government for all that have been done for Ishan; yet much is left which must be done. My own constituency, that is Ishan South-East, has not yet benefited from the pipe-borne water. It happened that we are under Stage Three, and this Government should make necessary efforts to continue so that my people may benefit from the amenities.

It has been said by the NCNC in Ishan that all the amenities have been centred in certain parts of Ishan. Well, we really cannot blame Government for this, for any amenity provided is provided on a divisional basis. It is unfortunate that my constituency being remote from Trunk A, has not been benefited. I am aware and I am sure that this Government will never, never leave Ishan Trunk B unattended to.

Well, Mr Speaker, according to the doctrine of collective responsibility, I congratulate this Government for its austerity measure. Well, I am even happy that the act has gone far. The House has not only called on the Members of the House but, according to the Bill passed yesterday, property owners, tax evaders have been brought in and everybody must have to contribute to the course of progress.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have, in addition to congratulate the Police Authorities for the vigilance they exercised in putting down the disturbances in Ishan. NCNC thugs and NCNC supporters are taking the law into their hands but, due to the vigilance of the police, due to their efforts, they have been able to quell all the evil intentions and all the evil activities of the NCNC.

Well, Mr Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Action Group Government for its doctrine of democratic socialism. Well, when this is in full practice, Mr Speaker, everyone will envy, as at present, the Western Region Government because it is the Government that initiates any good thing. Whatever good intention this Government has, it must be criticised by the Opposition Bench while they come to copy afterwards. See the television, first in Africa. The NCNC has vehemently criticised this Government for introducing television in this Region, but what happened now? Mr Speaker, all the other Governments of the Federation have followed suit. That shows the Action Group to be leading and will always lead all the other Governments of the Federation.

Well, Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want to take up the time of this House, but I would urge this Government to pay more attention to what I may call the propensity of firm directors in this country. The Government too must have to pay attention to see that monopoly does not exist in this country. It is an open secret, Mr Speaker, Sir, that there are some people in this country who are indulging in profiteering. It will be appalling to see that articles produced locally have higher prices than those imported. When one studies this it will be discovered that it is the local profiteers that have been sucking the wage earners. Take for example the matter of Star Beer—this is a home-made product. It is appalling that the price of Star Beer should be rocketing higher than other imported beer. It has been given to understand that some agents in this country insist on 6d per bottle of beer sold in this country, and I would want that Government should investigate this.

Sir, I have to thank the Minister of Finance for introducing taxation on property. I know of some contractors in this country who for a week would spend over £40 on girl-friends. If that contract is not good, he would not be able to spend such a high amount on love-making. Well, it is the intention of this Government, as I see that all these avenues are barred for the good of this Region.

[MR ODIGIE]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like it to be on record that encouragement should be given to companies and associations formed by indigenous people of this country. Although we have no *locum standi* on matters of companies and the sorts, yet this Government can advise the Federal Government to see to it that more organisations spring up in this country; it should see to it that our youths, instead of roaming the streets without jobs to do, are drafted into these firms, the question of unemployment will be lessened.

The agricultural policy of this Government has been such that the amount being spent is so high. When we talk of agriculture, agriculture should not entirely be left in the hands of the Government. Private individuals should be encouraged; private farmers should be encouraged to pursue agriculture in all ramifications. Village industries should be encouraged; men who are not educated should be taught how to make use of their hands. It is appalling to note that even in the Midwest which we call a rubber-producing area, only Ibos are available for tapping rubber trees there. You can hardly get a Midwesterner to go out in the morning to go on tapping. That is a big economic shame. Well, my Friends on the other side of the House will bear me out that even in their own plantations, there is no Midwestern rubber tapper. Our youths are so lazy that everything is left to Ibo labourers to dictate the terms economically for us.

Mr Speaker: Western Ibo?

Mr Odigie: If this is not checked, Mr Speaker, you will wake up one morning to find that Ibos from the other side of the Niger have swept us over economically. Not only that Sir, something must be done to safeguard the propensity of leasing our lands to the people from the other side of the Niger. Over 25 per cent of the land in Benin are in the hands of Easterners due to lack of any foresight. It is true that if you go into Benin you can hardly find a Benin man embarking upon what I may call traditional farming and agriculture. It is said by Longman that if by the driver you will thrive, you must either roll or drive.

It is also to be noted that most of the yams and most articles of foodstuff are taken to Benin from Ilorin. We cannot come to this House and deceive the people. It is our duty to transplant in our people the idea of hard labour. If you would live as a citizen of this country, you must have to make use

of your hands. We cannot expect Government to do everything for us. We must have to organise, we must work ourselves and only ask Government to give us aid after we have commenced. We cannot fold our hands as is the case with our other Friends on the other side of the House.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, this country is merely in the hands of Africans within a very few years. If you compare what has been done with what is now done, then we have to congratulate ourselves. When we were being ruled by Europeans, no one would go to a Resident and say that "my road is not tarred" or that "my street is not swept." Who will do that? Most of our own fathers had to work in those days without a penny. Most of them had to serve without pay. Most of them had contributed to the life of the administration without remuneration. But now, when things are in the hands of Africans, you are appointed to Boards and are duly paid for your trouble. When you are made a Member of the House, you receive your pay; when you are employed, you receive a fat salary. Are we not happy over such conditions? We should congratulate ourselves for having achieved much within so short a time since our independence. That is why we do not want to go back to the Midwest. The question of Midwest is not the question you are to bring to the floor of this House. I have at last to register my deep appreciation and to conclude that the good example shown by this Government must be followed by other Governments of the Federation.

With this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Bill. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. May I remind hon. Members that Debate on Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill should only be centred on the economic policy of the Government, which has nothing to do with the Estimates and which should therefore not be debated. Therefore, those Members who unfortunately hadn't the time to speak on the Motion on the Speech from the Throne should kindly not utilise this particular opportunity for making a speech on that Motion. I shall be strict on this point. (*Cheers*).

Mr D. O. Orowole (Iwo West II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill, which has been carefully prepared and presented before this honourable House by the Minister of Finance, Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi. Mr Speaker, in going through the copy of the Estimates one sees that certain sums of money have already been voted for

[MR OROWOLE]

the services of the Western Region. We hon. Members of both sides of this House must have to congratulate the efforts of the Minister of Finance for the time devoted to preparing the Estimates, a copy of which had been distributed to every one of us. I personally congratulate the efforts of the Minister of Finance and, if I am permitted by the hon. Members of this House, I can say Sir, that our Minister of Finance is second to none throughout the Federation, and as such Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like Members of this House to take note that our hon. Minister of Finance is praiseworthy.

As time goes on, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources the question of starting the Farm Settlement Scheme, which has already been proposed, to meet the needs of Iwo people. This should be done early, for it is this very Government that had promised the people of my constituency, and there was never a time that this Government made promises without fulfilling them. Moreover, that is why people always say that whatever is done by the Western Government is always the best throughout West Africa.

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to seize this very opportunity to draw the attention of the Minister of Education with regard to the need of the people of Iwo. Iwo is one of the thickly populated towns in Nigeria in which we have so many boys and girls attending primary schools. Mr Speaker, Sir, only boys can get secondary schools to attend after their primary education. None of our girls at Iwo can get any secondary school to attend as is done in other places. Very long ago, Iwo District Council had been calling upon this Government to open a Secondary Girls School for the use of our girls.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Iwo District had been in need of water supply for two or three of its Districts, such as Agberire, Ogbagba, and Ikire Ile, all in Iwo District. If this is done, it will be of great honour to this Government. Moreover, the people of my constituency realise the past assistance given by the Government of Western Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: I very much like to transfer holiness to the Members of the Opposition. (*Cheers*).

Mr Speaker: You don't want to transfer; you rather want to extend it. (*Cheers*).

Alhaji Opaleye: I am an Alhaji and many of the Members there had never been to Jerusalem.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the bundles of criticisms levelled on this year's Budget by most of my Friends opposite arise from the mistaken notion that this Region relies mainly on subventions from the Federal Government in order to survive and to expand. Some also hold the view that this Government cannot balance her Budget. But there we are; this is a balanced Budget. I wonder why the Opposition failed to share the optimism of the dynamic hon. Minister of Finance? I heartily congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for his balanced Budget.

It is my humble opinion, Sir, that the Opposition has laboured under a total misconception of the nature of the allocation of revenue among the co-ordinating units of the Federation of Nigeria. The Government only takes her own statutory revenue from the Federal Government, as do other Regional Governments. After all, the Federal Government revenue belongs to all of us and we are part and parcel of the Federal Government. Our finances have been dependent upon our own resources in the main, whilst we had shared with other Regions whatever distributive grants are available from the Federal Government which also had her own share.

I respectfully request this honourable House to support the Motion of the hon. Minister of Finance for four main reasons. First, that our revenue from internal sources demonstrates a sign of healthy growth judged by an overall increase in sources and volume. Secondly, that our revenue from external sources has improved considerably judging from an overall increase in sources and volume. Thirdly, that our draft estimate of revenue is not only the most balanced but also the highest of the three Regional Governments in the Federation, and the sources and volume compare favourably with those of Northern and Eastern Regions. Fourthly, we have shown originality in our financial and economic policy plus austerity, to the extent that other Regions have had to follow our example.

It will be acceptable at this stage, Sir, to define my terms. By internal sources of revenue I mean, and I should be understood to mean, revenue which is derived under the laws of Western Nigeria, and from the following heads of our Estimates of revenue:—

- (1) Licences and Internal revenue;
- (2) Tax under Regional Laws;
- (3) Fees of Court and Offices, etc.;

[ALHAJI OPALBYE]

(4) Earnings of Government Departments and revenue from Government Property.

(5) Rent on Government Property;

(6) Interest;

(7) Reimbursements;

(8) Miscellaneous.

By external sources of revenue, I mean revenue which is derived from a statutory share of Federal Government taxes in the form of export duty and sales taxes on Produce and Customs and Excise. It includes payment from the Federal Government, excluding rent and reimbursement. By draft Estimates of revenue I mean Recurrent Budget, as distinguished from Capital Budget.

I am placing more emphasis on the Recurrent Budget because the real income of any country depends mainly on its earning capacity, and on its ability to balance its Budget by imposing taxes and using other available sources of revenue to maintain liquid assets as distinct from Loans and Reserve-Funds which are usually frozen assets for special capital expenditure.

My first proposition, Mr Speaker, Sir, is to the effect that our revenue from internal sources demonstrates a sign of healthy growth judged by overall increase in sources and volume.

According to our estimate of revenue, the sum of £13.9 million—and this is about 63.7 per cent of our estimate revenue—will be derived from purely Regional internal sources as follows:

Personal Income Tax.—£1,500,000 and last year it was £305,000; this is an increase of over £1 million this year.

Export Duty and Sales and Tax on Produce and Motor Fuel.—£8.9 million.

Licences and Internal Revenue.—£1.3 million, whereas last year it was £764,010 an increase of £278,330.

Fees of Courts and Offices, etc.—£490,600 as against £411,540, an increase of £79,060.

Earnings of Government Departments and Revenue from Government property.—£440,120 as against £277,890 last year, an increase of £162,230.

Rent on Government Property.—£141,500 as against £119,560 last year, an increase of £21,940.

Interest.—£200,000.

Reimbursements.—£1,144,640.

Miscellaneous.—£48,610.

From the above facts and figures, hon. Members will see that our estimated Regional internal revenue demonstrates healthy growth judged by overall increase in sources and volume. For example, our total regional internal revenue this year is £13.9 million, while, last year, it was £13.1 million, an increase of £717,220. This is really a very healthy growth in our revenue. When this is compared with other Regions—for instance, the Eastern Region, which mainly depends on the statutory shares from the Federal Government, had only £6,922,400 as internal revenue, compared with the internal revenue of the Western Nigeria Government which is £13.9 million—you will quite agree with me that the internal revenue of the Eastern Region is only 50 per cent of the internal revenue of the Western Region.

My second proposition is that our revenue from external sources has improved considerably judged by an overall increase in sources and volume. According to our current Budget, we will derive £8.5 million, that is 36.3 per cent of our revenue from external sources in the form of—

(1) *Excise Duty on Tobacco.*—£2.15 million. It was £1.4 million last year. This gives an increase of £469,470.

(2) *Import Duty on Tobacco.*—£1.002.

(3) *Mining Royalties and Rents.*—£1.4 million. It was £965,100 last year, an increase of £361,100.

(4) *Grant from Distributive Pool.*—£4.01 million. It was £3.4 million, an increase of £542,100.

(5) *Excise Duty Mineral Waters.*—£14,400;

and, totally, this Region will get £8.5 million as regional revenue compared with last year's external revenue of £7.3 million, an increase this year of £1.2 million. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I fully agree with the hon. Minister of Finance when he said—with your permission, I quote—

“The theme of economy and sacrifice runs through the new year, for we believe that it is by Government taking the lead and giving practical demonstration of the new spirit of the times that it can be expected to pervade and permeate all sectors of the entire community.”

My third proposition is that our Draft Estimate of Revenue is not only the highest of the three Regional Governments in the Federation but our sources and volume of revenue compared favourably with those of the Northern and Eastern Regions. For

[ALHAJI OPALEYE]

example, Sir the Estimated Revenue of the Western Region is £22.3 million, while the Estimated Revenue of the Eastern Region is only £18.3 million. This amount is £4.02 million short of this government's Estimated Revenue. Indeed, the increases in our revenue should make us very proud, instead of being apprehensive and apologetic.

My fourth proposition is that the Government has shown originality and healthy sacrifice in its economic and financial policy to the extent that other Regions have had to follow our worthy examples.

This Government established profit-making Corporations and Boards out of her own initiative and originality. The Eastern and Northern Governments copied us. We started the Farm Settlement Scheme; the Eastern and Northern Governments sent their senior officials down to us here to copy and learn our methods and schemes. We sent farmers on economic and educational Missions to Europe and America. Other Governments did the same. In other words, like *Taiwo* and *Kehinde* where the Government of the Western Region goes; there the Governments of the Eastern and Northern Regions go also. I can assure my Friends opposite, who are standard bearers of the Government Party in the East, that we welcome healthy rivalry. But they must be honest enough to give credit where it is due.

I have placed sufficient facts at the disposal of hon. Members opposite for them to appreciate the favourable position of our current Budget Estimates. I hope, Sir, that the Members on the Opposition Bench who had been ungenerous in their criticisms will have second thoughts, now that they have the privilege to probe more deeply into the public finances of the other Regions of the Federation.

In fact, it is perfectly certain that by 31st March, 1963, the position of the General Revenue Balances and Reserves of the various Regional Governments will find the Western Region on top. The Western Region will have a general Revenue Balance of £5.4 million, while the other Regional Governments Revenue Balances are obviously less than ours.

Finally, may I say that the future of our finances is bright. There is good ground for optimism.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the views of the hon. Minister of Finance when he said:

"Honourable Members and the community in general might have been wondering why Government introduced these measures at this time. Before I proceed to explain the circumstances, let me hasten to dispel the false and malicious rumours no doubt fabricated by the ill-disposed and uninformed, that the measures were introduced because the Government is in financial difficulties and were at their wit's end. This is of course absolutely untrue and unfounded....."

Mr Speaker, Sir, our duty to the electorates of this Region is uppermost in our minds.

Several Opposition Members rose—

Mr Okwesa: I think it is I who actually have a point of Order to raise. It is Order No. 27.

Mr Speaker: What is the point of Order?

Mr Okwesa: Order 27, which is against the reading of petitions. I cannot just tell you the amount of evil that is being done in the reading of petitions.

Mr Speaker: There is no petition before the House. *(Laughter).*

Mr Okwesa: When people are being allowed to read like this, there are many—*(Interruptions).*

Mr Speaker: You are ruled out of order. Will the hon. Member please continue. *(Prolonged Interruptions).*

Alhaji Opaleye: This Government made a provision of £2.5 million for agriculture which stands as the backbone of our economy, while education, which is the light of knowledge and welfare of our people, bags £8.8 million—the highest single expenditure when compared with the other Governments of the Federation. The Ministry of Health and Social Services received £2.2 million because this Government realises that health is wealth, whereas in the Eastern Region, in the present estimate for 1962-63, the total amount earmarked for agriculture is only £1.5 million. This is just 50 per cent of what the Government of the Western Region earmarked for similar projects here. Mr Speaker, Sir, you will be happy to note that while this Region makes provision of £8.9 million for education, the Eastern Region provided £7.4 million for education because the whole money has been used in Fernando Po. *(Laughter).*

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have produced facts and figures to prove my proposition that the revenue from internal sources of the Western

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Region demonstrates the sign of healthy growth as is judged by the overall increase in sources and volume. I have proved conclusively the proposition that the revenue which we derive from external sources has improved considerably judged by the overall sources and volume. I have quoted accurate figures to support my contention that our Draft Estimates of revenue are the highest of the three Regional Governments of the Federation and that our sources are better than those of the Eastern and Northern Regions. I have given instances to buttress my last argument that the Government of the Western Region has shown originality in its economic and financial policy to the extent that other Regions have had to follow us. You will be happy to note that for the welfare of people of this Region this Government has earmarked, for roads and bridges, £2.5 million, while Eastern Region had only £1.1 million. (*Interruptions*). You will note, Sir, that for urban water supply, the Western Regional Government earmarks £4.6 million while the Eastern Regional Government had only £1.2 million. I am also happy to note that our total expenditure on urban water supply had an increase of £3.4 million over what the Eastern Regional Government earmarked where the NCNC control the Government, and these people are the standard-bearers of that party. (*Opposition Benches: You have no money but figures only*). The fact, Sir, is that the time is overdue, Mr Speaker, when Members of the Opposition in this House will have to study what other Governments of the Federation are doing before they come to this House to criticise us. We are hundred per cent prepared to listen to their criticisms but we are not prepared to follow their destructive criticisms. Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, the facts, Sir, are self-evident and non-controversial. Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr P. V. Okwesa (Aboh East I): Mr Speaker, Sir, before I go on, I should say that this is not a class-room where reading is allowed. (*Laughter*). If the Members of the Government want to learn to read, they should go somewhere else; this is a place to debate and make proper arguments. (*Interruptions*). I do not like to be bored down with reading. If they were good readers, I should not have been worried but the fact that bad pronunciations have continued when Members read makes me worried and sore. (*Laughter and Interruptions*).

Again, before I continue on the Appropriation Bill, actually, I should point out to the

Alhaji who has just spoken that it is not how much Government spends but—(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: It is against the Standing Orders to refer to Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries other than by their respective offices.

Mr Okwesa: I mean the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources. I want to point out that it is not how much a Government budgets or puts down on paper that matters but what the Government actually spends and achieves out of this spending that really matters. You may spend a million pounds on something and may not achieve as much as I may achieve by spending one hundred pounds. (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, a superficial examination of the Budget prepared by the Minister of Finance may mislead one into thinking that all is well with the Government but a close and deeper examination will inevitably reveal certain facts which are fundamental.

One fact which is always indisputable is this policy of discrimination in carrying out all Government plans and development projects. This policy is really an off-shoot of tribalism. There are two factors responsible for the policy of discrimination. But for this policy I would have showered some praise on the Government for achieving something—at least in certain areas. Now, these two factors are: tribalism—there is still tribal sentiment in the minds of Members of the Action Group, with the result that when the Government plans its development programmes, in giving amenities to the Region they have this consideration in their minds: "This is a Yoruba area; this a Mid-west area: this our own area, and we must industrialise it; this is other peoples' area, we must neglect it". I mean, it is about time we eradicated this evil from the minds of the Government of the Region.

(*Government Front Bench: Read on*).

I am not reading. When I want to talk to you, I face the Speaker and talk to the Speaker; I do not refer to my notes like the reading students on that side.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will give you instances and examples to show what I mean by this policy of discrimination.

Last year for example, hon. Members of this House were taken to Ikeja and Agege on a Parliamentary Delegation. I am revealing to you that we the Mid-westerners had to shed tears even though

[MR OKWESA]

on our return you entertained us lavishly. (*Interruptions*). Why do we complain? First of all, I remember that the money which was used for the Housing Estate, for Poultry Farm, for the Dairy Farm, for the Aluminium Products, and for Asbestos Cement Factory, belong to the Midwesterners as well as the Yoruba West equally, and yet it was not considered fit by those who plan industrial projects that when one project is sited in the Yoruba West another should be sited in the Midwest. Now, you may tell me that the conditions for siting these projects were favourable in the Yoruba West, and I say "no." A student of Geography knows very well the factors that led to the localisation of industries. I tell you that the raw materials used in the Asbestos Cement Factories were not obtained at Ikeja or Agege or anywhere in the Yoruba West. Factory resources are available in the Midwest as in the Yoruba West. Ports are also more numerous in the Midwest than in the Yoruba West. Manpower, for that matter, is also available in the Midwest as you have in the Yoruba West, and yet all these industrial projects are sited in the Yoruba West and none was considered fit for the Midwest. This is a policy of discrimination and is an off-shoot of tribalism. Anything that mars—(*Interruptions*.)

Mr B. E. O. Osagie: Point of Order—Order 27 (6): No Member shall impute improper motives. In the statement of the hon. Member, he said "We in the Midwest". I am from the Midwest. That is an improper motive. He should speak personally of himself. (*Interruptions*.)

Mr Speaker: Order, Order: I could infer that the hon. Member, when he says "we", means those on the other side of the House.

Mr Okwesa: Mr Speaker, Sir, the interruption of the hon. Member from Benin has reminded me of the fact that he is a Midwesterner. It has reminded me that when he bought a set last year during the delegation—a set of aluminium wares—and took the set home he was cursed by his children. You know why? His children took him to task because he belonged to a party that could not do anything to his own part of the Region and yet he was happy. The children told him that they thought he bought the sets from overseas, not knowing that these things were made at Ikeja. Then they asked him why these things could not be made in the Midwest Region. (*Laughter and prolonged interruptions*.)

Now, another responsible for this is party politics. The Government considers it fit to give certain specific areas. In the Midwest it is always in the Midwest where their industry is predominant—for example, in Benin is a better and a more developed area than Benin with Ishan which was some unimportant roads in the division, where the Action Group roads have been tarred. (*Interruptions*.)

I hope that when we come to this House we can remind the Government what we like, of what amenities we want in our Division or in our area: all that we want. Now the Government will tell us merely because—(*Interruptions*.)

Mr Speaker: Order, Order: I hope the hon. Gentleman from Okitipupa is not too lonesome. (*Laughter*.)

Mr Okwesa: Now, Sir, the Government will not listen to us merely because we are members of the Action Group Party.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am making another point, and that is that party politics is a factor which contributes to this policy of discrimination. Look at my own district for example—the Ndosimili District in the Division. I told you the other day that one inch of road has been tarred. Who is responsible for this is because that district is predominantly NCNC. (*Interruptions*.) I do not drive my car on water, I drive my car on land. We even have enough water in our area where Government would have developed those industries that are possible where water is obtained. (*Interruptions*.) Mr Speaker, Sir, I ask the Government to use the materials available. My district has been discriminated against in the selection of industries; we have the materials so we want the Government to make use of these materials in our area.

A supporter of the Action Group told me the other day, when I was raising a question about road tarring on the floor of this House that the Government of this Region would not listen to me when I, on the other side of the House, make appeals to the Government for the development of my area, but that when I crossed over to the Action Group, the Government's wishes would be fulfilled. I told him that that was what the Action Group Government of this Region was thinking about, that they must know that it is undemocratic. I told him that even if the Prime Minister of Great Britain wanted to win over the constitu-

[MR OKWESA]

of Labour and Liberal Members of Parliament he would not tell these Members that unless they crossed over to the Government side, their constituencies would not be developed. The Government of Great Britain distributes amenities indiscriminately. (*Interruptions*.) In the East, Sir, the Government, controlled by the NCNC, is trying to show this example for the Government of the Western Region to follow. At the beginning of every financial year, when preparing a development programme, the Eastern Regional Government considers all sections of the Region. It would begin by saying that this year we are going to give this district tarred roads, pipe-borne water supply, electric light, and so on and so forth, until every part of the Region has got its own share of the amenities and development projects. This is exactly what an impartial Government should do. But this Government will only develop—that is if they feel like doing so—areas where they have many supporters, leaving the areas where they have few supporters undeveloped. (*Interruptions*.)

Mr Speaker, Sir, you will remember that I said the other day that democracy is dead in the Western Region. If you do not give us any amenities, we shall continue to bear what treatment you give to the Midwest and start an ideal Government when the Midwest State is created.

Government Bench: Point of Order, Sir; Order 33: Subject to paragraph two of this Standing Order no Member shall be entitled to address the House for more than thirty minutes.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman has in fact stated what the Standing Order says, but will the hon. Gentleman—Mr Okwesa—please continue?

Mr Okwesa: Mr Speaker, Sir, the policy of the Government in the provision of industries, etc., is always based on discrimination and this discrimination, as I have said, is the factor which we must all fight against. (*Interruptions*.) There is one example which I have in mind now, and this is that there is discrimination in the award of contracts. Invariably, when contractors apply to the Government for Government contracts, the first consideration is whether the contractor is a Midwesterner or a Yoruba person. (*Interruptions*.) Well, if he is a Midwesterner, he is sure to lose the contract, but if he is a Yoruba man, he is certain to get it. (*Interruptions*.) The same thing happens when people of different party connections apply

for contract. If two people—one a member of the NCNC and the other a member of the Action Group—apply for contracts, the Action Grouper will surely get it, no matter whether the NCNCer is more qualified for the award. I believe that there is something behind this; I think it is not unconnected with the decisions taken by the Action Group in their inner circles that contractors who are awarded contracts should contribute 10 per cent of the award each of them gets to the coffers of the party.

Mr Speaker: I think that what happens in the Midwest also may happen in the Yoruba West. (*Interruptions*.)

Mr Okwesa: Mr Speaker, there is yet another point: if an Action Group-controlled Council is reported to be going wrong, perhaps to be rife in bribery and corruptions, the Government ignores the report. (*Interruptions*.)

Mr Speaker: This is out of order. It has nothing to do with Estimates. (*Shame, shame*.)

Mr Okwesa: I now come to your agricultural policy. Mr Speaker, Sir, here again, there is discrimination—the ugly monster. We must say all we can to eradicate this evil; discrimination is really an evil, a social evil. Mr Speaker, Sir, I contend that there is no Government worth its salt which would claim to be democratic unless it plans its development programmes in a most honest way. Anything short of this is discrimination. The Government must consider the needs of the people, especially where there is availability of material; after all, our needs are smaller and it is easier to satisfy us than to satisfy those whose needs are greater.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now come to the point of austerity measures. (*Interruptions*.) The Minister of Finance alleged that people have been saying that the Government is going bankrupt. I am sure that nobody actually said that the Government is going bankrupt; however there are certain things which make us feel that all is not well with the Government. The Government is in great difficulty. Hon. Members will agree with me that there were many occasions when cocktail parties and garden parties were held; but nobody hears of cocktail and garden parties these days. (*Interruptions*.)

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, as I explained the other day to the House, we as leaders must set certain examples. We

ourselves must set the example first by making sacrifices before calling on the people to make their own sacrifices.

Mr Okwesa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not complaining nor am I embittered by the fact that there are no more cocktail and garden parties. (*Interruptions*). In the ordinary course of events—under normal circumstances—the Government should be praised for holding garden parties and cocktail parties on very useful things; but these had stopped even since last year before the austerity measures came into force; when therefore the measures start, I hope this Government, as in the past, will come here to tell us that as they are first in everything—first in Africa, first in the universe—they are also first in introducing austerity measures. Mr Speaker, Sir, that is why in the austerity measures, they have gone beyond the limit set by the other Governments of the Federation—they want to be first in Nigeria, first in everything. Everyone knows that the other Governments only reduced the salaries of Ministers, etc., by 10 per cent, but this Government, in addition to doing this, also scrapped other allowances which other Governments did not scrap. (*Interruptions*).

Now the Members of the Government have already begun to feel the pinch under the measures of the austerity, and it is just starting. We were told yesterday of the Premier's transport pool. That should not happen. If we must make sacrifices, all must make it. We must use our own cars and maintain them.

Chief Odebáyi: Point of explanation. Mr Speaker, Sir, many Members of the Opposition are part-time politicians, but Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are full-time politicians. They must be able to travel through the length and breadth of the Region and not have to do so by taxi or by bus, since time is a big factor. If the hon. Member is not happy about the Premier's transport pool which has been existing since 1952, if he is already feeling the pinch of austerity, and is not satisfied that Ministers should use such transport, all he needs do is to cross over. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

Mr Okwesa: Mr Speaker, Sir, in winding up, I wish to say that I am not convinced by the explanation just given by the Minister of Finance. In other words, I am quite convinced that as soon as the Government does away with discrimination the better it will be for all of us.

I now turn to the Government's agricultural project. Many such projects exist in

the Yoruba area of the Region but none in the other discriminated area, the Midwest. If you want to settle unemployment by industries and employ people in one section alone, this attitude will not lead the Government anywhere. To solve this problem, Mr Speaker, Sir, I say that some industries must have to be sited in the Midwest area.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr M. A. Idodo (Afenmai South-East): I rise to support this Motion so ably tabled by the Minister of Finance and Leader of this House. Having gone through the Speech made by the hon. Minister of Finance on the Second Reading of the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the West Regional Government whose wisdom and foresight have placed its development plan in the fore-front in the Federation of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Nigeria is a very young nation striving to live to the expectation of other countries of the world. We, the citizens of this great country, no matter what Region or particular Party we may belong to are advised to make self-sacrifices which will facilitate development and progress in Nigeria. Austerity measures are necessary to maintain our independence, and we must work hard to keep them up. We are crying for more amenities and the Government has provided them in the Estimates before us.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let us agree with the Minister of Finance that more amenities means more sacrifice and maximum mobilisation and utilisation of our local wealth and resources for our development and progress.

Road Development.—With much gratification I wish to express my humble thanks to the Western Region Government for making provision in the 1962-63 Estimates for the tarring of Ukpilla-Jattu road as well as the recurrent Agenebode road tarring which was started as far back as 1959 and on which only seven miles of work has been done. Mr Speaker, Sir, may I say to the knowledge of this House that, unlike other programmes which the 1955-60 Development Plan contained which were fully completed, Agenebode road is one and that the very £20,000 which recurred last year is now repeating itself in this year's Estimates. I humbly pray the Minister concerned to pay greater attention to the tarring of this road.

[MR IDODO]: 3 Appropriation

It will also be highly commendable if the following roads are considered for widening and up-grading to "A" status:—

Jattu-Fugar road
Agbede-Idegun-Alebeta road.
Agbede-Jagbe road.

Education.—On behalf of the people of Afenmai, particularly Etsakor, I have to express our sincere gratitude to the Government for the provision of Auchi Technical School in the 1962-63 Estimates. Our confidence, faith and loyalty to and in the Action Group Government will continue.

I pray the Government for early approval of a Grammar School for the people of Agenebode.

Industrial Development.—To reduce unemployment in Afenmai Division, agricultural industries such as fishing and rice industries, the exploitation of our mineral resources, such as cement, which was discovered at Ukpilla, should be undertaken.

Medical Facilities.—I noticed carefully that in the 1962-63 Estimates, page 168, Head 701, Sub-head 16, there is provision for a new hospital for the Midwest but no place of allocation shown. I would like to remind this House of the promise made by leaders of this Government to build a general hospital at Agenebode and to pray this House to see to its early fulfilment.

Water Supply.—The Water Supply Scheme for Fugar, Ogbana and Ibiense as provided for in the Estimates warrant West Government's high commendation.

May I, in conclusion, call upon the Members opposite me to denounce the NCNC and join the Action Group whose Government is non-discriminatory to the Mid-westerners.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr B. Olaniyan (Ibarapa East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill now being debated on the floor of this honourable House. In supporting the Bill, I whole-heartedly congratulate the the assiduous Minister of Finance, Chief the hon. J. A. O. Odebiyi, for his immense and selfless efforts in carefully planning his orderly Budget Speech which was ably delivered on the floor of this honourable House. When Shakespeare was alive he said, and I quote: "I know I am doing a great work but it is a pity that people will not praise me during my life-time." Mr Speaker, Sir, we on this side of the House know that the Action Group Government is helping this Region by leaps

and bounds. It is the only Government in the Federation of Nigeria which thinks first of the welfare of its people. This Western Regional Government is considerate, moderate and highly democratic. It is the only Government which caters for life more abundant. Mr Speaker, Sir, other Regions in the Federation of Nigeria are jealous of this Government because it is a progressive Government. It is a Government which is endowed by nature with geniuses who are really worthy of their position anywhere in the world.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Finance has carefully planned his annual Budget Speech; he has rightly apportioned the sum of £2,443,430 to roads and bridges in this Region. This will afford the people of this Region a great advantage of travelling easily and peacefully to any part of the Region. Under this head, Mr Speaker, many roads in the Region will be tarred. The people of my constituency, Eruwa and Lanlate will be very grateful if the Government can consider, along with its many projects of road-tarring, the roads from Eruwa to Okolo, the greatest cocoa-producing area in Ibadan Division, and the Igboora to Igangan road which is only a distance of about twenty miles.

This Government also caters for the health of the people. Mr Speaker, Sir, many hospitals, dispensaries and rural health centres are built in this Region to save the lives of our people. These health institutions are the best equipped institutions in the whole of the Federation of Nigeria. In my constituency, Eruwa and Lanlate, and my district as a whole, many dispensaries are built and supervised by this Government. Above all, a rural health centre is built at Igboora which serves the whole district. For all these, my people thank the Government.

The people of my constituency will regard it as the greatest honour and the greatest service if this Government can kindly give them a general hospital. Mr Speaker, Sir, a general hospital is necessary because the nearest hospital to Eruwa and Lanlate is forty-five miles away at Ibadan. Many people have lost their lives before they are taken to Ibadan for treatment. Therefore, this Government will save a lot of taxpayers' lives if a general hospital can be built in my constituency, that is, at Eruwa and Lanlate.

The most common and most fatal disease in my district, especially in my constituency is "guinea-worm". This disease has ren-

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dered many of my people jobless, poor and wretched. This disease, Mr Speaker, according to medical experts is caused by dirty and unhygienic water supply which my people drink. As these people wholeheartedly support this Government and shall ever support it for their safety, it is high time they are supplied with pipe-borne water. I am sure, Mr Speaker, this Government will not let down my people. Rural water supply is first and foremost in the hearts of my people.

At this juncture, Mr Speaker, I am appealing to this Government to hasten action on the Eruwa Rural Water supply in my constituency and especially in the whole of the Ibarapa District.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. U. E. Agbaza (Urhobo East II): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill, and I thank the hon. Minister of Finance for the balanced estimates that he has presented before this House.

I am really surprised that Members from the Midwest area only come here to criticise unnecessarily. I am sure that, for once we have to remember the words of the British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan; he told the British electorates that "they have never had it so good". I think, for once, the Midwesterners on the other side have to understand that we have never had it so good in the Midwest. (*Cheers*). There is already a wind of change in the Region, and even the Midwesterners should be happier at it than any other Members in this House.

The hon. Member for Ndosimili has just told us that there are no amenities in his area. What amenity can you have when you live on water? You want road or water? Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a hospital in Kwale and the Kwale people do not attend the hospital because of unnecessary superstition. (*Shame, shame*). And yet they want amenities.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if you look into the whole of the Estimates you will see that the Government has provided for more road development programmes, more hospitals, maternity centres, road tarring; and even in the Cabinet more powers have been given to the hon. Minister of Midwest Affairs, and at present we have a Minister of Trade and Industry who is a Midwesterner. Please let us thank the Government for all that it has been able to do, and do not let us come here to criticise unnecessarily.

It is shown in the Estimates of the Ministry of Trade and Industry that there is a sort of

drop or fall in the world cocoa price. I am therefore inviting the Government's attention to the Produce Inspection side of this Department. What I really mean is that Government should do something to ensure that there is a sort of standard weight by which the produce is graded in the Region, so that if our produce leave this country we can always be sure of a standard price for what we export. And then again, Sir, I think there is no common goodwill between the junior members of the Department and the senior ones. I think the junior members have to be taken into confidence, and at present the junior members are always frightened by the senior members. I am speaking from experience because if the men are in good terms they will be able to discharge their work efficiently.

When we talk about education we have to thank the Government for the way which it has, and is still, handling free primary education in this Region. The Government has also earmarked a large sum of money for higher education generally. But now one of the difficulties we have with free primary education in the Region, Sir, is the question of school age. What I mean is that the school age in the rural areas should be different from that in the urban area. For instance, take the son of a Minister or a Permanent Secretary who will know the difference between a radio, a television set, a bottle of whisky, and so on; he will be able to speak partial English ever before he starts school. But this does not happen to the children in the rural areas as there are no such advantages for them.

Mr Omokowajo: That is what we have been saying. All Ministers in the Region and the so-called big men in the Civil Service have separate schools for their children. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Agbaza: Finally, I am sure, Sir, Government will find a way by which it will adjust the school age in the rural areas as against the urban areas.

If the Government looks into the question of Secondary and Modern School leaving age, I am very sure he will bear this in mind. The length of time one spends in a Secondary Modern School should be increased. Instead of spending three years in a Secondary Modern School, it should be five years.

Mr Speaker: I should like to remind the hon. Member to correlate his speech with the Estimates.

Mr Agbaza: Coming to the Ministry of Works and Transport, I am sure that a lot of money has been provided by Government for the development of roads, culverts and tarring of roads, but in the rural areas, Sir, £1,000 can do more work if it is handed over to a community or people to build their bridges themselves, than if the £1,000 is handed to the Minister of Works and Transport, because before the Government can bring all the machinery from Headquarters to rural areas it will cost more. I have confidence in all the Ministers appointed by the Regional Government.

Looking into the Estimates generally, Sir, may I add no Government can function without money, and that means money has to come either by way of tax or by way of rates. In the Midwest area you have a lot of people who refuse to pay rates. It is not because the rates are high; it is merely because they refuse to pay as NCNCers. I think the time has come, Mr Speaker, for the Attorney-General and the Minister of Finance to decide on a severe step to deal with the NCNC chaps who refuse to pay their taxes and rates.

I wish to congratulate the Government and the hon. Minister of Finance for the able way he presented the Appropriation Bill.

Sitting suspended at 2.10 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.40 p.m.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Mr D. A. Popoola (Oyo South-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with those hon. Members who support the Western Nigeria 1962-63 Appropriation Bill; and in doing so, Sir.....

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: Point of Order. Order 29 (1): During the session all Members shall enter or leave the House with decorum. The hon. Member for Okitipupa North-West (Mr Omokowajo) is not wearing the proper dress. He is wearing a *Danshiki* without an *Agbada*, which is incomplete. *Danshiki* is an underwear and is an improper dress for this House.

Mr Speaker: We would ask the hon. Gentleman to please go and dress well.

Mr Omokowajo: I am going home now to put on another dress.

Mr Popoola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with those hon. Members who support the Western Nigeria 1962-63 Appropriation Bill; and, in doing so, Sir, I have to dilate on the following cogent points

very briefly. Before I go on, may I say, Sir, that the Bill has been so comprehensively styled as to give a proper place to those aspects of the Regional Government's multifarious duties and services throughout the Region. The designers need to be highly praised for this high sense of responsibility. The days of social, educational and economic emancipation of Western Nigeria are dawn because these large sums of money made available by the Regional Government, upon which the proposed development schemes will ride to land safely, show a sense of foresight on the part of this Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this 1962-63 Appropriation Bill is the beginning of the fulfilment of recent Six-year Development Plan which is pregnant with a series of improvements, and proposes bright hopes for the future of the masses. In collaboration with the Development Plan, this Appropriation Bill has given adequate place to the development of our agricultural and industrial schemes. The production and processing of cocoa is bound to play a prominent part in the economy of Western Nigeria, and the manufactured goods produced therefrom will need the patronage of the people in order to stabilise the economy firmly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, perhaps the best services a Government could do to a nation is to give the best type of education possible in that locality. This Region has done the best in making the educational policy worthy of emulation by all the other Governments of the Federation of Nigeria.

The Free Primary Education Scheme forms the concrete base whereby the bitterest war is being waged against the disease of illiteracy.

This Region controls many more Secondary Grammar Schools than any other Region within the Federation and, in the field of secondary modern education, Western Nigeria is second to none. In my own humble opinion, Sir, as primary education is free and Secondary Grammar Schools receive grants from the Government to aid it, Secondary Modern Schools too (which form the intermediate block between the other two) should be considered for some grants, however small, to make them fulfil perfectly their desired end.

Furthermore, Sir, I seize this opportunity to bring to your notice the difficulties confronting the citizens of Western Nigeria resident in the Northern Region in connection with procuring secondary education for their children. The Northern Government would ruthlessly reject such children from entering into their secondary schools, and

[MR POPOOLA]

when interviewed for a redress, the Government would advise such parents and guardians to repatriate their children to Western Nigeria to achieve their aim. Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is evident that even if such parents or guardians agree to send their children back to the West notwithstanding the difficulties entailed, the incompatibility of the Northern education policy with ours in the West aggravates the problem the more. In my own humble opinion, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would rather suggest that the Western Government should either bring some pressure to bear on the Northern Regional Government to stop forthwith this discriminatory practice, especially when everyone in Nigeria today preaches the gospel of One Nigeria, or take an immediate positive step to accommodate them conveniently if and when such children are repatriated to Western Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that my constituency needs, most particularly at present, bituminous surfacing of roads. This is true of many roads in both the Oyo South-West and South-East constituencies. As I am now expressing the sentiments of those people, I should be grateful if this request is included in the final 1962-63 Estimates. The extension of electricity, the establishment of agricultural and industrial facilities in those areas, will surely make for the prosperity of the inhabitants if the Government would kindly accede to these requests.

In conclusion, Sir, I congratulate the Western Nigeria Government for its selfless services, not only to the Western Region, but also to the Federation of Nigeria as a whole. It is not uncommon to find the relics of the old feudalism of the Northern Region trampling on the modern civilisation of democracy, and all sorts of discriminatory practices and selfishness; selfishness in that the NPC Government would not welcome a split in the Northern Region in the way of creating more States even as large as it is, and tyrant in dismembering the West by carving out the Midwest State even when the West is the smallest Region within the Federation of Nigeria.

The NCNC Government of Eastern Nigeria is very inconsistent...

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. Will the hon. Member please make references to either the Midwest or other Governments only if they are concerned with the Appropriation Bill being discussed.

Mr Popoola: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Western Region is an all-round Region. Both the children of the Northerners and Easterners resident in the West enjoy our free primary education scheme and are admitted into our Secondary Modern and Secondary Grammar Schools without discrimination. Any Northerner or Easterner travelling or living in the West is assured of safety of himself, his family and his property under the Fundamental Human Rights entrenched in the Nigerian Constitution and which is truly applied in Western Nigeria. The fact that the Western Region is prepared to give as much as it could afford to procure the unity of Nigeria is manifest in giving Lagos away to be known as the Federal territory of Nigeria. For being so broad-minded, magnanimous, law-abiding and sufficiently accommodating, bearing no malice to anyone, the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria deserves very high commendation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Riemu (Urhobo West II): In this Budget which you call Estimates, 1962-63—you will see there that the Government of this Region has not only let down the people of this Region but it has altogether made your hopes for development and industrial projects a total sham. I am saying this because I feel that I am in an Assembly which is called Western House of Assembly. (*Laughter*). If I should have to add a little to it, I would tell you again that the whole calamity falls more on the people of the Midwest than any other community in this Region. The Midwest is neglected in every aspect of development project and in every aspect of industrial project, and we keep on saying that unless some sort of care is taken to do this type of thing—well, you might say that this man perhaps does not know what he is talking. I just bring you one fact. Sapele with its geographical significance: Sapele, I repeat, with its industrial importance, I can assure you, has been promised water scheme since 1956 and an amount of money to the value of £135,000 has been allocated for that scheme. As I said in this House before, nothing about that scheme is heard. (*Interruptions*). And even in that plan you went to the extent of saying that the money was going to be used to extend the already existing water scheme in Sapele, so that if an ordinary man hears that he would think that, perhaps, there is a water scheme in Sapele which needs some extension. But for those of us who live there—(*Interruptions*).

[MR RIEMU]

If it is heckling, I will heckle you from your big man to your small man. (*Laughter*). The pity of it all is that I do not know how to read; if I had known how to read I could have at least—well, I am able to compile a book like this but I do not know how to read. In any decent debate we have not been taught at school at least that reading is the point of debate. If Mr Speaker would allow me to digress a bit.....

Mr Speaker: I would not like you to digress. I would like you to debate the Appropriation Bill.

Mr Riemu: As I said before, Ughelli is more important than Ikenne. Mr Speaker Sir, I do not know exactly which Government we are facing: is it the Action Group or that of the Nigeria People United Front? Ughelli that is more important than Ikenne has no water, not to talk of electricity. You know quite well that the whole money with which this Region is run comes from the Midwest. I am speaking for the Midwest as a whole. (*Interruptions*). We have the ports on which this Government relies for its share of exportation and any other thing that comes from Sapele.

Today if the Motion (perhaps which you will summon to this House sometime) is approved and we are likely to send all our good boys away to return to the Midwest, we hope you are done and that is the reason why you do not want us to go, but we are going. If you should in fact allocate amenities according to the system of derivation, actually I think we shall have the better share of the money of this Region. And I tell you again: the reason why the Midwest is treated like that is because it is what you used to call "Kobokobo" area. I know that if it were in the Yoruba area, I think quite well that you would have treated Sapele and some other ports in the Midwest like the Liverpool of this Region.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. Well, I have insisted that the hon. Member for Urhobo West II, should address the Speaker and refer to the Government and not "you" on the other side. I think that makes the debate more respectable.

Mr Riemu: I thank you, Mr Speaker Sir, and I hope I would not be tempted to look at your people who, you know..... (*Laughter*). Well, Mr Speaker Sir, as I have said before, I do not think I should have to digress so much. It is our people. By saying our people, I mean our Midwest

Ministers in this place. We have only two of them out of seventeen total substantive Ministers, so that it is they who have actually let us down. It is because they have condescended to accept whatever type of Ministries that are given to them. Look at a man here—the Minister of Midwest Affairs, as brainy as he is, as enlightened as he is—well, I am speaking on the economic and financial policy of this Region.

Alhaji Opaleye: Point of Order. Order 27 (14): Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries shall be referred to by the designation of their office or portfolio. The hon. Member is pointing to the Minister of— (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. That point of order is upheld please. Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries should be referred to by their portfolios.

Mr Omokowajo: Point of Order, Mr Speaker Sir. Is Mr Opaleye now the Minister of Agriculture which he fought for? (*Laughter*).

Mr Riemu: I said that it is they who have actually let us down. If they had been fortunate to have got such Ministries which carry some sort of governmental responsibilities, Ministries which have capital expenditure, we could have had much to say about the developments in the Midwest. Let us say the Minister of Midwest Affairs is the Minister of Education; I think that at least before he will give a secondary school to Ikenne, another one to a village near it, and another one to a place near there, he will also try to give one to the Midwest too. The other man, the Minister of Labour—I do not know whether he is now the Minister of Trade and Industry; and what we still know is that he is still the Minister of Labour. If he had been made, say, Minister of Works and Transport, all our coming here to begin to shout for water, electricity, and for all these things—we could not have worried. I know quite well that they must first of all think of their place before they think of another place. This Government is so inconsistent in its dealings with the people over whom it is ruling to the extent that it is even fearing giving such Ministries to us in the Midwest because it thinks that if such things come to us the people concerned would explore the situation to the advantage of the Midwest. So that is why you see us coming here everyday to cry: "This is not in our area; that is not in our area". Already, since we have been in this House, we have seen so many petitions and addresses being read from

[MR RIEMU]

the other side of the House. They are all showering encomiums on the Government, on the Premier, on the Governor, and everybody. What were we doing? We were merely weeping because we see that those things they were saying were quite so. They are bound to praise the Government because they have gained from it. So that is just one point Mr Speaker. Everything we have to say from this side of the House from year to year is just the story of woe unless, we pray God, we are out sooner or later.

Now I come to one most important matter. When I say that the Midwest is neglected in everything: we ask for this and we ask for that and it is not done: what shall we do? There was a time when these people went to London and arranged certain things. We are saying that we do not get amenities and this is because we happen to belong to a minority area, and the only thing that the Government can do to allay the fears of the minority is to give them their separate State.

I can assure you there was a Motion passed in the Federal House recently, which has been referred to the three Regions of the Federation; two of them have actually acted accordingly but this particular Government has refused to deal with it as required in the Constitution. This is so because they do not have the interest of the people of the Midwest at heart.

Mr Speaker: Point of order. Order 68B (1): "Debate shall be confined to the financial and economic state of Western Nigeria and Western Nigeria Government's financial policy". The hon. Gentleman was wandering too far away from the economic policy of the Region.

Mr Riemu: Mr Speaker, Sir, I always feel that if I speak and confine myself unavoidably to the Midwest—well, I feel that the Midwest is still a part of this Region.

Now we are being called upon to approve the Bill calling for the appropriation of more than £36 million for the services of this Region. As usual, this very Bill could not have been very much controversial, but for the fact that I have seen certain things which need some sort of close examination.

When the austerity measures of this Region were announced for the first time by the Premier, what did we tell him? All we told him was that we were prepared to give him our fullest co-operation, provided the need for the austerity measures would be absolutely in the interest of the people of

this Region. We said that if that was done, then we were prepared to co-operate. Our Leader announced that, and, in fact, we all agreed with it. But now I have noticed that the needs of these measures are not at all the wishes of the people of this Region. It is being cleverly converted into some use that is actually questionable. As I go on—*(Interruptions)*. I do not read. When it is your turn to speak, get up and read.

We know for certain that no plan or no scheme or no institution will even thrive unless it enjoys public confidence, but when the people have certain things to think about it in the end, definitely the scheme must fall. When the Finance Minister was making his Budget Speech a few days ago, he made a sharp cut of ten per cent in the salaries of all Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

Mr Layonu: Point of order, Sir. Order 33 (1): "No member shall be entitled to address the House or a Committee of the whole House for more than thirty minutes on any subject". The hon. Gentleman started addressing the House at twenty-five minutes to nine.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman has not spoken for thirty minutes yet. *(Shouts of "shame, shame" from Opposition Benches)*.

Mr Riemu: I know the Speaker enjoys my speech. At least, I have the luck to get it enjoyed by the Speaker of the House.

When the Finance Minister was making his Budget Speech a few days ago, he made a sharp cut of ten per cent in the salaries of all Ministers, of all Parliamentary Secretaries and of all Members of this House, including the total abolition of fixed vehicle allowances in respect of all these functionaries, together with drivers' allowances hitherto paid to Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries. We termed this as sacrifices on the part of his Ministers and other Members of this House. Calling on the people of this Region to be prepared to make similar sacrifices, he quoted a poet—I wish he were here now—T. S. Elliot as saying: "Sever the cord, shed the scale, only the fool fixed in his folly may think he can turn the wheel on which he turns". *(Shouts of "Literature" from Government Benches, and prolonged applause from Opposition Benches)*.

Now, Sir, let us see how seriously and honestly this piece of advice is followed.

I have carefully examined and compared last year's Estimates with the 1962-63 Estimates and have found that the amount for fixed vehicle allowances in 1962-63

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Estimates, which is now abolished, has been cleverly added to the amount for local transport and travelling expenses. The Estimates for last year, which figures were even said to be too much, this year now it is trebled—from £362,310 which is for 1961-62 to £641,590. The excess being £279,280. That is the excess right now, and this is called, this time, not "Fixed Vehicle Allowances" but "Local Transport and Travelling Expenses". We know quite well that sometimes there may be some addition in excess and there may be some cuts. We do not expect that it should be steady there, but the addition should be relevant or, at least should be related to the amount of establishments. There must be a detailed note. Whenever an abnormality of this type is done it should be explained under what they call "explanatory details" and the people will see exactly why that amount has come up. But in this case it was never explained because, in fact, there was no increase in establishments. All that we know now is that this money is going to get out of this book and, in fact from the Treasury by vouchers. Because if it is put there as fixed vehicle allowance it is going to be added to your salaries every month, that is, it will go to every individual by pay slip at the end of every month, but this is called under the new name "Local Transport and Travelling Expenses" which can be drawn by any Minister.

Mr J. E. Otobo: It is a serious matter to say that there are some spurious vouchers being made out from the Treasury. If it is true they could be brought to the Speaker.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North-West) rose with some papers purported to be substantiating documents.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman for Okitipupa North-West please keep order and pass the papers to the Speaker. The hon. Member will be allowed to speak later on.

Mr Riemu: This increase is distributed round the whole Ministries to enable Ministers to draw them by vouchers. I can mention the Ministers and the relevant months.

The hon. Premier: for 1961-62 he had £4,000.

Mr Speaker: I rule that out of order. The Heads and Estimates are not being discussed at this stage.

Mr Riemu: You are still going to know these facts and, very soon, we may hear some other things about it.

If there must be austerity measures, they must not be one-sided. It will affect the Ministers as much as it will affect the floor Members of this House. No doubt these overdrafts are intended to replace the sacrifices which the Ministers and the Government henchmen shall suffer by Western Region austerity.

If any one refutes this statement, I, challenge him to prove the contrary.

Mr Odigie: Point of order, Sir. No member shall speak for more than thirty minutes.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Local Government (Mr A. F. Atie): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion for the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance; and, in doing so, I should first of all congratulate this Government of the Western Region on its praiseworthy achievements during the past year and the equally praiseworthy progressive programmes envisaged for the current year, which, in keeping with the lofty ideals of this Government, will be carried out without any hitch.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is already common knowledge, and I hope Members of the Opposition will share this belief of mine, that this Government is out boldly to serve the needs of the various communities that make up the Western Region, both the urban and the rural communities, irrespective of geographical location and political party-leaning. The various development programmes already noticeable throughout the Region are a pointer.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it was the general thought, quite misleading belief, that the Ijaws live on water; that any idea to construct a motorable road that could cut through any part of the Western Ijaw Division was not only impracticable but insane. This misleading stuff about the physical geography of my area, Sir, must have been necessitated by the aversion many people have towards travelling to that part of the country, on the one hand, and the culpable ignorance of the actual physical features of the area by foreign self-styled geographical authorities like Mr T. R. Batten.

May I say, Sir, that it is unfortunate that several Members opposite us share this

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erroneous belief about the natural setting of the Western Ijaw country, even though some of them are our next-door neighbours.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it was also a common belief among our Ijaws that Yenogoa, a town in one of the Ijaw Divisions in the Eastern Region, shall be the first to go down in history as having a motorable road. This was because some ten years ago, the people of this place communally put up a road to link them with Ahoada town. It was said that the Eastern Government did vote out the sum of £300,000 for the purpose of this road six years ago. Sir, due to the treacherous and deceitful tendencies of the NCNC Government of that Region, nothing has been done and the odds are that this sum of money has been deflected to other purposes beneficial only to the Ibos of the mainland.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it was only last year that I approached this Government about the possibility of constructing a motorable road from Ewu-Oduovhori and Uwheru in the Central Urhobo District to Kpakiam, via Patani in the Western Ijaw Division. Sir, with the encouragement of this Government my people were consulted and a communal construction work programme was drawn up. The preliminary clearing of the stretch was done in June 1961.

Mr Speaker, Sir, when this news of road construction became a household word throughout the Division, the NCNC member representing my Division in the Federal Parliament, who also is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour, developed some high fever about the future of his politics and that of his party in the Division. He, therefore, embarked on a denigrating campaign of the most ridiculous type.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this gentleman said it would be utterly impracticable to think in terms of a motorable road for my people; who are his people? He and his henchmen, having realised the futility of their campaigns, turned back to tell the people that the huge sum of money voted for this road-programme and which was meant for the communal efforts of the people, has been used up by me for the purpose of landed properties here in Ibadan.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the destructive tactics of the NCNC, represented by the very few opposite us, is very well known, and I will now proceed to tell this honourable House what my people and my Government have done on this road-project.

Mr Speaker, Sir, despite all the obstructions and obstacles placed on my way, my party supporters stood firm and in January this year, we renewed our preliminary programme and re-cleared the road-stretch, so much so that on the 7th March, 1962, we were able to do all that was needed to be done on the road, such as removing the stumps, smoothening the surface and, what was more, improvising wooden bridges.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the 14th of March, 1962, shall go down in the development history of this Region as the first day when a convoy of three cars pulled through to Patani from Warri, made possible by the sincerity of purpose of this Government and the willingness of the people to contribute at all times to the development of our area.

Indeed it was on the 14th day of March, 1962, that a motor-car first touched the soil of the Ijaw "country".

Mr Speaker, Sir, it will be interesting to note that this Government has once again belied the mischievous propaganda of the NCNC by approving and depositing the princely sum of £1,000 with the Western Ijaw Central District Council, Bomadi, as communal Development Grant in respect of this road, and, Sir, this has falsified for all time the allegation that I had converted this money to my own use.

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I now refer Members to the Estimates of 1962-63, in which this Government voted the huge sum of £500,000 for the construction of the road under reference. Mr Speaker, Sir, I now challenge those legislators from the Central Urhobo District Council area to state, here and now, whether this Government had been deceiving the people about this road development programme. I make bold to say Sir, that, even as I am speaking now, engineers from the Ministry of Works and Transport are busy designing the road and the bridges to be constructed on it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government has earmarked the sum of £10,000 for the construction of foreshore and back-shore wall in several villages in the Western Ijaw Division. This, Mr Speaker, will prevent the high flood of the Niger from inundating the villages south of the Delta, inundation which is an annual incident.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the provision of maternities at Agoloma and Agbere and a number of Dispensaries in the Division once again goes to lend weight to the popular acclaim that this Government is committed to the provision of basic medical care for the inhabitants of its rural areas.

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The Development Grants for the Markets at Patani, Bomadi, Ojobo and Isampou and Grants for Town Halls at Ughofor, Agbodobri and Osiama are clear signs of the Government's belief in the efforts of the people.

In conclusion, Sir, this current year's Estimates reflect exactly on the aspirations of my people. Indeed, people of the Western Ijaw Division have never had it so good and I seize this opportunity, on behalf of my people, to thank the Government for the amenities already provided for us.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North-West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I will like to remark that I have been to almost all the Legislative Houses in the Federation. I think all the Members of this House will agree with me that the standard of debate here is rather too low. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! It will help the Speaker himself if you will lift up the standard of the debate by keeping to the subject matter.

Mr Omokowajo: Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, according to one of the speeches made by one hon. Member, he said that the Estimates have been carefully prepared, and so on and so forth. What we should ask ourselves is.....(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member continue his speech.

Mr Omokowajo: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is said that the Estimates were well prepared, etc., etc. What we are asking is this: Have we the money to do all we have in the Estimates?

I am telling you Sir, for Okitipupa Division this Government has voted £200,000 for two consecutive years without spending that money. The Parliamentary Secretary from Okitipupa on the other side will bear me out that the road to his place was in the Estimates last year. But, up till now has anything been done to the road? He bought a car about six months ago and the car cannot get to his town. He will always go to the people to say that the road will be tarred. Up till now, Sir, nothing has been done there regarding the tarring of the road. One Member from this side of the House crossed to that side on the ground that the £200,000 will be used in tarring the road in his area. But yet nothing has been done. The money has been in the Estimates. It was there last

year, and it was there the year before, and it will continue to be in the Estimates.

We are tired of this Government. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Government Benches: Resign your seat.

Mr Omokowajo: I am going to be in this House for the next twenty-five years. (*Laughter*). I have once said this in this House and I will continue to hammer it until we all memorise it. It is more glorious to say things as they really are rather than to do otherwise. (*Interruption*). As I said once in this House, Mr Speaker, Sir, the greatest offence one can commit in his life is for him to deceive himself. Why do you deceive yourself by putting the figures there when you know you have not got the money there?

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman address the Speaker?

Mr Omokowajo: The hon. Minister of Finance said something in this House, so that I think that when we come to this House as Opposition Members what the Government require of us is to make constructive criticisms.

Education.—I am very happy that the Minister of Education is here; perhaps because he is an NCNC-trained Minister or because he is a highly qualified person, I would say that the present result of the education system in the Western Region is to his credit. (*Interruption*).

Dr S. D. Onabamiro: I am not an NCNC-trained Minister. I was not a Minister in the NCNC.

Mr Omokowajo: I came to collect an NCNC van from you in 1954. (*Laughter from both sides of the House*). He was then the Transport Manager.

Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie: What was the number of the van?

Mr Omokowajo: Mr Speaker, Sir, we have got to give the credit of the present education system to the Minister of Education. Anybody endowed with common sense will know that he is actually doing his job. What he is doing now, if it were some of you, some years ago, you would say that the party would be ruined, but he is prepared to face the fact not minding the consequences.

Primary Education.—Sir, sometime ago, Sir, I met one girl after she had passed Standard Six in the first grade. I said,

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“How are you and how are things? (*Laughter*). She said in Yoruba—I will interpret that—“*K’olorun sa gba ni*”. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Order 2, Language Section 22 of the Constitution provides: The business of the Legislative Houses of the Region shall be conducted in English”.

Mr Omokowajo: This is in English. “May the good Lord save us”. Even she could not reply in English. Please do not give teachers their pay on paper qualifications. It is possible for a Standard Six boy to be in the Government Service and progress until he becomes, perhaps, an Assistant Secretary, but in the teaching profession, Sir, it is not like that; so that I would wish that the Ministry of Education makes people to check up from school to school. Now, even without paper qualifications, if you are doing well and your children are doing well, you can be upgraded from grade III to grade I, so that teachers should not receive their pay on paper qualifications, but on merit. Just now a teacher will get to school and read the tuition from Rapid Result College or from Wolsey College; once he is able to pass the examination he becomes a grade I teacher, even if all the pupils failed the examination at the end of the year; so I would wish that teachers are promoted according to their work and not according to their paper qualifications.

I thank the hon. the Minister of Education about the retrenchment and the complete abolition of those supervisory appointments in local agencies. It is the main way by which the revenue of this Government is wasted. A supervisor on a salary of £360, let him come and explain how he got a building in Lagos, one in Ibadan, one in Ondo province and about two or three in other places! A supervisor on a salary of £360! Now you do not have to blame the supervisors; not when you give a supervisor a sum of £6,000 and tell him to go and spend this money! What do you expect him to do with it? If I were he—(*Interruptions*). (*Shouts of “shame, shame” from Government Benches*). I am prepared to talk truth in this House, not minding anything. If I were he, Mr Speaker, Sir, the story this time will not be *Apeteshi* but whisky and soda: just drink whisky and soda and squander the money. (*Laughter and interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, when I started I referred to the words of the Minister of Finance. What we are here for is to be able to get some

reasonable points from the Opposition, so that when I talk please do not just laugh. It is not reasonable.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Catholic Grammar School, Okitipupa: it will be my joy if the Minister of Education will please, for God’s sake, consider the Catholic Grammar School at Okitipupa for a grant. Normally, Sir, people will not enjoy you when you ask them to contribute every month or every quarter to pay teachers in the grammar schools. Once we have got the grammar school which has been approved by the Ministry of Education, it is no longer an illegal school. It will be our joy if the Catholic Grammar School at Okitipupa is grant-aided.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I first spoke about the supervisors. Now in the whole of Okitipupa Division, in fact, the Methodist Mission, the denomination to which I belong, there is not a single person to supervise the teachers, and you will see, Sir, that many of these teachers, sometimes on Wednesdays, leave their schools and would not return to the school until about two or three weeks. What we want is to get the Mission to get the Managers as we have been doing, Sir, to go into all these schools and supervise. When I was a pupil teacher myself I was supervised by a Manager.

Government Bench: What are you doing now?

Mr Omokowajo: I can teach you for five years. (*Laughter*). (*Interruptions*). When you stop heckling I will talk.

Mr Speaker, Sir, sometime ago I learned that the Methodist and the Anglican Missions held a meeting where the Managers refused to supervise the schools; but they have been supervising schools before this new system in the Western Region! It is not something new at all. So if you will appeal to these Managers and to different Missions to supervise the schools in the interests of our small children going to schools, it will be good. People may heckle and say that all my children are in the—well, you know (*Laughter*).

Health and Social Services.—You may think that because I am a Member of the Opposition, when we talk you say there is nothing there, but in some years to come you will know that I am telling you sense. In Okitipupa Division some people are amphibians. (*Laughter and interruptions*). I am entirely on land. I think we require a mobile hospital in that area. I am sorry the Parliamentary Secretary from Okitipupa is not there. When he comes he will tell you that, in some parts of Okitipupa Division,

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before you get to Okitipupa hospitals it will take you twelve hours on canoe. So that if you can just get some small launches to ply the creeks areas, it will be to our advantage.

(*Government Benches: Amphibians*).

Yes. Amphibians; perhaps you have never heard that. (*Laughter*). We need mobile hospitals. We require a mobile cinema for the creek areas and it is a pity that the people who are concerned have, because they are in the Government Bench, failed to tell you what they require; but whether they like it or not, I am going to tell you these things. With the help of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, we shall be given these mobile hospitals.

Last year, Sir, I mentioned something in this House about X-ray. I say X-ray is a means to an end but not an end in itself. People go to the hospitals Sir, at Okitipupa. I know of that. You need £2 to cure yourself, and when you get there, the doctor tells you go to the X-ray technicians; the X-ray technician will charge you £2; after charging you £2 you will have no money again for drugs. I think that the X-ray photograph is a help to the doctor, but not a help to the patient, because they will help the doctor to diagnose the disease. When he diagnoses the sickness he will give the drug (*Laughter*). When you stop heckling, I will talk. The X-ray is a means to an end not an end in itself, so that our people should be allowed, Sir, whenever they have chest complaints or other complaints, Sir, to receive X-ray photographs free of charge. It is then that the doctor will know what is wrong, and then will give the patient the drug; but to pay for the X-ray and then, later on, you do not have money for the drug is a complete waste; so that it will be my joy if this Government will consider that all over the Region X-ray should be free in all hospitals.

Mr Speaker, Sir, X-ray technicians are helping a lot in diagnosing diseases for victims and I wish that when we think of improvement in salary scales of staff X-ray technicians should be considered. What I want to say, Sir, is that an X-ray technician can ruin the life of a man at his will. If you have your X-ray chest photograph, he can present the picture of another man and say you are all right. This type of people should be given sufficient salaries to make them happy and they will give us efficient service. It will be my joy, Sir.

(*Government Bench: Are you a doctor?*)

I am a herbalist. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is the high time we think of employing Craftsmen in our hospitals to help the patients.

Works and Transport.—I have to congratulate the Western Region Government; I am congratulating you because I want something from you—for the Okitipupa-Foriku road. I mean Okitipupa-Igbotako road, Sir. Some time ago, the Minister of Works and Transport came to Okitipupa and told us that there was provision for some roads to be tarred from Okitipupa to Odenije, but when he got there and I won the election with honours—well, since that time we have heard nothing about the tarring of the road. We wish to know, Sir, when the road will be tarred? I wish to add, Sir, that the following roads, this year, must—repeat must, be tarred. (*Cheers*).

Okitipupa-Irije
Okitipupa-Igodeniza
Okitipupa-Ayeta
Aye-Igbotako

An hon. Member: We don't agree.

Mr Omokowajo: Don't agree. When you come there in the next election, I will defeat your candidate again. Better agree now and defeat me—that is the best thing you can do. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Two minutes more.

Mr Omokowajo: *Local Government*—Sir, sometime ago last year, the Local Government staff took an examination for promotion but, up till now, the result is not yet out. I do not know what will delay the result of the examination. So we wish the Minister of Local Government to explain the cause of the delay in the result of the examination.

Ministry of Home Affairs.—If you see clearly, Sir—seeing is believing—you can compare the uniform of the Local Government Police with that of the Nigeria Police—smart Nigeria Police. These khaki people are soon tired; they feel worn-out and tired; so that they need good shirts to be tucked in. They should look smart—not just ordinary. If you don't want the Police to be chased out, you should see to it that we get smart Policemen in the Region. When you want to recruit men for training, Sir, don't recruit Standard VI for Inspectorate training. You say that you are going to build your training school, because, some people are your friends, I know that you are going to recruit Standard VI Certificate holders. We want you to recruit

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Class VI and General Certificate of Education holders, as is done in the Nigeria Police.

Information Services.—Sir, It is a disgrace, Sir, that at Okitipupa the only thing you can find there in connection with the Ministry of Information is a "Barge Driver"—Barge driver, Sir. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Gentleman's time is up.

Mr Omokowajo: Mr Speaker, Sir— (*Shouts of "Sit down, sit down" from Government Bench*).

Mr Omokowajo: I am given a minute to wind up.

An hon. Member: Mr Speaker, Sir, is that correct?

Mr Speaker: I said the hon. Gentleman's time is up.

Mr Omokowajo: I still have some vouchers here. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order, The hon. Gentleman's time is up.

Mr B. I. G. Ewah (Ishan North-East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to make my contribution to the Budget debate. I congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for the stupendous speech which he delivered on the 1962-63 Budget last week Wednesday. It is rich in substance, it is full in foresight, and it surpasses any such speech in the whole of the Federation, including the Federal Parliament.

I am indeed very sorry for Members on the other side of the House and few of us on this side of the House who certainly do not understand what is involved in this great Budget speech. It is very technical and requires a lot of home work to be able to contribute intelligently to debate on the speech. I myself will not pretend to understand all that is involved in the speech, but I believe that if it is made by a Minister of Finance in the Action Group Government, then it must be good.

The most significant feature of this year's Budget is the austerity. Every Member of this House will agree that a certain measure of self-sacrifice is required on the part of everybody in this country to put our nation on a sound economic basis.

An hon. Member: Point of Information Sir. The hon. Member for Okitipupa is going away with his Vouchers.

Mr Speaker: Order, order: I think the hon. Gentleman's vouchers do not deserve the attention of Members of the House.

An hon. Member rose.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker Sir, on point of Order, Sir. He should not stand up when another man is speaking. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Ewah: But I would like to point out that the announcement of the austerity measures does not seem to have served a very useful purpose in this direction. The Government made the announcement of the austerity measures last January and, strangely enough, almost immediately the big firms who control a large portion of the economy of this Region decided to put up the prices.

Mr Speaker: Order, order, I want to read these Standing Orders for the attention of Members who would disturb while other Members are speaking. Order No. 29 (4) and (5):

"(4) During a Sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones."

(5) Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while another Member is speaking."

I hope we shall obey these Orders.

Will the hon. Member continue please.

Mr Ewah: Also the retailers of consumer goods in our ordinary markets have increased the prices of the articles; the result is that everything has become so expensive that the purchasing power of both legislators and the ordinary people in the streets has been considerably lowered. In other words, the Legislators and the people of this Region who are called upon to make sacrifices appear to be making the sacrifices only to enrich the pockets of these large companies and the retailers of consumer goods. I would strongly suggest that the Regional Government should look into this and ensure that the austerity measures have the desired effect of making the country richer and greater (*Hear! Hear!*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I also take this opportunity to appeal to the Regional Government to do everything during the next financial year to provide jobs for the teeming hundreds of our sons and daughters who are now leaving schools. Human beings are great economic assets and if these boys and girls are allowed to roam about the streets, Nigeria is wasting a lot of economic assets and the psychology of these boys and girls is being damaged

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for ever. I would make a strong appeal to the Government to try and solve this problem during the present financial year. The Minister of Finance should please take note. It is common knowledge.....

Chief Odebiyi: The Minister of Labour will take note.

Mr Ewah: It is common knowledge that the Action Group Party controls the majority of the people in Western Nigeria; it also has a substantial support in the other Regions of the Federation. I can say without fear of contradiction that the Action Group has the largest following in the whole Federation. (*Hear, Hear*). It is therefore the duty of an Action Group-controlled Government to fight for the welfare of the masses. I am telling this honourable House that that has always been our motto.

In this connection, I would like to suggest to the Government that the masses of the people will not support an increase in tax or rates at this particular time. This proposed increase in tax is not supported by me and I have been mandated by the people of my Constituency to implore this Government to see to it that there is no increase in tax—not even a penny. (*Cheers from the Opposition*). I appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to have consideration for the millions of people in this Region, who cannot raise an income of £30 per year, before increasing tax or imposing any rate on them. I would suggest to the Government that, in the interest of these millions of people who have no jobs at all, no rates or taxes should be levied on such people at all. I am sure that the loss of income in this regard will be more than made for if the present expenditure as contained in the Estimates could be cut down, especially on the capital projects.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks and suggestions I beg to support the Second Reading of the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill.

Mr S. A. Akerele (Ekiti North-East I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill which was so ably and exhaustively analysed by the energetic Minister of Finance, Chief, the hon. J. A. O. Odebiyi, by the Grace of God, the Leader of this honourable House, on the 4th of April, 1962. My reasons are the following.

The foremost and important point that any sincere and constructive citizen of this country would note on the Budget speech so ably prepared and so dexteriously delivered by the Western Nigeria Minister of Finance could be his serious and comprehensive

treatment of how our nation could be prosperous. The Minister has declared war for National Economic Emancipation. "No Economic freedom, no political independence". He appealed very strongly to the nation to invest in the future, by which he meant that our people should contribute to the cost of the development programme designed to ensure the rapid growth of the national income of Nigeria by sacrificing present luxurious living.

He emphasised unequivocally that our political independence would be a farce if we were economically independent on any other country. He called on the whole nation to make a sacrifice to pay their taxes promptly and correctly. He praised the Pay As You Earn system.

The Minister directed our attention to the fact that about seven million pounds of the total capital expenditure of nearly sixteen million pounds is expected to be derived by way of grants or loans from both within and without the country, and that the proposed capital expenditure programme for 1962-63 can only be fulfilled to the extent that we are successful in obtaining external aid or raising loans. He again indicated that this capital expenditure programme did not indicate any new works which have all been deleted or deferred, and that Government has only concentrated on continuing projects on which expenditure this year is inevitable.

I have some observations to make. Mr Speaker, Sir, the state of affairs as described in the Bill is distressing, and I join the Minister in his outright condemnation of beggary, as he said that the posture and mental attitude of a beggar with a cap in hand is most humiliating and unworthy of a self-respecting nation or individual. I therefore, Sir, support all the austerity measures as promulgated in its entirety by our skilful Government. But Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my humble suggestion that we must, at one time or the other, endeavour to cut our coat according to our size that it may not appear that we are attempting to build our castle in the air. Except extreme care is taken Sir, circumstances may so force themselves upon us, that our very honest Government may be compelled to become evasive, or sometimes forced even to be deceitful like some other Governments in order to explain off why certain projects that appear in the Budget can not be executed.

For instance Sir, year in, year out, for the past few years, the Regional Government has always budgetted an amount of money for Aiyede Ekiti Water supply; even as far back

[MR AKERELE]

as 1959, Water Engineers have been visiting the town with the hope of installing water borne pipes in that town, but nothing has been done ever since, Sir. I asked the Minister of Works and Transport, on the floor of this House a few days ago, why the Aiyede Water Scheme has not been commenced; his answer was "only the actual construction of the Aiyede Water Scheme has not yet started; its planning, investigation, and designs are in hand". Mr Speaker, Sir, what am I to understand by this type of answer, more especially now that the said Aiyede Water Scheme is completely obliterated from the 1962-63 budget?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am fully aware of the slender purse of the Government in the face of the multifariously odd commitments, which it has in various parts of the Region. For instance, it has built an hospital in every Division of the Region and a maternity in almost every district council area. It has improved agriculture, it has established farm settlements in all parts of the Western Region. It has also.....

Mr A. Ajibola: Point of Information. The hon. Member mentioned that the Aiyede Water Scheme has been excluded from the 1962-63 budget. The omission is regretted and this has already been corrected.

Mr Akerele: I am extremely grateful for the explanation. I am also grateful for all the Government has done.

The Government has also tarred many roads. But, like any of its urgent and unavoidable projects Sir, our ever understanding Government should please note that—

erection of water borne pipes at Aiyede to extend to Ishan and Itaji;

Oye Water Scheme to be repaired and extended to Egosi, Esheta, and Arigidi;

erection of water borne pipe at Ire (biggest town in Ekiti Northern District Council);

erection of water-borne pipe at Iddo to extend to Ushi, Ilogbo, and Igbole;

erection of water-borne pipes at Osi, Ifaki and Erin;

must be considered inevitable; not less imperative also is the erection of electricity in all the towns I have mentioned above. Similarly, tarring of these roads is very important in view of the towns they connect:

	miles
Egosi-Ire-Igbemo road	12
Iddo-Osi-Igede road	11
Ushi-Ilogbo road	1
Igbole-Ifinshin-Aye... ..	1
Igosi-Aiyede junction	2
Iddo-Erin-Ifaki	7
TOTAL	34

Similarly the roads between Aiyede-Omu-Itapaji-Iye, as well as the road from Ikole-Itapaji and Odo Aiyedun-Ipawo-Okeako-Irele, must be re-conditioned and tarred. The last set of towns are famous for their cocoa growing and yam cultivation, including other crops like tobacco, beans, cotton, etc.

The Minister dispelled in his speech the fears of the honest citizens of this Regions, based on the propaganda of the detractors of the Action Group Government, that it adopted austerity measures because it was bankrupt. The Minister hammered, as said above, that the nation was only called upon to make sacrifices in order to accelerate our progress. The sacrifice includes a cut in the salaries of all earners and a rise in the cost of certain consumer as well as utility goods. Those consumer goods, like drinkables, etc., which are affected can be termed luxuries, while utility goods like tyres, petrol, etc., which are again affected, in turn affect only a section of our community which can afford their use. But great care must be taken by our Governments in the Federation of Nigeria to see that our motor-magnates as well as our firms and all other traders, minor or major, do not take the advantage of the confused cries of economic stability in the country at present to entrench profiteering in all parts of the Federation. The Federal Government has taken appropriate steps on this, and we too must help in all ways possible.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. A. Layonu (Ede-Ejigbo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill for the year 1962-63. To see the forms in which Estimates are presented is a sight that gladdens the heart in that it represents one of the ambitions of true nationalists in this Region that we have real Ministers and not Ministers who are nothing but glorified office boys. It is also very re-assuring to note that our Ministers participated both individually and collectively in the preparation of the Estimates.

Tributes must be paid to the Minister of Finance who has eloquently made a bold and straightforward statement on the financial

[MR LAYONU]

policy of the Government. On page 3 of his speech, the Minister of Finance said, "We have to find money to finance our Development Programme. Inevitably we cast our eyes across the seas and appeal for aid from the more developed countries". May I press that as much as possible we should avoid foreign loans, and try them only as a last resort after we have explored all local possibilities. Where are our Odutolas and all the rich members of our community? Let us launch a campaign to let them dump in money into the development of their country. There has not been a very strong campaign for raising loans in the country as a whole.

On the sacrifice which the Government has called upon the community in general to make, we all know that "a great aim is worthy of great energy". The Minister of Finance himself has told us that the Government feels a sense of deep emotion at the awareness of how much the happiness and welfare of the entire community depend on the nature and content of the Budget. The misfortune of one is the misfortune of all. The misfortune of under-developed areas should also be the misfortune of the Government. Those who want enormous development programmes must be prepared to pay for them because they will need enormous funds.

On the income tax from self-employed persons, the administration of which has been entrusted to the local authorities, I would urge the Government to set an enquiry into the income tax of individuals, especially in the rural areas. There are so many people who have thousands of pounds in the rural areas and, up till now, at this age of our independence, bury them underground. There are those whose trades yield considerable profit margins from their turn-over with U.A.C., G.B.O., John Holt, C.F.A.O., etc., and who will not be sincere enough to declare accurate income to their area assessment committee. Go to the market and fish out these people; it is not necessary to continue to give them flat rate assessments.

There are other inconveniences now being experienced by tax-payers in the Region. Experience shows, however, that local members of the assessment committees restrict and infringe the rights of tax-payers. There are instances where members of the assessment committee aid and abet tax-payers, take tips from them and under-assess them. There are instances where tax or rate defaulters are caught and, instead of taking appropriate actions against them, local

members of the assessment committee demand half the tax payable by such defaulters and let them off. I feel, Sir, that the time has come when Government should have a proper system of tax assessment and collection. If that is done the revenue will be more than doubled.

Another point which is of great importance to our farmers is cocoa. It is very interesting that Government is taking steps (a) to assure adequate supplies and reasonable prices that will be acceptable to both producer and consumer countries, and (b) to promote the consumption of cocoa among the nations of the world. Mr Speaker, Sir, hope alone will not do. It will have to be reinforced by positive and well-calculated measures. The Minister has told us of the decline of our cocoa trade. A suggestion is very necessary as to how to remedy the situation. We cannot control external markets. If people do not need our cocoa abroad, that will be the end of it. We cannot drag them to the Court for it. It is very essential for us to industrialise. If we depend entirely on our raw materials, the time may come when the people outside this country will not need them, and that will be the end of our external trade.

It is very gratifying to note that a substantial amount of money has been put by for the development and expansion of technical education because there has never been a time when our education has suffered at all in the past. The Region is developing along the right lines in technical education.

If we can expand our production not only of export crops but also of local foodstuffs we shall be able to support and improve our standard of living and our social services. By employing our natural talents and exploiting our natural advantages to the full, we shall not only further our own ends but we shall also play a worthy part in the development programmes for our Region. We should not exist solely on agriculture and, for that reason, we have to industrialise. With all the raw materials and with sufficient space for other industries, with labour sufficient for agriculture and all other industries, we could pursue the industrialisation policy without any injury to our agricultural industry.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr W. E. Aghahowa (Benin South-East):
Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House for the way he presented the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill under debate.

[MR AGHAHOWA]

Going through the Estimates, Sir, it has reflected the usual discriminatory systems of distribution of Governmental amenities to the various parts of the Region. This Government will be doing the greatest good to the happiness and orderly progress and to the entire satisfaction of the electorates if it accepts, as from now onward, to distribute amenities on Divisional basis. If this is accepted, Divisions which hitherto had been left out will have their fair shares of governmental amenities.

I beg to draw the attention of this Honourable House to the wonderful humanitarian work being carried on by a team of Medical Specialists, both white and black, at the Ossiomo Lepper Settlement. The wonderful work carried out in this Settlement for the eventual stamping out of leprosy from our society is second to none in Tropical Africa. I pray the Government to vote more money for the improvement of this institution. I therefore further implore the Government to come to the aid of this institution for greater improvement, efficiency and progress of both the workers and the patients. No Minister has ever visited this Settlement to see for himself what is going on behind the cloud. On building, Sir, sufficient amount is not provided for more buildings for the ever-increasing sick population of Ossiomo Lepper Settlement.

On road and bridges, it is most regrettable to observe that no provision is made in the Estimate for the bridging of River Ossiomo on Benin Sapoba road via Ikpe. The bridging of this River, Sir, will be of lasting benefit, and will enhance the economic productions of the entire 46,000 people of Iykeorhiomwon District of Benin Division who make use of the roads.

On provision for rural water supply, I thank the Government for making provisions for Ogan village water supply at an estimated cost of £10,000. It is a pity that this provision does not go far enough. The provisions ought to have been greater so that the scheme can be extended to Oloten village, another bigger village which is only five miles from Ogan.

The people of Eubohighac, Ugboko, Ugo, Eoboesei, Orogho, Ozanisi, Abudu, Obadan, Ugonoba, Iguolio, Okezenaka, in my Constituency need water or rural health centres. It will be highly appreciated if the Government can draw from her surplus revenue to give the suffering people this humble request.

Again, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the House to one glaring omission in the Estimate under debate. Why was provision not made for the building of an ideal office for the Ministry of Information at Benin? This office is being housed in one small room without chairs and tables in Benin. This omission is a disgrace to the West Regional Government which claims to be the first in introducing sound broadcasting in Africa.

If the Minister of Justice can make provisions for setting up customary courts of all grades throughout the Region, provision ought to have been inserted for the building of customary courts if he wants the customary courts to be of a lasting structure in Western Nigeria. In Akugbe District of Benin Division, a Grade "C" Customary Court is housed in an Action Group Constituency Secretariat at Adubu. This has made the general public to regard the Customary Court in the Region as an Action Group political organ to punish non-supporters of the party in power.

Finally, Sir, I thank the Government for setting aside £16,000 for the building of a Remand Home in Benin.

Mr D. E. Okumagba (Warri East):
Mr Speaker, Sir, anyone who has been studying the finances of the West Regional Government for sometime now will agree that the Government has been facing some sort of financial crisis. I think the Minister of Finance cannot promise this House that the finances of this Government will improve in the very near future. There have been several indications that the financial trouble is still existing and will continue for many years. All Ministers who were spending sums in the Estimates for the last financial year must have experienced that they were given instructions now and again to stop spending on some capital expenditure and to stop employing more people in various Ministries. That is because Government was finding it difficult to find money to pay its way. So, when the Government of this Region announced the austerity measures, the impression that people had was that it was a general decision of the Governments of the Federation; but there are indications which prove to us beyond doubt that it is because of the special financial difficulties of the Government that made them announce drastic austerity measures for people in this Region. The announcement was made by the Premier of the Region on the understanding that other Regions would follow his example. The Government of this Region was disappointed when other Regions did

[MR OKUMAGBA]

not go as far as they did, and the people in this Region have since realised that it was the particular financial difficulty of this Government that necessitated the announcement of these drastic measures. I do not think that this Government will ever learn. If as they claim, they are trying to introduce these austerity measures to improve the finances of the Region, one would expect that they will show example in every way.

If we want money, and if everyone must be prepared for sacrifices, what is the necessity for increasing the number of Board Members and the number of Boards, formed by the Government; increasing the number of people that must earn money for doing nothing? In this Session, this Government has introduced a Bill which made it necessary for the formation of a Produce Inspection Board. In this Session, this Government introduced a Bill which made it necessary for increasing the number of Executive Members of the Housing Corporation Board. In this Session, this Government introduced a Bill which made it necessary to increase the number of Members on the Provisional Council of Ife University from ten to twenty. One would ask, what is this Government after?

If you call on the people of this Region to be prepared for sacrifices in order to divert money to members of your party who will be members of these various Boards, then the Government is being very unfair to the people of this Region. Before you get the co-operation of us on the Opposition Bench, we should see every indication that Government is trying to save in every direction.

No one will be convinced that the Government is sincere in introducing these austerity measures if we find that more Boards are being formed and more members of the Government Party are being appointed into them.

There is another aspect of the Government's financial policy which should be criticised in this House. I refer to the loan policy of this Government. When loans were given out by the Government, they were not given out as free gifts. The loans were not free gifts but, from the report which we get from the Audit Department of this Government and the Finance Corporation, we have found to our own disappointment that these loans are not being repaid in accordance with the conditions that were laid down in the agreements before the loans were given out by the Government; and these loans are

secured. If this Government needs money and there are people who are owing the Government, what prevents the Government from demanding this money? If this Government requires about £210 million for development, it is only necessary that those who are owing the Government should be called upon to repay the amounts. The conditions for repayment are in the contracts or the agreements.

I would like the Minister of Finance to explain when he would be replying to Members on this side concerning the amount of Government loan that is outstanding; the amount that has been repaid, and whether the various people who are owing are paying according to the terms of their agreements. That explanation will be necessary because, at this present time, this Government needs money and if we agree that we require money for development, the money due to the Government must be paid, and since these loans are secured and the people are not paying back, the security should be sold and the money recovered.

Before I leave this section dealing with the loans, I will like to draw the attention of the Government and the Minister of Finance to some very serious problems developing in my constituency. I would like the Minister of Finance to make it clear to us in this House whether he, at any time, guaranteed any loan for the building of a market in the Warri Urban District Council area to the tune of £650,000, because an announcement was made after the meeting of the Management Committee of the Warri Urban District Council that a contract had been signed between the Management Committee and Gammon (Nigeria) Limited for the building of a modern market in Warri Urban District Council area. (*Government Benches: Go home and enquire*). The serious point that I am trying to put before the House is the fact that the announcement that was made, made it clear that the loan had been guaranteed by the Government of this Region. (*Government Benches: What is wrong?*) I will tell you what is wrong. This Government should not in any way try to undermine the finances of the proposed Midwest State. The understanding was that the Gammon (Nigeria) Limited will build the market for Warri Urban District Council at a value of £650,000. Warri Urban District Council will not pay any part of this sum. The Gammon of Nigeria will build this market and the Council would be required to pay this loan over a period of many years. Another understanding is that, should the Council fail to

[MR OKUMAGBA]

repay the loan and since the guarantee is signed by the Government of this Region, it will be a debt owned by the Government of Western Region. I know for certain that after the Midwest is created, and there is an outstanding loan of £650,000 which is the responsibility of the West Regional Government, after distributing revenue and liabilities that will be treated as a debt owed by the Midwest State. (*Interruptions*).

This Government should not undermine the finances of the State that is about to be created; at least, I would like to know from the Minister of Finance whether he guaranteed that loan. The annual revenue of the Warri Urban District Council is less than £100,000 a year. The present market was built with a loan of about £30,000, and the outstanding sum still to be paid is up to £9,000. We will not give any mandate to our Minister of Finance to guarantee a loan for any District Council area the revenue of which is less than £100,000 a year. Moreover, this loan is more than six times the total revenue of that Council for six years. What is the sense in guaranteeing that loan? How can the District Council be expected to pay back a loan of £650,000 when their annual total revenue is not up to £100,000? At the moment, the amount still owing by the Council in respect of that market is over £9,000. I say this, under this item, because we should guard the finances of the Western Region and if we find that the Minister of Finance has been deceived to undertake responsibility which he ought not to have undertaken, it is our duty here to ask him for an explanation. He should explain to us in this House why he guaranteed that loan.

Mr Speaker, I also refer the Minister of Finance to the item of expenditure on Education. I am very sorry that the Minister of Education is not here. If this Government will learn, if this Government is ready to improve our finances at all, it will be necessary for them to look into the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education accounts for 43 per cent of the total expenditure of the Region and, if we are satisfied that there is great wastage of revenue in connection with the Free Primary Education Scheme, it is up to the Minister of Finance and the Cabinet to look into it and see whether there is any possibility of saving money. It is common knowledge that most of the Councils in the Western Region are corrupt; they are so corrupt that they make this Government spend more than necessary in running our Primary

School Education Scheme. I am sure that if there is vigilance, if there is proper supervision, it will not cost this Government up to £8 million to maintain the present Free Primary Education and Secondary Schools set up in the Region.

I am appealing to the Government that if it is necessary to improve our finances, the running of these primary schools, the supervision of these schools, should be transferred completely from these corrupt councils to the Inspectorate Division of the Ministry of Education. I am not saying that the position would improve very much if the councils were controlled by my own party: I am not prepared to mix politics with my own criticism of the Ministry of Education. I am satisfied that if these councils do their work in the way they should do it, if they stop appointing teachers when they are not necessary; if they stop putting one teacher to teach five boys and then expecting the Government to pay the salaries of these teachers I am sure that the money spent on primary school education will be considerably reduced.

Mr Speaker, I know that it is not possible for this Government to learn anything. I know that it is not possible for them to improve their finances in the next five years. I know, too, that the day of reckoning will come when the Midwest State will have been created, when the assets and liabilities will have been shared; you will then find yourself stranded. Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that debate on this Motion be now adjourned until tomorrow when Ministers will reply to the criticisms which have been made. If there are any Members on the other side of the House who have not contributed, they will have ample opportunity during the Committee of Supply.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Further Debate on the Appropriation Bill adjourned till tomorrow, Wednesday, 11th April, 1962.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed—That the House do now adjourn.—(Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.45 p.m. until tomorrow, Wednesday, 11th April, 1962, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 11TH APRIL, 1962

(The House met at 10.20 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Leader of the House and Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (Mr S. S. A. Adeniya): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 41 (1)

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 41 (1) be suspended this day to enable the Minister of Finance to present the Produce Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill.

Mr Adeniya: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF A PUBLIC BILL

By the Minister of Finance—

Produce Sales Tax Bill.—A Bill to amend the Produce Sales Tax Law—Cap. 99; presented and read the First time; *To be read a Second time later today.*

BILL: FIRST READING

The following Bill, brought from the other House, was presented and read the First time; it was ordered to be read a Second time now:

The House of Chiefs Bill.

THE HOUSE OF CHIEFS BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to prescribe the qualifications of Chiefs to be selected as Members of the House of Chiefs for the Region.

In accordance with the Constitution of Western Nigeria, this Bill seeks to replace by a Law enacted by the Legislature of the

Region the provisions of the Western House of Chiefs (Selection of Chiefs) Regulations of 1960. This Law will contain provisions prescribing the qualification of chiefs to be selected as members of the House of Chiefs for the Region, the manner of selection of such Chiefs, the circumstances in which the seat of any such Chief in the House shall become vacant.

By virtue of the transitional provisions of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960, the Western House of Chiefs, constituted under the Regulations of 1960, still continues in existence. New members will have to be selected under the provisions of the new Law.

The House of Chiefs will continue to consist of the following classes of Members:

(a) *ex-officio* members;

(b) members having such qualifications and selected in such manner as may be prescribed by Law;

(c) members having such qualifications as may be prescribed by Law and selected by the Governor acting in accordance with the advice of the Premier.

In class (a) no legislative provision is required in respect of *ex-officio* members.

In class (b) any chief who in the opinion of the Governor in Council has undisputed authority over the community or communities inhabiting the entire area of a Constituency may be selected by the Governor in Council for membership of the House of Chiefs. Other members in class (b) will be selected in each Division in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Bill by electoral colleges formed under and in accordance with the provisions of the fourth column of the Schedule, as may be appropriate in each case, from amongst those chiefs who are qualified for selection by virtue of being recognised under the law in force in this Region. No chief who is the president of a customary court will be qualified for selection in this manner.

Members of class (c) will be selected from amongst persons who are chiefs within the meaning of the Chiefs Law and who are specially recognised by the Governor in Council for the purpose.

The tenure of seats of Members, other than *ex-officio* Members, of the House of Chiefs is dealt with in Part V of the Bill. A Chief will lose his seat in the House if he is suspended, or deposed or if his recognition is withdrawn.

[DR OMITOWOJU]

Part VI contains provisions made with respect to the determination of questions arising out of selection to the House of Chiefs or concerning membership of the House of Chiefs.

It will be possible to question an undue selection or return by petition to the High Court as in the case of elections to the House of Assembly as contemplated in section 16 of the Constitution of Western Nigeria. The Law will not, however, apply to past selections, nor will it affect the tenure of office of the present members of the House of Chiefs.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to correct an impression created in the minds of the public by press publications a few days ago that certain chiefs resigned their seats in the House of Chiefs.

The true position is that, in accordance with the wishes of the Obas and Chiefs themselves, it has been agreed that certain Obas should be moved to the class of *ex-officio* members. Before that change, these Obas were selected into the House of Chiefs in class (b) and, in order that they would not occupy a dual position in the House they had to resign from their position, so that they could be appointed into the new position as *ex-officio* members. Here they will not be subjected to any process of election or selection. Membership into the *ex-officio* section is in accordance with the decision of the Obas and Chiefs themselves. The Chiefs affected are still Members of the House of Chiefs.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr E. O. Imafidon (Benin Central East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on this Bill. In doing so, I would like to point out some errors with special reference to the selection of Chiefs in Benin Division. Here, under the Schedule to the Bill before us, it is stated that the Chiefs to be selected to the House of Chiefs will only be selected by traditional members of the Benin Divisional Council.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the instrument establishing Benin Divisional Council provides for more than 150 Chiefs as approved by this Government, and on the same instrument only twenty Chiefs can be elected by the Benin Divisional Council as traditional members. It follows, therefore, that the selection of Chiefs in the House of Chiefs can only be done by this class of Chiefs if only it is

confined to the traditional members of the Benin Divisional Council. It will look very unfair, Sir, for other recommended Chiefs in the Division or in Benin City whose approval has been given by this Government to be left out during such selection. I think, Sir, that the selection confined to only twenty members of the Benin Divisional Council will be so few and will be open to corruption. People can just go round to these members and buy them so that the election will not be fair and free; in addition to that, Sir, I realise that this Government has also approved provisions for traditional members of all other local and district councils in Benin Division. They are Iyekeorhionmwon District Council, Akugbe District Council, Uhummwunode District Council, Iyekuselu District Council, Iyekovia District Council and Benin City Council. These Councils have also had provisions in the instruments allowing them some representation of traditional Chiefs.

It is therefore clear under this Bill, Sir, that those Chiefs in the other District Councils will not participate in the selection of Chiefs to the House of Chiefs; in other words, they may not be selected and they cannot vote for those to be selected. I feel, Sir, that this is very unfair and I am calling on the Government to reconsider this with a view to putting in these traditional members and giving them facilities to vote and to be voted for.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr D. E. Okumagba (Warri East): I do not know what this Government wants the House of Chiefs to do as far as legislation is concerned. If you analyse the Bill—

Mr Speaker: I beg your pardon. The House of Chiefs has passed this Bill and sent it to us.

Mr Okumagba: Yes, I am opposing the Bill, Mr Speaker. If you analyse this Bill, you will find that all Members of the House of Chiefs are to be appointed by the Premier and his Cabinet; that is what it is in the final analysis. Here we have three classes of chiefs: the *ex-officio* Members of the House of chiefs to be selected by the Obas with the approval of the Governor in Council; then the third class of chiefs, that is, those in class "C" who are to be selected by the Governor in Council on the advice of the Premier. There again, there is no reference to the wishes of the people, the people over whom these chiefs act as natural rulers. Then you come to the second class

[MR OKUMAGBA]

of chiefs, that is, Class "B". They are to be elected in electoral colleges, the membership of which is open only to traditional members who are themselves appointed by these first-class chiefs. Well, there is no reference whatsoever to the people. Then come four members of the House of Chiefs who are to be appointed by the Governor in Council. They are in Class "C", and are like people who have no constituencies. People who are nowhere in the Region and who are to be made members of the House of Chiefs by the Government go in through that door. Then if you come to the second group, that is, those in Class "B", they are to be appointed by the traditional Chiefs appointed by the first-class Chiefs themselves. Where in the Bill do we see any reference to the people? It is a very important principle in our own tradition, as far as the appointment of chiefs is concerned, that there must be some reference to the people and their wishes must be ascertained; but, all through this Bill, you do not see any sign that any reference must be made to the people at all. So we take the House of Chiefs as a Government rubber stamp; they will be there if they are allowed to be there by the Government and are removed if the Government wishes that they be removed. So, I do not believe that it is democracy to allow such class of people to have any voice in the legislation of the Region because they will always do the wish of the Government. I have no confidence in this Government as far as the appointment of chiefs, either as Members of the House of Chiefs or as minor chiefs all over the Region, is concerned.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. That is irrelevant. We are not debating appointment or deposition of chiefs.

Mr Okumagba: We have nothing in this Bill to recommend it to us as Members of the Opposition.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is like the last straw that breaks the camel's back. It is, in fact, the culmination of a number of actions by this Government in respect of selection of chiefs to the Western House of Chiefs. Not long ago, various appointments of titles, and of persons holding such titles, were published by this Government. The publication of these titles and these names really ought to have come before this Bill; that is, if Government wanted to play fair with the people whom these chiefs are going to work for, those publications or those regulations

ought to have come before this House for these reasons.

This Government before bringing in this Bill this morning made sure that all the titles that are likely to be affected by this Bill and all the names and persons concerned have been well prepared in readiness. Well, the net result, Mr Speaker, is that this Bill will be passed in this House this morning, as I know it will, whether we like it or not but we shall certainly make it clear to both Mr Speaker, and the House that this Bill is, strictly, not fair on the people of the Western Region in general, and chiefs and people of the Midwest in particular.

One original objection is that which we have always had, the one which the hon. Minister has just cited, namely, that whatever decisions are taken in respect of these chiefs, their qualifications, are not subject to question by a court of law. That is not democratic, Mr Speaker. If anyone feels that what he or she has done is in terms of the law of the land all over the Region, well if we have, and I think we have, a fair judiciary in this Region, then such activities both of Government and of individuals should be subject to the analysis of the courts of the land.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the graduation of the various chiefs as set out in this Bill is a funny one. There is the grade of *ex-officio* Members who, like the natural rulers, when once they come in they cannot go out. Nor can the people who own them—after all, people own chiefs and chiefs own the people—really have any hands if they happen to be in concert with them (the chiefs) if this Bill passes through the House. Well, that is an objectionable element in any democratic law, because we do not want to create an impression that when Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi had been placed in post he—(Interruptions).

Government Front Bench: Why did you mention him?

Mr Rerri: Because he is my best friend in this House. I would not want Chief Odebiyi to sit tight like some of you Ministers who sit tight in your posts. Mr Speaker, what I am trying to say is this. (Interruptions).

Government Benches: As the Oba of Benin sits tight?

Mr Rerri: You know why he sits tight?

Government Benches: Tradition!

Mr Rerri: You think we have none? (Interruptions).

Some hon. Members: Where is it?

Mr Rerri: Mr Speaker, the important point is that this Law as it stands is not democratic and it offends the common men of this Region by whose grace these gentlemen before you are taking their seats today. So that if now you do anything that incurs the dissatisfaction of those who own you, if you displease them, sooner or later they will shut you out.

The other point, Mr Speaker, is this, that in my Division—(*Government Benches: Where is that?*) You ought to know where I come from.

In my Division, I mean Urhobo Division, a number of artificial chiefs have been nominated by this Government. Now they are classed as obas or natural rulers, for the time being, but this Government has gazetted some commoners and given them titles of *Obi*. Well, an *Obi* is the equivalent of an Oba or a natural ruler. That is a big anomaly because you could not say that just because Mr "X", who is not a chief by tradition or by the cultural fashion of the area, supports a particular party he should be made a chief overnight; and, not only that, but that such a person should be made a natural ruler. You see, I am not a prophet of doom. We, Nigerians, like to respect our natural rulers, but when you impose a commoner on us as a natural ruler, the natural instinct is to rebel against it.

As I was saying about Urhobo Division, these commoner/chiefs, chiefs made by the Action Group Government, are creating a headache in certain circles at home.

Now, another aspect of these artificial chiefs made recently through the means—(*Inter-ruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member, on point of information, tell me to which section he is here referring in connection with artificial and/or natural rulers.

Mr Rerri: I am referring you Mr Speaker, to the qualification of name, the qualification of chiefs, and so on and so forth. I am saying that the Western Region Government is not applying the proper qualifications. Their mode of arriving at these chiefs is not proper. Mr Speaker, thanks.

Mr Speaker: Alright, if I take it that way you are not out of order.

Mr Rerri: Well what I am referring to is this, that by virtue of the qualification being satisfied now and in respect of the publication which I have just referred to, something like this has happened. Well, Mr "A" is the head

chief of a community (like the Oba of Benin) and Mr "B" his lieutenant or somebody under him. Well, there are instances in the Gazette of the 29th of this month in which Mr "B" has been taken over Mr "A". Perhaps it had been apparent to this Government that Mr "A" is not the type that dances to the tom tom of the Action Group. May I say, in fairness to the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs, that if laws are made, well, not only should the letter of that law be carried out, but the spirit as well. Experience has shown the Opposition Members that the spirit of most of the laws is not being sufficiently pursued by those who are competent to do so.

As I had said earlier, Mr Speaker, Sir, our opposition to this Bill arises from the fact that it is a kind of thing in which the whole arrangements behind the scene had been finalised and we are merely being asked to pass an apparently innocent Bill which sentences Opposition chiefs.

I am saying this Mr Speaker, Sir, that it will be a kind gesture if, in applying the provisions of this Bill which will soon be passed despite our opposition to it, the Government makes sure that more NCNC Chiefs are allowed to have seats in the House of Chiefs. I know the hon. the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs is an experienced man, and in performing the operation of this Bill he will remember to be fair to all sides. The kind of fairness I mean, Mr Speaker, Sir, is the fairness in which the hon. Minister will enjoy not only the confidence of his party supporters but also the confidence of the Western Region electorates as a whole.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish the hon. Member for Urhobo West I to know that this Bill is not intended to discriminate against certain chiefs in Urhobo Division. What happens in the case of Urhobo Division now may be likened to some areas in the Colony Province, namely, Ikeja and Mushin, where the people have no traditional rulers because they went there to settle. Government has found it difficult for some time past, to select traditional members from Urhobo; we are in sympathy with them and we want them to have traditional members in the House of Chiefs like their counterparts in the Region. So, Mr Speaker, with the insertion of Part III I think the Government has met the wishes of the people in Urhobo Division.

Mr E. B. Arowojolu (Okitipupa South-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. In supporting it Sir, I want to make a few comments as it affects all traditional Chiefs in Okitipupa Division.

In Okitipupa Division, there are only eight traditional Chiefs in the Divisional Council. As it is, four of these eight Chiefs will be selected to the House of Chiefs. It is very unfair to all other traditional Chiefs in the various District Councils in the Division for having no opportunity to exercise their legitimate right. I appeal to the Government to reconsider that part of the Bill to allow all the traditional Chiefs in each of the District Councils to be qualified to vote or to be voted for.

The other point I like to make concerns the position of Abodi of Ikale land. Abodi is the traditional ruler of Okitipupa North. Before the present Local Government set-up he was the consenting authority in Ikale area. All other nine Olojas were under him. But now Sir, because he is illiterate, his right has been taken away by those Olojas who are cleverer than he. I appeal to the Government to consider the position of Abodi and promote him to be *ex-officio* Member of the House of Chiefs as done to four Obas in Ondo Province recently. This will prevent him from contesting elections with other Olojas under him. What happened to Abodi had happened to Osemowe of Ondo before, when his junior chief, Ajobu of Obu, defeated him when contesting election to the House of Chiefs.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Ajuwon (Ibadan East Rural I): Mr Speaker, Sir, the question of the appointment of Chiefs has nothing to do with the Opposition as far as I am concerned; it is the domestic affairs of the Action Group. We heard recently that some chiefs resigned their seats from the House of Chiefs: this may be that these chiefs are now tired with the Awolowo faction of the Action Group and now wish to join the Akintola faction. (*Fire, fire.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I refer to Part III, paragraph 10 (3) which says that the Secretary/Treasurer or other persons appointed under sub-section (1) of this section shall give at least five days' notice to the traditional members of the council. I wish to say that the notice of five days is too short and I wish it to be extended to seven days so that the people concerned may have a chance to discuss things among themselves.

Now, in 19 (g) it is provided that "when the name of every voter has been called the Electoral Officer shall count the votes recorded and may for that purpose adjourn the meeting". He should declare the result immediately. What guarantee can the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs give us that if they carry these papers back they will not be tampered with? The Electoral Officer should release the result immediately.

I would like to make reference to column 3 (page C 110 of the Bill)—"10.....All traditional members of Ibadan Divisional Council". Chiefs should enjoy the confidence of the people, but these traditional Chiefs do not enjoy the confidence of the Ibadan people because they are nominated by the people who are interested in them. We would like this Government to give a chance to the public to see that the right type of Chiefs be elected into the House of Chiefs.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr R. O. Areola (Ekiti South-East I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill, and, in supporting it, I would like to make a point which, if looked into now, will save some future troubles. This is in relation to Ekiti South-East I.

The Constituency, as it is at present constituted, is made up of Ikole District Council and is a fraction of another. The Ikole District Council, as it is said here, is entitled to nominate seven members from among the traditional members of the Council but no mention is made of the number to be chosen from the other fraction of the Ikole District Council. But at present four members are traditional members of that fraction. Now, it is quite possible that if the Instrument is amended, the traditional membership of the Ekiti Southern District Council is increased, in which case it may be possible in future to increase the number which may be entitled to contest the House of Chiefs election. So that I would say, right from now, that since it is based upon population, the number be specifically mentioned to be "four", so that future amendments of the Instrument will not affect the ratio of 7:4.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I say on authority that, some time past, the Ekiti Southern District Council sought to amend the Instrument establishing that Council so as to increase the traditional members of the Council; if this is pursued it will be to the detriment of the Ikole District Council which at present has seven traditional members as against four traditional members of the Ekiti Southern District Council. So, I will warn, Mr

Speaker, Sir, that the number "four" be specifically mentioned in this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support.

Mr A. Ajibola (Ibadan North-West Rural): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill.

With reference to the speech of the hon. Member, Mr Ajuwon, as I said the other day when he was talking about the dissolution of the Ibadan District Council and still fighting that some people should be recommended to come to the House of Chiefs, this is a strange thing to me. For one thing, I would like him to be reminded that we are the people that enjoy the confidence of Ibadan people. We are senior members of the old Ibadan District Council and we became automatically members of the Ibadan District Council when we have eight councils in Ibadan; that is why he should be perturbed about the number of days to be given as notice. If a day is to be given as notice, his people, his imaginary people, who are supporting him at present, even if one hour's notice is given, everybody will be there. This is an attempt to cause confusion. I would not like this honourable House to have the impression that a person of Mr Ajuwon's type is what Ibadan can produce, because he was reading his notes upside-down. In the House of Chiefs, some Chiefs were said to have resigned, but immediately they returned to the House they were considered as *ex-officio* Members. Therefore, I would say that this honourable House should not regard what the disgruntled Friend on the other side of the House was saying as far as Ibadan is concerned.

Whole-heartedly, I support this Bill, and we pray that it will work to a success.

Mr P. V. Okwesa (Aboh East): Mr Speaker, Sir, most of my points have been raised by my colleagues, but there is however one point I want to emphasise, and that point is the part to be played by traditional members. We all know that these traditional members were selected by members of the Action Group and, consequently, in most places all traditional members are Action Group members; so that when traditional members are given the right to select Chiefs who should be members of the House of Chiefs it is only natural that they are going to select Action Group Chiefs and therefore NCNC Chiefs can never have a chance of entering the House of Chiefs.

Similarly, in this House of Chiefs, the great majority belong to the Action Group Party and, therefore, in selecting among themselves members who can be *ex-officio*

members of the House of Chiefs, it is those Action Group natural rulers that will become *ex-officio* members; NCNC natural rulers and NCNC Chiefs have no chance of going to the top. I am greatly worried because I know.....

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Will the hon. Member point out to me a case where NCNC have been excluded.

Mr Okwesa: Mr Speaker, Sir, look at the fourth column of the Schedule, page 107. I take my District as an example; Aboh East Constituency. Now, traditional members and other Chiefs participating in the selection of Chiefs for membership of the House of Chiefs, all traditional members of the Ndosimili District Council, are members of the Action Group. In the selection of these traditional members the people of the District were never consulted but suddenly, their names appeared in the *Western Region of Nigeria Gazette*. How were these people selected? Who gave their names to the Governor in Council? The Governor in Council has never seen them before. The names were submitted by the local Action Group leaders in Ndosimili District. The worst of it all is that these people who were selected were people who were not qualified to be traditional members at all. Certain fictitious titles were manufactured and then given to the people selected—titles which were never known in the Ndosimili District and which were only heard of in this House or which I knew only by reading the Gazette published here. So that, in giving traditional titles in that District, there are certain qualifications according to the tradition and customs of the people which had been violated when these traditional members were appointed; and yet these traditional members have the right to say who should go to the House of Chiefs and who cannot, when they themselves are not qualified to be traditional members according to the custom of the people.

Mr Speaker: Unfortunately, we are not discussing the appointment of traditional members now.

Dr Omitowoju: Mr Speaker, Sir, I will make a general comment on the points raised by the Opposition Members. I would like to point out that this Bill only seeks to legalise the Selection of Chiefs Regulations of 1960 and is not making any new regulation or additions at all.

The hon. Member for Benin Central raised a point on confining the selection of chiefs to only members of the Benin Divi-

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sional Council. We have already had discussions with the chiefs and leaders of the area; the other District Councils in Benin area will be considered when selections are to be made; so that the selection will not be confined to Benin Divisional Council only. We have got the representations of these chiefs and necessary amendments will be made when the time comes. You should not worry; your fears shall be allayed.

Now, coming to the hon. Member for Warri East. Unfortunately he is not on his seat now. He is opposing the Bill because he says the Premier will appoint the Obas and Chiefs, and so on. If he had taken time to go through the Bill—I think he is a teacher—and to read the Bill properly and not upside-down, he will not see any section where the prerogative of the selection of chiefs is placed in the hands of the Premier. In any community the question of *ex-officio* Members is that of the traditional members themselves, and they are not to be selected by the Premier. The manner of their selection is regularised by law and there is nothing controversial in it. (*Applause.*) The hon. Member for Benin Central will like to see that chiefs and Obas are selected by the commoners or by the entire public. I would like to point out that the people themselves have entrusted the Obas and Chiefs to be the custodians of the tradition of the people. It will be impossible for them to withdraw what they have entrusted to the Obas and Chiefs, and this Government knows this fully well. Since the introduction of the local government system in this Region, a lot of councillors have taken it in their own hands, through some dubious means, to influence the selection of Obas and Chiefs of this Region. Any decision in respect of the Obas and Chiefs shall be the concern of the Obas and Chiefs themselves who are quite competent to deal with such matters. To say that we should now go back and allow the commoners to interfere in such matters will be derogatory to the importance of the chieftaincy institution.

As regards the point raised by the hon. Member for Urhobo West I, I would like to remind him that, in order to allow chiefs from Urhobo area to come into the House of Chiefs in their own right, a Bill was passed in this House only last January and the question of how Chiefs will be selected from Urhobo and Asaba areas had already been passed into law. Generally, in times past, particularly in Central Urhobo, the people there had always given us the impression that there were no chiefs there; but

these chiefs are really there, and these commoners are only preventing the chiefs from taking their place in councils; until they are allowed by the Instrument of the Council, they would not be able to take their seats. But it is the policy of this Government to give all the chiefs in this Region their own power to be able to exercise their civil rights. No commoner should deprive them of their normal rights. (*Applause.*) The question of saying that artificial chiefs have been created in Urhobo area is therefore definitely erroneous, and I am sure the hon. Member will not go to Urhobo and say the chiefs there are artificial. (*Interruptions.*)

I will tell you this: no matter what you say on the floor of this House, you cannot say so among your own people. You cannot go home and say that. (*Interruptions.*) The Chiefs in the House of Chiefs are quite happy that they are now being saved from the clutches of all of you. (*Cheers.*) Read the *Hansard*. Whoever is popular is not so by our own doing. You go home and co-operate. The Chiefs actually know their friends. The way in which you behave to them is so improper that they will never entrust their own destiny to your own hands. (*Cheers.*)

A point has been raised by the Member for Okitipupa South about the position of the Abodi of Ikoya. Well, I will just tell him this, that the question is already being handled by the Government and, until the final report is presented to Government, I cannot say anything further about it.

The point made by the Member for Ibadan on the other side—well, I will not say anything about it except to tell him that he has no understanding of the Bill. It is unfortunate that he has to represent Ibadan. If he understands the Bill, he will not say most of the things he said this morning. So I will leave him alone.

To reply to the Member for Aboh Division. If he had been in this House when I replied to a point made by him over traditional membership in his area, he would understand it better. The question of chiefs supporting this side or that side is a reflection of the type of love you show to these chiefs in your area. Surely, if you show an antagonistic attitude to your elders and to your chiefs, they will never co-operate with you. Because of the attitude that Action Group leaders show to these people in that area, they will ever go to people who will seek their interest. You do not seek their interest. You do not give them a chance to

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come into councils and participate well. You know that in times past only chiefs were controlling councils. Immediately you were given some bit of chance under the Law, you swept the former owners away. Do you think they would like you for that? Your Chiefs and Obas should participate fully in the running of Local Government in this Region. (Cheers). You go back and try to co-operate with your chiefs.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to take my seat. (Cheers).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and Committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee. (In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 29 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

ORDER OF THE DAY

INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT)

BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Interpretation Law (Cap. 51). It is a technical Bill.

There are at the present a number of provisions in the Interpretation Law, Cap. 51, which require to be amended in order to bring them up to date. Thus, it is now necessary for amendments to be made to the Law in order, firstly, to take account of Constitutional changes brought about by the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960, e.g., by deleting references to the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, etc., to take account of the fact that all Federal post-Independence Enactments of Parliament have been re-designated and that under the Designation of Ordinances, Act 1961, No. 57 of 1961, all pre-Independence Federal Ordinances have now been similarly re-designated; of the fact that the holder of the office of the Attorney-General of this Region had long ceased to be a public officer; of changes in the forms or contents of Regional and Federal legislation either with the coming

into force of the Revised Editions of both the Regional and the Federal Laws or as a result of subsequent Enactments; and of the recent reallocation of portfolios with particular reference to the exercise of various statutory powers by the appropriate Minister in respect of the Midwest Area.

Secondly, to render more widely applicable those provisions of the Law which at present apply only to the interpretation of specifically enumerated classes of subsidiary legislation such as orders, regulations and rules of court by making them applicable to the interpretation also of all other instruments having the effect of law, e.g., legal notifications, directions, etc.

Thirdly, to render more widely applicable certain provisions of the Law which at present apply only to the interpretation of "Laws" by taking account of the fact that even after the coming into operation of the Revised Laws of the Region there are still in force a number of Enactments which are in the form of "Ordinances", e.g., the Slavery Abolition Ordinance; and fourthly, there have been instances in the past where statutory powers have been conferred or duties imposed upon some person or authority being expressly required by law to do the same by making any sort of subsidiary legislation to that end. Nevertheless, occasions had arisen when, for reasons of convenience, such things had had to be done by the making of "orders" or "rules" sometimes published in the Regional Gazette and sometimes not. It is considered that where it would in fact be more convenient for a person or authority to discharge statutory functions by making some form of subsidiary legislation or other, such person or authority should be enabled by law to do so. An actual example is to be found in the cases of some of the statutory corporations of this Region which have powers under their various Laws to grant pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits to their employees without any express provision in the Laws that rules could be made for this purpose although, in fact, such rules have had to be made as otherwise it would have been difficult to attain any measure of uniformity in the treatment of a great many individual cases. It is now proposed to regularise practices such as these by making new provisions in suitable terms in the Interpretation Law.

Finally, challenges to Government legislation on the ground of alleged unconstitutionality are coming more and more into vogue. Although in no instance, so far as is known, has any such challenge to legislation of the

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Government of this Region been successful in the courts, nevertheless, it seems advisable, in view of the experience in some other countries with federal constitutions—notably, the Commonwealth of Australia—to make provision in advance whereby in the event of challenge to a particular provision or provisions of an enactment proving successful, the courts would be enabled to uphold the validity of the remaining provisions of the enactment in so far as they are within the legislative competence of the Regional Legislature. A guide which in this matter has proved very useful in the Commonwealth of Australia is to be found in section 15A of that country's Interpretation Act, 1901-1950, which reads as follows:

“Every Act shall be read and construed subject to the Constitution, and so as not to exceed the legislative power of the Commonwealth to the intent that where any enactment thereof would, but for this section, have been construed as being in excess of that power, it shall, nevertheless, be a valid enactment to the extent to which it is not in excess of that power”.

It is now proposed to insert a corresponding provision in the Interpretation Law.

I beg to move, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have very serious objection to those who are howling on the other side.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: Point of order. Sir, Order 27 (5): It shall be out of order to use offensive and insolent language to Members of the House. The word “howling” is unparliamentary, Sir.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member has not imputed such statement to any Member of the House.

Mr Rerri: Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is not controversial, and I was just going to say one or two things before taking my seat, because it is one of those progressive Bills which the Government of the Western Region has really delayed a little too long in bringing forward.

It is very much like a Bill which we passed last week in respect of which Government failed to act within six months. But this Bill really ought to have come earlier than now, and I do not see any objection any nationalist would have to putting off colonial or sub-colonial conditions upon himself in the way of an objection to this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have said that we have no objection to this Bill because the Bill is a progressive one.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to the Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 32 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

PRODUCE SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Produce Sales Tax Law. I have it in command from His Excellency, the Governor, in accordance with section 26, sub-section (2) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria, to convey his recommendation for the consideration of this Bill.

Hon. Members are already aware that when I was delivering my Budget Speech I did mention that there were certain fiscal measures which the Regional Government was proposing to introduce with a view to making some substantial contributions to the Development Programme. This is one of such measures.

The Bill, Sir, is designed, among other things, to increase the rates of tax payable on produce in this Region, by substituting the rates shown in clause 3 for the existing rates. As I said before, the increases proposed are intended to provide the Government with additional funds for the execution of its Development Plan.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to draw the attention of hon. Members to clause 2 of the Bill which provides that in future financial resolutions to vary rates of tax payable under the law will not be dealt with by this House. This proposal has been made in view of section 26 (1) (c) of the Constitution of Western Nigeria which prohibits the House of Chiefs from proceeding upon any such resolution.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. E. E. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to oppose the Bill, I have the following reasons. A few days ago the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House appealed to all sides of the House to co-operate in the call to wage a battle for economic freedom. He went further in his Budget Speech, as follows, to say that the produce of this Region is suffering a downward trend. With your permission, Sir, I beg to refer to page 5 of the Budget Speech:

“The following figures relating to revenue from export duties show a most unwelcome trend.”

I do not want to bother the House by quoting relevant figures because we all have copies of it. He went further to say “In view of this apparent recession in revenue from our traditional sources.....” I want this House, Sir, to think on this operative phrase “apparent recession in revenue from our traditional sources”. If I may go further to page 9 under the head for export duties, tax and produce, a total revenue of roughly £6.1 million is expected for 1962/63, although this amount is approximately £1.4 million less than the corresponding figure for the previous year. This revenue head still retains its importance as a source of revenue to Government now ranking second to the revenue head for statutory payments from the Federal Government. I would like to stress, Sir, that these sources of revenue which run second in the Region’s sources of revenue should not have been brought to the floor of this House by the way of suspending Standing Orders in order to force it through.

By his appeal and call to go back home to educate our people on their responsibilities towards the Government, we should have been given time to go back home to educate the people before telling them of the increase on the sales of produce tax.

He went further, as shown on page 6, to say that apart from income tax, there are reports of rubber exporters who evade the payment of sales tax on produce. Illegal traffic in logs, it is learnt, goes on in the Region. We have also heard of importers of merchandise who, by falsification of invoices and other devious means, avoid the payment of the appropriate import duties on the goods they import. I think, Sir, that a law to see that these anomalies which he has pointed out will not repeat themselves at any time from now would have first been brought before the floor of this House rather than increasing the duties on the sale of produce. We are aware, Sir, that the price of cocoa overseas is going down. We are also aware,

Sir, that rubber is not better than cocoa as far as that is concerned, and we went round the other way to tell our local dealers to pay more than hitherto they have been paying for the produce they buy and sell.

I think, Sir, that what is necessary is, first of all, to introduce a law whereby the evaders of taxes as far as produce sales tax is concerned will not repeat that evasion. If that is done, Sir, then we will go back home to tell our people what responsibility is lying ahead for them, instead of going back home to tell them that there is an increase on the taxes which they have to pay as against the downward trend of prices which their produce is already suffering.

In view of this, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr E. O. Imafidon (Benin Central East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill.

This morning Standing Order 41 (1) was suspended in order to steamroll this Bill through this House. (*Interruptions*). Now Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill calls on this House to increase the tax on produce sales. Now we have all seen that we have the Cocoa Marketing Board in this Region and that everything has been done to enhance trade on cocoa. Because of the Board that was established the prices of cocoa have been stabilised; but, on the contrary, there is no Marketing Board for rubber, and prices of rubber have no stability, so that prices rise and fall everyday; so that buyers and sellers of rubber cannot rely on what they have to buy. As a result, thousands of rubber buyers run into debt. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker Sir, it will be very unfair to these people if this Government will collect more tax on rubber. It would have been better for this Government to establish a board where the selling and buying of rubber will be stabilised. It has been reported in this House that there has been evasion in the payment of tax. Where will this money come from? It will come from the people. It is one thing to force a horse to go to the stream, but it is impossible to force it to drink water. So that if Government is asking the people to pay more tax than they can afford, it means you want to kill the goose that is laying golden eggs. (*Interruptions*).

I am opposing this Bill because Government has been very unfair to rubber producers, buyers and sellers. To increase tax on rubber and cocoa is, at this time in the development of Western Region, very bad. Even cocoa prices are not stable now, and it is not the time for you to call upon people to pay more tax. When the peasant farmers

[MR IMAFIDON]

who are dealing in cocoa, palm produce and palm kernel were flourishing, they were not called upon to pay more tax but, now that they have no more money, they are being called upon to pay more tax. Even the Marketing Board established for cocoa is taking away all their money. It is very wrong to call upon the farmers this time to pay more tax.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is very untimely. It is unnecessary and uncalled for. I oppose it.

Sitting suspended at 11.50 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.32 p.m.

Chief Odebiyi: I have listened very attentively to the contributions of Members of the Opposition to the Debate on this Bill. Members of the Opposition have told me and have told the floor of this House that they themselves support *in toto* the 1962-68 Development Programme. When the White Paper on the Programme was being debated, they were given an indication of how much more money would be required to finance the Programme. They were also told how much of the cost of the Programme would be raised by way of internal and external sources. They were also told how much we are likely to get from our own resources. Despite all the facts which are available to them, they still want to do politics with the question of taxation.

It is true, Sir, that the prices of producer crops in this country are based on the law of supply and demand. To suggest in one breath that the price of cocoa is falling in the world market due to no fault of ours and, at the same time, to suggest that it is the Action Group Government which is responsible for the downward trend in the cocoa trade is not only mischievous but ill-conceived, uninformed, and malicious.

Opposition Benches: We. disagree. What was the rate of your tax?

Chief Odebiyi: I think, Sir, that the answer I can prescribe for what I consider as the panacea to all our ills in this Region is this. (*Interruptions*). If the people from this side of the House as well as from the other side will not ask for water supply, will not ask for people who will preserve law and order, will not ask for electricity, will not ask for tarred roads, if only every farmer, when going to his farm, will only look after that stretch of road lying within his own farm and leave the other man, who is his neighbour, to look after the other side or stretch of road lying within his own farm, there will be no trouble at all.

As a matter of fact, if they did that there will be no need for us to impose any taxation at all. The hon. Member said that he will not allow us to do that. In other words, both he and I of this side are agreed that if that ever happens in this Region there would be darkness. It would be inconceivable that a Region which is already enjoying light, education and enlightenment should go back into darkness, and neither I nor the hon. Member opposite may well wish to contemplate such a disgraceful thing.

Be that as it may, Sir, I also remember saying, in the course of my Budget Speech, that all the political leaders are agreed that there should be no *politicking*, to use the American slang which we call "Americana". There should be no "politicking" with taxation. Surely, Sir, the Region, the Western Region of Nigeria, enjoyed the best amenities throughout the whole Federation apart from Lagos, and therefore people who want to enjoy more amenities over and above the rest of the country ought to be prepared to pay for them.

Mr A. Adisa: Not by way of cocoa tax or rubber tax.

Chief Odebiyi: I know, Sir. I know the problem of the Member opposite me, the Member for Ibadan South-East Rural. He makes all his fees in the law courts from farmers. I know that by doing this he will be receiving less than he is entitled to; so his interests are really void. All he ought to have done, Sir, was to have said "Mr Speaker, Sir, I am an interested party", instead of saying that—(*Interruptions*). In any event, I can assure both sides of the House that the money is going into the Six-year Development Plan.

Mr Adisa: He must be in the committee to spend the money.

Chief Odebiyi: Well, that is a very good point. I have not yet, Sir, understood, within my limited knowledge of politics, that any other forum is chosen for the spending of public money apart from the floor of the House. Members of the Opposition will also be here when the amount of money which is going to be spent will be appropriated; they will have plenty of time, plenty of opportunity, to say yes or no. In any event, the majority will have its way while the minority will have its say. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill. (*Cheers*).

Question put and agreed to.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clause 1.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that the words "and shall come into operation on the 1st of April, 1962" be deleted.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Short title:

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move, Sir, under clause 1, the marginal note against the Short Title should be retained and that "commencement" should be deleted.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Mr T. E. Igugu (Central Urhobo East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment that Part II of section 3, under the Schedule, be deleted entirely.

In doing so, Sir, I wish to remark that rubber as produce in this Region is mainly found in the Midwest and, as we are all aware, the Federal Government is trying to create the Midwest Region. If the Midwest Region is created, it will not be the wish of the Midwest Government to increase the sales tax on rubber without seeking ways and means of improving the overseas price. Sir, I think as I said before, that rubber as produce in this Region is mainly found in the Midwest, and I think it will be proper for this Government to leave the question of rubber sales tax increases to the future Government of the Midwest to deal with. I am sure, Sir, that if this is passed into law it will not operate for more than two or three months before that Government will be formed. Instead of boring this House with this section of the Bill, I rise to move that this part of the Bill, Part II of the Schedule, be deleted.

Mr P. V. Okwesa: I rise to second. There is a saying, Mr Chairman, which says "Paddle your own canoe".

Amendment proposed.

Mr A. T. Reri: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am moving an amendment to the Schedules, both I and II. In making this amendment, I want to say that the object of the amendment is not to create the impression that we do not want taxation, because no Government can live without tax.

Mr Chairman: Will you hold on until we dispose of the other Gentleman's amendment.

The Minister for Midwest Affairs (Mr J. E. Otobo): As I understand it, Sir, the Mover of the Motion intends that part II of the Schedule should be deleted, which means in itself that the provisions of this short Bill will not apply to rubber as a produce. I say, Sir, to begin with, that the question whether enough is being done for rubber, whether enough is being done to promote the production of rubber, and whether enough is being done to promote the marketing of rubber, is a subject which I think will be properly taken up at the Committee stage of the Estimates itself. I have no doubt that when that time comes, and the hon. Member remembers to raise the matter, an adequate answer will be given by the Government to the effect that quite a lot has been done for rubber.

But if I may say this by way of passing, the hon. Mover of this Motion consistently passes from Ughelli to Warri to Benin, and I am quite sure he must have been amazed at the new extension services work which is going on in regard to the replanting of rubber.

Mr Igugu: I have only been passing through Ughelli down to Warri and Sapele, but the exact thing I say is that the Government is establishing farm settlements for rubber all over the area. I have not seen any move to help the farmers, and this tax as it stands is meant to take something out of the pockets of the poor farmers. This is exactly what I have been saying.

Mr Otobo: The point I am making is that if anybody is thinking that the present Government is neglecting the production or marketing of rubber, this Government is certainly not doing that.

I wish to take advantage of this to announce that there is a big scheme in regard to the production of rubber in relation to the settlements now sited in several parts of the Midwest, particularly in Delta Province. I think, Sir, that opportunity ought to be taken of this short debate to remind the House that the imposition of this small increase will in no way cripple the rubber industry. If Members of the other side had been studying the economics of rubber production, they would have found that the people who are cheating the Midwest today are the expatriates who carry all the rubber, ship them through Sapele, and so on.

Opposition Benches: No no. What has the Government done?

Mr Otobo: This step is supposed to be one of the several steps being initiated by the Government to make sure that expatriates do not unduly exploit rubber to the detriment of the people of the Midwest.

The other point which I want to make Sir, is this. A lot of claims seem to have been made in regard to the creation of the Midwest Region. Two points in fact were made by the Mover of this Motion. The first is that because the Midwest Region is going to be created, therefore nothing should be done in regard to any matter concerning the Midwest. The second point is that, in particular, nothing should be done about rubber. My answer to that is that I would not like to use this opportunity to go into the whole question of the creation of the Midwest Region. There will be, during the course of this Meeting, an appropriate time to open a full-scale debate. *(Cheers)*.

An hon. Member: You will re-cross the carpet again.

Mr Otobo: One thing is clear, and that is that when that Motion opens, everybody in this House, apart from being given an opportunity to speak on that Motion, will be adequately educated on the intricacies of the Motion and the steps already taken by the Federal House. I must say this also, Sir, that it appears that my colleagues on the other side from the Midwest are very, very anxious to obtain amenities from the present Government.

Opposition Bench: But why not? We are entitled.

Mr Otobo: They are not anxious at all to make any sacrifice; in other words, they do not say, Mr Chairman, that amenities in the whole of the Midwest should be held up pending the creation of the Midwest State. Throughout this short meeting, the point has been consistently made that more amenities should be brought to the Midwest area, but at no time have I heard any Member here say that Government should withhold the provision of amenities to the Midwest area simply because there are some Motions by the Federal Government.

The second point which I want to make in this regard is this. No Government ever abdicates its power, and this Government certainly will not abdicate its powers on the question that, some day, the Midwest Region is going to be created. Certainly Sir, a Government does not legislate for posterity and if any legislation passed now is found to be unacceptable to any future Government

of the Midwest, if and when it is created, certainly that Government shall be at liberty to abrogate it.

It will be the height of folly and a height of rascality for people to suggest that because of a future Government, the present Government cannot carry out its functions. Equally, it is understood that if at some future date, maybe 1965, or 1980, the NCNC is lucky to take over the present Government, certainly such a Government or such an NCNC Government will be free to amend any laws we are passing now. In other words, the point I am making is that no Government upon any Motion, will abandon its responsibilities. It is not even clear that, if and when the Midwest Region is created—repeat, if and when the Midwest Region is created—that that Government is going to be controlled by the NCNC.

Opposition Benches: We don't mind; provided we have the Midwest.

Mr Chairman: Order, order. I listen to only one person at a time and that happens to be the Minister for Midwest Affairs.

Mr Otobo: Therefore, if Mr Chairman, from what they say, they even know that the future Midwest State may well be controlled by the Action Group, only an Action Group Government and an Action Group policy shall be implemented in that Government.

I started on, Mr Chairman, by saying that the question as to whether the Midwest Region is going to be created or not is not a matter immediately before us, and there will be time enough to debate that matter when it does come up.

Secondly, I made clear the point that no Government is going to abdicate its powers, and if the Opposition Members think they have some fanciful schemes which they wish to implement, certainly Sir, they are at liberty to wait until Doomsday, when they do come into power, before introducing their scheme. *(Cheers)*.

Amendment negatived.

Mr Rerri: I was going to say, the purpose of the amendment I am seeking is to make the burden of the Economic Mission we took recently less burdensome by this method. On the first schedule the proposed increase is 100 per cent on all the items concerned—cocoa, palm kernels and palm oil, and in Part II—rubber— $\frac{1}{2}$ d per pound. These increases are all 100 per cent. Well, the purpose of the amendment, Mr Chairman, is to seek some form of relief

[MR RERRI]

for those who have to bear the burden of taxation and of the development of this Region. I consider, Mr Chairman, that a less heavy rate of taxation would bring more relief to those who are likely to be affected, because certain measures agreed by the Government of the Federation have affected the transport of cocoa. Certain other items connected with the cocoa trade have been affected in the sense that the cost of production is now higher. Well, the cost of transport is also now higher. Other forms of taxation have been named and more and more, I understand, are to come from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the hon. Minister of Finance. Well, in view of these items I have mentioned, I consider that a 100 per cent increase on the present grade is exorbitant and excessive.

On palm oil, the old rate per ton is £1. If this schedule is passed by this House, the effect will be double the former rate. Palm kernel and cocoa rise from £4 per ton to £8 per ton. In the case of part II, rubber, the present tax is $\frac{1}{4}d$ and is now to be doubled to $\frac{1}{2}d$, and if it is correct to reckon what that comes to in terms of a ton, it comes to an increase in tax of £4 13s 4d per ton or a total tax of £9 6s 8d per ton for rubber.

I consider, Mr Chairman, that in these days of austerity we have to battle much seriously so that those who are going to bear the burden of our Six-year Development Plan may not sink under the weight of taxation. There is no doubt that we all believe in the Plan, since it is a National Plan, but we also believe that those who are going to carry the Plan through, or those who are going to subscribe continuously over the years to this Plan, should be protected against any breakdown.

I would like to mention a particular case which I witnessed myself yesterday. A cocoa buyer cabled Hamburg yesterday at Benin and said he was going to accept the contract if a difference of $\frac{1}{4}d$ exists between the price which he quoted and the one which they requoted. Well, suppose the person accepts the contract on the understanding that it would be $\frac{1}{4}d$ and, suddenly, the Government raised its tax by $\frac{1}{4}d$; what that means in effect is that this gentleman would work the contract and get nothing out of it; so that for this, I beg, Mr Chairman, to move that the first part of the rates there be amended by reducing them by 50 per cent and Part II by a similar percentage.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Mr A. Adisa (Ibadan North-East Rural)

Mr Chairman in speaking for the amendment of clause 3, I have regard to the fact that it will amount to a wholesale abolition of rates on produce. That means that if the amendment is accepted, there would not be any further rates to be paid on cocoa, palm kernels and palm oil. Well, we take that attitude because we think that the policy of double taxation is wrong. We believe that the farmers had already based whatever tax is demanded on the whole generality of the population of the Region and that it is not fair to charge them again with another double taxation. So that, on point of principle therefore, Mr Chairman, we do disagree entirely with the whole philosophy of the Action Group. We believe that the Government has not shown enough love for the farmers who form the largest proportion of the population of this Region. There is a difference between lip service and real affection for the farmers.

On the question of lip service and mere platitudes, I know that the Action Group would like the farmers to believe that they are their friends. But as we on this side of the House have been able to see, the Action Group Government of this Region is growing from strength to strength in the oppression and suppression of the farmers. We shall certainly express our great sorrow and we fervently pray for the day when the farmers of this Region shall vote out this Government.

Secondly, Sir, we move the amendment to effect a wholesale abolition of taxation on produce because we have regard to the fact that there has been a great fall in the price of cocoa. In fact there is austerity.

Mr Chairman, we do not move abolition of the whole tax but a reduction by 50 per cent.

Well, I think my pen or pencil has made a slip. The intention matters most. As far as we on this side of the House are concerned, our love for the farmers of this Region is uppermost in our minds. We wish the farmers of this Region to take note that the day we take over the Government of this Region, whether as a result of re-election or as a result of forming a caretaker Government or as a result of the creation of the Midwest, if this happens and we take over the Government from the Action Group, we promise the farmers of this Region that we shall totally abolish the payment of tax on produce. We shall not charge even a penny. Not only that, Sir. We have the intention, and we have always said that we shall remove the payment of tax; we shall not ask people to pay tax at all. (*Interruptions*).

[MR ADISA]

Now, Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not want people on the other side of the House to forget that we have shown ways by which we can achieve this. I know, Sir, that at the later stage in the life of this Government which is fast coming to the end you will have the opportunity of consulting those of us who could teach you how better to do your job.

Now, I believe, Sir, that the effect of the increase in the rates of tax upon the poor farmers is to make their poor position more lamentable and we believe that in so far as everybody knows there is no money in the Region; there is austerity. We believe that the farmers really live very hard lives. I should like some of our Ministers to take the opportunity, not only to visit cities but to go to the real farms, not to go to the farm settlements which are approximating very closely to the conditions existing in cities, but to take the opportunity of going to the farms, even in Ogbomosho. I am quite sure that the people in Ikenne are not poor farmers either. They are very, very industrious, and I have occasions to pass through Shagamu everyday and I know the people there are very, very industrious. But what do they get for their industry? Very poor service on the part of this Government. But because of our traditional love for the farmers, we pray this Government to withdraw this clause or accept the amendment so that the poor farmers in this country should not be killed by the burden of taxation which is becoming too much on them.

Further Amendment proposed.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, I move that in Part II, the rate of tax be reduced by $\frac{1}{2}d$ per pound weight.

Mr Chairman: There is a similar Motion by Mr Rerri to the same effect. If you like to speak in support, you can do so.

Mr Atohengbe: I accommodate the amendment as already moved by a colleague on this side of the House.

Chief Odebiyi: Chairman, Sir, I want to take the point which has been made by the hon. Member for Ibadan South-East Rural. As far as I know, Sir, the NCNC is in power in the East but I am yet to be told that, from the time of the predecessor of the present Premier of the Eastern Region, no tax was ever imposed by that Government.

One reason why the NCNC as a party has always failed to gain ground in this Region has always been the fact that it

always plays politics with tax. At one time, Sir, when the capitation tax (additional 10s 6d) was made in 1953, the NCNC went out with a lot of hullabaloo suggesting to people that if they were in power they would not pay even the amount they were paying at all, and that all they would pay by way of taxation would be 10s only. As a result of this type of statement made by the NCNC leaders, certain people were misled in Badagry and Egbado Division, namely, a society known as Gbogbo-Agbaye Society as well as the Aiyepaju Society. I do know, Sir, that some NCNC lawyers made ill-gotten gains from defending these people whom they themselves have misguided.

Mr Adisa: Go and learn law.

Chief Odebiyi: The hon. Member said that I should go and learn law. If I want to do it, I will not do it the way he did it. I will not walk to Cairo on foot. *(Laughter).*

Be that as it may, Sir, all I want to do is to appeal to everybody here, particularly those who constitute the electorate of this Region to find out, at least for once, whether the NCNC as a party is a sincere party—a party whose representatives will stand up and say, "If we are in power you will not pay any tax at all". I have never seen anything so irresponsible as saying that a Government will be run on mere platitudes and that people will not pay taxes at all.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I know the reason why the hon. Member for Ibadan South-East Rural has made this statement. To start with, only two years ago, on the floor of this House I showed evidence that the hon. Member himself even refused to pay what was due from him by way of tax.

Mr Adisa: I challenge you to repeat that outside the House.

Chief Odebiyi: The hon. Member says he challenges my statement. If he has any doubt in his mind, and if he has any strong witness to stand on, I can even come here tomorrow morning by way of a Ministerial Statement to give all the facts to the Members of the House.

Mr Adisa: I accept the challenge. I paid £500.

Chief Odebiyi: The hon. Member paid £500 after I had exposed him here; for two years he was dodging taxes. *(Interruptions).*

Mr Adisa: I forgive you.

Chief Odebiyi: Be that as it may, Sir, what is really distressing to me is to hear a person as intelligent, as patriotic, as the hon. Member from Ibadan South-East Rural suggesting that a Government should be run without taxes.

Mr Adisa: With economy.

Chief Odebiyi: Well the hon. Member said that he wants the Government to be run on his economic theory, and his economic theory is "No taxation; plenty of amenities".

Mr Adisa: I did not say so: I said people should not pay personal tax.

Chief Odebiyi: Well, the hon. Member says that people should not pay personal income tax. Mr Chairman, Sir, with very great respect to you and to the Federal Minister of Finance—the Federal Minister of Finance is drawn from the NCNC which is in coalition with the NPC—(Interruptions). Why have these people imposed personal income tax in the Federal Territory and also in the Eastern Region where the NCNC is in power? Why has the NCNC imposed personal income tax? I now understand, Sir. When the hon. Member is in power, he will impose tax but when he is in Opposition he need not.

Well, in other words, he is an amphibious politician. In any event, Sir, the other people have said that we must delete everything in the Schedule, whether part I or part II of the Schedule.

I have explained, when I was winding up the Debate on the Bill itself, that all they need do is not to ask for amenities at all. The farmers or the producers who may be affected know their friends. Since 1952, the NCNC has been using the issue of taxation as a political strategy and they have always failed. Won't they try another method this time? I think, Sir, that it is wrong and perfidious to suggest that we should spend all the money we want to spend on the 1962-68 Development Plan and, at the same time, not introduce fiscal measures which are designed to achieve that purpose. (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I oppose the amendment.

Amendment negatived.

Question that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill put.

The Committee Divided: Ayes 56; Noes 17.

AYES

1. Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro
2. Mr Y. Adekunle
3. Mr S. T. Adelegan

4. Alhaji A. L. Adenekan
5. Mr J. L. Adeniran
6. Mr A. A. Adesanya
7. Mr M. A. Adewumi
8. Mr J. O. Adeyemo
9. Chief A. O. Adeyi
10. Mr N. A. Adibi
11. Mr E. Aina
12. Mr A. Ajibola
13. L. A. Ajimobi
14. Mr S. A. Akerele
15. Mr S. O. Akerele
16. Mr A. O. Akingboye
17. Chief S. L. Akintola
18. Oba C. D. Akran
19. Mr E. B. Arowojolu
20. Mr S. B. Aruwajoye
21. Mr B. Ashiru
22. Mr A. Atie
23. Mr J. O. Awopeju
24. Mr J. E. Babatola
25. Mr A. A. Babayemi
26. Rev. I. Edeki
27. Mr B. G. Ewah
28. Chief E. A. A. Fadairo
29. Mr O. Fashola
30. Mr B. O. Fawehinmi
31. Mr O. O. Gbolahan
32. Mr M. A. Idodo
33. Mr J. O. Kehinde
34. Mr N. A. B. Kotoye
35. Mr R. A. Lana
36. Mr K. S. Y. Momoh
37. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi
38. Mr J. O. Odigie
39. Mr J. A. Odotuga
40. Mr Y. Ogunyele
41. Mr E. O. Oke
42. Mr I. A. Olukoju
43. Mr R. A. Olusa
44. Dr J. O. Omitowoju
45. Mr B. E. O. Osagie
46. Chief J. O. Osuntokun
47. Mr J. E. Otobo
48. Mr S. A. Otubanjo
49. Mr J. O. Oye
50. Mr D. A. Popoola
51. Mr S. O. Sogbein
52. Mr C. A. Williams
53. Mr D. K. Olumofin
54. Mr C. I. Akere

Tellers for the Ayes

55. Alhaji S. A. Opaleye
56. S. A. Layonu

NOES

1. Mr J. O. Abioshun
2. Mr A. Adisa
3. Mr S. O. Oyewole
4. Mr J. A. Ajuwon
5. Mr A. Atohengbe
6. Mr T. E. Igugu
7. Mr E. O. Imafidon

NOES

8. Mr J. L. Lawal
9. Mr A. O. Obadara
10. Mr D. E. Okumagba
11. Mr P. V. Okwesa
12. Mr C. O. Olamigoke
13. Mr J. O. Omokowajo
14. Mr A. T. Rerri
15. Mr J. A. Riemu

Tellers for the Noes

16. Mr W. Aghahowa
17. Mr A. S. Somotan

Clause 3 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported with amendments, read the Third time and passed.

Sitting suspended at 2.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.30 p.m.

**1962-63 APPROPRIATION
BILL—SECOND READING**

Adjourned Debate on the Question (4th April)—

“That the Bill be read a Second time”.

Question again proposed.

Rev. I. Edeki (Afenmai North-West II):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill. But before I go into the main theme of my speech, I would like to make a preamble.

It is a pity that many Members of the Opposition are not here but, whether they are here or not, I would like to express my disappointment at their performance for the last two days. (*Opposition Member: Why?*) This honourable House is not a place where little children bandy words to no purpose. I agree that there should be humour quite all right, but it is not to be allowed to develop into wild hysteria. We are all Gentlemen and we are expected to behave as such. It is not the duty of any Member of the House to say that the standard of Debate in this House is becoming low whereas the facility with which some Members of the Opposition massacre Her Majesty's language is so great in this House. (*Opposition Members: No point*). It does not raise the standard of Debate.

In any case, a Member of the Opposition treated us to a lengthy speech which was full of illogicalities and wrong information. I remember that he said that civil servants were affected by the ten per cent cut in salaries. I think that is wrong. It appears that the Gentleman does not keep abreast of the times;

hence he gave the House incorrect information. Civil servants are not affected by the ten per cent cut in salaries.

Another Member of the Opposition advised the Government to control entrance examination fees. This Member again is out of date, as entrance examination fees in this Region are controlled by the Government and they range between 3s and 5s. In Secondary Grammar Schools and Colleges, entrance examination fees are never more than 5s.

In any case, I believe that a Minister who does his work very well should be praised on the floor of this House. It is not too much to praise a Minister for doing his work very well. In this connection I refer to the speech of the Minister of Finance. This speech is remarkable for its perspicuity and brevity, in contrast to the verbosity of many Finance Ministers in the Federation. The Minister of Finance referred to the co-operation between himself and the Federal Government in financial affairs. I think he should be praised on that score. It will be agreed that the Minister has done his work in the best interest of this Region, and he should be praised for it.

Having made these remarks, I would like to point to the fact that the speech contains a remarkable testimony to the efficiency of the Treasury. The Treasury has done its work very efficiently and I think the staff of that Department have got to be congratulated for their efficiency. But I hope they will not apply any pruning-knife to the projects in my constituency when it comes to the time to start those projects.

The Minister made reference to austerity measures. I think that austerity has now become a household word in the Region. To my mind, this measure is calculated to achieve two objectives. In the first place, austerity measures are meant to demonstrate our readiness to make personal sacrifices for the sake of the economic programme, and thereby our political maturity. In the second place, austerity measures are meant to reduce the burden of foreign loans and thereby the gap between the total expenditure envisaged in our own development plan and our internal resources. It is true that the austerity measures, or the economy measures of the Western Region Government, are more far-reaching than those of any other Government in the Federation. I think that our own austerity measures bear the distinctive stamp of our Government and project the vigorous personality of the Action Group—(*Cheers from Government Benches*) the party in power, before the whole world.

[REV. EDEKI]

Our Government is made up of men whose leadership is second to none in the Federation and who are more interested in action than in mere oratory, and to whom half-hearted measures have no meaning. Members of this House are making these sacrifices with all cheerfulness, and the same can be said of the civil servants of the Region. Any one who tries to incite them for political reasons is doing a disservice to this country's economy. All things pertaining to the economic well-being of the people are above sordid politics and must be delicately handled by all concerned so as to avoid giving the impression of sabotage.

I would now like to say something about some matters which affect my constituency. It is heartening to note that the Government has made up its mind about the ultimate objective of the Edo College. There was an air of anxious suspense over the issue sometime ago in Benin Province in the Midwest. That institution is the premier institution or college in that area.

Another point I would like to make is the fact that some Members of the Opposition have always criticised the Government wrongly that they discriminate against the Midwest in matters of development projects. I think these criticisms are very unfair, and very wrong, and may be disproved by this year's book of Estimates. Pages 168 and 177 of this book of Estimates can be regarded as Midwest pages because most of the projects there are for the Midwest and they are a sign that, in any case, the Government would develop the Midwest in the shortest time possible. In view of this, I will speak for myself and my constituency.

I have nothing but praise and gratitude for the West Regional Government. I only pray that these development projects will be started as soon as possible. To round off my speech, I would like to make some suggestions for the consideration of the Government.

My first suggestion is that the Government should try to stimulate the consumption of cocoa products by farmers in this Region. We all know that very few farmers consume cocoa and cocoa products. If the consumption is stimulated by the Government, demand on the side of manufacturers would be increased and there would be steady prices. I would also suggest that cocoa processing factories be established in this Region as well as rubber processing factories.

Another suggestion I would like to make is with regard to revenue. It is known that many wealthy farmers, rich merchants and prosperous lawyers never give the Government a correct idea about their incomes. I think that in the tax machinery of the Government every care should be taken that this dishonest practice is stopped. Another suggestion I would like to make is that the Government should try as much as possible not to heed any agitation for wage increases.

Mr Speaker, Sir, any Development Plan can be successfully prosecuted under stable conditions and any abnormal salary increases are bound to cause hitches. It is therefore necessary for the Government to see that economic conditions are stable at this period so that it will be possible for the Government to prosecute or execute these economic programmes to the welfare of everybody. I will also suggest that, with the collaboration of the other Governments of the Federation, it may be necessary to scrap the colonial salary structures which we have inherited from our British masters who did in this country many things not done in theirs. My opinion is that salaries are too high in this country (*Hear, hear*). If we take the example of India, by reducing expenditure on unnecessary things to the minimum, I think some money will be available for the economic development of this country.

With these comments, Sir, I beg to support the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill.

Mr J. O. Awopeju (Ijebu Remo North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill. I would try as much as possible to avoid treading the hackneyed path by repeating what others have said though it is said "*via truta, via tuta est*", i.e., a beaten path is the safe path. I shall endeavour to deal with my subject in the sequence followed by the hon. Minister of Finance. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the term "austerity measures" coined by the members of the Press is not a misnomer. The term "economy measures" leads to "austerity" in the administration of scarce resources to satisfy various ends which are capable of alternative uses. These measures must, I agree with the hon. Minister of Finance, culminate in a state of contentedness without surfeiting, and sufficiency without wastage.

Each of us must exercise the shrewdest economy in managing whatever it may please God to endow him with as earnings so that he can say with philosophic contentment and resignation like Shakespeare's Corin in *As you Like it*:

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"Sir, I am a true labourer: I earn that I eat, get that I wear, owe no man hate, envy no man's happiness, glad of other men's good, content with my harm; and the greatest of my pride is to see my ewes graze, and my lambs suck".

But in approaching this problem we must adhere to the economists' admonition, *viz*: "to pluck the goose with as little squeeling as possible".

The call for self-sacrifice must take cognisance of the slogan—"from each according to his ability and to each according to his need". Obsversely or conversely it should imply that in disgorging or in the process of self-immolation each must contribute or sacrifice according to his earning capacity. This leads one to suggest the principle of progressive rates of contribution. For example, a 10 per cent flat cut is socially inequitable, economically unsound, morally indefensible and politically impolitic. Viewed with scientific objectivity, our guiding principle should be pivoted on the "Fiscal" theory of taxation with a blend of the "Faculty" and the "Socialistic" theories. For instance, the fiscal theory aims at securing revenue with the minimum of vexation and opposition, or the art of plucking the goose with as little squeeling as possible. The "Faculty" theory envisages payment according to one's taxable capacity, *viz*, "that each individual should help the State in proportion to his ability to help himself". The "Socialistic" theory strives to remove inequalities in the distribution of incomes of wealth as between the rich and the poor by means of taxation, the rich being asked to pay more than in proportion to their incomes.

Be this as it may, this prescription is to be universally administered throughout the country and not only in our own Region. The civil servants' eager desire to demonstrate the new spirit of the times and to accept their share of the sacrifice is heartening and gratifying. But a willing horse should not be ridden to death. They should not be subjected to any financial immolation to which their counterparts anywhere in the Federation are not subjected. If they are made to do so, and they pretend to do so, it will be sheer dissimulation and dissemblance on their part and they, especially the very good and efficient ones, would not hesitate to make their exodus to other Regions or to mercantile establishments. Worse still, some might, owing to previous commitments, be tempted to have a proclivity to the vice of corruption. God forbid this!

Mr Speaker, Sir, I humbly and respectfully submit the following suggestions:—

(i) less demand by electors and constituents for beer and drinks from Ministers and legislators;

(ii) avoidance of *aso ebi* and positive discouragement of this social nuisance and menace. It is wasteful and immoral. Some women traffic on this and some sell themselves in order to purchase this. In the long run the incidence of payment is on the menfolk;

(iii) eschewing as much as possible costly funeral obsequies, and marriage ceremonies. Some who never cared for their parents when alive go to the length of slaughtering cattle and purchasing drinks in quantum to hold valedictory services for the departed souls of those for whom they never cared two hoots in their lifetime. In the case of marriage, money that could have been saved to care for unborn children are dissipated unreasonably;

(iv) abstemiousness in matters of food, drinks, attire and sex;

(v) generally, by desisting from treading the path of profligacy, incontinence and dissipation.

I know, of course, that one cannot afford to be an absolute Joseph like that character in Sheridans' School of Scandal. But it is imperative we lay good examples to others, having regard to our own elevated position and always remembering that *noblesse oblige*.

External Aid by way of Loan.—Says the hon. Minister of Finance—

"But it has to be remembered that whatever aid this Government can obtain for the execution of its Plan must have to be repaid at some future date".

This means encumbering and committing the future generation. Therefore, Government must be guided by two cardinal principles:—

1. Negatively by avoiding discounting the future by not investing any financial monetary aid received on articles or factors that would or could be immediately consumed.

2. Positively by investing such financial aid on guilt-edged securities or on the establishment of industries which will be profitably productive and durable so as to benefit posterity.

Revenue Measures.—Promotion of small savings in the country—by introduction of premium bonds and savings certificates as a

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means of encouraging the saving habit among citizens of this country is a sure way of indirectly raising internal loans. If properly handled these might rise to great magnitudes and dimension.

Treasury Control.—Praise be to officers and members of the Treasury for the strict control exercised in the disbursement of the fund of the Region. It is expected that a stricter financial control consequent on Government economy measures would still be applied thus:—

1. The use of Government vehicles should be strictly controlled. Strict surveillance and occasional surprise checks on drivers of these vehicles are essential.
2. Superfluous posts should be abolished after cesser of office by present holders.
3. Superscale posts should be limited and made personal to present holders.
4. Wages or salary scale in the upper segment of the civil service hierarchy should be pegged at present points.
5. Certain allowances which are veritable relics and reflections of the colonial era of British days should be scrapped, where they are at present extant.

Employment for School Leavers.—The aim of the Government to provide for school leavers and settle them in fruitful careers by undertaking the building and equipping of Trade Centres and Technical Centres is commendable and laudable. An early implementation of this will be a step in the right direction.

The establishment of Farm Settlements and Farm Institutes is a palpable demonstration of the awareness or consciousness by our Government of the importance of agriculture in our economy. The present ones are not adequate enough having regard to the size of the Region.

It is of utmost importance that land should be acquired at strategic points in the Region for agricultural and industrial purposes. This would be a good investment at present as the tendency of the value of land is to be on the upward trend.

We should anticipate private enterprises in this wise, otherwise it would mean paying higher prices for lands already occupied by private bodies.

Land should be acquired immediately for rubber plantations to feed tyre factories to be established in the Region.

Roads and Water Supply.—Thanks to the Government for the network of roads and water supply extended in several towns. This is gratifying and welcome.

In my constituency we want a link road from Iperu to Shagamu—Abeokuta road. This will provide outlet for the immense agricultural produce for which that area is prolific.

Taxation.—Rise of personal income tax as source of revenue to Government is heartening. Government should not relax its vigilance on tax evaders. Professionals should be subjected to strict scrutiny. I venture to suggest that no professional should be allowed to pay less than £50 per annum as income tax. Some do not even pay a mite whilst civil servants and Mercantile Houses employees who earn far less are obliged to pay as they cannot evade taxation.

In order to raise revenue I suggest the imposition of the following taxes:—

1. Property tax—but not such as would discourage or kill initiative or the urge to save or the acquisitive instinct. It should be light.
2. Harder and greater taxes on bachelors.
3. Tax on windfall, e.g., winnings in pools or lottery—10 per cent—and legacies.
4. Heavy fines on criminals instead of imprisonment in cases of misdemeanours and first offenders in cases of felonies. Only recidivists should be sent to goal.

Economy and Sacrifice.—The liberal use of the pruning-knife, on, and the subjection to rigorous and searching scrutiny of the advance proposals submitted by Ministries with regard to their Recurrent Expenditure are concrete proofs and a practical demonstration by the Government to give the cue to all of its efforts to practicalise its theme of economy and sacrifice.

It is to be hoped that such economy will not culminate in deterioration or diminution of services being rendered to the Region.

Education.—The Votes on Education is generous and ample. The munificence of the Government on this item should not be misconstrued. It is the people's money that is being given out by way of grants-in-aid to schhols.

The rapacious propensities of some school proprietors should be curbed. A lot of these proprietors thrive at the expense of the Government and to the detriment of their pupils.

Growth of Industries.—It is reassuring to learn from the hon. Minister of Finance that

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Government has just begun to plume its wings for flight into the industrial and economic heights and that his Government has, in the same connection, shown commendable zeal and foresight in its plans to foster and promote the growth of industries. He further admitted there was still a long way to go and warned that development projects cost money. I pray that Government may be able to fly and soar to heights like magic-sandalled Perseus who, after killing Medusa the Gorgon, was chased by those petrifying monsters and who, when possessed by fear of being overtaken by the gorgons, appealed to his magic sandals in this vein:—

“Bear me well now, oh brave sandals,
for the hounds of death are at my heels”.

So may our Government land into the haven of bliss, success and prosperity in its flight after passing through the shoals and quicksands and cross-currents of the throes of economic armageddon confronting it.

Instances of industries to be promoted or now even overdue to be promoted are cocoa and fruits. My suggestions are as follows:

(i) Our cocoa could be processed locally into cocoa beverage, chocolates, and the like. A “drink cocoa campaign” could be launched to popularise this drink. It may be taken hot or cold, thus avoiding beer. It is even better than tea which contains tannin, and coffee which contains caffeine. Cocoa is said to contain theobromine which is not as dangerous as tannin or caffeine. This will surely ease any glut in the market for our cocoa overseas.

(ii) Our fruits, *e.g.*, pawpaw, pine-apple, mango, oranges, grapes, and other citrus group of fruits should be canned and advertised for local consumption or export.

(iii) Cotton growing, spinning and weaving should be encouraged. Locally woven clothes should be improved and patronised.

(iv) Locally made furniture should be preferable to imported ones.

Foreign Aid.—The hon. Minister of Finance rightly warned: “There can be no true independence as long as we are subservient to other nations”. This is perfectly true. Independence with economic subservience is not only autonomy with a difference but a contradiction in terms. We can ill afford to be a nation of beggars and mendicants. The clarion call of our battle for economic freedom should be “hard work, self-abnegation and abstemiousness in all our disbursements”.

A politic approach to the receipt of foreign aid is essential. Such aid may take invisible forms, *e.g.*, scholarship in technical education, establishment of factories or industries by the aiding countries, and so on and so forth. Let me warn. We want aid without strings attached to it.

Corporation and Local Government Councils.—It is the view of the hon. Minister of Finance that Government agencies, no less than Government itself, should learn to explore more sources than one for their finance and to relate their programmes to ascertainable resources within their means. It was earlier suggested that the new spirit of the times should be instilled into these corporations and Local Government Councils. They must imbibe this new spirit, otherwise it must be said of them “Hew it down, why cumbereth it the ground”.

It is Sir, W. Ivor Jennings who writes in his book “*The Queen’s Government*”.

“When the stage engages in trade or industry it has to use the methods of trade or industry, not the methods of the Civil Service. The civil servants’ concern is with policy.....”

The way some of our corporations are run is not the way of the businessmen. Nepotism grows rife. Abnormal increments are awarded. Rogues are protected and shielded. The interest of the Government ranks second in the relative scale of valuation of those managing some of these corporations. It is high time a high-powered commission of enquiry was instituted to investigate the management, staffing, remuneration, conditions of service, and labour conditions, etc., in all our corporations. The prudence exercised in some are certainly not that of the businessmen, business acumen has been sacrificed on the altar of favouritism.

I visited the Arab Motors Limited, Ebute-Metta, the property of this Government during the sitting of this House. I was pleased to hear the Chief Engineer, Mr Folami, speaking in Yoruba on the telephone to somebody in these words: “*Ise wa ni, ki ise ise Arab mo*”, meaning, “It is our own work, it is no longer that of Arabs Brothers again”. I was inquisitive to subject this Chief Engineer to some examination which revealed that in March the earning of that firm was over £6,000 or, to be exact, £6,007 6s 8d as against £3,968 13s 2d in February, 1962 when his predecessor, a European, was in charge. This African Engineer was certainly using the methods of a businessman. He takes in any make of car for service in

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our Ebute-Metta Workshop. My appeal to others in similar circumstance is "Go and do thou likewise".

I went to the stores and met the Stores Controller, one Chief Odusina, who also impressed me like an honest businessman and of whom some men will say, like of William I of England. "A stern man he was that men stood in awe of him". He also is feared by rogues as the retired Lord Chief Justice of England, Lord Goddard, was feared by rogues and criminals. The spirit of these two men should be inculcated in others serving in our various corporations. But, and this is a big *but*, the Local Government Authorities should be wary in the way they eke out funds for their Councils. The incident, like that of John Hampden in the reign of James I of England, should find no place here. The geese must be plucked with as little squealing as possible; with apologies to the public finance economists. The running costs of our corporations must be drastically reduced to the barest minimum. In answer to the appeal by the hon. Minister of Finance in his call "to arm for the battle of economic freedom" we echo in response like the peasants of the French Revolution "To arms, citizens", adding also to this the battle cry raised by the hon. Minister, "No economic freedom, no political independence".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education (Mr J. O. Oye): Several Opposition Members have levelled criticisms against the Government education policy. Before answering in detail to these, I should like to place on record, once again, this Government's appreciation of the great contributions which many voluntary agencies have made to the foundation of education in this country. Since the regionalisation of education in 1952 we in this Region have valued the co-operation and understanding which we have always received from the voluntary agencies and the whole-hearted way in which they have played an important part in the development of our education programme. The Minister had cause to address the synod of one of the large christian missions recently and I also had pleasure of addressing another synod meeting. At each of these meetings tributes were paid to the contributions being made by all voluntary agencies, Christian and Moslem, to the development of our programme.

The Member for Asaba South has made reference to the remuneration of teachers

and has alleged that many teachers are being lost to the service. He has also pleaded for the Nigerianisation of the staff in all schools. It is not true to say that there are no national scales of salaries for teachers. This Government took the initiative in ensuring that throughout the Federation a single set of national scales should be in use in all non-government institutions and this has been achieved in the last two years at the National Council on Establishments. It is a fact that we still employ many expatriate teachers but this is due only to the fact that there are not enough Nigerian graduates available. Our policy is that as soon as Nigerian graduates and other qualified teachers are available in sufficient quantity no new expatriates would be employed in schools. It is as part of our programme to train Nigerians for all our services, including schools, that the Government has gone forward with its plan to build a new University at Ife.

The Member for Asaba South-West has stated that there is only one secondary grammar school in Ika District and that this one is the Ika Grammar School at Agbor. It seems that the hon. Member is not familiar with educational institutions in Ika. There are nine secondary grammar schools in Asaba Division and, of these, three are in Agbor, including Ika Grammar School. The six others are distributed as follows:

- 2 in Asaba;
- 1 in Onitsha Ugbo;
- 2 in Ubulu Uku;
- 1 in Isele-Uku.

It is therefore not correct to say that the Ika District of Asaba Division is not adequately supplied with grammar schools.

The Member for Okitipupa North-East has alleged that there is inadequate provision of secondary modern schools in Okitipupa Division, and has given the number of such institutions as eight. My record shows that there are seventeen secondary modern schools in that Division, and the number of school leavers in 1961 was about 4,000. It seems, therefore, that the existing schools are adequate for the needs of the Division.

Both the Members for Ife Town South and for Okitipupa North-East have criticised our Universal Primary Education Scheme as wasteful and a failure and have stated that there are pupils who go through six years without being able to read properly. The attention of hon. Members could be drawn to the difference between Universal Primary Education and education under colonial rule. The Education Law places an obligation on the Minister to provide primary school education for every child of school age.

[MR OYE]

Members are aware that children have varying ability: some are very bright, some are average, and some are so poor mentally that they could not even be educated. In other countries where medical services are fully developed, it is possible to sort out those children who are uneducable and send them to medical institutions, but all other children in this Region including the "educational sub-normal" have to be educated in the ordinary primary schools. It follows therefore, that the fact that one or two children complete six years of primary education without being able to read is not peculiar to only this country; it is a part of universal primary education in all countries. What is important and what our Ministry tries to do is to ensure that the average standard is high and that bright children are given the opportunity to develop themselves. Universal primary education is not meant to be an economic proposition yielding value in terms of pounds, shillings and pence. It is a social service which is designed to place at the disposal of all our children the facilities for full development. Under our universal primary education scheme, every child in this Region can develop its full potential ability. He can go through our free primary schools, and by our generous supply of scholarships proceed to secondary schools and even to the University whether or not his parents can afford fees. We believe that the system under colonial rule in which only the rich can receive education is bad and is not fit for an independent country like our own.

As far as employment of school leavers is concerned, my hon. Friend, the Minister of Labour, has already given an answer. This Government is doing everything it can to provide employment and training for school leavers by the establishment of industry and the development of technical education.

Some Members have stated that our education is academic in content. It is true that we inherited from our colonial past a system of education that was academic in content. Since this Government came to power, everything has been done in order to diversify the system. We have built the secondary modern schools which we hope will provide pre-vocational opportunity for boys and girls and thus ensure greater employment opportunities; we have provided science laboratories for our grammar schools and we are now proceeding with a tremendous development of technical education.

When regionalisation came in 1952 this Region was the only one without a single Technical College; we had only a single

Trade Centre and that was the Trade Centre at Sapele. Today, not only do we have a Technical College but we are proposing to build a second one at Auchi. We have three Trade Centres in full activity and two are ready to start later this year. No other Region in the whole of the Federation has got as many facilities for technical education as we have now, in spite of the fact that the other Regions were ahead of us in 1959 when we took over from the colonial Government. This Government is not only conversant with the problems facing a former colonial territory trying to emerge into economic independence, but the Government is doing everything possible to ensure as quick and easy a transition as possible.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is true to say that a large slice of our resources is devoted to education at all levels, but it is inevitable to our development. The position is no much better in the Eastern Region where the Government of that Region is still obliged to impose stiff fees in the upper classes of the primary schools. Last year, the Eastern Regional Government spent 45 per cent of their total budget on education, and it is on record that the quality of secondary education is higher in this Region than anywhere else in the Federation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to warn hon. Members that the cost of education will continue to rise in absolute terms within the next few years because, as Harbison emphasised modern dams, power stations, textile factories or steel mills can be constructed within the next few years but it takes between ten to fifteen years to develop the Managers, the Administrators and the Engineers to operate them. A lot of money will be required to produce these people.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a Member has suggested that the Local Councils and Local Education Authorities should be abolished, alleging that they are responsible for the rise in the expenditure on primary education. I am unable to subscribe to this view. In all civilised and democratic countries Local Authorities have responsibility towards the education of children in their areas and under our Law we have placed such responsibility on them including financial responsibility for part of the cost on Primary Education. Local Authorities are responsible for the administration of Primary Schools in their areas—both Voluntary Agencies and Local Authority schools in their areas.

The new system of payment of grants-in-aid is designed therefore to make use of Local Authorities more than ever before in

[MR OYE]

that they will be responsible for the payment of teachers' salaries for small Voluntary Agencies, a function hitherto performed by Voluntary Agencies Supervisors before that post was abolished. Furthermore, Local Education Authorities are obliged to maintain all Primary Schools in their areas from the payment of other expensive grants to bodies of Managers so that the schools can be adequately equipped. Mr Speaker, Sir, over £700,000 was paid out to the Local Education Authorities for schools in 1961. They are now being called upon to assume some of the responsibilities which were formerly assumed by the Regional Government especially in the provision of Building Grants for the erection of classrooms and finding the funds for the payment of their

own administrative and supervising staff salaries.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Further Debate on the Appropriation Bill adjourned till tomorrow, Thursday, 12th April, 1962.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed, That the House do now adjourn—(Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 9.35 p.m. until tomorrow, Thursday, 12th April, 1962 at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 12TH APRIL, 1962

(*The House met at 10.35 a.m.*)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Leader of the House and Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (9th April)—

"That the Bill be read a Second time".

Question again proposed.

Mr J. A. Riemu (Urhobo West II): Mr Speaker Sir, this Bill is most embarrassing and most unscrupulous. I say so because this is the second time in this Session that the people of this Region are called upon to bear very heavy tax burdens. Only yesterday the poor farmers were forced in the teeth of opposition to bear the burden of one hundred per cent increase on Produce Sales Tax. Today again, the same people are being dragged out to add yet another tax load to their already heavily laden shoulders—all in the good name of development. You fail to take into consideration other domestic financial troubles which austerity has brought to them. These people, like you, have children to train in secondary schools, some in the Universities, and they have some other domestic responsibilities. Already the people are paying heavy income tax—increased Produce Sales Tax—all in the good name of development. A reasonable Government could have known that where we have reached now by way of personal taxes is more than enough. Amenities and developments in the Region do not in the least justify these multiplicity of taxations.

The powers conferred on Area Assessment Committees or Rating Authorities in clause 5 of this Bill will make them power-drunk as arbitrary assessment of political opponents in this Region is commonplace. Assessments should have been left in the hands of the Regional Tax Board. Clause 5 says:—

"The functions of an area assessment committee or a rating authority conferred or imposed by this Law with respect to the assessment or collection of tax or development contribution shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be exercisable by such committee or authority only in respect of persons whose individual total income for any year of assessment does not exceed three hundred pounds and who are not persons whose individual assessable income for such year is derived wholly or partly from an employment or pension".

This clause, as I said before, is very embarrassing. It puts everything into the hands of the assessment committees, and as we have known in this Region, these people have all along been using this power to ill-treat their political opponents. I remember that in my area a man who was a labourer under another big man was asked to pay the sum of £13 by way of income tax, when his very master—the man who employed him and pays him a salary of £4 a month—was asked to pay the flat rate of £1 17s 6d. There is nothing at all in this Bill which gives the poor man a chance of doing anything about it at all. These same people will be the people, I am sure, that will be asked to pay heavily in this Development Contribution. That is as far as that clause goes.

Clause 8 (1) says:—

"Subject to the provisions of this Law, the Board may, with the approval of the Minister, give directions to an area assessment committee with respect to the exercise of that committee's powers of assessment under this Law and any committee to which such directions are given shall comply with the same".

Clause 8 (3) provides:—

"The Board shall have the right to attend any meeting of an area assessment committee during the transaction of business relating to assessments and take part in the proceedings thereof and if the Board so requests its advice on any such matter shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting, but the Board shall not be entitled to vote in such proceedings".

Clause 8 (4) provides:—

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"The Board shall at all reasonable times have access to and be entitled to inspect the books, accounts and records of a rating authority and an area assessment committee with respect to the assessment of any tax or development contribution imposed under this Law".

As far as I know there is only one Tax Board in the Region. How can it fulfil the functions in clause 8? We have only one Board and this Board is situated in Ibadan here; and we are saying in this clause that the Board should sit side by side with the rating authority which, perhaps, is in Sapele or Benin or anywhere in the Region, and to the extent of giving advice or helping the poor people who are over-assessed to pay the appropriate rate they should pay. So I feel that this clause does not make allowance for people who are not staying here in Ibadan to defend themselves. As far as I know, we have only one Regional Tax Board which is not a mobile one.

Well, the most curious clause in this Bill is clause 13 which does not stipulate the rate to be charged upon the chargeable income of a person, and so the people cannot even know the rate chargeable. It may be 15s in the pound; it may be 10s in the pound; it may be 13s; it may be £1 10s in the pound. (*Interruptions*). Perhaps you did not read that part of the Bill before you pushed it to the House for consideration. Why present a Bill whose full text is not ready? I fail to see any sensible reason in this mad rush.

Government Bench: Finally now.

Mr Riemu: I think I am to speak for thirty minutes.

Mr Speaker: You can speak for thirty minutes but I can assure you that you have only one minute more. (*Laughter*).

Mr Riemu: It is provided that "A development contribution shall in every year of assessment be charged upon the chargeable income of a person and paid at the rate set out in Part II of the First Schedule to this Law".

This Part II of the First Schedule to this Law, said to contain the rate chargeable, is still in print, and so the people cannot know now the rate chargeable. This Bill should be deferred until the full text is ready, if it cannot be withdrawn altogether.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr E. O. Imafidon (Benin Central East): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to oppose

this Bill. Mr Speaker Sir, the object of this Bill is to increase the membership of the so-called independent members of the Regional Tax Board from five to seven and to increase the total membership from ten to twelve. That is the first object. If an increase is meant to indicate that His Majesty's Opposition may be represented in this Board, I would say with due deference to the Government that our representation is inadequate. We would claim, on this side of the House, that we are entitled to a ratio of one to three; so that if we are going to be represented on that Board, we should have more than two.

The other object, Sir, is to limit the functions of Area Assessment Committees and Rating Authorities with respect to assessment and collection of tax and development contributions from persons who are subject to the *Pay As You Earn* system.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have all known in practice all over this Region about representation in the so-called Assessment Committees. It is known that there are always ten members or six members on the Assessment Committees and that out of these six, in most of the areas of this Region, the Opposition is represented. And if they are represented in certain areas.....(*Interruptions*). Yes, it is so from my own experience. I have been in this in a constituency where the Opposition is not represented.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I notice that in my constituency, for example, there has been no NCNC representation on the Assessment Committee, and I made this known to the Minister of Midwest Affairs during my visit. And in trying to adjust the situation he gave us three out of six; and two of these three are the names of those who have never known as NCNCers in the area. These are names of Action Group members who are not active members of the Action Group and their names were simply put down, purporting to be NCNC members. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, if we are all entitled to representation we should claim that the members themselves should be asked to send names of the people to represent them on that people should add names to the Assessment Committee, purporting to be NCNC representatives; that it is unfair to us, Sir.

Mr Speaker, these Boards purporting to be appointed now under this Law—Regional Tax Board—I do not know how to

[MR IMAFIDON]

going to function. I would say, Sir, that at this time of austerity, when the people of this Region have been called upon to contribute their financial quota to the Six-year Development Programme, this is not the appropriate time to increase membership in committees and on boards. I do not know whether we are going to develop the members of the boards or the Region. If we are going to develop the Region, we must not increase the membership of any board or committee at this stage. Let the members, as they were, continue to serve and labour for the people, and then let the money contributed by the people be used for economic development.

The limitation of powers of functions of Area Assessment Committees and Rating Authorities appears to be welcome. In most of the council areas, Mr Speaker, those people who are affected by the *Pay As You Earn* system are also called upon to pay tax by local councils. I was a victim myself and I welcome the introduction of this limitation of functions, so that those who are affected by the *Pay As You Earn* system may not be called upon by the local councils to pay extra tax.

Mr Speaker, I do not intend to bore this House with unnecessary speech any longer. However, I would like to emphasise this, Sir; that the boards, in relation to the Assessment Committees and Rating Authorities, will attend meetings of the Rating Authorities and Assessment Committees. If there are going to be local boards, as I expect it to be, I do not know how they will be disposed to visit every Assessment Committee, whereas in fact, in one council area, there will be more than fifty Assessment Committees. How these boards will be capable of visiting these Assessment Committees and Rating Authorities I do not know. When the boards are appointed we know the difficulties that may arise in working with members of the boards and committees. It is not always so easy as they are on paper. The practicability of it is what matters. I do not know how these boards can go round the Region with a view to redressing the errors that may be perpetuated by these Assessment Committees all over the Region. I am yet to be informed. The Assessment Committees in this Region are very many. I do not know how these boards alone can move round with a view to effecting remedies that this Law seeks to bring about.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I oppose this Bill.

Mr J. O. Abiosun (Iwo South Suburban): Mr Speaker, Sir, we have experienced what

has happened all over the Region, and through our rich experience we can make points to convince the Government that at least these Assessment Committees are not doing well. To my knowledge and to the knowledge of this House (I mean those who will not deceive themselves, including the Minister of Local Government) the local assessment committees were appointed and told that their tenure of office must expire on the 31st of last month, if I am not mistaken. (*Interruptions*). That was the letter given to them: that their tenure of office expires on the 31st of March. But, up till now, these people are still working. I think this is a bad practice which must be changed by this Action Group Government of Western Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if it pleases the Minister of Income Tax Law or the Minister of Finance.

Chief Odebiyi: I object, Sir. I am Minister of Finance and not Minister of Income Tax Law.

Mr Abiosun: Mr Speaker, Sir, he presented the Income Tax Law and others of that nature and he will be helping the Region a great deal if he can so make section 7 (d) (1B) of the Law so that the powers given to these local assessment committees be reduced. Why do I say this, Sir? It was so stated in that Law that these local assessment committees could recommend to the Regional Tax Board that a certain man or a certain fellow is entitled to pay such and such amount, and we have not got the yardstick by which we can measure the income of these innocent farmers.

There is a loop-hole, Mr Speaker, in that if excessive powers are given to these local assessment committees they may be inclined to use the powers in order to victimise their political opponents. Why do I say this, Sir? Since they are given the power to give the information or recommendation to the Regional Tax Board, it is characteristic of them to go round to threaten people saying, "If you don't give us such and such amount, we are going to submit your name to the Regional Tax Board and they will assess you heavily". (*Interruptions*). By that, Sir, the innocent farmers will become their victims.

If the hon. Minister of Finance has determination, the love of and faith in this Region, he should be helping the Region a great deal if he tried as much as possible:

(1) to make it possible that both members of all the parties be represented on the income tax board and at local levels, in order to make for more efficiency;

[MR ABIOSUN]

(2) to have an impartial commission which will hear appeals of individuals; in that if I am a member of the Local Tax Board and there is somebody who has offended me, I have got a weapon. It will be good if the Minister of Finance finds out the means of livelihood of many of these members of the Local Tax Board and of the Assessment Committee. Many of them have no jobs and that has led to what is happening all over the Region nowadays.

Somebody whose appointment expired on the 31st of March is still in office. (*Government Member: Tell the Police*). I am not telling the police, but I am telling the Minister of Finance who knows better than you.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member is telling the Minister of Finance through me.

Mr Abiosun: I am doing so, Sir, I am sure the Minister of Finance will listen to my criticisms.

With all these remarks, Sir, I beg to oppose the Bill.

Mr A. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to speak on this Bill, I would like first of all to appeal to the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House to use his good offices to further adjourn debate on this Bill for the following reasons:—

(1) The Bill affects not only the constitutional changes for purposes of conformity but also the whole economic life of the people of this Region.

(2) In view of the exclusion of the major part of the Bill, *i.e.*, the Schedule whereby the rate of tax chargeable could have been seen for examination and parliamentary scrutiny, the Bill itself is incomplete.

(3) That the fact that Part II of the First Schedule to the law to be inserted by the schedule to this Bill is not being printed as part of the Bill for the present, renders the date of commencement meaningless and legally inapplicable as it means a call on this House to sign a blank cheque or giving authority to the Tax Officers to apply retrospectively what was not brought before this House.

(4) It did not include provisions whereby the Regional Tax Board could not use their powers arbitrarily to assess individuals who have not completed forms in respect of the P.A.Y.E. system.

(5) It does not include provisions whereby the Chairman or any member of an Area Assessment Committee could not prosecute an authorised Rates or Tax Collector for having collected taxes due from unassessed individuals but who were duly capable of paying tax.

In respect of (4) above, I am a polygamist of the holiest order—(*Cheers from all sides of the House*)—and a father of sons and daughters. (*Interruptions*). Without receiving a duly completed form from me the Regional Tax Board deducted unreasonably an undue amount from my salary for the last financial year. This differs, Mr Speaker, from the policy adopted by the old Inland Revenue collectors. In the case of the old Inland Revenue which this Tax Board succeeds, it would send first of all the declaration form to any taxable adult to fill and submit to it. In view of any lateness or perhaps delay in receiving this, it may send another form, perhaps thinking that the other one has been misplaced, misdirected or not submitted in time. Then whichever is the case one of these three forms would be received before the Inland Revenue went further to impose their own taxes; but in the case of this Board they do not bother for the completed forms before they start to inflict taxes on you.

There is no doubt that the Minister of Finance will use his good offices to protect me as far as this is concerned. In fact we do not know how many people have suffered the same fate!

Mr Speaker, Sir, in respect of (5) above, I can remember that one tax collector in my constituency came across, in his area of authority, certain Ibo elements in his ward whose names were not included in the current year's list of assessment he thought was due for collection. He collected tax due from them and issued official receipts thereto covering the amounts of tax so collected from them by him. But, to his surprise, the Chairman of the Area Assessment Committee of his area intended to prosecute him in the Customary Court saying that he would have waited until these people were assessed. I do not know, Sir, whether it would have been proper to allow those people to go without paying the tax due, or could he have detained them unlawfully until any time the Area Assessment Committee meets? I raise this point because the present amendment would have made provisions whereby these Area Tax Assessment Committees or their Members could not have used their position to threaten an authorised rate collector

[MR ATOHENGBE]

for collecting taxes from people whose names were not included in the tax list for a given year for that ward.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if we have to go further to the last page, under objects and reasons, we would see that the Minister said here that Part II of the First Schedule to the law to be inserted by the Schedule to this Bill is not being printed as part of the Bill for the present. I think I mentioned this when I began my speech but, for the reason that he was not here when I started, I will like to stress it again.

Well, Sir, I suppose this Bill should have been brought to this House in completed form, otherwise if we approve it and the law is applied retrospectively, it means calling on this House to sign a blank cheque, unless you can give us an undertaking that you will summon the House to approve the Schedule before it becomes operative.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! It appears there are strangers in the House. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms clear the House of strangers.

Mr T. E. Igugu (Central Urhobo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill which seeks to give Government the weapon to collect from the pockets of poor peasants or simple farmers a certain sum of money which is not specified in the Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, you are no doubt aware that, for two years now, there have been long agitation and controversy over the high rate of tax people in the Western Region were paying. As a result of that Sir, the NCNC, as a party, has championed the cause of the common man. It took it upon itself as a duty, and before this Government drove them to every nook and corner of this Region, the NCNC acted in such a way that, through shame, the flat rate of £2 12s 6d was reduced to £1 17s 6d. All sincere and honest citizens of this Region will agree with me that it was the NCNC that was responsible for the reduction of flat rate tax two years ago from £2 12s 6d to £1 17s 6d. *(Cheers from Opposition Benches).*

Mr Speaker, Sir, only two years now, as I have said, Government reduced the flat rate from £2 12s 6d to £1 17s 6d. As this Government claims to be very wealthy, what is the reason for asking poor farmers to pay additional sums of tax?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I understand that under the contribution to the development pro-

gramme, Government shall impose as flat rate the sum of £1 2s 6d on every taxable adult in this Region. If this is done, Sir, it means that the flat rate will automatically rise to £3.

Mr Speaker, Sir, especially where I come from, people in that area in fact live from hand to mouth. It is very difficult for some people to pay the flat rate of £1 17s 6d. You just imagine, Sir, what it will be when it is increased by £1 2s 6d! Whatever happens, Sir, it may be very well argued that the Federal Government is increasing sales tax on imported goods like petrol, drinks, etc., etc; but, Sir, that in fact is a tax which is imposed on the people who really, on their own, want to spend money which is nothing forcible; it is no imposition. If you like, you can go to the market and buy, and if you don't you remain at home. But in this case, whether you like it or not, you must have to pay it.

I will not like to bore this House with all that you have been saying since this Session began. I note that Government has been introducing Bills upon Bills of this nature to punish the innocent commoners at home.

I think, Sir, that I should make suggestions to Government in this respect if really they want to develop this Region.

Now, they have a programme, a development programme which contains the various projects which Government wants to undertake. I think it will be fair if Government works out the type of project they want to undertake and where they will be sited. For instance, if Ibadan or anywhere else is given a factory and Government wants every taxable adult to contribute £1 2s 6d in respect of that factory, I think it will be proper for Government to impose on the people who are going to enjoy the benefits accruing from the project a special rate. If you come to the Midwest and you want to establish a rubber processing factory, if it is meant for an area and you tell them "This is what I am going to do for you", let them see it with their eyes; then you can impose the tax on the people. If it is done like that, Mr Speaker, I have no quarrel; but to ask a man at the most remote place in the Region to pay—*(Interruptions).*

But I am sorry to see, Sir, that we are asking the man at Ijaw to come and pay £1 2s 6d for a development programme when in ten years this Government will not even visit them or do anything for them. I think, Mr Speaker, Sir, this is cheating.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in conclusion I would like to say that if this Bill is endorsed and applied all over the Region the Action Group Government will be signing its death warrant.

[MR IGUGU]

and will be voted out of power. If you dispute my statement I challenge you to dissolve this House immediately you apply the law and let us go back for election; you will not come back. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*). (*Interruptions*).

An hon. Member: The Speaker will come back. (*Laughter*).

Mr Igugu: With these few remarks I beg to oppose the Bill.

Mr G. I. Oviyasu (Benin Central West): Mr Speaker, we will like to make our stand definitely clear, that the Opposition will not, and will never, be opposed to measures which aim at increasing the revenue of this Region provided such measure or measures are straightforward, above-board, honest and non-discriminatory. (*Cheers*). I wonder, Sir, if this can be said of this Bill which, in my opinion, is not only inconclusive but seeks to impose double taxation retroactively. We are now treated to a new rate in this Region, and now have what we call "development contribution" coming up in our Estimates. This, added to income tax, brings us double taxation.

In the past, this Government made us to understand that it was the first in Africa, the richest in Africa, the richest everywhere and, of course, the first to make blunders too; it made us understand that it was going to abolish wholesale any step to introduce double taxation. I do know, Sir, that the 1962-63 Development Programme calls for more money, but then, this money could be looked for and got in a way that will not increase the financial burden of the people too much. The ordinary man is suffering very serious austerity; his income is going down, his financial burden is going up in inverse proportion. This is a very serious matter. I think that this Government ought to take very serious consideration of that. Frankly speaking, there is not much that the Government can gain from income tax. This Government is budgeting for about £25 million (*Government Benches: £35 million*). All right, £35 million; but I tell you, Sir, that the amount that really comes from the income tax in this Region is just £600,000.

(*Government Benches: No, Sir*).

Chief Odebiyi: P.A.Y.E. alone is over £1 million.

Mr Oviyasu: So I think, Sir, that there are other sources of getting money in addition to the saving we can quote from austerity

measures, or of increasing the revenue whereby we can meet up our development programme without unnecessarily increasing the financial burden of the poor citizens whose incomes are falling.

There is another thing I would like to say about this amendment: the Governor in Council can dispose of, as he likes, the revenue accruing from this double taxation, but events have shown us, Sir, that the way these incomes are disposed of savours of discrimination, with particular reference to the Midwest Region or the Midwest area—by the grace of God the Midwest Region. (*Laughter*).

If all the citizens in the Region have contributed to the coffers of this Government this Government should be good enough to distribute the amenities equitably.

In opposition to this Bill, Sir, I want the Minister of Finance to amend it, as previous speakers have said on this side of the House; on the ground that this Bill, Sir, is inconclusive. It is one which calls for giving somebody a blank cheque. Although clause 7 (2) gives power to this House to vary income rates, that schedule is not before this House.

Chief Odebiyi: Until the committee stage.

Mr Oviyasu: This is not what we call "subsidiary legislation". This is no subsidiary legislation under which the Government can hide to perpetrate all forms of atrocities without reference to this House. But as he has promised us that he is bringing it at the Committee Stage I will wait and I will not deal much with that. But it is unfair; it ought to have been here so that we can debate it along now. Why seek to bring it only at the Committee Stage?

The Minister of Finance has said that the composition of the Regional Tax Board will now be increased from five to seven. I think that that is only to give room for the Opposition to be drafted in. If he does that, I think Sir, that this will be the first time that a Minister of this Government is seeking to democratise the composition of such an important Board.

But I would like to say that this is not enough. There are hundreds of assessment committees in this Region. No attempt has been made to democratise the composition of such area assessment committees. Everywhere, Sir, you find the area assessment committees top-heavily laden with Action Group members. We on this side of the House, want the Minister of Finance to do exactly what has been done to the Regional

[MR OVIASU]

Tax Board by democratising the composition of area assessment committees. As at presently composed, Sir, there is discrimination, and it is a shame, Sir, that these irresponsibles—the Government Party members, their followers, their thugs, their campaign secretaries—should be drafted into area assessment committees. If justice is to be done, it is only right and fair that the members of the area assessment committees should reflect the disposition of the parties in the area.

I hope, Sir, Mr Speaker, that the Minister of Finance will bear these criticisms in mind and take them to heart and make necessary amendments when the Bill comes to Committee Stage.

As I said, Sir, we on this side of the House will not oppose any measures which seek to bring in more funds; all we want is that they should be straightforward and honest.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I must express my thanks for the constructive manner in which the last speaker had contributed to the debate on this Bill. Only yesterday, Sir, we were told by somebody on the front bench of the Opposition side that as and when the NCNC comes into power in this Region it will abolish all taxes. Fortunately, Sir, today we have someone who is a more mature legislator, a shrewd businessman, who knows that no business or industry can thrive without money. He has contributed to the debate by saying that they do not oppose the principle of Government taking any fiscal measures to increase revenue. That is exactly what we intended to do by this amendment.

Somebody said that this is double taxation. Under the 1962-68 Development Programme, £90 million are supposed to be spent on development projects. Out of this sum we ourselves ought to be able to raise as much as £45 million from our own resources. By the imposition of development contribution, what we are likely to raise by way of additional revenue is not going to be more than £1½ million, and it is expected, Sir, that every year we ought to be able to lay aside a sum of £3 million from the surplus of recurrent revenue over recurrent expenditure into the capital expenditure and development fund. This, Sir, is intended for the huge projects which are contained in the capital sector of the Six-year Plan.

One Member has spoken about arbitrary and discriminatory assessments taking place in many parts of the Western Region. I have, more than once on the floor of this

House, spoken on behalf of the Government to the effect that this Government does not support either from the Action Group-controlled councils or the NCNC-controlled councils any arbitrary assessment or collection of tax. We have said that times without number. When such a situation was reported to the Minister of Local Government in one Local Government area, he took steps and set aside all the assessments which were carried out by an Action Group-controlled council. What further evidence of impartiality do Members of the Opposition want?

With regard, Sir to the question of the composition of local assessment committees, I have also been mandated to say on behalf of the Government that it is the intention of the Regional Government to have reflected on the composition of assessment committees the political complexion of the local government area, and I do know, Sir, that the Minister of Local Government and the Minister of Midwest Affairs have already seen to that, particularly in the Midwest.

One Opposition Member said that the number which we intend to give to the Opposition on the Regional Tax Board is inadequate and he proceeded to say that it should be 1 to 3. We have done more than that: it is 5 to 2 as a matter of fact. The position of the Regional Tax Board is as follows:

Three Official members—the Regional Tax Administrator, a representative of Ministry of Local Government, and a representative of the Treasury; then members who are independent members; and then two Members of the Opposition.

I can say this much, Sir, that since the composition of the Regional Tax Board no Member of the Opposition has pointed an accusing finger on the Regional Tax Board. I do know, Sir, that the Opposition are so articulate. They are so critical of Government activities that if the Regional Tax Board had done anything amiss, they would have been the first to come to the floor of the House to challenge the Government. The fact that they have not said a word about the Regional Tax Board, only shows too clearly that that Body is an impartial body and is discharging its duties as efficiently as possible. (Cheers).

I have said, Sir, that the same principle which governs the composition of the Regional Tax Board at the Regional level will also govern the composition at the local Assessment Council area. Well, if that happens, then all the points which are being made that members of the Opposition be on

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

the Assessment Committee will result in the Opposition being able to see whether people are being arbitrarily assessed or not.

As I have said before—and I am not tired of repeating it—we are opposed to arbitrary assessment of taxes, from whatever quarters it comes. I think, Sir, that if there is anything at all that the whole community should save us from, it is that they should deliver us from the snares of the people who ought to pay tax but who, for two years, have refused to pay tax. I happen to know that the particular individual whom I am referring to, dodged the tax people for two years. He was living in one house in the afternoon and stayed in another place in the evening, and he did that successfully for two years. Then, eventually, he was nabbed and was made to pay £500 for two years.

Be that as it may, I think Sir, that both sides of the House agree that there is need for us to finance the major part of our development programme from our own resources; otherwise the foreign exchange component in the loan which we are going to get is going to run down on the reserves of the Government of the Federation. In any event Sir, it is not even fair that a Government should finance most of its projects from loans; otherwise its credit—worthiness abroad will be impaired. We don't intend, Sir, particularly now that we are enjoying the goodwill of many nations abroad, to soil the credit-worthiness of the Governments of the Federation of Nigeria.

I should like, Sir, to refer to the new powers which have been conferred on the Regional Tax Board under clause 8 of the Amendment Bill. Here Sir, instead of the Minister, it is now the Board which may, with the approval of the Minister, vary any assessment made by any Area Assessment Committee other than the assessment in respect of which an appeal is pending or has been determined. The idea is that, if there are cases of arbitrary assessments, and these cases are brought to the notice of the Regional Tax Board, immediate steps will be taken to set aside that assessment, and they have the right to impose a new assessment. There is no reason for any fear that any discriminatory or arbitrary assessment of tax is going to be imposed on the people. Not only that Sir. Under sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Law, the Board shall have the right to attend any meeting of an Area Assessment Committee during the transaction of business relating to assessments and take part in the proceedings thereof, and if the Board so requests, then

advice on any such matter shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting, but the Board shall not be entitled to vote in such proceedings.

One Member, Sir, did say that it occurred to him that it would be difficult for the Regional Tax Board to attend most of the meetings of the Local Assessment Committees. As soon as this Bill is passed, Sir, arrangements will be made to reorganise the Regional Tax Board Division of the Treasury. If I may say so, Sir, I think the pattern which the new organisation will take will be in the form of having at least one Divisional Tax Officer in a Division, with subordinate staff, and it should be their duty to attend meetings of the Assessment Committees. The purpose of that is to make it possible for officials of the Regional Tax Board to help Local Assessment Committees and thereby make it difficult for them to assess people arbitrarily. It will also make it possible for them to see that people who ought to be assessed aright are assessed properly.

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to commend the Bill to the whole House. During the Committee stage I shall move the amendments to the Schedule. (*Cheers*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clause 1.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, I beg to move the following amendment:—

In Clause 1 *delete* "the 1st day of April, 1962" and substitute "a date to be announced later". I will appeal to the Minister of Finance to kindly accommodate this amendment because it is very proper and makes the Bill proper and fitting. I have given my reasons before, and so I don't want to bore the House by repetition.

Mr Oviāsu: Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to second the amendment.

Amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman Sir, maybe if I explain to Members the purpose of this Bill they will understand. As you are very well aware, the people who are in regular employment get salaries only monthly and they come under what is known, as the "Pay As You Earn" scheme. In other words, every month in the course of the year, some percentage of their salary is deducted towards the payment of their tax. If we

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

don't make the thing retroactive, it is going to cause hardship to these people, because what it will mean is that the increase which we intend to effect in the First Schedule will not have effect immediately from the 1st of April. In other words Sir, what will happen is that for the man who, perhaps, in the year ought to pay £300 by way of tax and who according to this increase, has to pay £370, if you don't make the payment retroactive from the 1st of April the additional tax which he has to pay on the existing income tax will prove difficult to the extent that it will cause hardship to him if he has to pay in a lump sum. Therefore, the need is to spread it throughout the twelve months in a year. This one does not affect any other income tax-payer at all because, in any event, the period during which they will be paid will still be the same as is now the normal practice in particular areas. But in regard to people who are employed I feel that, in order not to cause hardship to them, we have to make the application of the Law retroactive.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, if I may explain, the point which has been elaborately explained by the Minister of Finance is understandable, but what I am saying is this. Supposing, from the time this amendment starts to apply, the rates chargeable in the £ comes to about £2 or so and then it becomes difficult for a tax-payer to pay, then every Member who subscribes to the passing of this Law will be held responsible. That is the purpose for which I am moving the Amendment.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to oppose the Amendment.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 8 agreed to.

Clause 9.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move, Sir, that the letter "S" in the word "words" in line 2 of Clause 9 of the Bill be deleted.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 9 as amended agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 12 agreed to.

Clause 13.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that inverted commas be inserted immediately after the word "Law" at the end of Clause 13 of the Bill.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr A. Adisa (Ibadan South-East Rural): Mr Chairman, Sir, I move an amendment to Clause 13 of this Bill as follows: After the words "the principal Law is hereby repealed", all the other words should be deleted.

The reason for the amendment is because it is felt that this Government should always come through the front door and not through the back door of this House to impose taxation. We are not opposed to the Development Plan or Programme, but what we say is that you should charge just one single tax, whatever the rate is, and let the whole people know, and not in the way of coming through the back door to call one "development tax" and to call another "education tax" or "education fees". You have the audacity to say that there is free primary education throughout the Western Region when, indeed, everybody pays education rates. That is the kind of hypocrisy which we on this side disagree with.

Now the next point is that, as regards the assessment of the development contribution, we are not quite sure whether any rational basis will be used to apply it when this development contribution is being assessed. We do not know, Sir, whether if one is of the "Awo" faction in the Action Group he will have to pay more, or whether if one belongs to the "S.L.A." group he will have to pay more; these are the kinds of things that we of this side of the House do not want, and if the Government wants to impose additional taxation the best thing it could do is to increase the present rate of tax in the Region.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we on this side of the House, we of the Opposition, during the elections, said that the burden of taxation on the poor people in this Region was too much, and we said that, from our own education, from our own economic theory, from our own love for the people of this Region, we were in a position, not only to decrease the rate of tax but that even were we in a position to abolish the payment of personal tax, we would do so. We said this openly and publicly; if the Members on the other side of the House disagree, the best thing is for them to resign; resign and let us carry on, only for one year. Mr Chairman, Sir, after the expiration of one year, if we are unable to abolish the payment of personal income tax, then I promise you that we shall then resign.

Now, Sir, the whole doctrine of imposition of taxes which is called "development contribution" is obnoxious. There is no reason why you should impose such tax. Such further development contribution is to

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[MR ADISA]

kill the goose that lays the golden egg. When you were parading with your slogan of "life more abundant", it was quite plain to everybody that only you people were enjoying the abundance. *(Interruptions)*. That does not matter; I used it through my sweat and toil; I know Mr Chairman, you used to be on our side;

Mr Chairman: I have not yet left your side entirely. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Adisa:and I know that during that period, the whole philosophy of ours was this: There should not be just a few who are very, very rich, superlatively speaking, and very many other people who will be suffering. I pray, Sir, this Government to go out into the field; go out on the way to Ogbomosho and Ikenne; see the poor people of this Region; see how they dress; see how they work; they will have feelings for these people; they will have feelings for them. This is the point, Mr Chairman, this is the kind of thing that we are trying to teach this Government. I am so moved that even tears are near my eyes. *(Laughter)*. And I know, Sir, that tears will be shed that day when the Action Group Government of this Region falls down flatly.

Further amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: I do not think that the hon. Member has made any point worth answering at all. The point is that we have already made a case for the imposition of the development contribution, and the fact that he talks of poor people does not hold water. Surely, Sir, the Digest of Statistics, and the facts which are available there, show that the standard of living of people in this Region has increased between 1952 and now by more than 30 per cent. In 1952, when the Action Group got into power, there were people in this Region who could not afford to buy a bicycle. Today, they are riding in Volkswagen cars. There were in those days people who could not afford even to go to the shops and buy printed materials like the one I am wearing now. Today, they can afford to buy velvets. Not only that Sir. I do know that even lawyers, like the last speaker himself, have been able to make more money. When the last speaker arrived in this country a few years ago, he was not able to afford a car. Today, he has made so much money. In any event, Sir, I do know that the weight of the last speaker has also increased by about 20 per cent. The fact that everyone is looking so well, so happy, shows that there is prosperity around them.

Further amendment put and negatived.

Mr W. E. Aghahowa: I rise to move that the word "Governor in Council" be removed and that we should substitute "Legislature" in Part XIA, clause 65A (4).

Mr Chairman Sir, the removal of these words will place the Legislature in a position to know from time to time what measures are proposed by this Government. The Executive Council, as required under this Bill, is made up of Action Group Ministers. Any tax measure which does not receive the sanction of the Legislature is not in the interests of the electorates. With these observations, Sir, I rise to move that the word "Governor in Council" be removed and that we should substitute "Legislature".

Further amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: I oppose the amendment. What this sub-section is intended to do is to confer on the Governor in Council power to act if and when it is considered necessary to abrogate the imposition of the development contribution, instead of coming to the floor of this House. I know, Sir, that it is necessary that before we impose any new tax, we ought to come to the floor of the House and do so, but, surely, if you want to abolish it, I do not think you ought to come to the floor of this House. *(Interruptions)*.

Further amendment put and negatived.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: Mr Chairman, Clause 65A, section (4).

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to alter my notice of amendment. That notice sought to delete the whole Clause entirely, but I would now like to amend it as follows:

(1) Delete the word "either" completely and then the entire words after "generally" and the new clause should now read:

"The Government in Council may at any time provide by order that the development contribution imposed by this Law shall cease to be payable generally".

The reason for this amendment is very obvious. During the time I was contributing to the debate on the Second Reading, I did say that this clause, as to be amended, savours of discrimination. Who is the Governor in Council? It is the Cabinet, the Action Group Ministers; and what prevents them, as they as had been doing in the past, from using this as an instrument of favouritism? If that should not be the end of democracy and fairness to everybody, these powers should not be given to the Cabinet. We can

[MR OVIASU]

never have such vain assurances as had always been given to us in the past and have never been carried out. To prove your good faith that this Clause would not be used as an instrument for favouritism to Action Group supporters, I think the best thing to do is to follow my amendment. That will be a living testimony that this Government is very honest and straightforward in presenting this Bill; but if you do not do so, we are going to oppose that Clause. Mr Chairman, Sir, I stand by my amendment. Sub-clause (4) should now read that "The Governor in Council may at any time—(Interruptions)—provide by order that the development contribution imposed by this Law shall cease to be payable generally".

Further amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment, because it is only the Governor in Council that has the right, from the recommendations of the Regional Tax Board, to exempt any person from the payment of development contribution. It may well be that somebody who has been to a war theatre has become incapacitated. (Interruptions). Surely we must have a law here which makes it possible for the Governor in Council to ask such a person not to pay tax at all.

Further amendment put and negatived.

Clause 13 as amended, but not further amended, agreed to.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to propose the following amendment: That inverted commas be inserted before and after "Part I—RATES OF TAX CHARGEABLE—under Clause 15 (a) of the Bill.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 15 as amended agreed to.

Clause 16 agreed to.

First Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the following amendment that the word "First" which appears before the word "Schedule" at the bottom of the Bill be deleted.

Question put and agreed to.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move the following amendments that the following particulars be inserted immediately below the word "SCHEDULE" at the bottom of the Bill:

"PART II:

Rates of Development contribution chargeable.

For any person chargeable only on an assumed minimum income £1 2s 6d.

For every pound of the chargeable income of any other person—6d".

In moving the Second Reading of the Bill, Sir, I had mentioned that the provisions of the Bill would be effective from 1st of April, 1962. As a result of the amendment, a person with an assumed minimum income of £50 per annum will in addition to income tax of £1 17s 6d now be required to pay a development contribution of £1 2s 6d for any year of assessment. Persons whose individual total income for any year of assessment exceeds £50 per annum will now be required to pay an additional 6d on every pound of chargeable income.

By way of comparison, I would like, with your permission, to quote the following figures in relation to the tax incidence in Lagos and the Eastern Region.

The existing rate, for instance, on an assumed income of £700 in the West is £22 18s 4d. By this increase, anybody on an assumed income of £600 will now pay £37 18s 4d, an increase of £15. Anybody on an assumed income of £800 who today pays £32 1s 8d in the West will pay £52 2s 8d. Anybody on an assumed income of £1,000 and who now pays £47 1s 8d will pay £72 1s 8d. Anybody on assumed income of £2,000 who now pays £217 1s 8d will pay £267 1s 8d. Anybody on assumed income of £3,000 who now pays £452 1s 8d will now pay £527 1s 8d. Anybody on an assumed income of £4,000 and who now pays £772 1s 8d will now pay £872 1s 8d.

When these figures are compared with the existing taxes payable in the Eastern Region and Lagos, you will still find that the existing rates in the Western Region are the lowest in the Federation.

Amendment proposed.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West I): Mr Chairman, Sir, we are very sorry that this Part II has not had a Second Reading, but I think it is grossly unfair to bring this at this time. The rates being brought forward, in fact, Sir, are most embarrassing. I am not saying that we should not pay for development, but where you have to milk your cow to death just because you want milk fatter than the cow that produces the milk, then not only are you in for trouble but you are also heading for chaos.

[MR RERRI]

Mr Chairman, Sir, the measure, as provided by Part II of this Schedule and as far as the low income group is concerned, amounts to going back more or less to what we were a year or two ago, that is, when the flat rate of tax was about £3. Perhaps the Action Group Government of the Western Region is just seeing the sanity in facing reality instead of playing to the gallery. Now that they have seen the light of day, perhaps the opposition to that wouldn't be so serious, although it is serious; but to say that after a man had been normally charged according to the law of the land, that is, the means approved by Parliament as to how to arrive at his proper tax, he should also be charged the present 6d in the pound in respect of the chargeable income rate, is more than unfair—(Interruptions). Well, it cannot be accepted by us on behalf of those we represent. For instance, I didn't quite catch all the figures dictated by the hon. Minister of Finance but it would appear that the 6d in the pound in respect of Part II is unreasonable and unrealistic.

Chief Odebiyi: Is it too high or too low?

Mr Rerri: It is too high.

Chief Odebiyi: We all are going to suffer the thing, including myself!

Mr Rerri: You will suffer, not me. The point I am trying to raise, Mr Chairman, is this: If we are going to adopt measures, those measures have to be gradual. Now, the hon. Minister of Finance is better able to appreciate this than anyone else here. If we have to find money for development, it is only fair that the people should be prepared for the changes.

The Federal Government has announced joint plans by this Government and other Governments of the Federation to impose measures which are at the moment affecting those whom we are going to tax, and we ourselves in this Region are now driving these very taxpayers to the other end of the tax game; so that I do not think, Mr Chairman, that the hon. Minister of Finance can defend this present exorbitant imposition on the people. After all, by the old law the actual tax payable was, I think, 9d; then it went up to 10d, then 11d in the pound, and so on. The present increase of 6d in the pound is even more than 50 per cent of the starting point, say 9d or 10d, as was in the old case. And besides, the present development contribution as was stated earlier, is really a double taxation. If Government wants to play fair with those who probably

are not placed to read between the lines, let it come out with a definite single proposal for taxation, instead of asking Mr X to pay his normal £22, something on £600, and then on the other hand he ticks off a comfortable £15 at the other end. The result is that the taxpayer's burden is being excessively weighted.

Now, there is a third angle to our opposition, and that is this. We have been told by the Minister of Finance that the present increases on fuel for motor vehicles were specially requested by the Regional Governments.

Government Benches: Not the Western Nigeria Government.

Mr Rerri: The West is there. All of you are there. The hon. Minister of Finance said "all the Regional Governments", and we should have said this: "This is your collective responsibility". The national plan is our plan, so that if you did something for which we criticised you, you have to accept the responsibility.

How now, Mr Chairman, can we reconcile all this multiplicity of taxes. If they are graduated, perhaps the people will take them somehow, but to precipitate them, like the Minister of Finance has been doing since the present Session, is most embarrassing. I am sure that if the Minister of Finance leaves this hall and announces this to the general public, the first reaction would be that he should resign his seat.

Chief Odebiyi: Resign for getting more money for Government? (Hear, hear).

Mr Rerri: Mr Chairman, Sir, the Opposition vehemently oppose this increase, and if I am allowed to make a suggestion, 2d instead of 6d is a more reasonable proposal, that is, if anything has to be done at all, 2d is what should be there.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr P. V. Okwesa (Aboh East): Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a very, very important Bill. It is only last year that tax was reduced to a flat rate of £1 17s 6d and now, this year, if Government has found that it had made a mistake in reducing tax last year, it should come to the open and say "We are increasing the tax". To get the tax in a trickish way is not worthy of any Government that calls itself a "democratic Government".

Now, Sir, we agree that people must make sacrifices for the development of our nation, but we must not overtax ourselves in contributing for development. This name "Develop-

[MR OKWESA]

ment Contribution" is deceitful. It is a deceitful term. Instead of increasing the tax and telling us that this is what has been done, Government calls the other tax "Development Contribution". Why not call all "tax" instead of calling one tax and the other development contribution? Mr Chairman, Sir, this is double taxation.

Now we must all reason. You have in the past suffered from squandermania and you are now trying to cover up overnight. You must cover up gradually. When you in the past squandered the money and enjoyed life more abundant we did not enjoy life more abundant, and now you want us to suffer by introducing austerity measures. We have got a part of our salaries cut and we have lost our car basic allowance. Now, while we lose our basic allowance the cost of petrol and tyres is going up. That is another way of increasing tax.

Government Benches: Go and tell Okotie-Eboh.

Mr Okwesa: You Ministers have huge surpluses every month. You will not suffer as much as the ordinary man. You are all rich. You have different ways of swelling your pockets every month, so that you must be considerate when introducing a tax measure like this.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, when the hon. Member for Urhobo West I spoke, it appeared to me that he agreed with the principle of an additional tax in paying for our development. He also said, Sir, that this Government, in association with other Governments of the Federation, is imposing exorbitant taxes on the people. May I say, Sir, that out of the twelve million pounds accruing from the Federal measures all the three Regions together are only getting five million pounds. The Western Nigeria Government is getting 1.5 million pounds. Now, apart from that, Sir, those of us who have the opportunity to serve as Ministers, apart from losing £300 from our salaries, we are also losing basic car allowance and mileage, and I know the average loss to every Minister here is tremendous. Over and above, that, we are going to pay at least an increase of about £75 on our taxes.

Mr Adisa: What about accumulated ill-gotten gains?

Chief Odebiyi: The hon. Member for Ibadan South-East Rural spoke of people who had made ill-gotten gains. It is obvious

that there are some criminals and cowards outside the floor of this House who know those who are making ill-gotten money and are profiting from them. (*Hear, hear*).

In any event, I am not a practising barrister, and I have not failed to discharge my duty to pay my tax if and when I am called upon to do so by the Regional Tax Board. I know, Sir, that it is the self-employed persons, who in the past have been evading tax, that will be hard hit by this new measure, because the Regional Tax Board will now handle them as effectively as it can. Therefore I support the amendment.

Amendment put.

The House divided: Ayes 67; Noes 19.

AYES

1. Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro
2. Chief A. Adekeye
3. Mr Y. Adekunle
4. Mr S. T. Adelegan
5. Mr I. A. Adelodun
6. Mr J. G. Adeniran
7. Alhaji A. L. Adenekan
8. Mr S. A. A. Adeniya
9. Mr A. A. Adesanya
10. Mr M. A. Adewunmi
11. Mr J. O. Adeyemo
12. Chief A. O. Adeyi
13. Mr N. A. Adibi
14. Mr J. O. Adigun
15. Mr J. E. U. Agbasa
16. Mr E. Aina
17. Mr A. Ajibola
18. Mr L. A. Ajumobi
19. Mr S. A. Akerele
20. Mr S. O. Akerele
21. Mr A. O. Akingboye
22. Chief S. L. Akintola
23. Oba C. D. Akran
24. Mr I. O. Aniyi
25. Mr R. O. Areola
26. Mr B. Ashiru
27. Mr A. Atie
28. Mr J. O. Awopeju
29. Mr J. E. Babatola
30. Rev. I. Edeki
31. Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie
32. Mr B. G. Ewah
33. Chief E. A. A. Fadayiro
34. Mr O. Fashola
35. Mr B. O. Fawehimin
36. Mr M. A. Fetuga
37. Mr O. O. Gbolahan
38. Mr M. A. Idodo
39. Mr J. O. Kehinde
40. Mr R. A. Lana
41. Mr K. S. Y. Momoh
42. Mr B. O. Obisesan
43. Mr J. O. Odigie

44. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi
45. Mr D. Ogundiran
46. Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa
47. Mr Y. Ogunleye
48. Mr E. O. Oke
49. Mr S. A. Okeya
50. Mr B. Olaniya
51. Mr I. A. Olukoju
52. Mr D. K. Olumofin
53. Mr R. A. Olusa
54. Dr J. O. Omitowoju
55. Mr B. E. O. Osagie
56. Chief J. O. Osuntokun
57. Mr I. A. Ositelu
58. Mr S. A. Otubanjo
59. Mr J. O. Oye
60. Mr D. A. Popoola
61. Mr S. A. Sanni
62. Chief S. O. Sogbein
63. Chief S. A. Tinubu
64. Mr C. A. Williams
65. Mr J. A. Odutuga.

Tellers for Ayes

66. Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye
67. Mr S. A. Layonu

NOES

1. Mr A. Adisa
2. Mr W. Aghahowa
3. Mr J. A. Ajuwon
4. Mr A. Atohengbe
5. Mr F. Ebubedike
6. Mr T. E. Igugu
7. Mr J. L. Lawal
8. Mr A. O. Obadara
9. Mr D. E. Okumagba
10. Mr P. V. Okwesa
11. Mr C. O. Olamigoke
12. Mr J. O. Omokowajo
13. Mr G. I. Oviasu
14. Mr S. O. Oyewole
15. Mr A. T. Rerri
16. Mr J. A. Riemu
17. Mr A. S. Somotan

Tellers for the Noes

18. Mr E. O. Imafidon
19. Mr J. O. Abioshun

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Bill reported with amendments.

Motion made, and question proposed—That the Bill be read a Third time. (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).

Question put.

The House Divided: Ayes 64; Noes 20.

AYES

1. Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro
2. Chief A. Adekeye
3. Mr Y. Adekunle
4. Mr S. T. Adelegan
5. Mr I. A. Adelodun
6. Alhaji A. L. Adenekan
7. Mr J. G. Adeniran
8. Mr S. A. Adeniya
9. Mr A. A. Adesanya
10. Mr M. A. Adewunmi
11. Mr J. O. Adeyemo
12. Chief A. O. Adeyi
13. Mr N. A. Adibi
14. Mr J. O. Adigun
15. Mr J. E. U. Agbasa
16. Mr E. Aina
17. Mr A. Ajibola
18. Mr L. A. Ajumobi
19. Mr S. A. Akerele
20. Mr S. O. Akerele
21. Mr A. O. Akingboye
22. Chief S. L. Akintola
23. Oba C. D. Akran
24. Mr I. O. Aniyi
25. Mr R. O. Areola
26. Mr B. Ashiru
27. Mr A. Atie
28. Mr J. O. Awopeju
29. Mr J. E. Babatola
30. Rev. I. Edeki
31. Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie
32. Mr B. G. Ewah
33. Chief E. A. A. Fadayiro
34. Mr B. O. Fawehinmi
35. Mr M. A. Fetuga
36. Mr M. A. Idodo
37. Mr J. O. Kehinde
38. Mr N. A. B. Kotoye
39. Mr R. A. Lana
40. Mr K. S. Y. Momoh
41. Mr B. O. Obisesan
42. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi
43. Mr J. O. Odigie
44. Mr J. A. Odutuga
45. Mr D. Ogundiran
46. Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa
47. Mr Y. Ogunleye
48. Mr E. O. Oke
49. Mr B. Olaniyan
50. Mr I. A. Olukoju
51. Mr D. K. Olumofin
52. Mr R. A. Olusa
53. Dr J. O. Omitowoju
54. Mr B. E. O. Osagie
55. Chief J. O. Osuntokun
56. Mr I. A. Ositelu
57. Mr S. A. Otubanjo
58. Mr J. O. Oye
59. Mr D. A. Popoola
60. Mr C. A. Williams
62. Chief S. O. Sogbein

Tellers for the Ayes

63. Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye
64. Mr S. A. Layonu

NOES

1. Mr A. Adisa
2. Mr W. Agahowa
3. Mr J. A. Ajuwon
4. Mr A. Atohengbe
5. Mr F. Ebubedike
6. Mr T. E. Igugu
7. Mr C. O. John
8. Mr J. L. Lawal
9. Mr A. O. Obadara
10. Mr D. E. Okumagba
12. Mr P. V. Okwesa
13. Mr C. O. Olamigoke
14. Mr J. O. Omokowajo
15. Mr G. I. Oviasu
16. Mr S. O. Oyewole
17. Mr A. T. Rerri
18. Mr A. S. Somotan

Tellers for the Noes

19. Mr E. O. Imafidon
20. Mr J. O. Abioshun

Question agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Third time and passed.

**1962-63 APPROPRIATION BILL
SECOND READING**

Adjourned Debate on the Question (4th April)—

“That the Bill be read a Second time”.

Question again proposed.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to say a few words on the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill.

The local government system in this Region is now ten years old and the experience of the last few years made it necessary to examine the structure critically with a view to making the necessary reforms which present day circumstances require. This Government has always attached great importance to local government because it believes that an efficient and sound local government structure is the bedrock of any stable government. When local government councils were established in this Region under the 1952 Local Government Law, we started with a three-tier system, namely, local councils, rural or urban district councils and divisional. Now Mr Speaker, almost all local councils have been merged into larger and stronger district councils with the exception of those in Warri and Remo Divisions and the Ikorodu District of Ikeja Division. At the same time,

divisional councils are fast disappearing, thus leading us to a one-tier system of local government. It is very desirable for local authorities to tap many more resources for their revenue because the time has now come for local authorities to bear greater responsibilities in financing their social services to the communities which they serve. (*Applause*).

Since the last local elections, many councils have shown evidence of hard work and transparent honesty in the discharge of their duties. This is a credit which must go to the elected councillors in the various councils to which I have referred, and it augurs well for the future of local government in this Region. The past year has been a year of greater achievements all round. (*Interruptions*). Two more councils have been granted financial autonomy by the Government and many more are on priority list of such awards. For once in the history of local government in this Region, and even anywhere in this country, women are now given the opportunity to participate in the affairs of their local councils. (*Applause*).

One hon. Member for Okitipupa asked why the report of the last promotion and confirmation examinations for junior staff of Local Authorities have not been published. The answer is that, of a total of 1,171 candidates who took the examination, only seventy-one were successful: ten at promotion level and sixty-one at confirmation level. The effect of this poor result is that a large number of the staff of local authorities have to be dismissed; but it was considered that such a step might lead to serious shortage of staff in the service of local authorities. Therefore, the matter engaged the attention of Government for some time and a decision has now been taken by Government to the effect that only those who failed in all the five subjects of the examination should be dismissed while others should be given another chance this year. I am now in a position to publish the result of the examination at an early date.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to give a brief survey of the activities of my Ministry in reply to the few criticisms levelled against it.

I will start with the Health Division. Here, the activities during the past year have been mainly those of consolidation. In consonance with the stated desire of the Government to improve the health services, there has been some re-organisation in the administration of the Division. A certain amount of decentralisation has taken place

[CHIEF OSUNTOKUN]

so as to secure more effective supervision of all our urban and rural health units. The Division has been split into three zones, namely, Ikeja, Ibadan, and Benin, each of which is in the care of a Principal Health Officer.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the posting of Medical Officers to the rural health centres represents an important advancement in our rural health services. In the past, the Medical Officer in charge of a hospital was also supposed to supervise the dispensaries and maternity centres in the most remote parts of his area, as well as perform the duties of the Medical Officer of Health of the township in which his hospital is situated. As a "general duty" medical officer, he was usually overloaded with work in the hospital, with the result that the supervision of rural areas and health services generally was not as good as we wished. With the appointment of rural medical officers and a few urban medical officers of health, the position has now greatly improved.

Whilst on this question of reorganisation, Sir, it is pertinent to mention that many local government councils which are in receipt of grants from the Regional Government in respect of their medical units have not been maintaining these units to the standard required by my Ministry. In some dispensaries, the most essential drugs are lacking and some units are not adequately staffed. Because of this, it has been necessary to require each district council to submit its application for grants through the appropriate Principal Health Officer who must certify that the services have been satisfactorily rendered. With these changes, it is hoped that our people in the rural areas will derive the maximum benefit from the funds which the local government councils and the Regional Government allocate for their use each year.

I mentioned last year that the rural health centres which were to be built under the Special Health Development Programme were nearing completion. I am happy to say that eight rural health centres are now in operation in the Region, and four more are due to open very shortly. The remaining three are expected to open before the end of this year.

It will be appreciated, Mr Speaker, that the opening of our units requires a lot of staff. In this connection, I am happy to say that the new School of Hygiene and Health Auxiliary Training School have now been completed and are expected to open during

this Budget Session. Hon. Members will therefore have an opportunity of seeing the new buildings and something of the work that is being done in them. It will now be possible to increase the output of some cadres of staff. A Field Training Centre has also been opened at Ishara, around one of our Rural Health Centres, and would be more or less run as part and parcel of the Health Auxiliary Training School.

In this part of the world, Sir, the improvement of environmental sanitation is an uphill task, but the provision of abundant water supply has always been given high priority by the Government. My Ministry is concerned with ensuring that the water supplied to the people is of good quality. The examination of water samples, which was formerly carried out with the assistance of the Chemistry Division of the Federal Ministry of Health, has been completely taken over by my Ministry. The Government has decided to build a Public Health Laboratory which will have a Chemistry Division charged with the examination of water supplies. A sum of £27,500 has been earmarked for the erection of this laboratory.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government also has plans for a rehabilitation scheme to cater for the welfare of the disabled. It is felt that any money spent on rehabilitation which will enable the disabled to earn their own living and return to society is money well spent. The scheme is expected to be carried out in stages, and Government has earmarked the sum of £20,000 for the first phase of this scheme. This first phase will allow something to be done for those who have lost limbs in motor accidents or are otherwise physically maimed.

The fight against endemic diseases continues. I am happy to say, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the small-pox epidemic which was expected this year has so far not materialised. This provides some evidence of the work that has been carried out by the Medical Field Units and the Government special vaccination teams which have been working along the borders of this Region. During this year, my Ministry, in concert with the Ministries of Health in the other parts of the Federation, will consider plans for the total eradication of the disease by the use of an improved type of vaccine and a more intensive campaign.

The campaign against yaws, Sir, has reached its final stages. With your permission, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would at this stage like to express my appreciation of the co-operation of many local government councils

[CHIEF OSUNTOKUN]

which have agreed to appoint health scouts, formerly known as Yaws Scouts, so as to help with the integration phase. It should now be made plain to all that when the World Health Organisation officials leave us, the work must be taken over completely by our own staff. These health scouts therefore have an important part to play in ensuring that a recrudescence of the disease does not occur. The health scouts have also proved of value in the fight against small-pox. The fact that many local government councils have agreed to pool their resources and allow their health scouts to operate as a team augurs well for the future.

The Leprosy Service, Sir, is expected to expand considerably during the year. It is now proposed that every local government council's dispensary and every hospital in the Region should open treatment centres for the use of the leprosy patients in their areas. The specialised staff of the Leprosy Service will be responsible for the supervision of all these treatment centres; it is hoped that, by so doing, a much greater number of leprosy cases will be brought under treatment. The Ossiomo Leper Settlement, the only one in the whole Region and also in the whole Federation, is going to be expanded. I am personally very anxious to see that a large segment of the Leprosy Service should be manned by indigenous officers. I am always ready to encourage the promotion of Nigerians to the senior segment when they are available.

Turning now to the Medical Division, I am proud to announce, Sir, that in the year 1961-62, we have not only maintained existing medical facilities but also carried out some expansion.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one of the five new hospitals to which I referred in my last budget speech has now been completed. It is the one located at Uromi and it will open, other things being equal, very shortly. It is expected that the other four at Asaba, Igbetti, Ibiade and Ife, will be completed and opened during the 1962-63 year.

In addition to these, Sir, it is proposed to implement a number of projects apart from continuing projects this year as follows:

- (i) Main Operating Theatre and X-ray Block for the standard type hospital, Ife;
- (ii) One A 3, 6 D 2, and C 3 quarters for Ossiomo Leper Settlement;
- (iii) Standard type hospital for Isoko;
- (iv) Standard type hospital for Kpakiamia in Western Ijaw;

(v) Maternity Centres in Irrua—Ewu District of Ishan Division;

(vi) Maternity Centres at Ikokon and Okaigben in South-East Ishan Division;

(vii) Cottage hospital for Agenebode;

(viii) Cottage hospital for Ivbiosakon;

(ix) Cottage hospital for Ekpoma;

(x) Public Health Laboratory, Ibadan;

(xi) A 30-bed ward for Abeokuta;

(xii) Development of Wesley Guild Hospital, Ilesha;

(xiii) The take-over of Akoko General Hospital by the Government, Capital Expenditure £35,870; Recurrent Expenditure £16,000;

(xiv) A 30-bed ward for Ondo General Hospital;

(xv) Improvement of Anglican Maternity Hospital, Ado-Ekiti;

(xvi) Improvement of Roman Catholic Mission Maternity Hospital, Oke Offa, Ibadan;

(xvii) Maternity Centres at Iloro, Okemesi, Ajagba, Igbo-Egunrin and one dispensary at Eporo;

(xviii) Cottage hospital at Ede;

(xix) Industrial Rehabilitation Centres.

To provide the much-needed accommodation for the ever-growing number of patients seeking treatment, the Jericho Nursing Home has been extended; a new maternity unit and out-patient block as well as residential quarters for the Medical Officer and his Nursing Staff have been built. Despite acute shortage of medical officers, our medical services continue to be maintained to the satisfaction of the people. It must be pointed out, Sir, that this could not have been achieved if the available medical officers were not prepared to work under severe strain. Some of these officers have had to forego vacation leaves due to lack of reliefs. Efforts are however being made, Sir, to fill the existing vacancies and, as a first step in this direction, an indent for fifteen more medical officers was recently lodged with the Public Service Commission.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my Ministry is pursuing the training of doctors and nurses with the usual vigour. Ten doctors were sent during the year to the United Kingdom under our in-service training scheme to obtain higher qualifications in the different branches of medicine. Four Nursing Sisters are also training abroad to qualify as Sister Tutors.

To improve the lot of the sick, Mr Speaker, Sir, my Ministry proposes to make available in all the provincial hospitals specialist

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services in surgery, medicine, midwifery and other specialities.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now propose to say something about—

Mr Oviasu: Mr Speaker, Sir, on point of Order.

Mr Speaker: What Order?

Mr Oviasu: Order 68 (b)—(1). This is the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. The Order says:

"After the Motion for the Second Reading of a Bill has been made and seconded, the debate thereon shall be adjourned for not less than two days and when resumed shall be confined to the financial and economic state of Western Nigeria and the Western Nigeria Government's financial policy", and so on and so forth.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I submit that what the hon. Minister of Health is reading is what he prepared to meet the demand for the debate under the Governor's Speech from the Throne and that the Speech is in no way connected with the financial policy of Western Nigeria; and so it is irrelevant to the issue.

Mr Speaker: When I heard the Minister of Health read, I noticed that he mentioned hospitals, dispensaries, maternities and costs as affecting the Government for the building of new ones or for running them or expanding the whole facilities. I believe that these are relevant really to the subject.

Chief Osuntokun: The Member for Benin is just trying to embarrass me. I am here, and he has forgotten that I am an old hog in this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now propose to say something about the Dental Division of my Ministry. In this Division, substantial progress was made during the year. All but one of our dental centres remained open due to improvement in the recruitment of dental surgeons.

I am happy to say, Sir, that with the opening of a dental centre at Ikeja, we have achieved our objective of providing, initially, one dental centre for each province. The treatment of the high incidence of dental diseases, the need for propagation of dental education, and the essential service of dental care of our school children, definitely require more than a dental centre in each Province. After consolidating the achievement so far made, we shall proceed to provide more dental education amenities.

Meanwhile, the dental surgeons and their staff will continue their extensive tours in order to provide dental facilities for towns, and villages which are far away from dental centres. Our school dental services continue to receive priority attention. More dental hygienists have qualified and are now rendering very invaluable services by giving lectures and demonstrations on oral hygiene and dental health to school children in addition to the routine dental inspection and treatment. It is gratifying to say also that the Public Health Division of my Ministry during school medical inspections refer all, "discovered", dental cases to dental centres for treatment.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the most prevalent dental disease in Western Region is PERIODONTAL disease. My Ministry had approached the World Health Organisation to send out experts to carry out research into the aetiology and means of controlling it. A short preliminary survey has been made by the Organisation. The Organisation is expected to follow this up by sending out a team of Allied Scientists to carry out complete investigation.

If I may, Mr Speaker, turn to another important Division of my Ministry, the Welfare Division, hon. Members will be pleased to learn that an immense progress has been made in our statutory function of reclaiming the delinquent and the maladjusted children back into society through the use of the Juvenile Courts, the Remand Homes, the Approved Schools and the Probation System.

So far, Remand Homes, functioning in conjunction with the Juvenile Courts, have been established at Ibadan, Abeokuta, Ikeja, Ijebu-Ode, Sapele and Warri. Although Benin-City has a Juvenile Court, it has no Remand Home. This will be looked into next year. Benin-City is only thirty-three miles from Sapele and Sapele is only thirty miles from Warri.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one thousand, one hundred and twelve children appeared in the juvenile courts for various criminal offences during the year under review. This figure does not show a rise over the number of children charged with criminal offences in the year before the last. Two things, Mr Speaker, Sir, are responsible for this.

The first one was vigilance in detecting cases of children in need of care and protection, and the promptness with which such cases were disposed of. The importance of this will be appreciated when it is realised that children in need of care and protection

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are potential delinquents because invariably they live in the streets where they are in the midst of the temptation to break the law.

The second thing is the effectiveness of the Family Welfare Services. To substantiate this, during the past year, as many as 2,367 matrimonial cases were handled in the various Welfare Centres in the Region and as many as 2,101 of them were reconciled and successfully concluded. 6,818 home visits were made and 10,650 interviews were conducted. The sum of £6,630 17s 11d was contributed by the various fathers involved and paid out by my Welfare Officers to the mothers of the children for whose maintenance the contribution orders were made by the Juvenile Courts. Thus it is seen, Sir, that the Family Welfare Section constitutes the preventive to juvenile delinquency. The point is that the primary cause of juvenile delinquency is right in the home, but when the home is stable the chances of the growth of juvenile delinquency are greatly reduced.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the bid to diversify the economy of this Region, many industries have been set up and many more will eventually be launched. This is a very good thing in itself as well as a sign of growth. But in its wake will be brought certain changes in the way of life of our people and some disruptions in the family structure. This Division is aware of this growing tendency and is prepared to face the situation squarely. At a cost of £10,600, an extension to the Boy's Approved School Iwo, to accommodate fifty more inmates, has just been completed. Also an after-care service has been established to make the period of rehabilitation that follows the discharge from the school smooth for the boys.

This Division, Mr Speaker, Sir, is also responsible for promoting the well-being of the blind through proper training and making them useful citizens in our community. In pursuance of this, Sir, many blind men have been trained in the Farmcraft Centre, Ikeja, at the expense of this Government. To follow up their training there is an After-care Officer whose main duty it is to rehabilitate the trained blind men, visit them regularly and offer them inspiration and guidance. He also helps to recruit other blind men for training. I am also looking into the possibility of offering Government help to the Orphanages organised by Voluntary Agencies in the Region, the Blind Farm at Ogbomosho and the School for the Deaf and Dumb at Ibadan.

I cannot, Mr Speaker, conclude this summary of the activities of my Ministry without reference to the work being done by the Western Region Sports Council. Hon. Members had before them, at a previous meeting of the Legislature, the Second Annual Report of the Council. This Report covers the year 1961-62 and contains elaborate plans which we intend to implement as soon as funds become available.

Under its energetic and enthusiastic Chairman, the Sports Council has been far from idle. Though the pattern of the council's coaching schemes is still far from complete, there has been considerable coaching activity throughout the Region during the year. Mr Speaker, Sir, in co-operation with the governing bodies concerned, the Council has sponsored coaching courses in football, athletics, cricket, boxing, lawn tennis and table tennis. At these courses we have received assistance from a number of distinguished coaches such as Mr Hogan Bassey (Boxing), Mr George Headley (Cricket), Major Grindley (Lawn Tennis), Mr Svenberg (Athletics) and Mr Alec Brook (Table Tennis). However, I personally will not be satisfied until I have seen the Council's coaching schemes firmly established throughout the Region. Arrangements for the appointment of Chief Coaches for football and athletics are well advanced and I anticipate considerable progress during the next twelve months.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Sports Council has been vigorously pursuing its policy of assisting participation in sports. Three buses have now been bought. The enthusiasm which the availability of these buses has provoked in the various sports organisations constitutes a great tribute to the efforts of the Council in bringing this policy about. I am, however, fully aware that all obstacles to the participation of our young people in sports have not yet been disposed of.

One outstanding obstacle—particularly relating to our schools—is the high cost of sports equipment. The Sports Council has embarked on a constructive examination of the situation and I am optimistic that more sports equipment will eventually be brought into the Region at a low cost. Another obstacle to the promotion of sports Sir, is the apparent inequity contained in the General Orders whereby expatriates and West African Officers could participate in international and inter-regional sporting events without loss of earned leave—a privilege that is denied the indigenous civil servants. The Sports Council has made representations to the Head of the Civil

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Service on this, and I await with interest the result of the representations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, time was when it was feared that the Liberty Stadium would be hemmed in and its beauty destroyed by private buildings which were springing up in the neighbourhood. I am happy to be able to re-assure hon. Members that the situation is well under control. With the co-operation of the Ibadan City Council, the land adjoining the road leading to the Stadium and the 165 acres of land adjacent to the Stadium site have all been acquired. The latter area is being planned as a National Park, a thing which is bound to be not only of lasting beauty but also of permanent benefit to the community.

Mr Speaker, Sir, now that a layout plan for the Stadium site is available, it has been possible to commission a landscaping plan and the Sports Council is looking forward to carrying out an intensive planting programme of shade and ornamental trees and shrubs during the next rains.

Last year, Sir, I referred to the Sports Council's concern regarding school playing fields. The Ibadan Pilot Scheme which has been carried out in conjunction with the Ministry of Works and Transport has fully justified the high hopes we held for it. It has been shown that great improvement can be made at comparatively low cost; but, while the Sports Council has to be dependent on the availability of heavy equipment from the Ministry of Works and Transport progress must, of necessity, be slow. I am hoping to receive from the Council, suggestions as to how this remaining difficulty can be overcome:

The Sports Council has been much encouraged by the response of the Divisional Councils to the request, made through the Ministry of Local Government, that a minimum of 16 acres should be made available for the Sports Centres proposed for each Provincial Headquarters. While I confidently anticipate a 100 per cent response to this request, it would be invidious to name those Divisional Councils that have already made land available. Suffice it to say that the quick and generous response of some of the Councils has been greatly appreciated.

Finally, Sir, at the request of the Government, the Sports Council has re-phased its original Five-Year Development Plan for the Stadium site and the Provincial Sports Centres for completion in three years. A sum of £382,350 would be required to carry

out the first year's work. Having heard something of what the Sports Council has achieved from comparatively meagre resources, I trust that, when the time comes, I shall have the unanimous support of this honourable House to my request for financial provision for this eminently desirable development.

And, lastly, the question of illegal trafficking in drugs is almost completely under control throughout the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Sitting suspended at 1.45 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 10.20 p.m.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chief A. O. Adeyi):

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the course of the debate on the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill which my worthy colleague, the hon. the Minister of Finance, presented to this House last Friday, Members made references to various aspects of the activities of my Ministry. I wish to touch on some of these points by way of explanation.

In making these statements, I wish to say that it is my duty to educate and not to add to the ignorance evinced in some of the speeches delivered in this honourable House. I shall therefore present the facts as they are in reply to some of the relevant points raised by hon. Members from either side of the House.

The hon. Member for Benin Central East suggested on Friday that in order to offset the effect of cocoa recession on this Region's revenue, more attention should be given to rubber industry in the Midwest by intensifying efforts for improving the skill and education of rubber farmers.

While it is true, Mr Speaker, Sir, that rubber prices have been more stable than cocoa prices since 1959, both crops are liable to wide price fluctuations. The soil and climatic requirements of the two crops are different, and the policy of the Ministry is to diversify our crop economy and therefore to encourage production of both and other crops.

The hon. Member for Benin Central East in his contribution inferred in a most illogical comparison that the step taken by the Government to improve the price of cocoa has failed. And he went on to support this theme by the falling of cocoa prices whereas those of rubber have been steady.

What one would expect to be examined if one was to be reasonable is what accounts for the falling prices of cocoa. In all export, produce price is primarily determined by the

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factor of supply and demand. I will therefore support this statement by the world production of cocoa compared with the production of Nigeria in the corresponding years:

1959—1,036,000 long tons
1960-61—1,149,000 long tons
1961-62—1,172,000 long tons

Nigeria's Production	F.O.B.	Prices	
		Pro-	duce
		Price	Price
		£	£
1959-60—155,000 long tons...	220	160	
1960-61—195,000 long tons...	170	155	
1961-62—200,000 long tons...	156	100	

Price of cocoa follow in the reverse order of production of cocoa.

What have we done and are we doing to improve condition? During the First Economic Mission of the Federal Government led by Chief the hon. Okotie-Eboh, we were advertising cocoa in those countries behind the Iron Curtain. In other words more markets are being sought in order that demand may catch up with supply.

It is only fair that people of this Region should show some gratitude to that crop cocoa which has served us so faithfully, to provide for us all and make us what we are today. Primary Education, Scholarships, Secondary Education, Roads, Water, etc., are provided by cocoa money. How much of this is rubber responsible for? Very little indeed. Going by the poor judgment of the hon. Member, one would see the futility of his argument in that the aggregate revenue from rubber for the five years period he quoted is £6.5 million pounds as against £19.2 million from cocoa; it is a meagre third of the revenue from cocoa. Moreover the hon. Member must remember that from cocoa this Government has got a loan of £10 million and a grant of £10 million. There has not been a penny from rubber to this Government. The hon. Member continued in his thankless speech by saying that Ikpoba Rubber Factory and Uronigbe Rubber Plantations are mere window dressing.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Ikpoba Rubber Factory is a factory with an authorised capital of £400,000. Uronigbe is a plantation of authorised capital of £750,000.

Other partnership plantations are at Ewohimi, Igueben, Akwukwu and Ubulu-Uku. By 31st March, 1962, about 5,156 acres had been planted in these plantations. It is proposed that 2,000 acres will be planted in each partnership scheme. So far, over £550,000 has been spent on these schemes

and all these with an authorised capital of £1.2 million. And he said these are mere window dressings, yet all these are in one province. What more, for goodness sake, considering the limited resources of the Government, can one expect for only one province out of eight provinces?

The hon. Member alleges that Government has not done anything about peasant rubber farmers. For his information the campaign by my Ministry for increasing the quantity and quality of rubber in the Midwest has continued on an increasing scale. In 1960, 263,000 glonal rubber seedlings were distributed to farmers in the Midwest. In 1961, 785,000 of such seedlings were distributed. Up to the end of 1961, 34,996 farmers had been trained in the correct methods of tapping and over 10,000 in good processing methods. Ninety-one rubber rehabilitation plots, covering a total of 637 acres were laid down in 1961 in strategic positions to demonstrate to farmers how they should replace their non-productive trees by replanting with improved material.

About 5,000 acres of land have recently been acquired, and work has started for the development of a rubber research station at Iyanomo near Benin. This station will provide information which will be of direct use to rubber farmers.

Moreover, in his last economic mission the constant demand of the Premier was the removal of the fluctuating aspect of rubber prices. And to be specific, I refer Members to Chapter 9 of the Report of the Premier's Economic Mission.

I have said this before and I shall repeat it here. Constructive and informed criticisms are very welcome; criticisms based on half truths, no truths and false promises do not do the hon. Member any credit. To his supporters, he is incompetent and not fit to represent them.

The hon. Member for Benin Central East would also want Government to look for ways and means of improving the timber industry in the Midwest. Mr Speaker, Sir, I suspect the hon. Member opposite is not familiar with that industry about which he had spoken. For his information, Sir, I am happy to be able to inform him that my Ministry found the way to improve timber years ago, and in fact we are doing our utmost to ensure that the present high standard of efficiency in the timber industry is maintained.

Efficiency in the timber industry in the Midwest area is high. The high forest of

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the area is being actively exploited under licence. Exploitation is highly mechanised over the larger areas. Increasing number of tree species is being put on the market, resulting in greater revenue to the local government councils. There is organised research to find the most suitable use for trees which are at present considered worthless. The largest timber industry in an administrative unit in any country of West Africa is in the Midwest Area. Messrs A.T.&P. (Nigeria) Limited have the largest plywood and sawmill in Africa and this is sited at Sapele. This company has added block board to its production. There are, as the hon. Member well knows, a number of other fair sized sawmills owned by Africans as well as expatriates firms in the area.

The Member for Ede-Ejigbo raised a fundamental problem for which I would seek the co-operation of all hon. Members. He said that youngsters do not wish to take to agriculture because "it is laborious", to use his own words. If the hon. Member is a teacher, I think he would be in a very good position to teach his boys and girls the dignity of labour. Farming as it is practised in our farm settlements is labour without tears, more profit and higher production. Settlers are taught how to mix fertilisers, poultry and animal feeds, insecticides, etc. The hon. Member should realise that a farmer is a farmer anywhere in the world. We would not want to breed a new class that would look down with scorn and disdain upon their ancestors. In regard to the payment to settlers, the hon. Member must realise that it would not be wise to create more problems for ourselves than we can solve. There are similar schemes elsewhere under identical conditions where payments are much poorer than here.

I thank the hon. Member for his observation on our efforts in the Forestry Division. We realise the economic advantages derivable from forestry and we would leave no stone unturned till we shall be able to reap the maximum benefit from our forest reserves.

The hon. Member for Ede-Ejigbo North also wanted, in addition to all that Government is at present doing to improve forests in this Region for the most economic exploitation, an Act of Parliament to prohibit the annual routine of bush burning in the Region. It is gratifying to note in this connection, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the devastating effects of fierce annual fires are being noticed by citizens of this Region. Large tracts of good forest have in the past been

destroyed by fires. The hon. Member will however be delighted to know that there is provision in the Forestry Law prohibiting the lighting of fires and burning of forests within the Forestry Division and recorded fire offences are few. For various reasons, it is difficult in Tropical Africa to prohibit burning. In order to minimise the effect of late burning, the Forestry Division itself conducts early burning of the savanna areas in the forest estate. Research has shown that this practice has no deleterious effect on the established trees.

There is no provision in the Forest Law prohibiting grass burning in areas outside Forest Reserves. This is a matter agitating the minds of scientists, agriculturists and foresters and it is proposed to hold a symposium in Kaduna this financial year to consider the problem. The report of the symposium would enable us decide the practicability of the campaign against burning.

I have also noted a request, Mr Speaker, Sir, by the hon. Member for Iwo West II, that experts be provided to undertake an intensive soil survey of his constituency as a guide to Government when implementing the laudable plans envisaged for the improvement of poultry, livestock, forestry and fisheries.

In this connection, Sir, I wish to assure the hon. Member for Iwo West II that a reconnaissance survey of the Iwo area has already been conducted by the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and an F.A.O. Land Use Survey Team consisting of a forester, a soil scientist and an ecologist arrived in the country in June 1961, and is carrying out an extensive survey of the whole Region in order to assess the present vegetation, land use and soil potentials of the whole of the Region.

Detailed or semi-detailed surveys to determine the suitability of soils in any locality for the cultivation of various crops are carried out only in respect of specific projects. Such a survey is at present being carried out on an extensive scale near Lalupon in Iwo area. The hon. Member is assured that the Government is adequately guided in respect of the soils in Iwo area in the implementation of its agricultural improvement programme.

I appreciate the spirit with which my hon. Friend, the Member for Ife-Ila, thought it necessary to share with my Ministry, his experience in the Tiv Division of the Northern Region. Towards the end of overcoming the effect of the existing cocoa recession the hon. Member has advised that Government should introduce *Beniseed* as a new crop to the farmers of this Region.

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May I say, Sir, in acknowledging this advice that beniseed is a crop more suited to drier areas and it could not be grown successfully in the cocoa growing areas. It requires dry weather during harvesting, or losses can be heavy. Returns per acre are low. A good yield of beniseed is 400 lbs per acre, and this would never be worth much more than £10. Over most of Western Nigeria, maize is a more profitable crop and farmers would prefer to grow it. However, the Ministry proposes to grow some this year on Moor Plantation to see what improvements are required to improve yield. It will not however encourage farmers to grow unless it is satisfied that it will benefit them.

Honourable C. A. Williams (Epe South) complained that much has not been done in the field of fishing industry. In my Ministry, we already have a sea-going fishing boat, and another one will be ready in June. The Fisheries Division of my Ministry is encouraging the establishment of fish ponds all over the Region. We are doing this with two objectives in mind—the nutrient value of fish and the economic prospect of such industry.

Hon. Members made various references to the Farm Settlement Scheme operated by my Ministry. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is indeed an evidence that the Farm Settlement Scheme has begun to have very salutary impact on the people of this Region. It is gratifying that a scheme such as this, which the government has launched as one of its avenues for prosperity, has grown so popular even with the Members opposite. The hon. Member for Benin Central too asked that more farm settlements should be established in the Midwest. I take it, Sir, that hon. Imafidon is not yet aware of how well the Midwest is already being served with farm settlements. Of the thirteen settlements started in the Region in 1960, three are in the Midwest at Utagba-Uno (Aboh Division), Ekpoma (Ishan Division) and Mbirij (Asaba Division). Also of the five farm institutes established, two are in the Midwest at Asaba Division and Agbadu (Urhobo Division). Of the fourteen new settlements being investigated against 1963, three are being sited in the Midwest in Benin Division, Urhobo Division and Afenmai Division.

The hon. Member for Oshogbo South-East Urban also referred to the proposed Oshogbo Farm Settlement and requested that my Ministry should speed up work on this settlement; and also pleaded for the inclusion of pig rearing and poultry keeping in the activities of the settlement when established.

Work on the Oshogbo Settlement is being speeded up and the first set of settlers are expected to take up residence in January 1963. Both poultry and pig enterprises are among the farm enterprises proposed for the settlement. Work at Oshogbo Farm Settlement is proceeding according to plan. In regard to piggery and poultry keeping we are making use of the best result of scientific research and wherever such results are applicable we shall use them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in all the various references to the Farm Settlement Scheme, an hon. Member opposite stands out as a conspicuous exception. While most Members saw in this scheme a sure ray of hope and prosperity for the youth and entire people of this Region, the hon. Member for Aboh East considered that Government seems to be creating more problems than it solves by establishing farm settlements, his argument being that when Government acquires land "usually compulsory" from local farmers for establishing farm settlements, farmers so ejected would naturally spend all the compensation money received from Government in a short time and thereafter would begin to roam about as job-seekers for whom Government has no work; and he concluded that a more realistic thing to do than the farm settlement would be for Government to concentrate on teaching modern farming techniques to these local farmers instead of depriving them of their land.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I consider this to be nothing but the voice of an apostle of despair. I disagree with the hon. Member that people whose land has been acquired for the establishment of a farm settlement roam about as job-seekers. Firstly, Government does not acquire any piece of land that has not been voluntarily offered by the local community. Secondly, people so affected are paid compensation for their economic crops and are helped to establish themselves on their land with the compensation they receive and by the provision of improved planting materials and the free offer of technical advice in the establishment of new farms. I also wish to state that Government has expanded its Agricultural Extension Services Division in order to intensify extension activities with the generality of farmers all over the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the popularity of the farm settlements in the Region has earned me an "Easter present" of a fertile parcel of land in Ife-Illa for the establishment of a farm settlement. I am grateful to the hon. Member for Ife-Illa for this declaration, but this is indeed a surprise of a gift when it is revealed that considerable time had been

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spent in looking for suitable land in the whole of Ife Division but without success. My professional officers will however, be glad to investigate the suitability of the new offer being made by the hon. Member.

The Government through this Ministry is doing all that is humanly possible to diversify the economy of this Region by introducing new crops. We would, however like to advise Members to encourage farmers to make use of the Officers of the Agricultural Extension Services Divisions. These officers are there for their use. As a matter of fact a farmer does not have to cover more than five miles to reach an Agricultural Officer. In the efforts made by Government to attract our young school leavers to the farm settlements, I agree, Mr Speaker Sir, with the view expressed by the hon. Member for Ede-Ejigbo North constituency that all prejudices continue to militate against the general acceptance of a career in agriculture by our youngsters. That is the main reason why Government has been paying increasing attention to agriculture with a view to making it a more attractive and satisfying occupation. All the points raised by the hon. Member are taken into consideration in the planning and execution of the Farm Settlement Scheme, and expert advice is being given by a team of F.A.O. specialists.

I thank the hon. Member for Ekiti South East I for his kind words. It is my hope that all Members will co-operate in our "eat and drink more cocoa" campaign.

The Member for Ibadan South-East Rural has made a number of remarks. It is obvious Sir, that the hon. Member was not himself when he was making his contribution. It appears he is a most confused man. He made the following points:—

- (1) Downward trend in the price of cocoa;
- (2) The Action Group Government's economic doctrine and political belief; and
- (3) How the Government spent money.

Let us take 1961-62 season for example. Out of a world production of cocoa of 1,172,000 long tons, Nigeria produced 195,000 long tons, how on earth could Nigeria influence such a formidable market? If it was argued that Ghana influenced the market with her 400,000 tons, everyone would readily agree.

Secondly, Nigeria has taken the lead in making it possible for the cocoa producing countries to get together to solve the problems of falling prices.

The hon. Member went on to argue that £14 million was given to the Action Group Government to cushion the price of cocoa. He has got his facts wrong, Sir.

Assuming that the Board has money to cushion the price of cocoa, is it a prudent economic policy to exhaust all that is in the kitty? If that is the type of economic doctrine of the Mabolaje or NCNC, or whatever party he represents, then he would not get any following in this Region. In actual fact, it may be necessary to let you know, Mr Speaker, Sir, how much has been spent by way of subsidy to cocoa price:

In 1955-56 subsidy to cocoa was £4.0 million.

In 1956-57 subsidy to cocoa was £1.5 million.

In 1960-61 subsidy to cocoa was £2,687,000.

Total subsidy up to date is over £8.2 million.

And then the hon. Member went on canvassing for votes for the NCNC by saying that the formation of "Cocoa Producers' Alliance" was due to the instrumentality of the Federal Government. If that was so, there could be nothing wrong with that because cocoa is an export produce; export trade is the responsibility of Federal Government.

Secondly, cocoa accounts for at least 33 per cent of Nigeria's balance of payment. The Federal Government is only discharging its constitutional duty and would not claim credit for the formation of the Alliance. At this juncture, Sir, I must express regret and disappointment at a man who claims to be the best constitutional lawyer in the land and who still displays that degree of ignorance and poor judgment. (*Interruptions from the Opposition Front Bench*).

I would not expect Front Benchers to heckle.

In regard to processing our produce, the hon. Member sees only one side of the picture. We see all the sides and we shall decide when, where and how to process our produce. This decision is not unconnected with a wise economic policy of the Government of Western Nigeria. (*Cheers*).

The hon. Member for Ibadan South-East Rural is not doing his duty and I, Sir, will see to it that those who voted him into this House know about this. He came here to make notes of what he was to say and used words and figures with little or no regard for authenticity. For example, he alleged that farmers were not happy with the compulsory acquisition of land for farm settlements. There is nothing like compulsory acquisition

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of land for farm settlements. On the contrary, communities give up land willingly for the establishment of farm settlements.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish, here again, to reassure hon. Members that my Ministry realises the supreme importance of agriculture in our endeavour to build a really prosperous Region and is determined not to relent its efforts until the agricultural revolution which has begun in this Region turns every Western Nigerian citizen unto a life of abundance. (*Applause*).

The Minister of Information (Chief E. A. A. Fadairo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill the Motion for which was ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance.

Speaking on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, Chief Oputa-Otutu, Member for Aboh West, implored this Government to lead the way for all the Governments of the Federation to pool their resources together and to have only one national television network and one broadcasting system. The Government of this Region agrees with the hon. Member that duplication of television services in this country is an uncalled-for and expensive luxury. It is already pointed out to the Federal Minister of Information the implications of a duplicative television service of the type now proposed by the Federal Government. The hon. T. O. S. Benson has said that the new Nigerian Television Service will be confined to Lagos in the first instance, but will be later extended to Ibadan and other Regional capitals. He has been left in no doubt that the establishment of a separate Federal network would be a duplication of the existing services in the Regions. For the new Nigerian Television Service to extend to the regional capitals and operate in Lagos, experts estimate that such venture would cost approximately forty million pounds. It is my view that a better use could be made of such a large sum in some other more important aspect of our national life than investing it in a duplicative and competitive service with the regional networks.

The suggestion has therefore been made that a single network system for the whole Federation in which the Federal Government would make use of the existing regional services to project federal activities would be considerably cheaper and simpler, as the Federal Government would be allowed time to broadcast on agreed terms in each of

the existing regional television networks. Such suggestion had the advantages of reduction in capital cost involved as well as in recurrent expenditure. Overall cost of materials will diminish. It would be impossible for film sellers from other parts of the world to play one Region or Station against the other. Technical equipment can be purchased from abroad in large quantities resulting in an overall reduction of costs. A central training school could be established, competition in staff recruitment would be rationalised, and the entire country could sponsor a Television Film Industry which will utilise local materials for films to be used not only in the television network in the country, but also in other television networks abroad. And one important aspect of such single system is the strengthening of our sense of national unity.

It will also be unfair to the regional networks for the new Nigerian Television Service to be commercial. It is our belief that all the Regional Governments are opposed to a federal network of the type proposed by the Federal Minister of Information being commercial and competing with their own stations. The same applies to Radio Nigeria. Every Region in the Federation has made its own contributions directly or indirectly to the existence of Radio Nigeria and also to the newly established but still merely experimental Nigerian Television Service. It is therefore unfair and unjustifiable for either Radio Nigeria or the Nigerian Television Service to be made to compete on a commercial basis with regionally owned stations. In principle, a national network of the type of Radio Nigeria is welcome but it should be a channel for the diffusion and projection of our national culture and its Home Service should be devoted to the careful cultivation of those aspects in the culture of our diverse peoples that will enhance national feeling and outlook. Such national network should therefore be non-commercial.

It should be appreciated that this Region has been in business in the television field for over two years and it is only in this Region that a television service is being headed by a Nigerian and the entire operation carried out by Nigerians. We have already gained some measure of experience which we are prepared to share with, and if necessary place at the disposal of, the other Governments of the Federation. I will reaffirm what we have always stated that Western Nigeria will co-operate in finding a basis of working harmoniously in the field of broad-

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casting generally and that the Region is willing and prepared to share its experience with the rest of the country. We, however, believe that the Federal Government should not have begun a separate television system of its own and should not embark on a full-scale television development as now proposed with the present scanty resources of our nation. It will also be regarded as unwise by all our friends at home and abroad on some of whom this country has relied for both technical and financial assistance.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief S. O. Sogbein): I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1962-63 Appropriation Bill ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance. This Government is known and reputed throughout the Federation of Nigeria for its progressiveness and lead in the matter of provision of amenities for the people whom it has pleased God to put under its care. Water, electricity, hospitals and maternity centres, tarred roads, establishment of industries—we want all these to go round; hence, Government has adopted austerity measures. These are not palatable to swallow but I am happy to note that all Members of this honourable House have supported these measures. May I adapt a well known verse and say:

“Sweet are the uses of ‘austerity’, Which,
like the toad, ugly and venomous, Wears
yet a precious jewel in his head”. (Cheers).

Roads Development.—Several Members have got up and given a list of roads that they want tarred in their areas. Roads are divided into three categories, namely, A, B, and C. Trunk “A” are Federal roads, while “B” and “C” are Regional roads. Trunk “B” in particular is maintained by the Regional Governments. In respect of Trunk “C” roads, which are either Provincial or District roads, Government gives grants ranging from 25 per cent to 75 per cent of total current expenditure on the roads. Therefore, the transport density of roads is put into serious consideration before they could be tarred. However, I am happy to report that Government has tarred more than 95 per cent of the existing Trunk “B” roads and a lot of provincial roads, all totalling 2,180 miles. (*Opposition Members: Name them*). Because of the special nature of the soil, roads in the Mid-west cost more per mile than roads in other parts of the Region. The hon. Member should be patient. During “Answers to Oral Questions” he will listen to the names of those roads tarred in his Division.

Government is thinking of employing what is known as “Contractor—Finance” for some of our projects, and in this connection, Sapele bridge readily comes to mind. Collection of tolls on this bridge is under active consideration by Government.

Electricity supply.—I have earlier said that Government’s “free interest loan” of £1.3 million to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria has made it possible for many towns in this Region to have electricity. The E.C.N. is on the last stage of the completion of the first phase of this assignment.

On Friday and Saturday, I think, the hon. Premier of Western Nigeria will perform the opening ceremonies of electricity light at Owo and Ejigbo. There are communities through which the main electric lines pass, and we are trying to give these communities electricity. Government is also considering the provision of rural electrification. I want to say one thing about this rural electrification. It has been found possible that in places, either where you have a hospital which has been provided with generating plants, or where you have rural water supplies, it may be possible to supply these towns with rural electricity. And I am happy to say that the plan for Auchi and Ishan areas is expected to start soon.

Water Supply. In the next financial year Government is considering the formation of a Regional Water Board to deal with our urban and rural water supplies. When the details are worked out, hon. Members will have the opportunity of debating the Bill.

In my speech on the floor of this honourable House on the 6th of April, 1960, I enunciated Government’s policy on urban and rural water supplies. I would not like to mention that again, but I would refer you to what I said on the 6th of April, 1960. I am happy to say that out of that list 42 towns got their waterworks to be either completed or under construction. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have shortage of engineers and technical men. This is very difficult to combat, but it is also one of our major handicaps, but we hope to overcome it in the nearest future.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, all I have to add is to thank those Members of the Opposition as well as the Government side of the House who have spoken in praise of what has been done this year in connection with the Estimates presented before this House.

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I want to say, with all humility, that the praise given to me will be passed on to the officials who have done quite a good job of work on the Estimates this year.

I was a bit taken aback by the statement which was made here yesterday by one of the Members of the Front Bench of the Opposition, namely, that he is not in favour of Government taking any fiscal measures to increase revenue. I also reminded the hon. Gentleman that that statement was at variance with the pledge and undertaking given by the Leader of the Opposition when we were going to introduce "austerity" measures. Fortunately, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is here, and the fact that he is looking at me so seriously is only a confirmation of the fact that I am saying exactly what we agreed to.

Be that as it may, Sir, all I can say by way of appeal is that all the fiscal measures which have been taken by Government, and which have been introduced on the floor of this House, will be supported not only on the floor of this House, but also outside the House. Because it is only an unpatriotic Nigerian who will not support Nigeria financing the major part of its Development Programme from its own internal resources. Surely, it is not being suggested by those opposed to the fiscal measures being taken that we should finance our progress by borrowing money from abroad. By doing so, Sir, we will be making it difficult for our balance of payment position to be improved, a position which, owing to the boldness and courage of the Federal Government, I am quite sure would have been reversed when Estimates are presented next year.

I did not hesitate to say on the floor of this House, when I was introducing my Budget Speech, that we of this Government support fully all the measures which have

been taken by the Federal Government to raise additional revenue. I should have thought, Sir, that the NCNC Opposition here, who themselves belong to the NCNC in the Federal Parliament, which is an ally of the NPC and which is running the Federal Government, ought, by implication, to subscribe to all the measures we have taken here to increase our revenue. In any event, Sir, we are quite happy that the sacrifices which we ourselves have made have given leadership to our people and we hope we shall be supported by them when they are called upon to pay additional taxes by way of development contribution. I do know, Sir, that all patriotic Nigerians will frown at anybody who, in this hour of need, when Nigeria wants to progress and to catch up with the other countries of the world, is opposed to additional revenue being raised.

Finally, Sir, all I can assure hon. Members is that as long as the Action Group party is the Government of this Region, we will leave no stone unturned in taking measures which we consider appropriate and which we think will swell our revenue, in order to advance the progress of our people and to improve their well-being.

Sir, I beg to move (*Applause*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of Supply.

Committee to sit on Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the House do now adjourn (Chief Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.20 p.m. till tomorrow Friday, 13th April, 1962, at 9.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 13TH APRIL, 1962

(The House met at 9.35 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (3)

The Leader of the House and Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (3) be suspended this day to enable the House to sit after 12 noon, if necessary.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chief A. O. Adeyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjournment until Monday 16th April, 1962

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that at its rising this day the House shall adjourn until Monday, 16th April, 1962.

Chief Adeyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 33 (1).

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, in accordance with the provision in section 72 of the Standing Orders which stipulates that a question, the object or effect of which is to suspend any Standing Order of the House, shall be proposed only with the consent of Mr Speaker, either after notice has been given or after the expression of the assent of the majority of Members present, I propose, Sir, to move the suspension of Standing Order 33 (1) which stipulates that subject to paragraph (2) of this Standing Order, no Member shall be entitled to address the House or a Committee of the whole House for more than thirty minutes on any subject. The Premier who is moving the Motion on the proposal for the creation of the Midwest State will be speaking for more than thirty minutes. I move that the Standing Order be suspended.

Chief Adeyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Leader of Opposition (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I still have the right of audience. All I am asking, Sir, is that the Opposition be given the same opportunity as the Premier.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the situation warrants the same privilege being granted to the Opposition. If the hon. Premier chooses to speak for more than half an hour, surely you should give us the opportunity of making cogent replies to his statements. It will be futile for any of us, Sir, especially myself, leading the Opposition, to answer a very learned man like the hon. Premier in a shorter time. I know he is learned and that one day he may go back to the bar. He might achieve a Queen's Counsel status. (*Cheers and interruptions*). What I am asking for, Mr Speaker, is the same opportunity to speak longer than half an hour.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by the Leader of the Opposition. (*Interruptions*). It is not necessary that Members in the Front Bench should continue to heckle.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, if the Mover of the Amendment is considered as the Mover of an original Motion under Standing Order 33 (2), the Mover of the Amendment can speak for more than forty-five minutes.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! In this connection, therefore, I should like to say this, that if it is the wish of the House that any Member should speak for longer than the stipulated time, I can assure you that the chair will not disallow it. (*Applause*).

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICE OF MOTION ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOURTH REGION

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Motion which I have to introduce this morning is a very important one. It is important because it relates to an issue on which a number of vital events depend. No subject could either be more historic in its implications or more far-reaching in its conception. The Motion is important for at least two reasons: first because it touches the very foundations upon which this young and promising nation was so recently built, and, secondly, because it has serious implications for our reputation as a free and democratic people on the continent of Africa. It is a Motion with a tremendous impact upon the internal unity and social cohesion of Nigeria. It has a bearing upon the political

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solidarity of the Nation. Its acceptance will no doubt enhance the international status which only oneness of purpose and reciprocal goodwill among the various units comprising the Federation of Nigeria could guarantee.

In response to the request of the Federal Parliament and in exercise of the rights of this honourable House under section 4 (3) (b) of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

“That this House disapproves and rejects the so-called proposal purporting to have been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament for an alteration to section 3 of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria for the purpose of establishing a Fourth Region within the Federation of Nigeria consisting territorially of Benin Province in Western Nigeria including Akoko-Edo District in Afenmai Division, and Delta Province in Western Nigeria including Warri Division and Warri Urban Township area, and disputes the right of the Federation after any purported approval of the so-called proposal by each legislative House of Eastern Nigeria and Northern Nigeria, to provide for such an alteration to section 3 of the said Constitution, except strictly in accordance with the provisions of section 4 thereof”.

I like to remind honourable Members of the social contract—the bond of brotherhood and the solemn obligation of common citizenship—which binds together the peoples of this great nation. Not so long ago, the various communities in the country, through their accredited representatives, signified their desire for a united country under a Federal arrangement. I should like to crave the indulgence of this honourable House in recalling some of the most important principles inherent in the acceptance of a federal form of Government by any nation. The principles to which I will refer are by no means new. They are, indeed, to be found in the pronouncements of such eminent political thinkers as John Stuart Mill, Walter Bagehot and K. C. Wheare. It is essential to bear these important and lofty principles in mind if it is our intention to preserve and strengthen the unity of the nation, and the solidarity of her peoples.

A federal form of Government requires the co-existence of several national or ethnic characteristics. One of the major problems to which statesmen should address themselves is the important task of harmonising the conflicting interests of different units within a federal framework. Divergent interests and

varying circumstances there must be, in terms of economic problems, defence needs and religious inclinations. It is the business of the citizens to face these problems squarely in a deliberate and rational manner. In harmonising and reconciling the divergences, the interest of all must be considered individually, as well as collectively. A lasting solution to the problem of diversity, cannot be found in an attempt to suppress or thwart the will of one unit or the other. A Federal Constitution, therefore, is an experiment in political compromises.

I move now to the second essential prerequisite for the successful operation of a federal form of government. John Stuart Mill, the eminent British political thinker of the nineteenth century to whom I have referred earlier, put it in the following words:—

“In a federation, there should not be any one state so much more powerful than the rest as to be capable of vying in strength with many of them combined. If there be such a one, and only one, it will insist on being master of the joint deliberations; If there be two, they will be irresistible when they agree; and whenever they differ everything will be decided by a struggle for ascendancy between two great rivals”.

Here then is one of the most important principles in a federation. The size of the units in area and in population is of prime importance. For a successful operation of a federal constitution, there must be some reasonable balance which will ensure that all the units within the federal framework can maintain their independence within the sphere allotted to them, and that no one state can dominate all the others put together. In other words, an ideal federal club is not a society of giants and midgets. It is, therefore, essential for the efficient working of a federal government that no unit within it shall be too large and equally none too small.

The way the issue of the creation of the Midwest State has been handled hitherto does not show that those at the helm of affairs are being guided by either of the two principles which have been acknowledged as fundamental to the successful operation of a federal constitution. Was the Federal Motion, passed recently on the creation of a Midwest State, based on political compromises? Was it based upon the principle of an adjustment of the relative sizes of the various units of the Federation? It is not the latter; because the effect of the proposal is to make more absurd a situation which is already sufficiently absurd. One unit, that is, Northern

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Nigeria, is, at present, bigger than the other two—that is, the East and West put together. Now it is proposed that the smallest unit, that is, Western Nigeria, should be divided into two. If this was done, there would be four units in the Federation of which one would become larger than all the other three combined. Is this fair? (*Interruptions*). Is it equitable? It does not seek to remove the existing imbalance which lends the colour of abnormality to the Federation. If anything, it ensures perpetual domination of the other units put together, by the largest one.

May I repeat, the major defect in the Nigerian Constitution is the obvious imbalance between the largest unit in the Federation and the other two units put together. The Federal Motion has done nothing to remove this obvious defect. To that extent has the Motion proved itself unnecessary and unacceptable as it further violates a cardinal principle of federalism. The Federal Motion deserves unequivocal disapproval and rejection. (*Hear, hear*). The purpose of this Motion is to afford this honourable House the opportunity of registering such a disapproval.

In the existing Federal set-up, either or both the East and the West constitute a minority. The creation of a new state in the West is a fragmentation of a minority element, while the majority group in the North remains intact. (*Shame, shame*). The purpose of the Willink Commission was to devise ways and means of allaying the fears of the Minorities. The structure of the Federation, with the Federal Motion accepted, further accentuates rather than allays the fears of the Minority. For this reason, the Federal Motion must be rejected.

Events have proved that the principle of political compromise has not been applied either. The Government of this Region has never been consulted by the other Governments with which it is federated. Our wish and our interests are completely ignored, and yet we in Western Nigeria are the most affected. Subtle attempts are being made by political malcontents to bully the Region to subjection or possibly to extinction. These malcontents cleverly manipulated matters to ensure the support of the Federal Prime Minister and some NPC members to carry out their design against Western Nigeria.

It seems to me that the guiding principle or the motive force is political expediency. It is not a question of what is fair and equitable but what is, at the moment,

politically advantageous. No attempt at compromise has ever been made. For instance, the interests of all concerned should be carefully and judiciously considered. The possible comparative effects of the decision taken should also be weighed. Such a step was never taken by those concerned before a decision was taken upon the proposal to carve out a new Region from the area now comprising Western Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Federal Parliament in 1961 purported to have passed a Motion similar to the one which I am now asking this honourable House to disapprove and reject. Although the intentions of the Movers of the Motion had been suspect all along, yet the Action Group Party, the Party controlling the Government of Western Nigeria, took the initiative in making a number of concrete proposals during the debate. The proposals were designed to ensure co-operation on the part of all shades of political opinion in the Midwest area, and to guarantee that the new State would not be still-born at birth, or have an unhealthy growth. Subsequent events have shown clearly that we cannot count on the goodwill and the co-operation of certain personalities who are closely associated with the Midwest State Movement. We of the Action Group have sought assurances on a number of points which are obviously of tremendous importance in connection with the preservation of a democratic form of Government, not only in the proposed Midwest State area, but also in the Federation as a whole. I regret to say that there has been no indication whatever that the NCNC leaders are in any way interested in the question of fair play. In their desire to attain their objective, both justice and equity are completely ruled out. They give the impression that their sole object is to secure the control of the new Region at all costs and by all means. Hence they boast about that they would compel the Federal Parliament to invoke that portion of the Constitution which permits the Federal Government to make laws for order and good Government for the proposed Region for a period of six months after its establishment. They would do this regardless of the fact that it would violate public will and would clearly lead to disaffection and possible unrest in the area concerned.

They threaten that during the period of six months, all the Chiefs suspected of supporting the Action Group would be deposed. (*Laughter and interruptions*). All Customary Court Judges would be dismissed. All

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Local Councils with Action Group majorities would be dissolved. As there will be no written laws, government shall be by Proclamation. They have even decided to appoint Governors and Permanent Secretaries. It is a wise thing to wait and let their hen lay the eggs before they start to count them. (*Interruptions*). I heard somebody asking, "Do you do that?" This fact is a common knowledge. The Leader of Action Group, Chief Awolowo, has addressed a letter to the Prime Minister embodying all these statements, and now he asks, "Do you do that?" His party is thriving in ignorance. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). It is also being stated openly by the spokesmen of the Midwest State Movement that during the period, the Federal Government will delegate all its powers to govern the Midwest to one of the leading members of the Midwest State Movement. This state of affairs does not make for security. The haste with which the Federal Motion was passed has deepened public suspicion.

Again, as an indication of goodwill, the Party controlling the Government of this Region, the Action Group of Nigeria, nevertheless proposed that a conference representing all parties concerned should be convened under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to examine such important details as—

- (a) revenue allocation; (without money a new State cannot thrive).
- (b) constituency delimitation;
- (c) safeguard for Minorities within the proposed Region;
- (d) arrangements for holding of general elections into the Legislature of the proposed Region;
- (e) preliminary discussion on the Constitution of the proposed Region and other relevant matters.

Unfortunately, those who are loudest in their advocacy of the creation of the Midwest State find it convenient to ignore these important facts. They have consistently refused to address themselves to the problem which will doubtless arise following the creation of the State. But, of course, it is obvious that their intention is to acquire sole authority for the administration of the area regardless of the will of the majority. As I have said earlier, this Government has a responsibility to the people in the Federation as a whole, and it is not our intention to shirk these responsibilities nor to allow ourselves to be denied the rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

To vote for a new state, without knowing first the form of administration and the nature of the Constitution it will have, is to give to its leading protagonists a blank cheque. (*Interruptions*). May I, Mr Speaker, Sir, promise my hon. Friends that we on this side are not going to leave any question whatsoever associated with the proposed State unanswered. I do hope they will bear patiently with me. The answer I am going to give will be in the best interest of all of them. Is it too much to ask of the leaders of the Midwest State Movement "how are we going to be governed under the proposed Region?" Are the potential citizens of the proposed state not entitled to a categorical answer before voting for the proposed state? If these vital issues are not resolved before the state is created, it will definitely be too late.

Before the existing Regions in Nigeria were established and before they became self-governing,—the East and the West on 8th August, 1957, and the North on 15th March, 1959—their Constitutions had already been fully discussed and agreed upon by all concerned. Before there was a Western Nigeria, all the citizens of Western Nigeria knew they were to be governed under the new Western Region. Before there was an Eastern Nigeria, all the citizens of Eastern Nigeria knew how they were going to be governed under the new Region. Why are the people of the Midwest denied the opportunity of discussing and of agreeing upon the Constitution before the proposed state is created? Why? Why should they jump into the unknown? Before some of the Members opposite me were brought into this legislature they knew next to nothing, and I am going to delve into the history of this particular event if they will be prepared to listen.

Long before the Federation of Nigeria became independent, its Constitution was agreed upon by all concerned. The consideration of the Constitution and the discussion of its provisions were not postponed till a date long after independence. Why should the proposed Midwest State be an exception to an established rule? This arouses a good deal of suspicion and creates doubt in the minds of all lovers of true freedom. Why are Midwesterners offered a pig in a poke? Why must we be pushed into a state about which we know next to nothing?

Before the attainment of independence on 1st October, 1960, let me repeat, the entire people of Nigeria including their leaders knew how precisely they would be governed as citizens of a free country. All the details of

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their Constitutions, the powers of the Executive, of the Legislature, of the Judiciary and the instruments for their creation were settled and known to the people. Why has the same thing not been done in connection with the proposed state? Because the Federal Motion imposes upon people of the Midwest the obligation to buy a pig in a poke, and because it seeks to ask the people to vote for a state about which they know nothing, I ask this honourable House to disapprove and reject it. If we reject the Motion it is not because we are enemies of freedom but because we love some of those who are politically blind, opposite me, more than they love themselves. We do not want them to leave this Region, after so many years of breathing the air of freedom, to get into chains. Even if your enemy wants to run into death, it is your moral duty to save him. We will save them.

By not ensuring, first of all, that they would have a democratic Constitution and by not giving them a chance to have a pre-view of the administration under which they will be, the Federal Government has endangered the political future of the citizens of the proposed state. The Motion passed by the Federal Government, regardless of their future well-being, did not in any way protect the interests of the citizens of the proposed Midwest State. For this reason, I repeat, the Federal Motion deserves to be rejected unequivocally by all lovers of freedom and democracy. (*Hear, hear*).

I should also like to make brief reference to one other important aspect of the Federal Motion. This aspect appears to me to betray or, at least, to vitiate the intention of the sponsors of the proposed Midwest State. The Federal Government, while introducing the Motion in 1961, and while retableting it in 1962, refused to make a spontaneous and categorical statement to the effect that should the Midwest State be created, the rest of the Western Region would *ipso facto* constitute and remain a corporate Regional entity under the Constitution. The Federal Government admitted openly that it was not sure of the future legal position of what would be left of Western Nigeria after carving away the proposed Midwest State. The Prime Minister stated that he could not give any guarantee that what was left would remain a Region. (*Shame, shame*).

If the intention for creating a new state was pure, why did the Federal Government hesitate to give a spontaneous assurance? The honourable Prime Minister of the

Federation, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, in a resolution in the House dated 4th April, 1961, and retabled on the 23rd March, 1962, moved that a fourth Region be created. Simple logic dictates that the designation of the proposed state by the Prime Minister himself as the fourth one in the Federation contains within it, an element of the pre-existence and the continued recognition of a third state. (*Hear, hear*). Why was there such an equivocation in admitting spontaneously that what would be left of Western Nigeria would be a Region and a legal entity within the Federation? Why was there a doubt as admitted by the Prime Minister regarding the future of what will be left of Western Nigeria? If such a doubt genuinely existed, it should constitute an unanswerable argument against the creation of a fourth state. As an analogy, when a doctor wants to amputate a patient by removing an arm or a part of the body, he must first be sure that what would be left of the body would have a reasonable chance of continued existence. When a good surgeon is in doubt, no operation takes place.

If hon. Oputa Otutu's left hand is to be removed, if the surgeon is in doubt as to whether Oputa Otutu will remain alive, what he should do is to see that there is no operation at all. (*Hear, hear*). If the Federal Government is entertaining genuine doubts—(*Inter-ruptions*). I repeat, if the Federal Government genuinely entertains a doubt as to what will remain of Western Nigeria, that should have been the reason why she should not have proceeded with the creation of a fourth Region.

May I state for clarity that if the Federal Government did not really know what would happen to the five million who would be left in the remaining part of Western Nigeria after one-and-a-half million people in the proposed state shall have been separated, it will be unreasonable and unethical for such a political operation to proceed. The preservation of the identity and the continued existence of each of the component units of the entire Federation are the solemn responsibilities of the Federal Government. As the Federal Motion failed to reckon with the social welfare and political future of the five million people who would be left in the remaining part of Western Nigeria, it does not deserve the support of this honourable House. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

As the Federal Motion at best leaves the citizens of the proposed state in doubt of their political future and holds the teeming millions who are left in the rest of Western Nigeria in inexplicable suspense, its passing

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constitutes an eternal disservice to the entire people of Western Nigeria; it must be rejected. (*Interruptions*).

The hon. Member for Ikeja was asking whether I was drinking wine or water, sobriety is always on this side of this House.

We have a duty and a responsibility to the people of Western Nigeria. We are deeply conscious of our sacred obligation to the Federation as a whole. We will neither shirk our responsibility to the people nor overlook the fact that many throughout the Federation look up to us for constructive and consistent leadership. The Action Group Government will never abandon its people. We recognise the right of the minorities. We believe, as always, that all of them, without exception, should enjoy the same rights and privileges as the larger groups, for only thus can we ensure the continuance of the Constitution in the form that will endure.

The interest of minorities cannot, however, be protected by the demand that they should sail across uncharted seas. True freedom is not a leap into the unknown. Those who have the interest of the minorities at heart would ensure first of all that independence brings to them the right to manage their own affairs. Where the Constitution which guarantees this right does not exist, there is no freedom. There is no Regional Constitution defining the rights, the privileges and the duties of the citizens of the proposed State. The Federal Motion, therefore, does not extend any constitutional rights to the minorities; that is why we of the Action Group party unequivocally disapprove and reject it.

Some of us may still wonder why I ask us to disapprove and reject the Motion recently passed in the Federal Parliament on the question of the creation of a Midwest State. We are opposed to it precisely because, in addition to the reasons I have already given it is clear from the acts and the utterances of the pressure group behind the Motion that their objectives are firstly to win a political argument; secondly, to create an empire for a certain set of people who could not care less whether the new state is viable or not or whether a suitable machinery exists for administering it democratically, lest it degenerates into an inferior state compared with the others and becomes a problem child of the Federation; thirdly, it is clear that the advocates of the proposed Midwest State are motivated by nothing but spite for Western Nigeria.

The members of the pressure group in the NCNC intensely hate Western Nigeria. They would destroy it if they could. They persistently make this Region the butt of their attack. They never see anything good in this unit of the Federation. They are those who, after taking Lagos from Western Nigeria, demand the extension of the Federal territory of Lagos, and a further excision of the Colony Province from Western Nigeria. Their spokesmen have given a hint that the areas forming the northern part of Western Nigeria should be slashed off and merged with Northern Nigeria. What has Western Nigeria done to merit this gratuitous hate? While they want the whole of the East, where their Party is in power, to remain intact, they would like to cut from Western Nigeria vital areas like Mushin, Ikeja, Agege, Ikorodu, Epe, Badagry, and, in fact the whole of the Colony Province. These same men threaten to cut from Western Nigeria places like Ikirun, Okuku, Oshogbo, Ogbomoso, and even Oyo. (*Laughter*). What would be the ultimate end of this continuous dismemberment? To spite us, the NCNC leaders can sink to any depth. Since these NCNC leaders are the authors and the architects of the Federal Motion, and since they are motivated by hatred and spite, the Motion must be disapproved and rejected. (*Hear, hear*).

There cannot be unity in the Federation of Nigeria unless all the component units, individually and collectively, have a common sense of security. If one unit has a reasonable ground to believe that it is being discriminated against, and made a perpetual victim of political vendetta, there can never be unity and understanding within the Federation.

Commenting upon the Federal Motion of 1961 to carve out a new state out of Western Nigeria, the *London Times*, in its issue of 18th November, 1961 stated—

“The Federal Government has been making preparations to carve a new “Midwest” state out of the Western Region. The Constitution provides for such new Regions, but the move seems to be aimed less at giving the non-Yorubas their regional autonomy than at destroying the territorial base from which the Action Group in the other parliaments derives its power. (*Interruptions*). It looks like an attempt to circumvent the federal defences of Nigerian democracy.”

This attitude of regarding a member of the Federation as an unwanted baby does not conduce to unity or solidarity. Because the Federal Motion under review would impair

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the solidarity of the Federation, and undermine the unity of our peoples, I submit, unequivocally, that it must be disapproved and rejected. (*Hear, hear*).

All right thinking people at home and abroad will no doubt agree that by taking the line that no new States will be created in the North (which is twice as large as the other Regions put together) and where there are minority elements also clamouring for new States and in the East, where there is a persistent outcry for the creation of a State by minority elements, the political malcontents who bring pressure to bear upon those in charge of public affairs at the Federal level, are bent on violating public weal and creating a situation which will surely lead to endless difficulty and misunderstanding in this country.

If it is good to create new States, why are new States not created in the North? If it is a good thing, why are new states not created in the East? Why should the West be singled out for this particular operation? If the Opposition is convinced that some day the Leader of Opposition will occupy this seat, will they like to barter away their future legacy? (*Hear, hear*). I used to be in the Opposition in some part of the Federation, and my duty was to preserve the status of the Federation as a whole because, some day, I might change places; but because the Opposition have lost all hopes they are adopting destructive tactics—(*Interruptions*). I will answer all questions if you can only bear with me.

May I ask through the hon. Speaker, is it the duty of a legitimate son to co-operate with other people to carry away his father's house? (*Interruptions*). Whether one is from Agege or from Ikeja or from Ogbomoshosho (*Laughter*) his duty as a legitimate son of his father is to protect and to keep intact all the earthly belongings of his father. (*Interruptions*). The Midwest is a part of Western Nigeria and it belongs to us all. Whether one is a Midwesterner or not, so long as he is a citizen of Western Nigeria his duty is to protect the fact that the whole of the Region should remain intact. If a man goes to join a robber and conspires with the robber to break into his father's house and take part of it away the legitimacy of that son will have to be determined. (*Hear, hear*).

Let me seize this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, for his candour and frankness. He stated publicly that neither he nor his party believed in the creation of new States.

He sounded to me an unwilling political instrument in the service of a cabal of political tricksters, who constitute the pressure group behind the Motion. In my own opinion the Motion has not received a genuine and sincere support from either the Prime Minister or the NPC as a Party. It is therefore obvious that only an NCNC minority—many of whom are without any root in either the Western Region or in the Midwest area—supported the Motion. If only for this and for no other reason the Motion must be disapproved and rejected. (*Cheers*).

The Action Group Government of Western Nigeria has been accused of inconsistency since, it is alleged, it initiated the move for the creation of the Midwest State in 1955 but now is opposing it. I propose, in the course of this debate, to establish beyond all doubt, reasonable or unreasonable, that the charge of inconsistency cannot be sustained against my Government. On the contrary, I will prove that it is the other Governments of the Federation and political parties other than the Action Group, which are going back on their pledged words.

Assuming that a former Parliament, long ago, passed a Motion in the light of the circumstances prevailing at the time, must that be necessarily binding on every parliament which succeeds it, if it can be shown that the circumstances have changed so much as to make the substance of the Motion no longer tenable? It is a cardinal principle of democracy that no parliament can bind its successor. If it were not so, laws passed by one parliament could never be subject either to revocation or to amendment by any succeeding parliament. In that case, changes of policy by successive parliaments would be impossible. It is, therefore, a lame argument to submit that because one parliament, in the light of the prevailing circumstances pursued a line of action in the past, legislative bodies succeeding it must necessarily adopt the same line. (*Cheers*).

Further, the Legislature of Western Nigeria is bi-cameral. Every Government measure cannot be deemed to have a legislative sanction unless it receives the approval of both the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs, which constitute our Parliament. The 1955 Western House of Assembly Motion to which copious references have been made has not up till today been debated in the Western House of Chiefs. (*Cheers*). It has, therefore, not received the approval of the Western Legislature. It does not require a geometer to know that a part is

not equal to a whole. References to the 1955 Western House of Assembly Motion, in the sense that it had the sanction of the Legislature, is, therefore, false and incorrect. (*Cheers*).

Mr Akinyemi: Who is the Leader of the Action Group?

Chief Akintola: It is my duty to cure some ignorant Members of the Opposition. (*Interruptions*). By the grace of God and the will of the people, Chief Obafemi Awolowo is the Leader of the Action Group. (*Prolonged cheers from Government Benches*). I am sure there are many other people who are very knowledgeable about the events of the Action Group. If in doubt, ask your Friend the Leader of the Opposition. (*Laughter*).

On this particular issue of the creation of the separate State for Benin and Delta Provinces, if the critics of my Government would take the trouble to refer to their *Hansard*, they would find that the Motion which is being cited against us was not a Government Motion. In fact, Chief Awolowo as the Leader of the Government at the time declared during the debate on the Motion—I quote word for word from the Official Report of the House of Assembly Debates of the 14th of June, 1955—

“Chief Awolowo: In view of the issues involved in this Motion, I want to announce that the Government adopts no official attitude whatsoever towards it. Secondly, Members of the Government and of the Opposition who wish may support it without any restriction whatsoever”.

Is it fair to persistently maintain in the face of this evidence that the Government of Western Nigeria as a Government must be bound by the terms of this Motion?

The text of the Motion, as passed by the Western House of Assembly, was in 1955 conveyed to Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. Her Majesty's Government did nothing about it. When another opportunity presented itself two years later, the Motion in question, was forwarded to the Constitutional Conference in 1957 for consideration and adoption. The conference, instead of adopting it, decided to invite the Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint a Royal Commission of Enquiry with the terms of reference which are—

“(1) To ascertain the facts about the fears of minorities in any part of Nigeria and to propose means of allaying those fears whether well or ill-founded.

(2) To advise what safeguards should be included for this purpose in the Constitution of Nigeria.

(3) If, but only if, no other solution seems to the Commission to meet the case, then as a last resort to make detailed recommendations for the creation of one or more new States, and in that case:

(a) to specify the precise area to be included in such State or States;

(b) to recommend the governmental and administrative structure most appropriate for it.

(c) to assess whether any State recommended would be viable from an economic and administrative point of view and what the effect of its creation would be on the Region or Regions from which it would be created and on the Federation.

(4) To report its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies”. (*Cheers*).

As far as the affairs of the Midwest State were concerned, the Commission now known as the Willink Commission took evidence from the accredited representatives of the three main interests in this Region, namely, the Government of the Region, the Action Group and the Midwest State Movement including the NCNC.

The recommendations of the Willink Commission as contained in section 21, pages 32 and 33 of their Report, were that—

“even if public opinion were taken as the sole criterion it would not be justifiable to set up a Midwest State in the form demanded by the Midwest State Movement, which would include some actively protesting minorities and others whose enthusiasm was extremely moderate. A smaller Midwest State consisting of the Edo speaking Divisions only could hardly compete on equal terms with the other Regions in the Federation; and indeed the Midwest State Movement themselves reject this idea. There remains the question of a state consisting of the Edo-speaking area together with Asaba and Aboh; we do not think it would be reasonable to divide these two. Though such a state would contain some dissentients and more who were lukewarm, the majority, we believe, would at first welcome it. But the tensions within it would soon develop, and as soon as the struggle for power was won we believe that an even more acute dissatisfaction would arise. To achieve this unsatisfactory result it would be necessary either to

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increase taxation or to reduce the scale of amenities, while the administrative difficulties, in a country already extremely short of experienced administrators, would be immense. Furthermore, there is the wider consideration that to set up a separate state would accentuate and underline tribal divisions which a wiser statemanship would seek gradually to obliterate”.

Before the publication of the Willink Commission's Report, my Government, realising its responsibility towards the Minority elements in the Midwest Area, had set up a Midwest Advisory Council whose terms of reference were—

(a) To meet from time to time for the interchange of views and information on development in the social, economic and cultural fields in Benin and Delta Provinces; and

(b) to ensure that the Government is adequately informed of the needs of the area and of the impact of Government's policies and activities in general life of the people of Benin and Delta Provinces.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Members of this honourable House would recollect that the Willink Commission turned down the submissions not only for the creation of the Midwest State but for any other additional state in the Federation, and concentrated its recommendations on measures to allay the fears of Minorities. It is gratifying to recall what the Commission said about us in this regard. At page 96, paragraphs 31 and 33, under section 4—Minority Areas, the Commission states in its report—

“In the Western Region, a step to which we have already referred has been taken towards allaying the fears of a minority. This is the setting up of a Midwest Advisory Council with the Minister for Midwest Affairs, Chief Anthony Enahoro, as the Chairman. We were impressed with the effort which the Western Region had made in this matter and with the trouble which Chief Enahoro had taken to consult the many interests involved.

“It is also worth considering whether the ‘Midwest Area’ should be the field for the Council's activities. We have already suggested other arrangements for the Ijaws and would therefore exclude the Western Ijaw Division from the area for which the Council is responsible. Nor do we think that the Warri Division should be included, since this is a mixed area in which a considerable element look to the headquarters of

the Region rather than to Benin; for the same reason, the Akoko-Edo district of Afenmai Division might wish to be omitted. It is with less certainty that we would exclude Asaba and Aboh Divisions but we feel that it is mainly on account of the presence of an Edo-speaking minority that the problem has arisen, and on the whole we would confine the operation of the Council to the Edo-speaking districts, that is to say, Benin Division, Urhobo Division, the two remaining districts of Afenmai and the Ishan Division. As we have already explained we do not consider that this area could suitably be made into a separate state but we do think that it has special problems and that an Edo Council presided over by the present Minister for Midwest Affairs, who would thus become Minister for Edo Affairs, should continue, with an advisory responsibility for the development and welfare of the Edo-speaking peoples and in particular for the preservation of Edo culture”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is also pertinent to point out to the House that the Commission recommended that a Council similar to the Midwest Advisory Council be created in the Eastern Region to allay the fears of the Minorities in Calabar Province.

Now, although we all, that is all the representatives of the country at the resumed Conference in 1958, accepted the recommendations of the Willink Commission that no new states were to be created anywhere, the other Governments of the Federation and the other Parties, the NPC and the NCNC, have been engaged frantically in passing resolutions to dismember this Region which is the smallest in the whole Federation. Who are being inconsistent now? The Action Group has been party to one decision only, which was that of the majority at the 1958 Constitutional Conference, and that was the acceptance of the Willink Commission Report that there should be no new states created.

In what way has the Action Group Government of Nigeria been inconsistent? The 1955 Motion of the Western House of Assembly, to which copious references have been made was, with the concurrence of both the NPC and the NCNC, referred to the Willink Commission, which, of course, considered it with requests for new states from other parts of the Federation and rejected it. Both the NPC and the NCNC accepted unequivocally the recommendations of the Willink Commission. By going back on it and insisting upon the creation of the Mid-

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west State, they are proving themselves inconsistent. The 1955 Western House of Assembly motion has, therefore, been overtaken and over-ridden by events. (*Hear, hear*). In the light of the Willink Commission Report, and the acceptance of it by both the NCNC and the NPC, the 1955 Western House of Assembly Motion should from now onwards be regarded as an obsolete document. It is futile to keep on referring to it. (*Hear, hear*). The latest authority which has overruled all prior decisions on the creation of states in Nigeria is the Willink Commission. Its decision has been reinforced by the express adoption of it by the NCNC and the NPC. He would be a poor advocate who rests his case upon decisions that have been overruled by higher tribunals. Only lazy legislators will get up to quote from the 1955 Western House of Assembly motion. May I repeat, the ruling of the higher tribunal has been against the 1955 Western House of Assembly motion. That ruling, too, has been supported by the NCNC and the NPC and, in fact, by all the Governments of the Federation. Quotations that are appropriate on state issues can only be made from the Willink Commission Report. I do hope that Members will not bore us with futile quotations from the 1955 Motion and that they will understand how lazy they are. They can be sure of the *Hansard* of 1955 being taken up showing you what Otobo said. (*Laughter*).

A good lawyer will never keep citing decisions that have been overruled. I repeat again: It has been overruled, because the Willink Commission was entrusted with the responsibility of settling the issue. (*Interruptions*).

There are some Members opposite who will blame us but who will offer their prayers in our names in private. (*Laughter*). I do not think the prayer of the hon. Member for Ikeja will ever be answered without his invoking the sacred name of Awolowo. I repeat that it is only a lazy legislator who will get up to read the 1955 Motion. Read to us the up-to-date authority on the subject which is the Willink Commission report. We are not interested in knowing what Otobo said in 1955. We are not interested in knowing what Arthur Prest said in 1955, or what Olumofin said in 1955; all those things have been wiped out by the Willink Commission.

When you go to court and start to cite a law that has been amended, without pointing out that it has been amended, you will run the risk of being accused of misleading the court. I hope hon. Members will not mislead

this House by referring to obsolete documents. I repeat that the 1955 House of Assembly Motion has been overruled. It has also been overtaken by events, and the sooner the Members opposite forget about that Motion the better for them. (*Applause from Government Benches*). Because the Federal House decided the issues of the proposed state on the 1955 Western House of Assembly motion which had been overruled by Willink Commission—a higher tribunal—the decision cannot stand. The Federal Motion for the creation of the Midwest State must, therefore, be disapproved and rejected.

In further pursuance of its efforts to implement more fully the recommendation of the Willink Commission, my Government has recently moved this House to adopt certain laws whereby the Minister of Midwest Affairs became vested "with executive powers in regard to certain aspects of matters closely related to local usages and customs in the Midwest Area. Such matters include certain aspects of the disposal of communal lands, of the constitution and operation of local government councils and of the institution of Chieftaincy and traditional authority in the area".

In other words in spite of the discouraging activities of our detractors, we have continued to improve the positions of the Minority Elements in the Midwest Area *vis-a-vis* the other Elements, particularly the Yorubas, around whom the Midwest State Movement built its case for the justification of a separate state before the Willink Commission. In this regard, the charge of neglect of the area by the Midwest State Movement was rebutted by the Willink Commission in the following words—*Paragraph 9, page 30 of the Report*—

"In the broadest general terms, we formed the impression that although this area had been neglected in certain respects, not only by the present Government but by its Colonial predecessor, there was no evidence of deliberate and vindictive discrimination or even culpable neglect. There are few countries in the world of which the areas nearer the headquarters of government are not more highly developed than outlying parts and, as we have already said, in the Delta Province and the Western Ijaw Division, the nature of the country makes development expensive and in some cases impossible..... if, therefore, grievances and fears were the sum total of the case for a separate state we should have no doubt that those recounted to us—all of which proved to contain large elements of exaggeration—so far from justifying the

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creation of a new state could in fact be better remedied by other means....."

The work of the Midwest Advisory Council proved extremely successful. In the latest annual report on the Council, great progress has been recorded. In the report for 1960-61, the Council under the Chairmanship of hon. Dahlton O. Asemota, O.B.E., wrote as follows:

"This period of twelve months has been one of tremendous development in the Midwest area as also in the Region as a whole, and the Council is proud of, and grateful for, the opportunity afforded it in taking an active part in this tremendous work of social and economic development. When the Council was first set up, about two years ago, members were aware that the whole thing was a bold experiment. That this experiment has been a successful one is fully borne out....."

That was the report of the Council submitted to me through the Chairman of Midwest Advisory Council, hon. Dahlton O. Asemota. This report, coupled with the comments of the Willink Commission, knocks the bottom out of the allegation of deliberate neglect of the Midwest area.

May I also add that while we were engaged on the problem of the Midwest Area, the Action Group of Nigeria went into all available means to ensure that this case was presented in the able manner that it deserved. Among those who were then consulted by us and among those who were paid to help us, was the hon. Leader of Opposition. (Cheers) And may I enter this warning: I wonder whether it is professionally proper for him to contribute to this debate. Why I am saying this is this. I am not saying it for jest. I wonder whether it is professionally proper for him to contribute. I shall have a word with the Chief Justice of the Federation. (Laughter):

May I also state that we have no fear whatsoever about the future. We believe in God, and we believe in His justice, of course. Here is a forum where we shall register our protest against this Motion. If need be, we shall move to another forum to register our protest. (Cheers).

To sum up:

(1) Since it violates the principle of compromise on which federalism is based, I submit that the Federal Motion for the creation of a fourth Region in Nigeria should be disapproved and rejected.

(2) Since it further enlarges and makes more absurd the imbalance in the component parts of the Federation of Nigeria, where one single unit is at the moment large enough to overpower all others put together, it must be disapproved and rejected.

(3) Since it contains no guarantee or assurance of democratic rule to the citizens of the proposed state, who are denied the opportunity of first discussing and agreeing upon the Constitution which will govern them later, the Federal Motion must be disapproved and rejected.

(4) Since the Federal Motion leaves the citizens of the proposed state in doubt as to their political future, and clothes the political future of the remaining five million people in what is left of Western Nigeria in uncertainty, I respectfully submit that the Federal Motion must be disapproved and rejected.

(5) Since by its discriminatory nature, and by its victimisation of the West, it endangers the solidarity of Nigeria and the unity of her peoples, the Federal Motion should be disapproved and rejected.

(6) Since the intention of its sponsors is to destroy Western Nigeria by subtle method of progressive fragmentation, the Federal Motion must be disapproved and rejected.

(7) Since the intention of its authors is to ask the Midwesterners to buy a pig in a poke and vote for a government, the nature of which they possess no fore-knowledge, and thereby, thereafter, get themselves enslaved forever, the Federal Motion must be disapproved and rejected.

(8) Since it seeks to yoke together unwilling partners, Warri, Western Ijaw, Akoko-Edo and the others in the proposed Midwest State, and thereby violates the principle of freedom of association, I submit the Federal Motion must be disapproved and rejected.

(9) Since the Federal Motion was based on a false premise—the 1955 Western House of Assembly Motion, which has been overtaken and over-ridden by events, I respectfully submit that it should be disapproved and rejected. (Laughter).

Mr Speaker, Sir, May I advise my Friends opposite me to wait for a while before they laugh at this Motion. Let them read this section very carefully when they get back home. (Laughter).

My hon. and learned Friend has read it several times, but people who are knowledgeable enough somewhere out of this House the Federal Attorney-General, read it carefully, and in spite of careful reading he started in 1961 with errors, and those errors have become a recurring decimal.

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It is not my duty to point out to those who deliberately blind themselves. I will only read No. 10.

(10) Since it tramples upon the right guaranteed to Western Nigeria under section 4 of the Constitution, the Federal Motion must be disapproved and rejected.

(11) Since it threatens to destroy us, and, all of us, as citizens of Western Nigeria believe that we are entitled to life, the Federal Motion must be disapproved and rejected.

(12) Since it is one of the comedies of legal errors of which the Advisers of the Federal Government are experts, and since we do not want to perpetuate errors, I respectfully submit the Federal Motion must be disapproved and rejected.

I assure this honourable House that all the traditional rulers, in the whole of the Region, and, in fact, all freedom loving people of the Region, solemnly resolve to oppose the creation of the proposed State.

The Government of Western Nigeria will adopt all constitutional means to ensure the rejection of the Federal Motion both on the floor of this House and elsewhere, and to oppose the creation of the proposed State.

Let us remember in this solemn hour that only one man with God is a majority. Justice is on our side, and, by God's grace, I assure you of victory.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. (*prolonged applause*).

The Minister of Midwest Affairs (Mr J. E. Otobo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second, and in doing so, I will confine myself to the purely Midwest aspect of the subject and hence to the political attitudes of NCNC and Action Group leaders and followers in the Midwest Area. Put in its naked form and at the local Midwest level, the whole question of the creation or otherwise of the Midwest Region has depended upon finding answers to the following questions:—

First: Do we want an NCNC conception of a Midwest Region or the Action Group type?

Secondly: Will the Action Group accept the NCNC type of Midwest Region? Or, conversely, will the NCNC accept the Action Group brand of a Midwest Region?

I ought, before going further, Mr Speaker, Sir, to say this: I asked in London, in 1958, whether the NCNC people were really serious in the creation of the Midwest Region. I was satisfied, then, that they were not. In 1962, as I shall recount here, I am posing the same

question. Does the NCNC really desire the creation of a Midwest Region? The answer from my experience, and from everything we have done during the past six months, is, "No, they don't want it".

There are, Mr Speaker, Sir, five cardinal principles which will be observed throughout the length and breadth of my speech this morning. These principles are that the NCNC has brought us to the position in which we find ourselves today in regard to the issue of the Midwest Region. Let me repeat, and I am saying it with every sense of responsibility: this is not the time for rascally voices to create any disturbance in this House. (*Laughter*).

As Members are aware, Mr Speaker, Sir, under the Constitutional requirements, the attitude of this House to the creation of the Midwest Region was "law or no law". It is either you support it or you don't support it. There is no argument about it. I prefaced my speech with that, Sir, simply because as I shall show later that but for the hullabaloo and the cantankerous attitude of these elements the history of the Midwest issue will not be as it is today.

The second principle which will run through my speech is, Sir, that "no preliminary discussions and agreement, no support from us". I repeat: without any preliminary discussions and agreement, no support from us. In other words, by this, Sir, I am maintaining what I have always maintained, namely, that the creation of any new Region must be strictly non-political.

The third principle which will run through my argument, Sir, is that any thought of freedom from slavery, thought of freedom from Yoruba domination at this stage, is rubbish—plain rubbish. Again, I shall fight it out as I go on.

The fourth principle, Sir, is that the NCNC is putting in this whole question of a Midwest Region an unnecessary red-herring in the whole of the discussions. What do I mean by unnecessary red-herring? Here are people, Mr Speaker, Sir, who say they genuinely desire a Midwest Region. Then while they want to go away, they turn around and say, "Oh no; while we are going, the rest of the Western Region must not remain"; and you think they are serious!

The fifth point, Sir, is that those who throw challenges must be prepared to receive counter-challenges and if, Sir (I have got to read this again)—if a member from Warri East, two days ago can still boast to these people that with or without the Action Group, the creation of the Midwest will soon become

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a successful referendum; and, finally, threat to deport all Action Group supporters after, they claimed, the manner of the fateful Congo's Kasavubu—so much so that for a time a new NCNC slogan interwoven with the word "Kasavubu" earned the usual acceptance among the NCNC leaders in the Midwest area and of course this new slogan was as effective as are all NCNC slogans. Nothing doing. (*Laughter*).

(4) The Action Group feeling very concerned that something practical and constructive must be set in motion if the Midwest issue was not to be dragged in the mud of disorderly treatment announced that certain basic subjects must be discussed and agreed on by the major parties in the Midwest. These became the popularly known "conditions precedent" stipulated by the Action Group and included such matters as—

- Constitution of Midwest Region;
- Composition of Legislative Houses;
- Interim Administration;
- Date of first elections;
- Fiscal arrangements;
- Rest of Western Region, and so on.

(5) Later in the year, in view of the quality and character of the speeches by certain NCNC leaders in the Midwest, we in the Midwest joined in asking the Leader of the Action Group, hon. Chief Obafemi Awolowo, to make written proposals to the Prime Minister. Both Chief Awolowo's letter and the Prime Minister's reply have since been published. Suffice it to say here that the Prime Minister's reply dealt the second death blow on the Midwest issue.

(6) Then followed a period of planned NCNC political rioting and looting in the Midwest, particularly, in Ishan Division—a situation which led to unprecedented murders and which, rightly, shocked all responsible Nigerians. The target and/or victims of these attacks, the murderous attempts, were Action Group leaders, councillors and supporters—all these in the wake of NCNC boasts of coming into power in the Midwest area.

(7) Mr Speaker Sir, as soon as possible after all that catalogue of events and incidents had come to what could be regarded as normal, informal "chats" between the NCNC and Action Group top Midwest leaders took place with a view to reaching some form of agreement in relation to the Midwest issue.

At this juncture, I will crave the indulgence of this honourable House to deal at some length with the short-lived discussions between Action Group and NCNC leaders.

I have no doubt that I will be accused of quoting publications which are in any case matters of public controversy.

On the 8th of February, 1962 the following letter was addressed by the hon. Dennis Osadebay to me as the Minister for Midwest Affairs. It reads as follows:

"Hon. J. E. Otobo,
Minister of Midwest Affairs,
Ibadan.

Dear Sir,

I think it is time for your Party and ours to enter into conversation as to the creation of the Midwest Region. Accordingly, we have appointed Mr Chike Ekwuyasi and one or two others to meet you and one or two others from your own side for the purpose of reaching agreement on how to proceed. In writing this letter, I have the mandate of my Party.

Warmest regards,

Yours sincerely,
(sgd) D. C. Osadebay,
NCNC Chairman, Midwest Working
Committee

On the 10th of February, 1962, after holding the usual consultation at our own Party end, I issued the following letter to the hon. D. C. Osadebay, Chairman, Midwest Working Committee of the NCNC.

"My Dear Sir,

Your letter Ref. No. 36/Vol. 21/74 of 8th February.

2. May I humbly point out that we consider that it would be proper that future communications should be either between the two Secretaries or between yourself as Chairman of your Midwest Working Committee and Chief Anthony Enahoro, as Chairman of our Midwest Action Group Executive. But as earnest of our good faith, we are not going to stand now on this procedure and will deal with the matter raised by you.

3. As regards the request for a meeting, I am directed to say that your suggestion is acceptable and that hon. J. E. Otobo and two others will be available to meet your representatives. May we suggest that this meeting be fixed for Saturday, 17th February or Sunday, 18th February at Ibadan.

4. We hope your delegates would be in a position to indicate at this meeting what your views are, having regard to the fact that the general outline of our views has been widely publicised.

Yours faithfully,
(sgd) J. E. Otobo,
Minister of Midwest Affairs

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As I have just read, Sir, in this letter he indicated that he had the full mandate. I think I should, at this juncture, say this in fairness to hon. D. C. Osadebay, that but for the machinations of certain irresponsible elements in the NCNC, hon. Osadebay is sincere at heart on this issue of the Midwest Region. (*Hear, hear*). After the usual consultations, I sent a reply accepting his offer and suggested a date and venue. February 21st at 11 a.m. at Ikeja V.I.P. Rest House was finally agreed upon. This meeting was held and present were:

for the Action Group—myself,

Hon. Akere, Regional Minister;
Hon. Anuku, Regional Minister
and Chief J. E. Odiere, Secretary of
the Midwest Action Group.

The decisions reached were as follows:

(a) That both parties support in principle the creation of a Midwest Region.

(b) That a top level meeting be arranged to discuss and reach agreement on the subjects listed by the Action Group Delegation;

(c) That it was noted that any agreement reached would be embodied in the Midwest Constitution Act, and that the Action Group would not be expected to co-operate further unless and until agreement had been reached.

(d) That neither party should say or do anything which might prejudice or mar these negotiations, and the Minister of Midwest Affairs gave an undertaking to look into any complaints made to him by NCNC leaders and supporters in the Midwest; and

(e) That the next meeting would take place on 7th April, a date which was later changed to 18th March, after further consultations.

18th March, Mr Speaker, Sir. The subsequent history was brief. On about the 16th March it began to appear from unofficial unconfirmed sources that the 18th March top-level meeting would not be held. As it happened, on the 18th no NCNC delegation turned up, nor was any explanation made to us. All that we were told on the evening of the 19th was that certain Motions and Bills connected with the Midwest issue would be taken in the Federal Parliament. Thus ended the negotiations and all hopes of reaching agreement. Since then, of course, the Motion had been re-listed and passed as a Referendum Act.

As a matter of fact, it is now that we have begun to know Mr Speaker, Sir, why they did not turn up. As it turned out to be on the 19th March which was a Monday, the whole business coming before the Federal Parliament had been laid on, the Motion had been relisted, the Act of Referendum had been drafted and the Act of the Midwest Region had also been drafted, so that even though they agreed that the agreements would be embodied in those constitutional instruments, they knew that they were merely deceiving us and playing for time. It was not surprising that on the 18th they did not turn up.—These are the people who come here and say that we are not sincere. (*Government Benches: Shame, shame*).

I have, Mr Speaker, gone into all those details to show that the greatest enemies of the Midwest are certain classes of individuals in the NCNC who believe that no discussion of any type with the Action Group is necessary; who believe that, in any case, the Federal Government knows what type of Constitution to give to the Midwest; who believe that it is no business of the Action Group to interfere; who believe that it is not for the Action Group supporters to vote "Yes" at a referendum and to trust, thereafter, the NPC-NCNC Coalition Government to use their mature judgement and sense of fairplay to do what is best for the Midwest.

This is a strange principle, Mr Speaker, Sir, which has no parallel anywhere in the world. I mean the principle of voting for a Constitution which does not exist, and indeed for something you don't know anything about.

The Mover of the Motion, the hon. Premier, has already elaborated on the worldwide principle of prior discussion and agreement. I can only supplement by emphasising firstly—This country, as mentioned by him, has attained its present status after a series of preliminary conferences at which agreements were reached by all parties before formal constitutional enactments were promulgated.

Secondly—the recent case of Kenya is fresh in our memory. In this case, not only were the outlines of the Constitution agreed upon, but the membership and portfolios of the coalition were decided before Her Majesty's Government made changes in the Constitution. In this connection I shall quote from the *Sunday Post*. Those of you, on the other side, I know, will say "*Sunday Post* is our paper". Mr Speaker, Sir, they say "*Sunday Post* is our paper". What were the agreements reached during the preliminary discussion between the leaders of the

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major political parties in Kenya? First, Sir, if I may read:

"By the agreement, Mr Ngala will be Minister of State with responsibility for Constitutional Affairs in liaison with the Governor's Office and for the administration; and Mr Kenyatta will be Minister of State with responsibility for the same....." and then they went on to actually listing out who were to hold the various portfolios:

"After that, and only after that, the Governor agreed that the leaders of the political parties with two Ministers responsible for the portfolios of Legal Affairs and Defence should retain them and then only after that and not until then. In an official announcement the Kenya Governor..... said that the Queen had issued instructions through the Colonial Secretary to increase the size of the Kenya Cabinet to sixteen Ministers.....". All were negotiations, before constitutional issues were settled.

Thirdly, the French referendum on the Algerian problem may be cited. The referendum held in Metropolitan France, as also that to be held in Algeria, is a simple enough process of voting "Yes" or "No" but, in actual fact, Mr Speaker, Sir, weeks and weeks of negotiations have produced an agreed Constitution for Algeria, the strength of the French Armed Forces to be based in Algeria, the composition of the interim administration, the position of the Algerian desert, and so on. All these details have been known before the referendum recently held in Metropolitan France and before the referendum in Algeria itself.

It is precisely the same thing that we ask for in the Midwest, but because the NPC-NCNC Coalition are in a hurry to liquidate the Action Group party and Government and to force an NCNC rule on the people of the Midwest, all accepted principles and practices must now be cast overboard.

Fourthly, it ought to be mentioned here that the outbreak of rioting, lawlessness and murders in the Midwest area in recent months, coupled with deliberate incitement against Action Group supporters, and against constituted authority, made negotiations between the Action Group and the NCNC imperative if only to bring about a pre-referendum state of calmness, and if only to ensure stability for any future Government.

It will be clear, from all I have said so far, that a substantial section of influential NCNC leadership is not well-meaning in its agitation for a Midwest Region. To them a Midwest

Region is synonymous with an NCNC controlled Midwest. They are entitled to this ambition to rule, but, equally, if the Midwest issue is now one of spite and one of struggle for power, surely other political parties are entitled to take a stand different from that of the NCNC.

As I said before, Mr Speaker, Sir, the question is not one now between us and the Yorubas; and they know that. Why do I say that? They ran round the whole of the Midwest and what did they say? They said that as soon as the referendum was successful, they would dissolve all Action Group controlled councils. And are those Action Group controlled Councils not manned by the people and natives of the Midwest? And they said that they were going to dissolve all customary courts manned by certain persons in the Midwest. Are those persons not natives of the Midwest? Are they Yorubas? And they say that they want Midwest because of the oppression and victimisation of the Action Group men. Are those Action Group people not Midwesterners?

In this connection, let me pose two questions—

(i) If it is true that the NCNC sincerely wants a Midwest Region as a matter of policy as opposed to looking for an NCNC area of control are they prepared to provide in a Midwest Constitution for the present 15 Action Group and 14 NCNC Members in this House to start off a Midwest Government controlled by the Action Group? Are they prepared to do that? (*Opposition Benches: Yes*). Why didn't they fight for it in the Constitution?

(ii) What has the rest of the Western Region got to do with a Midwest Region? Why draw an unnecessary red-herring? Frank Oputa-Otutu please tell me. What has the creation of a Midwest Region got to do with the fate of the Yoruba West? What has it got to do?

As I said before these people are not serious; the result is that they want to put as many red-herrings as possible across the track. People who are sincere people who want to cut off cannot say "We want a Midwest Region" and turn round and say "You must not exist". What they are saying is that they do not want a Midwest Region.

Let me say, Mr Speaker, Sir, a word or two in retrospect, and so, incidentally, indicate consistency on the part of us over this Midwest issue. In 1955 the NCNC refused anything to do with the B.D.P.P., an organisation dedicated to placing the Midwest issue above party politics. This was the number

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one mistake. In 1957, at the London Conference, the Midwest issue again failed because the NCNC refused to co-operate with any other party in the Midwest. This was number two mistake. Again at the resumed Conference in 1958 the Midwest issue flopped because the NCNC refused to team up with Action Group minorities at the conference. That was number three mistake. Once again, in 1962, the NCNC still believes it can go it alone, and are even abusing everybody and peddling threats into the bargain.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. The hon. Gentleman's time is up. Is it the wish of the House that the hon. Gentleman should continue his speech? (*The House indicated assent*). The hon. Gentleman can continue his speech.

Mr Otobo: I still believe what I believe in 1955, 1957 and 1958—namely that unless and until the Midwest issue is placed above party politics in the formative stages, there won't be much daylight in the proposal.

Towards that end, and as NCNC Spokesmen who were connected with the doomed AG-NCNC talks would confirm, I was one of those instrumental in paving the way for the negotiations. Whether the position can be saved and righted is a matter which depends upon the NCNC. But the situation cannot be retrieved by the mentality of the generality of the NCNC leadership in the Midwest; nor by the type of attitude like that of a Member for Ibadan; and nor by this type of flamboyant speech: "With or without the support of the Action Group, the creation of the Midwest will soon become a reality".

In conclusion, let me reiterate my fundamental beliefs—

First—That the Midwest issue missed the rail the moment the NCNC thought they could go it alone.

Secondly—that the greatest disservice to the cause of the Midwest issue was the discourteous and spiteful manner in which the NCNC ignored the second AG-NCNC top-level meetings scheduled for 18th March.

Third—That it is impossible to obtain the support of the AG substantial majority of the Midwest electorate by threats and intimidations.

Fourth—That the present impasse is brought about by the refusal of the NCNC to recognise a world-wide principle; namely, that constitutional advances are always preceded by negotiations and agreement.

Fifth—That the NCNC overplayed its hand by introducing into the Midwest issue extraneous and irrelevant matters such as the fragmentation of the rest of the Western Region and the implied suggestion that the Action Group as a party and the Western Government should dissolve and annihilate themselves.

Sixth—That the NCNC has a long way to go to persuade reasonable people that its motives in regard to the Midwest Region are genuine and pure and that their conception of the Midwest Region is not synonymous with NCNC control.

Seventh—That in the face of these formidable factors and issues, and without solving same, any talk of a Midwest Region is tantamount to insincerity, unpardonable blindness and obstinate refusal to face the realities of a situation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are where we are today over this issue because that is where the NCNC wants the Midwest, the Western Region, and the Western Nigeria Government to be. It is to be hoped that the Midwest issue will be handled with care: it has wide implications; it has tributaries, and carries a lot of backwash. The future of this Federation—this young nation—depends upon it.

This Government has no alternative before it; the Motion by the Premier flows logically from events in the Federation generally and from NCNC performances, behaviours and actions during the past twelve months.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Sitting suspended at 11.50 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.32 p.m.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): It is my honour, Sir, and privilege to take this opportunity of moving an Amendment to this Motion, Amendment of which I have given notice to this House and to the Premier. The Amendment to the Motion is as follows:

Lines 1 to 2: after the word House in line 1 *delete* the following words "disapproves and rejects the so-called" and *insert* the words "approves and accepts the". After the word "proposal" in line 2 *delete* the words "purporting to have been".

Lines 10-15: delete all the words after the word "area" in line 10 down to and including the word "thereof" in line 15. The Motion as amended to read—

"That this House approves and accepts the proposal approved by resolution of each House of Parliament for an alteration to section 3 of the Constitution of the

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Federation of Nigeria for the purpose of establishing the fourth Region within the Federation of Nigeria consisting territorially of Benin Province in Western Nigeria including Akoko Edo District in Afenmai Division and Delta Province in Western Nigeria including Warri Division and Warri Urban Township area”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is with great humility that I rise today to move the Amendment to the Motion presented to this House by the hon. Premier of the Western Region, Chief S. L. Akintola. Great humility because we are all on the threshold of making a decision of such magnitude that might make or mar the very existence of our great country in the near future. Yet on such momentous occasions, we must face our problems squarely and strive for perfection for our obvious imperfection. We must strive to clear the dust of political conflict from our eyes, though we are much in the political arena and the dust is flying very thick.

We must try to think clearly amidst the confusion created by strife, by lust, and even by hatred, as only by strong, determined adherence to simple and basic principles can we achieve the strength of mind and the strength of character to make the right decision.

The hon. Premier moved his Motion with such ferocious resentment of the Federal proposals that very few people will doubt the sincerity of his resentment. Under the circumstances, the strain and the stress, I for one, and I am sure most of us on this side of the House and in our party, will forgive the open and veiled insults that made the speech from the beginning to the end coarse and vulgar. For I am sure the Prime Minister would resent being described as a tool, an implement without a will, or mind, or conscience of usage, by others. The bitterness in hon. Otobo's speech was naked; yet this must be overlooked.

These are matters we all must brush aside for we cannot approach any lasting solution with bitterness in our hearts. Before I commend my Amendment to the House, Mr Speaker, it is my duty, as briefly as possible, to outline salient and cogent principles of federalism and the points on which the hon. Premier has based his speech. I must then ask the Members of this House, Mr Speaker, to search their hearts and ask themselves whether the hon. Premier has given any positive proposals for the solution of these genuine defects to which he has pointed in the structure of our Federation,

and which truly bedevil the future harmonious growth of our country.

The principles laid down by Mills Bagehot and Wheare are the basic principles of true federalism. On this basis the Nigerian Federation is imperfect, the existing fact pointed out by the Premier is also true, and that is that the Northern Region can today dominate both the Eastern and Western Regions, thus leading them sooner or later to disintegration. This is a major constitutional problem in Nigeria today. The hon. Premier stipulated that creating the Midwest state will make the position worse, and proposed that the *status quo ipse* of the Regions must be maintained, and that no new states should now be created. This is clearly no solution to the problem. On the other hand, if the Midwest is created and the resultant effect of the creation of such state is proved beneficial to the Federation, the basic principle of self-determination might become acceptable to all the Governments and political parties, and the political unity thereby realised throughout the Federation will save the Federation from the disintegration which a change in its *status quo* must compel.

Secondly, this is the first time that the Action Group party or an Action Group Government has come with a declaration that it has accepted in principle that no new states should be created in Nigeria. The Action Group had consistently demanded on ethnic and linguistic basis a division of the Federation in states. This has been a sensible representation. Yet Chief Akintola said—I will quote:

“The Action Group has been a party to one decision only, which was that of the majority at the 1958 Constitutional Conference, and that was the acceptance of the Willink Commission Report that there should be no new states created”.

Only the exigencies of the moment can excuse the hon. Premier from such confused thinking. To my knowledge, and to the knowledge of the whole country, the spokesmen of the Action Group have, times without number, reiterated their insistence on the creation of more states in the Federation and recently in the course of the Debate of the Federal Proposal, now before this House, in the House of Representatives, the Federal President of the Action Group and Leader of Opposition in the House of Representatives, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, stated that the proposal would not be acceptable to his party unless an assurance was given by Parliament that eleven new states would be created all over the Federation.

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In 1961, the Leader of the Action Group in the Federal House, and his members in the House, wholly supported the same proposal without a dissenting voice. By this new statement on States, is the hon. Premier jettisoning the basic principles of federalism of Mills, of Bagehot, and of Wheare that he quite rightly accepted *de facto* at the commencement of his speech?

The hon. Premier felt it was necessary to show that the 1955 resolution of this Western House of Assembly calling for the creation of a Midwest State was without the force of law, or that even if it had the force of law, it had been overtaken by subsequent events, and that, therefore, his Government is not bound by it. Surely, no one ever suggested that the resolution of 1955 had the force of law if only for the following reasons.

The Regional Governments had no powers to create new Regions. They had none at all at the time. They have none now and, as Chief Akintola rightly pointed out, the House of Chiefs never passed the Motion, neither did the Queen give her assent; and no doubt the principle that no Parliament can bind its successor is obviously admitted, but surely the Premier will allow the fair comments of others that the freely elected Members of the Western House of Assembly with an Action Group Government on a vote of conscience unanimously supported the creation of the Midwest State. (*Applause*). More so, as Chief Akintola pointed out, the Government left its Members to vote according to their conscience on that memorable day, a spontaneous agreement by the Legislative Assembly of the Region concerned being reached on the claim of Midwesterners for self-determination.

To crown it all, Chief Akintola, Premier of this Region, said the Motion had been overtaken by subsequent events. Mr Speaker, Sir, what subsequent events? The hon. Chief Akintola said, and I quote him:—

“The 1955 Western House of Assembly Motion has, therefore, been overtaken and over-ridden by events.....The latest authority which has over-ruled all prior decisions on the creation of States in Nigeria is the Willink Commission..... He would be a poor advocate who rests his case upon decisions that have been over-ruled by higher tribunals.....May I repeat, the ruling of the higher tribunal has been against the 1955 Western House of Assembly Motion. Quotations that are appropriate on state issues can only be made from the Willink Commission Report.

Because the Federal House decided the issues of the proposed state on the 1955 Western House of Assembly Motion which had been overruled by Willink Commission—a higher tribunal—the decision cannot stand. The Federal Motion for the creation of the Midwest State must, therefore, be disapproved and rejected”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is muddled thinking *par excellence*. The Willinks Report was submitted to the 1958 Constitutional Conference as Chief Akintola admitted, and was hotly debated and the outcome of that debate on the issue of the creation of States, section 4 of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria. Is Chief Akintola seriously suggesting that section 4 under which I purports to move this Motion is not the law of the word on the issue of the creation of States in the Federation of Nigeria? Does that section close completely the creation of States? Any reasonable being will see that the section has made provisions, though stringent, for the creation of States and that the Willink Report is no more today a part of the Constitution as Carrols “Alice in Wonderland”.

In concluding my comments on the hon. Premier's speech I must touch on a few constitutional details. He stated that the Constitution and the laws of the new Region would be unknown; but legal draftsmen have not lost their skill in applying the existing Constitution of each constituent part of the new Region thus created from the Western Region with necessary adaptations and modifications similar to section 3 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council of the 12th of September, 1960, on which our present Constitution is based, and section regarding the right of Regional Legislatures to amend their Constitutions. This will cover entirely the details required at page 10 of the Premier's speech relating to (a) Constituency delimitation, (b) safeguard for Minorities within the proposed Region, and (c) eliminate (d) preliminary discussion on the Constitution of the proposed Region, and other relevant matters. As for (e) arrangements for holding of general election in the Legislature of the proposed Region or to put it more clearly, into the Legislature of new Regions, are adequately covered by various sections of the existing Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria.

The hon. Premier also stated his Party demanded and was refused a spontaneous and categorical statement from the Federal Government to the effect that should the Midwest State be created the rest of Western Nigeria would *ipso facto* constitute and remain

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a corporate Regional entity under the Constitution. First and foremost, the hon. Premier must realise that in Nigeria today the Constitution, and not the Federal Parliament, is supreme, and the Constitution is there for all of us to interpret. No expression of faith, or opinion, or the like, sought from the Federal Government could have changed an iota of the Constitution of the country. The Action Group is fully, I am certain, aware and advised on the Constitutional effects of these changes. The Action Group does not like the legal implications that have been fairly and rightly included in the Constitution. Instead of attacking the Constitution, which it cannot do, it has now, as if it is not one of the parties that gave sanction to it, cast it on the doorsteps of the Federal Government.

There is no doubt that, *ipso facto*, both the Midwest State and the rest of the Western Region would be corporate Regional entities under the specific and general directives of the Constitution as may be applicable under the circumstances. (Applause).

The hon. the Premier also referred to the constitutional duties of the Prime Minister and the Federal Government to supervise the administration of any new Region before general elections. Surely, the hon. Premier can be great enough to rely on the Prime Minister to administer the Constitution, as he is bound to do, with the fear of God, with justice to all, with fairness to all, giving free rein to free expression of the people's desire by free elections.

And last of all, Mr Speaker, the issue of revenue allocation is not in dispute. The principles on which the various parts of the Federation made the original allocation of revenue amongst themselves are not forgotten.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let us not becloud the greater issues of the day. We can look after the details later, but since the hon. the Premier is so engrossed in constitutional issues in his speech I must warn him that technically his Motion is of no constitutional significance—(Applause from Opposition Benches)—on the issue of the creation of the Midwest State, for the duty imposed on his Government is contained in section 4 (3) (a), not 4 (3) (b), "that the proposal shall be submitted to the Legislative Houses of all the Regions." The duty of the Premier is to submit the Proposal to this august Assembly as it stands and not a Motion calling on the House to reject the proposal. Once he has submitted his proposal as required by law he can address this House on rejecting it if he so desires. For what purpose has the

hon. the Premier made the final amendment added to the tail end of his original Motion about strict compliance with section 4 of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria? His speech is completely vacant on this issue. This is astonishing, as the hon. Premier took pains to add the amendment. However, as I said before, it is difficult to blame the Premier for, from the bitterness in his heart, nothing but confusion could be born.

Mr Speaker Sir, in our dealings with one another in this great Federation let us be guided by love, by charity, by principles and by justice. On these alone can we create harmony out of the discordance in our various tongues. On these alone, and on faith can we create a nation out of our different peoples. On these, and more, can we create a nation of our tribes, our clans, our countrymen. We must create a nation or accept the inevitability of disintegration. A free Nigerian nation can only be created from free Nigerian peoples, and so long as any part of Nigeria feels it is in bondage to another part so long shall the threat of disintegration of our mighty Federation exist.

The Premier asked: Was the Federal Motion based on political compromises? Was it based upon the principles of adjustment of the relative sizes of the various units of the Federation? Surely, these two principles do not exhaust the basic principles on which new States could be created. The Federal proposal was based on the principle of self-determination.

Self-determination is an inalienable right of free peoples. It is a right based on the basic fundamental principle of co-existence amongst different peoples. It is a principle of love, of charity and of tolerance. (Applause). In a Federation such as ours, it is a principle of strength through harmony and national solidarity by the people's consent. Can we the majority of people in this Region, the Yorubas, without a stringe of conscience stultify the aspirations of the Edo speaking peoples of this Region for self-determination? If these aspirations do not exist at all, then I can understand our failure to accept any proposal for giving it life.

This Motion does not of itself create the fourth Region. It only enables the people in the area to speak for themselves: let the people speak. (Cheers from the Opposition Benches).

Mr Speaker, let us stick by the principles of humanity in this Region, whatever might be the case elsewhere. The Constitution has made provision for a plebiscite in the areas affected. Not a simple majority but three-

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fifths of the people entitled to vote must show their desire and aspiration for the fourth Region before such a Region can be established.

Acceptance of this Government Motion only means that this House does not approve of the Edo people making their claims to self-determination. Can we before God defend such a denial of justice? Our country obtained Independence from Britain solely because Great Britain recognised our right to self-determination even when we were not free and what right have we to Independence if we deny the right of free choice of association to others? Does this principle of self-determination apply only to the Western Region of Nigeria? Does it run through in all the Federation—East, North and West? It is a basic principle that applies not only throughout the Federation of Nigeria—West, East and North—but also throughout the whole of mankind. It is a principle the recognition of which brings about peace and concord to the people of this world in which we live and the denial which is the basic cause of the cold war and threat of the world disintegration.

Let us in this Region set the foundation for lasting peace in the Federation. Only good can result from the acceptance of this Amendment, and where good is made manifest by our faith, charity and greatness, the other parts of the Federation must follow and wherever there is genuine demand for self-determination, be it in Calabar Province in Eastern Region, the Middle Belt amongst the Kanuri people in the North, each particular Government will in faith, in love, in charity, let the people speak. Without these principles and these virtues, our Federation must be riddled with rancour, bitterness, discord and accordingly weakened.

Mr Speaker, let us set the ball of charity rolling in the hearts of men; let us stick to principles of justice, even though it hurts; let us establish greatness within ourselves before we look for it in others.

Mr Speaker, in all sincerity, I commend this Amendment to all sides of this House. May we all this day live in honour with our people and at peace with ourselves. Mr Speaker, Sir, I commend the Amendment. *(Cheers from the Opposition Benches and prolonged interruptions from Government Benches).*

Mr G. I. Oviasu (Benin West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment Motion so ably moved by the Leader of the Opposition. This was the text of the

Motion passed and sent by the Federal Legislature to the other Regional Legislative Houses in the Federation. The other two Regional Houses have given their approval and it is a highly provocative challenge on the part of this Government to change completely the text of that Motion and I hope that Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa will take special note of this provocative challenge as one of the various acts of inconsistency of this Region which daily subjects the feelings of all right thinking men to a crescendo—*(Interruptions).*

The provisions for the creation of a new Region are clearly stated in our Constitution and the Laws of Western Nigeria. The prerequisite is that the people of any area should give a positive expression of their desire. This has been fulfilled by the Midwesterners. The struggle for this new Region started in 1952 and was spear-headed by a cultural organisation known as the Benin Delta Peoples Party. Nearly all the Midwest legislators and chiefs were members of this body. The aspiration for the creation of the Midwest Region was so strong that on 4th of June, 1955, this Legislature unanimously adopted a Motion calling upon it for the creation of Midwest Region: that momentous Motion was moved by a Government bencher. Later the Midwest State Movement, under the leadership of Chief D. C. Osadebay, took the mantle from the Benin Delta Peoples Party.

A political paper entitled "The Case for the Midwest" was written and carried to the London Constitutional Conference. The British Government agreed that the Minority problems as enunciated by the Midwest State Movement really existed in Nigeria. Sir Willink was appointed by the British Government to hold an enquiry as to whether minority problems existed and to recommend ways of allaying minority fears. The evidence given by the chief spokesman for the Government party, that was Chief F. R. A. Williams, is still fresh in my memory. He presented the case for the Action Group and he said that day that among other things his party was not opposed to the creation of a new Midwest Region but that they wanted Akoko-Edo and Warri excluded. Sir Willink found that the fears of the minority in the Western Region, that is, the Midwesterners, were founded. He found that the Midwest Region was neglected and therefore recommended that in the succeeding years, more money should be spent on the development of Midwest roads and other institutions. He further recommended the establishment of the Edo Minority Council with certain defined statutory powers.

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These recommendations were flouted by this Government of Western Region; our roads were not developed, the Edo Council was not set up. Instead, the Government proceeded to set up what it called a Midwest Advisory Council which was in fact, not representative of the opinion of the people of that area and Mr Willink, the Minority Commissioner had this to say, to buttress my argument or statement—that the composition of the Advisory Council was not representative of the opinion of the people in the area. I read from page 96 of the Minority Report, Clause 32.

“In the first place, we suggest that the Council should be made more comprehensive of the opinion in the area in which it is concerned. It is not that the Government should nominate persons from the area as was done in the case of Midwest Advisory Council, they must include men who are ready to criticise and we consider that an element of the Council should be elected or nominated by local bodies in the area. We do not think that it is necessary that special election should be held”.

That was what Sir Willink had to say on the composition of the Midwest Advisory Council which was set up by this Region in contradiction of the suggestions in the Minority Report. (*Cries of “Shame, shame” from Opposition Benches*).

The struggle continued at the London Constitutional Conference in 1958, that was after the Eastern Region and Western Region attained their self-government. The case for the minority was brought up again. The provision for the creation of the new Region was written in the Constitution and this you will find in Clause 4 of the Nigerian Order in Council 1960 which stated that if a new Region is to be created, certain provisions must be followed. The Federal Government has set the machinery in motion: this is what the Federal Government had done by submitting the Motion to the various Regions after it passed it in the Federal Legislature. All that is required is for a simple majority of the Regions to pass the Motions, then the Region will be created. (*Interruptions*).

So Sir, in February, 1961, the Federal Government set in motion for the machinery for the creation of the Midwest Region; the Motion to this effect, in accordance with the Constitution, was moved and sent to the Regional Houses. In connection with that Motion, two things are significant Sir:

(i) The Leader of the Opposition in the Federal House, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, did not oppose when that Motion was moved. He only suggested some amendments as conditions necessary for the creation;

(ii) the Western Region did not in 1961 table the Motion even though it was sent to it. It also notes, Sir, the sporting manoeuvre which was presented by Chief Enahoro, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Federal House and who is also the Chairman of the Action Group in the Midwest.

Owing to a technical error it was necessary to bring this Motion to Parliament again—to the Federal Parliament and this will be the last time that the Motion will come up, because we are taking active steps on it, and it has passed through the Federal Parliament and through the other Regions.

The stand taken by the Leader of Opposition in the Federal House amounted to a position that the Western Region Government was not responsible for the Motion passed in 1955. He said the Motion was moved by a Back Bencher. He said it was not endorsed by the House of Chiefs. All along, one can see the Action Group's stand on the creation of the Midwest Region. Its inconsistency and its opposition to the creation of our new Region is manifest. So this Motion moved by the hon. Premier of this Region was not unexpected.

The Midwest Region shall be created and the referendum shall, by the grace of God, be in our favour. (*Cheers*).

Before proceeding further, Sir, I would like to reply to some points raised by the hon. Premier on this Motion. He stated that for federalism to exist all the units must be equal and be of the same size in area and population so that no one state shall dominate the other. This point is not only childish but savours of ignorance. We are aware of the various forms of federalism that exist in the Commonwealth, a federal structure might be such in which the powers of the federated units are defined with residual powers remaining with the Federal Government.

In our own Federation, the residual powers reside in the Regions, the Federal Government is a sort of link, and in our Constitution there is no provision for secession. Bills of right have been entrenched in our Constitution, and in our Constitution there is no provision for any Regional Government to maintain an Army, an Air Force, an Air Port and a Navy: wherein lies the fears that

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because one Region is larger than the other, therefore it can overpower the others? Because the Bill of Right has been entrenched in our Constitution it is possible for any single individual to challenge the act of any Government.

The second point which was raised by the Premier is that the NCNC has been boasting that if it comes to power in the Midwest it will victimise the Action Groupers, it will dissolve all councils, depose all Action Group chiefs, dissolve customary courts and so on and so forth. I think, Sir, that this allegation is childish and irresponsible. From whom did the hon. Premier get this? Who told him? Was it said by a responsible Member of the NCNC? I think a responsible thinker ought to dismiss such an allegation as unfounded.

He went on further and said that no preliminary discussion was held in order to settle the problem of revenue allocation, constituency delimitation, etc. I would like to say that the Constitution for the Midwest will in no way be different from the Constitution of the Western Region.

Chief Akintola: Point of order: If the Constitution will be the same then what is the purpose of the fight?.....(*Interruption.*)

Mr Speaker: Order, order: I can only listen to one speech at a time. Will the hon. Member continue his speech? (*Cheers.*)

Mr Oviasu: The ruling is that the Premier should not interrupt me..

The fact of the case is that no Member of the NCNC on this side of the House, or the Federal Parliament or the Eastern House of Assembly, or the Midwest State Movement has ever threatened to victimise any member of the Action Group. After all we are all one. It is not the intention of the NCNC in the Midwest to victimise anybody. If the NCNC comes into power in that Region, peace and tranquility will reign supreme.....(*interruptions.*)

The Premier said that the Prime Minister of the Federation did not give an undertaking that if the Midwest Region is created the remainder of the West will be recognised as a Region. They want this written and given to them, but I think that Gentleman is responsible enough not to go back on a word which he made so openly. Inconsistency is not in the way of that Gentleman.

The Premier also stated that the Midwest may be a problem child and therefore it was his duty to protect that problem child in the

Federation. I am sorry to say that that is not his responsibility. We prefer to reign in hell than to serve in heaven.

The Premier asked whether it was right for legitimate son to cut away part of his father's land? I am surprised that a man of such a high calibre should be so tribalistic to regard the Midwesterners as strangers in the Western Region. (*Interruptions.*) It is only right to say that the fire of freedom and self determination is burning in the heart of every Midwesterner.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Premier went further to say that he will not mind to challenge the legality of the Federal Motion. I tell you, Sir, that this or other forum which he referred to is the court of law and I challenge the Premier of this Region to take the matter to Court; he will fail woefully.

Finally Sir, Members on that side of the House, including Chief Obafemi Awolowo, have said that when it is time for the Referendum to take place, they will come to the Midwest to campaign against it. I sound a note of warning: "Let them dare come"; physical objections shall follow.

Chief Akintola: Will the hon. Member repeat that? Is he going to commit murder there? I am going to the place—we are going to be there; do your best and see (*Cheers.*)

Mr Oviasu: Mr Speaker Sir, if that word is offensive to the Premier, I withdraw it. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr R. A. Akinyemi: Point of Order. Mr Speaker, Sir, I know that that statement is very unparliamentary and he has withdrawn it. On the Opposition side, we tender an apology for such a statement. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Gentleman has withdrawn the offensive word and I believe it is the opinion of the House that he should withdraw. (*Shouts of. "Yes, Yes". from the Government Benches.*)

Well, we have now told him to withdraw and he has withdrawn it.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Speaker Sir, even though I have withdrawn that statement, I have been told that in a Parliamentary debate like this, hard words are inevitable. (*Interruptions.*) I know a Member of the other side of the House who takes a double barrel gun to campaign meetings, I don't carry a "double barrel". (*Interruptions.*)

[MR OVIASU]

I am reporting to you, Sir, and I crave your protection. I have been asked to withdraw the words and I have withdrawn it, though I don't carry a double barrel with me here as he carries about. And look at him sitting there—he is calling me an idiot! Mr Speaker Sir,—(interruptions)—I wait for your ruling Sir, because I feel that it is highly unparliamentary. (Interruptions.)

(Shouts of "Withdraw, withdraw" from Opposition Benches.)

Chief Osuntokun: Did the Speaker hear me utter that word?

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I think it will be an abuse of the privilege of this House if I were to be called upon to pronounce a decision on certain matters which I did not hear at all. (Interruptions.)

Mr Oviasu: I think we have to pay regard to the Standing Orders of this House, that Members who are not speaking should be very orderly, and I hope Members of the other side of the House will be orderly. If anybody continues to heckle me there like that, I'll tell him that he is ten thousand times more idiotic than myself. (Interruptions.)

The Amendment Motion before the House Mr Speaker, is a proper Motion and I beg to support.

Amendment proposed.

Chief F. Oputa-Otutu (Aboh West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment Motion.

In doing so, Sir, I would like to remark that I am doing so with some mixed feelings—a feeling of joy and a feeling of disappointment. Feeling of joy because the Action Group has now come out openly with its expressed view on the creation of the Midwest State, and disappointment, Sir, because it is now clear that the leaders of the Action Group are opposed to the question of the creation of the Midwest Region.

Sir, before I go further, I would like to refer to a point made by the hon. the Premier of this Region, and I feel, Sir, that it is necessary to emphasise this point.

He said that the 1955 Motion of the Western House of Assembly, to which copious references have been made, was with the concurrence of both the NPC and the NCNC. He referred to the Willink Commission which of course considered it along with a

request for new states for other parts of the Federation. Both the NPC and the NCNC accepted unequivocally the recommendation of the Willink Commission. By going back on it, and insisting upon the creation of the Midwest State, they are proving themselves inconsistent. Says he:

"The 1955 motion of the Western House of Assembly has therefore been overtaken by events. In the light of the Willink Commission Report,.....the 1955 House of Assembly Motion should be regarded as an obsolete document".

It is futile to keep on reciting it. Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact it is most disappointing to hear this from the Premier and a leader of the Action Group. Mr Speaker, Sir, I like to say Sir, that it appears to me that the Premier has made the statement in a fury.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have in mind Sir, that in Federal House the Leader of the Action Group, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, in amending the original Motion proposed that there should be eleven states in the Federation. If the Leader of the Action Group proposed in the Federal House that there should be eleven states in the Federation, what is the point Sir, in the Premier of Western Nigeria, coming to this honourable House to say that the question of the creation of the Midwest Region has been closed because the Willink Commission has not supported it? Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very inconsistent on the part of the Action Group to do this.

Sir, in winding up, the Premier gave the following reasons why the Action Group is opposing the creation of States.

First, Sir, he said that the Motion, which was passed in the Federal House, violates the principles of compromise on which the Federation is based, and therefore the creation of the fourth Region of Nigeria should be disapproved and rejected. That is the submission of the Premier.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say Sir, that the Premier has missed the boat in this connection.

Chief Akintola: Then I go by air. (Laughter).

Chief Oputa-Otutu: The second reason is also to the effect that since the Motion further enlarges and makes more absurd the imbalance in the component parts of the Federation of Nigeria, where one single unit is large enough to overpower all the others

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put together, it must be disapproved and rejected.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in 1953, there was a Constitutional Conference in Great Britain. At that time, Sir, the Premier himself was a delegate to that Constitutional Conference. At that Constitutional Conference, it was decided that the Cameroons should be carved out from Eastern Nigeria and become a separate State. That was the decision of the Conference. Since, that time, the Cameroons has been known as the Southern Cameroons.

The third point he mentioned Sir, is that since the Motion contained no guarantee or assurance of democratic rule of the citizens of the proposed State who have been denied the opportunity of first discussing and agreeing upon the Constitution which will govern them later, the Federal Motion must be disapproved and rejected. Mr Speaker, Sir, I say Sir, that what the Federal House has done was merely to approve the Motion for the creation of the States. The Federal House or the Prime Minister, cannot proceed to enact a Constitution or propose a Constitution for a State which does not exist.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say Sir, that what I feel the Federal House has in mind is first of all to be satisfied that the people of the Midwest State want the State. When that has been decided by the Referendum, then of course the Constitution of the new State will be decided by the people of this Region. That is the point. It is after a Referendum that the question of the Constitution of the new State can be considered. I think it is premature to start to propose a constitution for a state which does not exist.

The point, Sir, is that the Federal House wants first of all to be satisfied that the people of the Midwest want a state. I think it is better if the Premier could wait till after the referendum; then, it will be proper, and it should be expected, that the Prime Minister will either call a conference of the political leaders of Western Region of Nigeria or it will be left to the Premier himself to initiate such a move.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to say that the Premier has made reference to the failure of the Prime Minister to call a constitutional conference for the creation of the state and to discuss the matter beforehand. I would like to say that in my view I think it is the duty of the Premier of the Region to call the constitutional conference of all the political leaders of the Western Region of

Nigeria. It is not the duty of the Prime Minister to call the constitutional conference to decide their own future.

Now, Sir, the Premier made a reference which I consider unfortunate. The language used by the Premier in this House this morning in one or two cases appears to be rather disappointing. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Premier was trying to make certain points, and in his attempt to make those points he made certain references which are really disgusting. For instance, Sir, the Premier referred to his father's vineyard. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Akintola: Point of explanation I never made reference to my father's vineyard. My good old man had no vineyard at all. All I said was that the Western Region is the common property of both of us; that our fathers pledged the whole of Western Region to us, and that as legitimate sons of our fathers both of us must keep it intact. (*Cheers*).

Chief Oputa-Otutu: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the Premier has explained this point because when I listened to his speech I was disappointed. Now that he has corrected his speech, I accept his explanation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say, Sir, that it is indeed very reassuring that the Premier has made obvious references to the alteration of the Constitution. I would like to say, Sir, that these references have also been taken note of by us. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Constitution says that a proposal for the alteration shall be submitted to each House of Parliament and if that proposal is approved by the resolution of each of these Houses supported by the votes of at least two-thirds of all the members of that House, the proposal shall then be submitted to all the Legislative Houses of the Regions; and secondly, Sir, if the proposal is approved by the resolution of each Legislative House and the majority of all the Regions including any Region into which all parts of Nigeria is composed.....

An hon. Member rose.—

Mr Speaker: Order, order. If you are bored by the speech of the hon. Member, I am not. (*Prolonged laughter*).

Chief Oputa-Otutu: In any case the only point I would like to make is that the Premier is wrong. The question that we are here to discuss is the principle of the creation of states. If the Action Group believes in the creation of states it is indeed ridiculous that the same Action Group

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should now oppose the creation of a Midwest State. The Action Group should come out more boldly and support the creation of Midwest State and then continue to fight for the creation of more States in the Federation. But to say in one breath, in the Federal House, that it supports the creation of eleven States and come to this House to say the question of the creation of states had already been referred to the London Constitutional Conference and had been rejected by the Conference, and therefore that the question of the creation of states is dead, is shocking.

I would like to emphasise the point that the question of the creation of states is a question of principle. If you believe in the principle of the creation of states, there is no reason why you should come to oppose the creation of the Midwest State. And with these remarks I beg to support the Amendment and to oppose the main Motion.

Mr B. I. G. Ewah (Ishan North-East I): Mr Speaker, Sir, as a son of the Midwest I beg to associate myself unreservedly and wholly with the Motion so ably moved by the hon. Premier of Western Nigeria that this House disapproves and rejects the so-called proposal purporting to have been approved by a resolution of both Houses of the Federal Parliament to the effect that a fourth Region within the Federation of Nigeria should be created consisting of Benin Province including Akoko Edo District in Afenmai Division and Delta Province including Warri Division and Warri Urban Township area and that this House disputes the right of the Federation after any purported approval of the so-called proposal by the Legislative Houses of Eastern and Northern Nigeria to provide for such alteration of section 3 of the Constitution except strictly in accordance with the provision of section 4 of our Constitution.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a great moment for any true son of the Midwest. It is true Sir, that this Government in its usual progressive and freedom loving way, originated the idea of the creation of the Midwest State. Great sons of the Midwest in both the Action Group Party and the NCNC have ceaselessly fought for the creation of the Midwest. It has been a great and worthy fight but I call this moment an unhappy one because by the evil machinations of the Federal Government and the two parties in coalition, this fight for a Midwest State now appears to be a sordid one.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am rejecting the proposal to create a Midwest State today, not because

I do not believe in the cause of the Midwest State but, Sir, because I do not believe in a Midwest State in the present set-up of Nigeria without other states being created in the other existing Regions. Sir, it is good to have a principle, but principles have to be flexible, otherwise the owners of such principles will perish with them. When Sir, a big tree does not bend to a great wind, it breaks with it. The NPC/NCNC coalition in the Federal Government has driven the right thinking people of the Midwest to adopt an attitude against the principle which they have always cherished as a people who have a right to freedom.

I would like to recall, Sir, that during the ill-fated Motion on the creation of the Midwest in the Federal House on the 4th of April, 1961, the Action Group, after losing its Amendment to the Motion, supported the Motion. This, Sir, was because it was hoped then that after the creation of Midwest commonsense would prevail and the Federal Government would proceed to create more states in other Regions. But, Sir, with the statement of the Prime Minister of this country in opening the debate, it was taken on the 23rd March in the Federal House that after the creation of Midwest, there would be no more states created anywhere in the country; any right thinking citizen of Western Nigeria cannot do anything but to accept the plight and the evil political design behind the present proposal to create a Midwest State. That, Mr Speaker, Sir, is my reason for requesting this honourable House to disapprove and reject the Prime Minister's Motion.

Mr Speaker, Sir, history and posterity will record this in our favour that the Government of this Region has always believed and taken practical steps towards giving effect to the aspirations of minorities. History and posterity will also record this against the NPC/NCNC coalition Government that they have thwarted and confounded the legitimate aspirations of minorities in this country.

Finally, Sir, may I be allowed to record on this occasion that I, as a true son of the Midwest, am a loyal member of the Action Group Party. I also state that the Action Group has not discarded its policy on the creation of states in Western Nigeria. What we have to do on this occasion is to try to effect a modification of this policy because the Federal Government which passed this Motion did so spitefully in the course of their plain politics and in their attempt to destroy the Action Group party.

[MR. EWAH]

Mr Speaker, Sir, the fact that the Federal Parliament has passed the Motion for the creation of Midwest is certainly not for the love of it or for the love of the Midwesterners but because they see in it a way to destroy their most potent enemy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion for the rejection and disapproval of the so-called proposal for the creation of a fourth Region, to be known as Midwest State, from the area of authority of the Western Government of Nigeria, and in doing so, I do not hesitate to condemn unequivocally, the whole idea behind this proposal as spiteful, ill-motivated and malicious in all its entirety. There could be no further evidence of malevolent conspiracy perpetrated against the Government and people of this Region: I must therefore call upon all the true citizens of this Region to set aside personal interest and petty jealousy and rise to demonstrate our united opposition to this open manifestation of the prostitution of this important provision of our Constitution to selfish ends.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a matter for regret that the hon. Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, who erstwhile has been widely acclaimed for his peaceful regime, has once again allowed himself to be dragged into this capricious course of action at the expense of the reputation of his Government. For how many times will Sir Abubakar continue to allow the unscrupulous NCNC members of his coalition Government to plunge his Government into scandalous bungles and blunders? (*Interruptions*). Sir Abubakar was reported as saying in Parliament when he was moving the Motion, that his party, the NPC, has ever been opposed to the creation of any new state in the Federation, except the Midwest State which has been sponsored by both the people of the area and the Western Legislature.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if these were the grounds upon which Sir Abubakar has succumbed to pressure of the junior partners in his coalition Government, then there could have been no justification for the Motion to include Warri Division and Akoko Oke District in Afenmai Division, because Sir Abubakar cannot sincerely claim ignorance of the stand of the Itsekiri people of Warri Division in the matter of the Midwest State dating as far back as to the time of the Provincial and

Regional Conferences for the review of the Richard's Constitution in 1949. At this time Mr Speaker Sir the Itsekiri people of Warri Division presented their case in a minority report dissociating themselves from any proposal for a separate state for Benin and Delta provinces which would include Warri Division. This Minority Report of the Itsekiri people was accepted by both the Regional and Final Conferences on the Review of the Richard's Constitution of which Sir Abubakar himself was a member. Apart from this, the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar cannot sincerely claim ignorance the Willink's Minorities Commission Report which definitely recommended an Edo Minority Council area for the people of Benin and Delta Provinces excluding Warri Division and Akoko Oke District in Afenmai Division.

Lastly, may I also say Sir, that the Prime Minister cannot sincerely claim ignorance of the Report of the Resumed Nigeria Constitutional Conference held in London in September and October 1958, where all the leaders of this country, including Sir Abubakar, agreed that the Government of Western Nigeria should be the final arbiter to decide the position of Warri Division—page 21, at paragraph 52.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Federal Government is fully aware that following these facts the Western Government has proceeded by various acts to excise Warri Division and Akoko Oke from the area of the projected Midwest State, yet the so-called proposal has been presented to Parliament by no less a personality than the Prime Minister, in flagrant disregard of these important facts which have been based on the findings and conclusions of several Constitutional Conferences and the Minorities Commission. In view of these facts, I think I am correct to say Sir, that the people of this Region would require no clearer evidence before deciding to condemn the Federal Government's attitude in this matter for conspiracy and spite.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as a fully accredited representative and spokesman of the Itsekiri people of Warri Division in this honourable House, I wish to place on record with all the emphasis at my command, that any attempt to force Warri Division into the area of the projected State, either now or in the future, will be resisted to the last blood of the Itsekiri people and perhaps such consequences will be the beginning of chaos in the entire Federation. The Itsekiri people are the indigenous owners of Warri Division and under no circumstances should they be separated from their kith and kin, the Yoruba

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people of the Western Region. Our stand has been firm and consistent. In culture, historical background, language and affinity we have everything in common with the Yorubas.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is therefore a matter for regret that a man who claimed to be a spokesman of the Itsekiri people in the Federal Parliament should openly advocate the inclusion of Warri Division in the proposed Midwest State—a course of action which every right-thinking individual should know is inimical to the interest and the very existence of the Itsekiri people. That, of course, is only to be expected having regard to the background of such a self-imposed spokesman who only could discover..... (Interruptions).....1954, at the ripe age of forty-two years.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am referring to the Federal Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Samuel Okotie-Eboh, who, until 1954, was Mr Festus Samuel Edah, an Urhobo man from Ewu. It is true that this capitalist Minister has successively been elected into Parliament by the votes of the stranger elements in Warri Division, made up of Ibos, Urhobos and Ijaws, etc., but certainly from his attitude in this matter there could be no better testimony that he is more closely related to the stranger elements than the Itsekiris whom he claims to represent in Parliament.

Opposition Benches: Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh is not here.

Chief Ekwejunor-Etchie: Mr Speaker, Sir, the situation in Warri Division is in many ways similar to that obtaining in Ceylon which compelled the Government of that country to disenfranchise all the stranger elements in that country. I think the time has come for me to appeal to the Government of this Region to consider the peculiar situation in Warri Division in the matter of franchise in order to prevent this type of unbalanced representation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I conclude by challenging the Federal Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, to an exclusive special referendum in which only the views of the Itsekiri people of Warri Division would be ascertained on this issue before any attempt is made to suggest the inclusion of Warri Division in any projected State for the Benin and Delta Provinces either now or in the future. If this challenge is not accepted by Chief Okotie-Eboh, it should then be sufficient for the Prime

Minister to accept the fact that Chief Okotie-Eboh is merely misdirecting his colleagues, especially those of them in the Federal Government, to face another constitutional blunder and embarrassment which as I have said earlier on may lead to the beginning of chaos and unrest in the Federation.

Opposition Benches: How can you challenge a man who is not in this House?

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, May I say that, unfortunately, part of the speech of the hon. Minister has been drowned by interruptions, but I was told that certain unparliamentary references were made to the hon. Federal Minister of Finance. I think, Sir, that that reference is regrettable. I am quite sure the hon. Minister himself will join me in withdrawing that statement.

May I say, Sir, that there may be political differences among us but all members of Government in the Federation, in the North, in the East, and in the West here are members of one fraternity. (*Cheers*). We ought to respect one another and to reciprocate that goodwill. If anything had been said which is not complimentary to the hon. Federal Minister, I, on behalf of this side, unreservedly withdraw it and apologise.

Chief Ekwejunor-Etchie: In deference to the speech made by the hon. Premier, I withdraw that portion of my speech.

Opposition Benches: Shame! shame!

Mr Speaker: Order! order!

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, we on this side of the House accept the spontaneous apology of the Premier, I am sure he will always have courtesy and that all his colleagues will always have courtesy from us on this side of the House. (*Applause*). I am also grateful, Sir, that the hon. Member has withdrawn the references to the hon. Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh.

Mr Speaker: Order! order! That portion of the speech has been withdrawn by the hon. Gentleman and will he continue with the remaining portion of his speech?

Chief Ekwejunor-Etchie: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In conclusion, I must warn the Federal Government that the Itsekiri people, headed by their natural ruler, the Olu of Warri, have already completed every arrangement on their own to bring out a constitutional expert from the United Kingdom to fight their case on this issue in isolation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the original Motion.

Mr R. A. Akinyemi (Ikeja South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I will not say much on this, but I am opposing the Motion proposed by the hon. Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, and supporting the Motion for an amendment. I do not know why the hon. Premier should quarrel now. What you gave us as the Instrument for creating States and the extension of boundaries is contained in sections 3 and 4 of the Constitution. You were a signatory to it in London, and this is what we are now using, and you have come back to quarrel with us.

The hon. Otoho, Minister for Midwest Affairs, knows quite well that for a long time now the Midwest, according to some members of the Action Group and some other people, has been a liability to the West. Why don't you leave them and let them go? *(Laughter)*.

Government Benches: Repeat it.

Mr Akinyemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I repeat what I have said. According to Action Group pronouncements and those of some members of the public, it has been said that this Midwest is a liability on the West. Why not let them go?

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am quite sure that hon. Oviasu is not a liability to this House. May I protest on behalf of hon. Oviasu, hon. Amadasun, and hon. Oputa-Otutu that they are not liabilities to this House. At least, we have not paid a penny of their debts if they owe any *(Laughter)*.

Mr Akinyemi: That is the second point. Now the third point is this: What does the Action Group party really want? That is what we must discuss. The hon. Premier said that this Motion should be disapproved and rejected. The hon. Minister of Midwest Affairs who is his mouthpiece next said: "I support the Motion". It should be disapproved but when he was making his statement he never had the courage to say that it should be rejected. *(Interruptions.)* I am saying with the greatest respect, Mr Speaker, that the hon. Minister, as I used to know him in this House, made the poorest speech of his life today.

Government Benches: Why?

Mr Akinyemi: You ask me why? Let me amplify it. The hon. Minister was speaking against his conscience and conviction. Certainly the hon. Minister does not know what next will happen. He does not

know whether, even where there is a compromise between the Action Group leaders of the Midwest and the NCNC leaders and they decide on the form of constitution they want and how they want the administrative set-up whether he will be a Minister.

You will find that he got up and started saying "Yes, we had a meeting; we called them at Ikeja; we called for a constitutional set-up." and so on. But he never said that there should be no Midwest State.

Mr Speaker, Sir, members of the Action Group Party and those of the NCNC who come from the Midwest, in their hearts of hearts really want the Midwest State created.

Mr C. I. Akere: Where do you come in?

Mr Akinyemi: I am a Member of this House and can speak on any subject before the House. When I was speaking on this matter you were still a school boy.

Chief Odebiyi: How long ago was that?

Mr Akinyemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General who was then our teacher knows that Mr Akere was my junior at Igbobi College.

We come to the other point. The next point is this: who has the power to create the Midwest State? It is the Federal Government. That is a foregone conclusion, and the hon. Premier will note that when I was making my speech or contributing to the Speech from the Throne I mentioned this question of the Midwest State.

Now, the Federal Government had used the power you and I gave them in London. Now you are quarelling with it! Let me say this: Whether you like it or not—whether the Action Group party likes it or not—the Midwest State will be created. The Act of Referendum had been passed. My learned Premier—I always respect him—knows that there is nothing in section 4 that can invalidate the decision of the Federal Government. If there are three Regions and two have passed it, that is the end. If you think you are going to come to the court we will meet there. *(Laughter.)*

From my experience of the Premier in this House, I have always liked him when it comes to the question of debate because he is a brilliant debater, and when it comes to the question of trying to camouflage things—*(Interruptions)* I can say, if the Speaker will permit me, that he is a typical Yoruba man. *(Laughter.)*

Chief Akintola: So you admit I haven't told you all the secrets?

Mr Akinyemi: Now, the Action Group three days ago, never opposed the creation of the Midwest State. All they were opposing was the constitutional set up. The Leader of the Action Group, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, had said, times without number, that he is irrevocably committed to the creation of the Midwest State. He said it in 1960 at Afenmai; he said it at Benin City; he said it at Warri; he has said it in the Federal House, and in fact he said it during the Federal elections.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Premier has said that the Willinks Commission has overridden the decision taken by this House in 1955. I appreciate that the learned Premier is a very brilliant member of the Bar apart from being Premier and a professional colleague as well, but I can assure him that the law we are using today is quite different from.....(*interruptions*).

Chief Akintola: Point of Order. The laws we are using today are made by me.

Mr Akinyemi: Yes, and we are using them. Now what happens? He comes to say we are not going to use the resolution of 1955 because it has no legislative or legal effect. Granted that it was a vote of conscience which never passed through both Houses of Parliament and therefore could not become law; the Nigerian Act of Independence of 1960 had overtaken the Willink's Commission of 1960. And not only that; Mr Speaker, Sir, what has overtaken again that particular Commission is the pronouncement of Chief Obafemi Awolowo as the Leader of the Action Group.

We come to this point again. Let the people decide. You will agree with me because according to your revenue, when I looked at it, the money collected from the Midwest is not half of the money you spend there. I make this clear: I want you to note this. Members of the Action Group have said before that they are a liability: why don't you ask them to go and give the money to the people who want to work in their area—Midwest?

Let us come to the question of some aspects of the Premier's speech. To some extent, I do not like, with the greatest respect and regard I have for the Premier, the way he spoke today. He must have been annoyed; his speech shows his annoyance and, for the first time in this House, he was referring to me humorously, that I am trying to sell my father's state. He shouldn't repeat it and I wouldn't say more.

Now let us come to this again. In his speech, it seems as if the Action Group is

made to believe that the Federal Government is using the governmental machinery of the Federal Parliament to spite us, to use it against the Action Group in the creation of the Midwest State. I will give you this undertaking that we.....(*interruptions*). (*Government Benches: You are not competent*).

Before we go, I will ask the Leader of the Opposition to give an undertaking on behalf of the Federal Government of the NCNC and the NPC that we are not using it as spite; we are using it only to help the Action Group to complete their pledge to the electorate. That is all; it is their pledge to the electorate that they would create a Midwest State. The people want the Midwest State.

Chief Osuntokun: That is nonsense.

Mr Akinyemi: Please when I am talking, I do not want any interruptions from the hon. Minister. If I want ammunitions, then I can come to him. (*Laughter*).

So Mr Speaker, in the Amendment, we are saying that this House should approve the resolution passed in the Federal House in order to save our faces because whether we support it or not, the Midwest Region will be created.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the Motion and support the Motion for an Amendment. (*Prolonged interruptions*).

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr K. S. Y. Momoh): Mr Speaker, Sir, This is a momentous occasion to me and all true Midwesterners. The acceptance of the Motion so ably moved by the Hon. Premier would mean the rejection of the Amendment proposed thereto by the Leader of the Opposition and vice versa (*Opposition benches: Good talk*). I regard myself as being fortunate to have the privilege to speak on this important Motion for myself and my descendants, because my constituency falls within the area which it is proposed to constitute into the new state. By reason of that fact, one would naturally presume that I would happily support the proposal of the Federal Government. Indeed I would in the ordinary course of events, but I regret that in the present circumstances, I am unable to do so if only to ensure that the thousands of people whom I have the honour to represent are not led up the garden path by a cart drawn by the white elephant of the NCNC.

Before I continue Mr Speaker, I would like to reply to few points made by few Opposition Members of this House. Hon. Oviasu stated that the Willink's Minority Report was not complied with in the creation of the Midwest Advisory Council but the

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truth is that the Midwest Advisory Council was already in existence before the Minority Report, it is only evidence of ignorance therefore for somebody to suggest that a thing which had been existing did not conform with rules or recommendations made thereafter. He also said that the constitution of the Midwest Region would be the same as that of the other Regions. He wants us to take this assurance even though the Leader of Opposition himself said that assurances, in this case, the assurance of the Prime Minister cannot override the provision of the Constitution. One other Member, the hon. Oputa-Otutu said that they have no cause to worry about the constitution and that a constitution will be made after the referendum.

It seems Sir, that many Members do not understand what a referendum means. A referendum is not necessarily a plebiscite; it is not like going to ask the people "is it your wish to have a new State or not", it is not so. A referendum presumes that there is a law upon which the people are being asked for their opinion but now you are asking us to go to the people without a law.

(Mr Adisa: You know nothing about the law sit down).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Will you please carry on.

Mr Momoh: I thank you very much Mr Speaker, I do not know that the Member for Ibadan Rural is so rural as not to know that I am a Barrister at Law. (Laughter).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The Hon. Gentleman is not rural although he comes from a rural area. (Laughter).

Mr Momoh: In a brilliant article in the Daily Times of the 24th of April, 1961 and captioned "Prospect of the Midwest State" by the well-known Chief Osadebay, leader of the Midwest NCNC Working Committee. He stated *inter alia* with your permission Mr Speaker, I will read from page 5 column 3 of the issue of that date. He said—"above all, the case for the Midwest Region is not based on hate" I agree with him completely but only in so far as his reference to hate means hatred for the Yorubas for I will show as I go on that there is surely some hatred for at least the Afenmai and Ishan people. The issue of the Midwest State is one which ought to spring from common nationalism and understanding. It ought to transcend party politics and I think Sir, it ought to be regarded by all true democrats in this

country as the beginning of a constitutional programme which will ultimately lead to the de-centralisation of the present Regional Government territories with a view to achieving an ideal federation. That is to say a Federation where no one Region or two put together shall be so large and strong as to be able to bend the wheel of the Federal Government. At the moment the Northern Region is so large, it is capable of, and is in fact already, controlling the will of the Federal Government. But we do not want a separate region or state merely for its sake or for the prestige or sentiment of it. The achievement of a separate state is not an end by itself; it is a means to an end. We want a separate state where there shall be more opportunities for life more abundant for everybody. We want a separate state where all men shall be equal before the law. We want a separate State which will be free from all conditions that may be favourable to "man being wolf to man."

Hon. Members will recall that when the Motion for the creation of the State was moved in the Federal House in April last year, the Action Group Opposition supported it. Not only that it pressed for a date-line. It pressed that the State be created before March, 1962. But what happened almost immediately thereafter? The NCNC leaders hurried to the East and back to the Midwest and were vying among themselves as to who will be first to offer the Oba of Benin the office of the Governor of the new Region. Then followed indiscriminate statements and threats, again by the NCNC leaders, to the effect that Midwesterners who are members of the Action Group will be victimised and be oppressed by an NCNC interim Government which will be formed under the umbrella of the Federal Government if the referendum favours the creation of the State. They said that the NCNC was going to be in power for six months at least and that during that six months all the Action Group supporters will be oppressed (interruption) (Opposition benches: Mention names). All customary court judges will be dismissed and replaced by NCNC supporters. All Action Group controlled Local Government Councils will be dissolved and new Caretaker Committees of their choice set up. They went further, Sir, to say that in the areas in which the Action Group has consistently been returned to power the schools in those areas will be closed and the teachers sacked. Then in view of all these disturbing circumstances we had to make a request to the Leader of this great Party, Chief Awolowo, and asked him that in the

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circumstances he should get in touch with the Prime Minister and alert him of this situation. He wrote the Prime Minister and asked the Prime Minister to summon a meeting of the Action Group and NCNC leaders in the Midwest with a view to agreeing on certain fundamental issues. These issues include constitution for the Midwest State, delimitation of constituencies, financial arrangement, etc., but what did the Prime Minister do? He unhesitatingly dismissed these suggestions with dismal contempt.

In the meantime, the President of the NCNC, Dr Okpara, had gone to Benin to say that in order to secure political power by violence, his supporters should go about killing others. The fools among his supporters in the Midwest did so and to the Midwest Opposition members here I say—"Behold not one property belonging to Dr Okpara's tribesmen (Ibo) was destroyed". It was the Midwesterners who were killed, it was they who suffered and what did Mr Okotie-Eboh say at that time? He arrogantly announced that the Midwest will be created whether the Action Group liked it or not.... Mr Speaker, Sir, judging from the result of the last election, it is clear that the Action Group is in the majority in the Midwest and while the Leader of the Opposition has said here this morning that the people of the Midwest should be given an opportunity to speak, Mr Okotie-Eboh has already said that they can do without the Action Group. Who then is to provide the majority required at the referendum? (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. It appears so many Members prefer to speak sitting down. (*Laughter*).

Mr Momoh: The Premier of Eastern Nigeria stated in a publication published in London last year that the idea behind the creation of the Midwest state is to dissect Western Nigeria. (*Interruptions*). On the 1st of February this year, I had cause to expose Dr Okpara's further diabolical plans against the Midwest. In a press release which I issued as the Action Group Publicity Secretary for the Midwest I referred to rumours which had been confirmed by an article contained in the West African Pilot of the 31st of January. Therein a top ranking NCNC columnist unconsciously let the cat out of the bag when he wrote *inter alia*, as follows:

"Dr Okpara does not believe in defensive battles; I can therefore foresee an all-out offensive, with himself in the front line

in the Midwest area where he has sworn to smoke out Action Group inhabitants"... Dr Okpara is assembling his vehicles, guns and bullets at Ogui Road, Enugu, ready for the coming holocaust in the Midwest, with special attention to Ishan Division."

I understand that this exposure which kept both the Police and the people of the Midwest on the alert seriously dislocated the arch cabal's outragerous propensities and that the holocaust is now postponed to a date to be announced later but which will not be very distant from the date of the referendum. What I have already said will show that there is real cause for apprehension—apprehension of the despotic way a hand-picked interim Government appointed at the whims and caprices of NCNC/NPC coalition Government is expected to exercise its powers; apprehension of the danger of creating a Region where there is no constitution to govern the rights of the people, the appointment of Governor, etc., and there is abundant indication of the fact that, by the proposals of the NCNC, the Afenmai and Ishan people, for instance, will be cheated in the allocation of seats in the Legislature of the proposed Region.

Mr Speaker, with your permission, I quote again from page 5 of the Daily Times of the 24th of April, 1961 where Chief Osadebay quoted the following population figures:—

Asaba	...	...	32,535
Benin	...	...	292,081
Afenmai	...	...	202,229
Ishan	...	...	192,194
Warri	...	...	54,284

Then he proceeded to allocate parliamentary seats and he said that Warri will have three seats whereas we of Afenmai and Ishan will continue to have four seats respectively. No Afenmai man will ever subscribe to that type of situation. We do want a Region in which we will be equal, one to the other. No Afenmai man will subscribe to a situation where four Afenmai men will be equal to one Itsekiri man or whereby the ordinary rules of mathematics if Warri has three seats we should have eleven, but only four are being given to us. We will not subscribe to this and that is the mandate I have from my people. But is this not evidence of hatred against the Ishan and Afenmai people? Yet all men irrespective of tribe, political party leanings or wealth shall be equal before the law in the type of the Midwest State we of the Action Group have in mind. In the face of all these, the reason is not far fetched why we say that, as desirable as the Midwest may be, the NCNC and their accomplices who aspire to

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rule it at all-costs by side-tracking all known canons of democracy have reduced the issue—an otherwise national cause—to something like a pawn on the chessboard of party politics. They are enemies of the people. They are enemies of the people because they have refused to agree on the essential fundamentals which only can restore the people's confidence in a separate state. They are enemies of the people because they have stripped an otherwise elegant swan of its graceful feathers and made it look as an ugly duckling. Their attitude is one of "eat lest you be eaten" and they are thus enemies of the people because without the guarantee we seek they make us fear that we are being invited to endorse a blank cheque; that we shall not do. I call on all Midwesterners who sincerely believe in and desire a separate Region to come out openly and condemn the NCNC for their ignoble role in this matter; withdraw your support for them; shatter their hide-out of conservatism and deceit, and support whole-heartedly our pragmatic stand so that we can all march majestically into a Midwest State whose constitution is known to anyone who cares: delimitation of constituencies based on population and whose interim Government will reflect the strength of the political parties in the area. Neither the Action Group nor the NCNC nor the NPC can create the state without the people themselves.

Finally, I support the original Motion and reject completely the Amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

Chief Akintola: I am sure hon. Members have said a lot on this Motion. Those who are opposite me, who have more contributions to make, cannot say any more than we have heard from the Federal House, and I am sure my colleagues here would accept that what those of us have said represent the unanimous point of view of us all. I only have to answer one or two points made by certain hon. Members opposite.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition made a mountain of a molehill by referring to the will of the people. Very soon, because they are afraid of the verdict, people may pack up and leave this Hall. If they do leave, you can be sure it is because the weight of our arguments here are so heavy upon them and they fear being crushed.

Opposition Benches: Give us a chance to talk.

Chief Akintola: May I say that the will of the people is exactly what we are standing upon. They have said that after they have created the proposed Midwest, after they shall have led them into tyranny, after they shall have led them into dictatorship, they will, draw up a Constitution and that this is the time for them to speak? Who will listen to them at that time? Were we asked to speak before the Constitution of Western Nigeria was decided upon or after? We all had the opportunity to speak. Many of us attended the Constitutional Conference, before the Constitution was made. Why do we not allow the Midwesterners to speak before we start to create the State? That is my point.

Nobody denies that the will of the Midwesterners will be the supreme law, but what they are doing by creating the State before they are given the opportunity of deciding what type of State they want, is to deny the people the opportunity of free speech. After all independence is not enough. We have several independent countries today, where people know nothing like freedom. Congo is a free country. Nearer our borders here, there are free countries too where people like the Leader of the Opposition are vegetating in the world of race law. (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member: He has his colleagues in the Centre.

Chief Akintola: The colleague in the Centre is enjoying free air of freedom. The leader of the Opposition here is enjoying the air of freedom because we took fine care to settle our Constitution before we became independent. (*Hear, hear*). If it had to be left until after Independence, it would not be a Constitution. It should be the will of those who control the affairs of the Government at the time and that is all we are saying ought to be done first and foremost. Is it being seriously suggested that all those who are here, who are our colleagues from the Midwest, should be left to be slaughtered; that we should wait and leave all of them to be thrown into the unknown before we try to protect them? We want to be sure, first of all, that the Constitution which will govern the proposed State is a democratic one before we ever decide to have a new State. (*Cheers*).

Secondly, the hon. Leader of the Opposition who raised this point about the will of the people will submit that we are opposing the Federal Motion because the Federal Motion does not place any premium on the will of the people directly concerned.

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Thirdly, the hon. Leader of Opposition also suggested that the Constitution of 1960, for instance, should be taken as over riding the Willink Commission Report. Well, there are two different things. The Willink Commission was specially set up to advise all the Governments of the Federation and all the Parties upon the issue of new States, and the advice was given, and it was accepted unequivocally by all the Governments of the Federation and by all the political parties.

Opposition Members: No, no, Sir.

Well I am quite sure that both I and my friend, the Leader of Opposition appeared as lawyers before the Willink Commission. I had the honour of being one of those who briefed him to appear before the Willink Commission, and I am quite sure that he did not go beyond his brief. (*Laughter*). Apart from that, I also had the humble honour of being a member of all successive Constitutional Conferences from the beginning to the end. (*Cheers*). It is one of the real potentialities I can claim over and above any Member opposite me here. (*Hear, hear.*) Not only do I know the contents of the Constitution but of every provision of the Constitution.

Opposition Member: You are *Baba*. (*Interruptions.*)

Chief Akintola: Certainly, because I was a School Master when some of those opposite me were not born! (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr Akinyemi: When he was a School Master I was not born.

Chief Akintola: And that is why, when I speak, he must be silent. (*Laughter*).

May I also say that not only am I conversant with the written provisions of the Constitutions, I am also conversant with all the plots, the counter-plots, the movements, the subterranean movements, all the discussions behind every provision. (*Cheers*). May I also confess this, if my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, will take his colleagues seriously: there are some of the secrets we share together and there are others known only to a few of us. Now, those intricate problems of the Constitution, the unexpressed provisions of the Constitution—are still there, and I am quite sure that if we are guided only by what we see on the face of the Constitution we will be wrong completely, and when it is time to spring a surprise upon them, they will be surprised. May I also say this, that I understand that we have always succeeded in the past, but their hope is that

we will not succeed this time. "As it was in the beginning....." (*Cheers*).

May I repeat that the Members opposite me appear not to take one important issue arising out of this motion seriously. The hon. Leader of Opposition took the matter very seriously but I don't think that his warning has been heeded by his colleagues. We are in a Federation which is an absolute abnormality. The Federation of Nigeria contains one unit, powerful enough to dictate whatever it wishes to the rest of the Federation. If one unit is already larger than two others put together, by creating three new ones or by creating an additional one in which that single unit will still be large enough to overpower all the three together, are we not over-emphasising that abnormality? Is it in your own interest that this abnormality should continue? The prayer of my hon. Friends is that this abnormality should continue, and that is why they will always find chains around their necks because in the Federation, today—don't let us deceive ourselves—the master of the Federation of Nigeria is not the coalition in Lagos. It is certainly not. It is the NPC, and many of them over-nursed a good deal of ambition which remains unrealised because they have not received the support of the powers that be in Lagos. And who are you after all?

Some of them give assurances here. What do they know of the Federal Government? By the grace of God, I know this side and I happened also to have been in the Federal Government for about eight years and with the same group of people who are there now, and I can claim to know them much more intimately than many of the Opposition Members. While I know the Constitution of the country, I know the working of the Constitution on the Regional level. I can humbly claim that I know it also on the Federal level. (*Cheers*). When therefore I watch some of them growing up, laughing, yelling, I just look at them with pity knowing that a pair of sharp eyes will soon descend on the little chick which tries to play with the hawk. If they are not careful in their frolics, in this joy which they manifest like young chicks, oblivious of any danger around, some of them, some day, somehow, may be swallowed up by the hawk. (*Hear, hear*).

We are opposing this Motion, not only in the interest of our own peace—we are opposing the Motion in the Opposition's own interest as well. (*Opposition Benches: No, no, no.*)

There is no need to argue. I have noticed that the hon. Members opposite us have not been able to offer any thing substantial in support of the amendment.

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May I close up by saying that in a Federation, one unit is not under another. In a Federation, a State Government as such is not subordinated to a Federal Government: the Governments in the Federation are co-ordinate and each is supreme within its own sphere of authority. (*Hear, hear*). That is why, after the Federal House has discharged what it considers its own duty in the Constitution, the Motion has been referred to us here. If we are as negligible and as unimportant as you think, why has this Motion been sent to us here? It is because, unless it receives our blessings, it will go no where.

(*Opposition Benches: No, no, no*).

This State was to be created some time last year and they yelled, and Members here jumped up to boast last year. Have they forgotten that the State was to be created about April last year; that they were so sure, and that those who have never met even the Federal Prime Minister, those who have never met any of the rulers in Lagos, got up here to say: "We are speaking for the Federal Government?" Who are they after all? (*Interruptions and laughter*).

Well may I finally say, this Sir, You will notice the hon. Member for Ikeja is not opposed to my Motion; he is too close to me to oppose me in any way, and may I say there has been a pact between us and he had discharged his own part of the obligation. His own point is to tell his colleagues there how a great liability they are to Western Nigeria. He was trying to assure me that hon. Oviasu is of no consequence at all in Western Nigeria; that he should be allowed to go away and that if he goes away, whether he has sufficient funds to run the proposed state or not will not be his concern. I am sure we are too morally conscious to consign our colleagues to oblivion. We would like to protect their interest.

Finally, whether they like it or not, whether they consider us right under the Constitution or not, by the grace of God the constitutional power to hold this Region intact is on this side.

Those of them who want to be Permanent Secretaries in the Midwest; those who want to be Parliamentary Secretaries on the other side; those who want to become Ministers on that side, should better go and bid their ambitions goodbye for a while. And may I also say, too, that on the other side they do not have to consider everybody their friends. There are people on the other side who are opposed to a new Midwest state, as we are opposed to it. (*Opposition Benches: No, no*).

I do not want them to know, and I will keep them in doubt, but they can be sure that I will be fighting this issue with the best ammunition on this side, political, financial, constitutional and legal: all these are on this side. And, in doing so, I can count on the support of my best friends on the other side. After all, I know that there are friends opposite me whose legitimacy can never be doubted, and those of them who are true sons of Western Nigeria will never allow the dismemberment of their fatherland while the whole of the North remains intact and the whole of the East remains intact.

There is such a thing as secret patriotism. Politics may dictate that one thing should be said here, but true patriotism will dictate that the right thing to do is for one to protect his fatherland. I am sure that I can continue to count on those of them. May I repeat again that all those who have political ambitions, who want to become Prime Minister, Parliamentary Secretaries, whatever they have in mind to become, the shortest route to do so is to cross over and come to this side. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Oviasu: What have you done for Chief Tifase?

Chief Akintola: Hon. Oviasu is in doubt because I have not given something to Chief Tifase.

So may I conclude by saying "Let their friends in Lagos tell them the truth; let their legal advisers tell them the truth; unless we give our blessing to the proposed State it will be an impossibility. (*Applause from Government Benches*). (*Shouts of "No, no" from Opposition Benches*).

They say no, as they have always said in the past, but for one reason or the other, whenever they have proved a failure, they have never had the courage to come here and say "we are sorry". We are not boasting. By the grace of God, by the will of the people of the Midwest who do not want to be enslaved and by the will of the people on this side, the Midwest Region will not be created.

(*Cheers from Government Benches*).

Amendment put.

The House divided: Ayes—24; Noes—82

AYES—24

1. Abioshun, Mr J. O.
2. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
3. Aghahowa, Mr W.
4. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
5. Akinyemi, Mr R. E.
6. Atohengbe, Mr A.
7. Ebubedike, Mr F.

8. Fani-Kayode, Mr R. A.
9. Igugu, Mr T. E.
10. Imafidon, Mr E. O.
11. Lawal, Mr J. L.
12. John, Mr C. O.
13. Okumagba, Mr D. E.
14. Okwesa, Mr P. V.
15. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
16. Omokowajo, Mr J. O.
17. Oputa-Otutu, Chief F.
18. Oviasu, G. I.
19. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
20. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
21. Riemu, Mr J. A.
22. Somotan, Mr A. S.

Tellers for Ayes:

23. Olaitan, Mr O.
24. Rerri, Mr A. T.

NOES—82

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adekeye, Chief A.
3. Adekunle, Mr Y.
4. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
5. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
6. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
7. Adeniran, Mr J. L.
8. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.
9. Adesanya, Mr A. A.
10. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
11. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.
12. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
13. Adibi, Mr N. A.
14. Adigun, Hon. J. O.
15. Agbaza, Mr J. U. E.
16. Aina, Mr E.
17. Akere, Hon. C. I.
18. Akerele, Mr S. A.
19. Akerele, Mr S. O.
20. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
21. Akintola, Chief S. L.
22. Akran, Oba C. D.
23. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
24. Anuku, Hon. E.
25. Areola, Mr R. O.
26. Arowojolu, Mr E. B.
27. Aruwajoye, Mr S. B.
28. Ashiru, Mr B.
29. Atie, Mr A.
30. Atolagbe, Mr D.
31. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
32. Babatola, Hon. J. E.
33. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
34. Edeki, Rev. I.
35. Ekwejunor-Etchie, Chief G. E.
36. Ewah, Mr B. G.
37. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
38. Fashola, Mr O.
39. Fawehinmi, Mr B. O.
40. Fetuga, Mr M. A.
41. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.

42. Idodo, Mr M. A.
43. Ijie, Mr M. O.
44. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
45. Kotoye, Mr N. A. B.
46. Layonu, Mr S. A.
47. Momoh, Hon. K. S. Y.
48. Obisesan, Mr B. O.
49. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
50. Odigie, Mr J. O.
51. Odutuga, Mr J. A.
52. Ogundiran, Hon. D.
53. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.
54. Ogunyele, Mr Y.
55. Oke, Mr E. O.
56. Okeya, Mr S. A.
57. Olaniyan, Mr B.
58. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
59. Olumofin, Mr D. K.
60. Olusa, Mr R. A.
61. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
62. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
63. Onasanya, Mr S.
64. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.
65. Orowole, Mr D. O.
66. Osagie, Mr B. E. O.
67. Osuntokun, Chief J. O.
68. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
69. Otobo, Hon. J. E.
70. Otubanjo, Mr S. A.
71. Oye, Hon. J. O.
72. Popoola, Mr D. A.
73. Sanni, Mr S. A.
74. Sobande, Mr O.
75. Sogbein, Hon. S. O.
76. Tifase, Chief J. L.
77. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
78. Williams, Mr C. A.
79. Zuokumor, Mr A. A.
80. Ajibola, Mr A.

Tellers for Noes:

81. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.
82. Lana, Mr R. A.

*Amendment negatived.**Original question proposed.**Original question put.**The House divided:*

Ayes—68, Noes—24.

AYES—68

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adekeye, Chief A.
3. Adekunle, Mr Y.
4. Mr I. A. Adelodun
5. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
6. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
7. Adeniran, Mr J. L.
8. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.

9. Adesanya, Mr A. A.
10. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
11. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.
12. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
13. Adibi, Mr N. A.
14. Adigun, Mr J. O.
15. Agbaza, Mr J. U. E.
16. Aina, Mr E.
17. Ajibola, Mr A.
18. Akere, Mr C. I.
19. Akerele, Mr S. O.
20. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
21. Akintola, Chief S. L.
22. Akran, Oba C. D.
23. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
24. Anuku, Mr E.
25. Arowojolu, Mr E. B.
26. Areola, Mr R. O.
27. Aruwajoye, Mr S. B.
28. Ashiru, Mr B.
29. Atie, Mr A.
30. Atolagbe, Mr D.
31. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
32. Babatola, Mr J. E.
33. Babayemi, Mr A. A.
34. Edeki, Rev. I.
35. Ekwejunor-Etchie, Chief G. E.
36. Ewah, Mr B. G.
37. Fadayiro, Mr E. A.
38. Fashola, Mr O.
39. Fawehinmi, Mr B. O.
40. Fetuga, Mr M. A.
41. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
42. Idodo, Mr M.
43. Ijie, Mr M. O.
44. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
45. Kotoye, Mr N. A. B.
46. Layonu, Mr S. A.
47. Momoh, Mr K. S. Y.
48. Obisesan, Mr B. O.
49. Odebiyi, Chief J. A.
50. Odigie, Mr J. O.
51. Odotuga, Mr J. A.
52. Ogundiran, Mr D.
53. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.
54. Ogunyele, Mr Y.
55. Oke, Mr E. O.
56. Okeya, Mr S. A.
57. Olaniyan, Mr B.
58. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
59. Olumofin, Mr D. K.
60. Olusa, Mr R. A.

61. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
62. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
63. Onasanya, Mr S.
64. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.
65. Orowole, Mr D. O.
66. Osagie, Mr B. E.

Tellers for the Ayes:

67. Lana, Mr R. A.
68. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.

NOES—24

1. Abioshun, Mr J. O.
2. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
3. Aghahowa, Mr W.
4. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
5. Akinyemi, Mr R. E.
6. Atohengbe, Mr A. A.
7. Ebubedike, Mr F.
8. Fani-Kayode, Mr R. A.
9. Igugu, Mr T. E.
10. Imafidon, Mr E. O.
11. John, Mr C. O.
12. Lawal, Mr J. L.
13. Okumagba, Mr D. E.
14. Okwesa, Mr P. V.
15. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
16. Omokowajo, Mr J. O.
17. Oputa-Otutu, Chief F.
18. Oviasu, Mr G. I.
19. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
20. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
21. Riemu, Mr J. A.
22. Somotan, Mr A. S.

Tellers for the Noes:

23. Olaitan, Mr O.
24. Rerri, Mr A. T.

Original question agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the House do now adjourn—(Chief Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 3.50 p.m. until Monday, 16th April, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 16TH APRIL, 1962

(The House met at 10.15 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended to allow the House to continue sitting after 1 p.m. if necessary.

May I briefly explain to hon. Members how we intend to proceed with the Committee of Supply Stage of the Estimates. We want to devote two days for considering the Recurrent Expenditure and about a whole day for the Capital Works Expenditure, and therefore it would be necessary, if people are becoming too verbose or having protracted discussions on some Head, that the question may be put. I do hope that the Members of the Opposition as well as those on the Government Side of the House, will as soon as a cross-section of the House has spoken on a particular Head or item, proceed as expeditiously as possible so that we can rise on Wednesday the 18th.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDER OF THE DAY

1962-63 APPROPRIATION BILL

Committee of Supply (First Allotted Day)

Considered in Committee.

HEAD 320.—GOVERNOR

Question proposed that the sum of £20,790 for Head 320—Governor—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following amendment. That a new Sub-head 8 entitled "Bounty for Triplets" with a provision of £500 shown against it be inserted under the Governor's Head of the Estimates.

The position, Sir, is that the sum of £500 is included under the Treasury Head of the Estimates—Head 323, Sub-head 12: "Compensation and *Ex gratia* Awards". These are provisions for people who give birth to triplets, and as is the practice, Sir, it is the Queen who normally gives bounties when this sort of thing happens in the United Kingdom; and since His Excellency is the representative of the Queen, it has been felt desirable that that item should be included under the Governor's Head of the Estimates.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment put and agreed to.

£21,290 for Head 320—The Governor—agreed to.

HEAD 321.—PREMIER'S OFFICE

Question proposed that the sum of £425,780 for Head 321—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief F. Oputa-Otutu (Aboh West): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar, the Premier of Northern Region, Sir Ahmadu Bello, and the Premier of Eastern Nigeria, Dr M. I. Okpara, have all expressed some views about Nigeria becoming a Republic. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that the failure of the Premier of Western Nigeria to express some views.....

Mr Chairman: Order, Order. You are over-ruled because the Estimates did not say anything about a Republic.

Chief Oputa-Otutu: Mr Chairman, Sir, under the Nigerian (Constitution) Order in Council, Chapter II, Part I, section 5; sub-section 1, the House of Chiefs shall consist of the persons for the time being holding such chieftaincies, as may be prescribed by the Governor, who shall be *ex officio* Members of the House. The Governor, of course, in this context, is the Governor in Council. Barely a fortnight ago, your chiefs resigned their seats in the House of Chiefs, and, twenty-four hours later, Western Nigeria was told that they had been appointed *ex officio* Members.

It will be seen from the foregoing that it is quite clear that *ex officio* Members can be appointed at the absolute discretion of the Governor in Council. Arising from the above, nine chiefs who enjoy sound influence over a Division were appointed to be recognised as *ex officio* Members of the House of Chiefs.

I would like to say that I have no axe to grind about the appointment of the three

[CHIEF OPUTA-OTUTU]

chiefs namely the Olowo of Owo, the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti and the Oshemawe of Ondo. These are chiefs who are, in normal circumstances, more than justified by merit to be Members. The anomaly in the whole hush-hush business is that six of the chiefs come from one particular Province alone—Ondo Province.

To summarise, Sir, I submit that, in future, the appointment of Members to the House of Chiefs should be treated in a manner that will give no room for suspicion.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks I beg to oppose.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to make some comments on Head 321, concerning what hon. F. Oputa-Otutu had said. But before doing so, however, I wish to call the attention of Mr Chairman to several Heads against which my name had appeared, indicating that I intend to move that each of the Heads be reduced by the amount stated against it in Committee of Supply. These are Heads 320, 321, 322, 327, 330, 331, 339 and 344.

I wish to say, Mr Chairman, that I had no intention of moving a reduction of any kind on any of these Heads; what I indicated in the Notice to Mr Speaker last week was that I was desirous of speaking generally to the Debate on each of these Heads at the Committee of Supply Stage. I would therefore like my name deleted from the list of Notices if I cannot speak on a Head otherwise than by moving a reduction thereon.

In giving some explanations of the points raised by the hon. Member for Aboh (Mr Oputa-Otutu) I wish to say that he has been labouring under serious misapprehensions and misconception.

As far as the Obas are concerned they are perfectly happy with the change made in the status of each of the four Obas, and, in fact, they recommended the change to Government.

It is most gratifying to note that the Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola, successfully piloted the ship of state of Western Nigeria through the shoals of the ocean of envy, spite and prejudice, hatched here and there, during the last fiscal year, by a conspiratorial band, who for no just cause felt irresistibly compelled to slice this Region into two in a most undignifying and unilateral manner never engaged in anywhere in a democratic society.

Besides, I wish particularly to refer to the Provinces and Divisions (Establishment and Variation) Bill which has been hailed by all right-thinking Members of the House, and congratulate the Premier and his Executive for removing the enigmatic stigma of the good old days of the colonial regime which had existed as an "administrative convenience" but which has now become a "political inconvenience".

Mr G. I. Oviasu (Benin Central West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move that Head 321 be reduced by £5.

My reasons are as follows: A glance at the Estimates will reveal to everyone that under the leadership of the Premier there is an organisation known as the Premier's Office Pool in the age of our Austerity Measures.

The Entertainment Allowance of the Premier, which was £1,300, is now £1,620, and this added to his salary brings the total he is earning to £5,120. To make up the 10 per cent cut in salary they have invented clever ways of plundering from Government funds. For this reason all the Ministers have surrendered their cars to the Premier's Pool and these were revalued above the market value. They have used the money they got from that "deal" to buy more expensive cars like *Mercedes 220(S)*, and they continue in their trips by using the cars which they have surrendered to the Government.

I consider that the steep rise of local transport and travelling expenses under each Ministry total, which came to about £200,000 is designed to provide a fund for these Ministers from which to plunder Government revenue. Otherwise how do they explain these substantial increases? It is not common that they use Government cars labelled "Premier's Office" for their very private business, including going to Dugbe Market to buy fish for their wives?

I challenge them to say whether these devices to get more money are in accord with the recent austerity measures. I liken them to the crow who invented a way of getting more water from the pitcher and who, after putting stones into it, made the water to overflow from the pitcher, and then he had water to drink. Such necessity, which is the mother of invention, is also leading these Ministers to invent clever ways of falling heavily on Government funds. I submit, Sir, that this is highly and morally reprehensible.

[MR OVIASU]

It is not uncommon that these Ministers, on a salary of £3,000 per annum, put up buildings well over £20,000 without loan from the Bank. Here is a recent specimen of a voucher for transport claim which passed through the Treasury:

1. A Minister for travelling from Ibadan to his constituency	3,000 miles
2. Local Running in his constituency	3,000 miles
3. Travelling to Ibadan from his constituency	3,000 miles
Total	<u>9,000 miles</u>

For this he claimed £500 for a period which he claimed to be six months. In addition, he drew night allowances of three guineas per night. On another occasion he drew £168. He was also getting £75 per month as the Basic for his car. Now that this Basic Allowance is removed they have cleverly devised a means to return their cars to the so-called Premier's Pool.

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill which the Minister of Finance brings to this Legislature every Budget savours of suspicion because details are never therein given. All the information got from such Supplementary Estimates are only "total" amounts to be expended under each Ministry. This is another avenue for the Ministers to misuse Government funds. We on this side of the House do not trust them. It is our duty as the watchdogs of the electorate to expose them and tell them that they cannot plunder without detection.

I am not imputing motives. I can prove my case. I think the correct thing to do is to send the cars to the workshop but, instead of doing this, they send them to the Pool and ask a Government officer to value them. That is fraudulent. If you go to Dugbe market, every car is labelled with the Premier's sign. Government cars should be used judiciously.

And then I come to my point, Sir, about the Premier's Pool. These Ministers have got huge sums as valuation on their cars and they are now buying the 220(S) Mercedes. The old cars which they surrendered to the Premier's Office Pool, when they are going on tour they still make use of. Is it not fraudulent? (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*). I think you will agree with me that this is a mockery of democracy and of austerity measures. You will be surprised to see what these Ministers who earn £3,000 are doing. How

can a man on £3,000 per annum build a house of £20,000 without getting loan from the Bank? How does he make this money? I know some of them have ten flats. The Gentleman opposite me has a flat of ten stories. Another one has ten stories along the Creek Road at Lagos. It is an organised way of robbery of public funds and we cannot trust them.

Mr Chairman, Sir, before I conclude my speech, I want to warn, through Mr Chairman, a particular Minister, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, that he should be silent when I speak and that he should be of good behaviour; if he does not, I shall not hesitate to be ruthless by showering on him my rockets.

Then, finally, Sir, there is no year which has passed in this Legislature without their bringing up a Supplementary Appropriation Bill. (*Interruptions*).

I claim your protection, Mr Chairman, I do not want any interference.

Well, every time Sir, after this colossal waste of money, the Minister of Finance always brings to this Legislature what he calls "Supplementary Appropriation Bill." There is one thing which is very significant about this Supplementary Appropriation Bill, and that is that details are never given; we always hear that so much has been spent on this Ministry, so much has been spent on that Ministry. Have they ever given details? Does that not savour of some plan to embezzle public funds?

Chief Odebiyi: Mr President, Sir, having listened to the last speaker, I think it right that I should explain or reply to some of the points which he has made. If a Minister who is earning £3,000 builds twenty flats or thirty flats and he does not borrow money from the Bank, the duty of the hon. Member is to go to the Police or C.I.D. and report. The C.I.D. will look into it. Ministers don't do business like some people who when they are chairmen of Councils will destroy these councils by charging an illegal amount in respect of drugs and medicine (*Shame*). In any event, Sir, there is a proverb which says, "It is the rogue and robber who knows how to trace path of a rogue and robber." (*Cheers*).

Now the hon. Member, Sir, has made very serious remarks about the integrity and honesty of Members on this side of the House. I want to put it to him: "Are you really serious that I, as Minister of Finance, am dishonest in the discharge of my duties? Are you really serious?" Mr Chairman, Sir,

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

is the hon. Member really serious when he made that indictment that people earning £3,000 were building fantastic houses without getting loans from the Bank? Is he suggesting, Sir, that I as Minister of Finance, responsible for finance, am defrauding the Government? Is the answer yes or no?

Let him institute a commission of enquiry; I shall come before it to give evidence.

Mr Chairman: It appears the question is not answered.

Chief Odebiyi: All that I can say, Sir, is that as far as I know, speaking for all the Members of the Government Bench here, there is no single one of them who has made a claim which he is not justified to make. All he needs to do is to come here by way of a question or a substantial motion to make his point. If a Minister is dishonest, he should move a Motion, as a watchdog of the people of the Region, to the effect that such a person be removed from office for dishonesty.

Before I conclude, Sir, I am imploring the hon. Member to do that; if he does not do that, he will stand condemned as a man who has indulged in using the privilege of the House to damage the good name of the people of this side of the House. I am prepared to do that if only he will co-operate.

Now, coming to the other serious point the hon. Member made. He said the Ministers talk of austerity on one side and turn round and do another thing again. (*Opposition Benches: Yes*) If Ministers give up their cars and the cars are valued by the P.W.D., all these valuations are based on the rules laid down by Financial Instructions. If you want to value a car it is the Mechanical Engineer who does it, and no Minister is obliged to give up his car. Out of all the Ministers here, only eight of them have given up their cars. The others have retained their cars and they have spread the time within which to pay back. What those who have given up their cars are given by way of cash is the difference between what they are owing and the valuation of the car.

An hon. Member: Why is it preferential?

Chief Odebiyi: It is not preferential at all. I, for instance, bought a *Mercedes Benz* with my own personal money—(*interruptions*)—and if people want to find out how I paid for it, all they need do is to go and find out from Leventis. They can go there. (*Opposition Benches: They will not tell us.*)

Chief Odebiyi: Now the position is quite clear. Those of them who buy cars get advances from the Government; if they do not get advance from the Government, they can do so by hire purchase. That is what people have done. In any event, how much a man owes to a firm, or an agency, is entirely his business so long as he does not tamper with Government money. That is not our business at all. Besides that, Sir, when Ministers do give up their cars, surely they must be given transport to do official touring. I, for instance, for the past year or two, I do not think I travelled over 2,000 miles for the whole year because my job is not of a touring one. My purpose is to come here and explain things to the House and to be in the headquarters in case there are supplementary provisions or warrants to be signed; but there are other Ministers who are touring Ministers. The Minister of Health and Social Welfare ought to see hospitals and what their needs are. The Minister of Lands and Housing must visit Town Planning Authorities, and so is the Minister of Local Government who must visit the Local Government Councils, etc. The Minister of Works and Transport must visit works which are being carried out by his Ministry. Now, the £200,000 increase which the hon. Gentleman speaks about, I have not seen yet. (*Opposition Benches: Here is it—it is here.*)

When the hon. Member was speaking, he spoke about an increase in the Votes for Local Transport and Travelling in the Premier's Office. He forgot to mention the section dealing with fixed vehicle allowances which has been reduced by £10,260. He purposely omitted that because it did not suit his case. If you look at page 30 of the Estimates Book, under Other Charges, Item 17, you will see fixed vehicle allowance of £10,260 which is a diminishing item. He did not mention that.

With regard to the maintenance and running costs of motor vehicles, I did mention that the Premier's Office pool had to be strengthened in order to provide cars for V.I.P.s who visit Ibadan. I have mentioned it before, that when Heads of States come to Lagos they always like to come to the West, particularly the Western Region capital, Ibadan, because it is a University town, and there is a lot for them to see, and also because it is important that this Government must not show an example of miserliness or uncharitableness. The Premier's Transport Pool ought to be provided with good cars so that those people, when they come here, they should be properly cared for.

Opposition Benches: Do they come everyday?

Chief Odebiyi: Well, if they do not come everyday, do we have to go and hire whenever they come? I think, Sir, that we are not like the Federal Ministers who are buying personal cars for which basic is paid. People also have Ministry cars which they use in addition, and we all know how much they spend on these cars; but if people are going to be unreasonable in their criticism, then they can have it back.

The other point which was made by the hon. Member, Oputa-Otutu in connection with certain appointments made, indicates, Sir, that the hon. Member is suffering from old age or senility because he had ample opportunity for discussing the matter when we were dealing with the Electoral Regulations. The position is that when people who normally ought to live by nature, and by the natural grace which God has given them, refuse to live by nature, and have to live on penicillin, etc., throughout their life, the result is that they suffer from senility.

The Chiefs who have been appointed have been appointed as a result of the recommendation of the Council of Obas and Chiefs who themselves take charge of that type of matter. It is the Obas themselves in the Obas' Council who recommend to the Government which Chiefs they want to be transferred from one list to another. That is exactly what has been done. We, as a rule, Sir, do not do what other people do, namely, that commoners should decide for Chiefs what are Chiefs' prerogatives and privileges. The Chairman of the Council of Obas and Chiefs is no less than the distinguished and venerable Alafin of Oyo, who is known in Yoruba Land as the father of the Yorubas, and, therefore, what they recommend to us has to be accepted because that is what they want. We have had no evidence at least from the Warrant Chiefs from Aboh that they are opposed to the appointment which has been made.

With those few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to mention briefly three points in connection with the facts which the Minister of Finance has given. The first one, the question of mileage allowance.....(interruptions).

Mr Oputa-Otutu rose—(interruptions).

Mr Chairman: Will the hon. Minister carry on.

Chief Osuntokun: I am grateful to Mr Chairman.

As I was saying before the hon. Member for Aboh cut in, I was just to explain the reason why there must be an increase in the vote under Local Transport and Travelling expenses. This Government made a decision that all Ministers and all Parliamentary Secretaries, even including the Speaker, earning basic allowance should stop earning mileage allowance and should stop earning driver's allowance. Those are three important things. Basic allowance will be totally abolished as from the 1st of April. Mileage allowances of 8d per mile which the Ministers claim when they go on tour is altogether abolished. Even the driver who drives the Minister's car is usually paid at £117 per annum. That is also gone. If you total these up, you will know the amount of saving which Government has made. But against them Ministers must be on the move. For instance, speaking for myself, I am going on the 8th of May to open the Rural Health Centre at Igarra. On 12th May, I am going to open the General Hospital at Uromi. I go to Benin, sometimes even in May to do some other official duties.

Is it being seriously suggested that when I am going to perform these official duties I should take my private car upon which I am not getting basic allowance? (*Prolonged interruptions.*) The hon. Member, in his own interest when he makes a point he should wait for the explanation of the point. It is for him to take it or not. So that the increase in transport and travelling expenses will be spent upon the cars which Government is going to buy in order to allow the Ministers to move about in the performance of their official duties, but when a Minister goes on private business, say, to see his constituency, to see that nothing goes wrong, or on week-ends, well it is no Government business. It is his duty to find his own means of getting to his constituency.

I want hon. Members to know that not a penny of this increase goes into the pocket of any Minister whatsoever. That is why the increase.

The second point I have to make is about the point which the Member for Benin Central has made. He is very fond of using foul language and unseemly remarks when he speaks. That sort of thing has become his stock in trade. Unfortunately he has not the skin to receive back. Because when you begin to hit him back he becomes wild; he becomes mad and runs amock.

Mr A. T. Rerri: On point of order. Order 27 (5): It should be out of order to use offensive or insulting language. This speech in the Committee of Supply has been far from parliamentary.

Alhaji Opaleyeye rose—(Interruptions.)

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Chairman I agree entirely with the hon. Member who has raised a point of order because he agrees that the Hon. Member for Benin Central has been foul in his language.

Mr Rerri: I do not say so. The language has been foul from the other side of the House.

Mr Oviasu: I submit that to say that a Member of the House has run amock is sufficiently insulting.

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Chairman, an hon. Member like Oviasu said that some Ministers are putting up palatial buildings. He said the Minister of Finance, for example, did that without going to the Bank for a loan. Is the Member suggesting to this House that he has gone to the Bank which the Minister of Finance patronises? Is he suggesting that he has gone to B.W.A. or the Barclays Bank and he has spoken to the Managers and the Managers of those banks have actually tendered the account of the Minister before him in order to be able to know that he has not taken any loan from the Bank? Even if that is so it is common knowledge to everybody that there is no need to have a penny before you can put up a building. *(Prolonged interruptions).*

Mr Chairman, Sir, the point I am making is this hon. Oviasu is a business man—*(Interruptions.)* The man in front of me claims to be a business man. Without a penny you can start a building, provided you are credit worthy. Today not many of us can go to reputable contractors. Let us draw an argument. I want to put a solid storey building. Let us enter into an agreement. I am credit-worthy. You know how much I earn in a month. I will not run away from the Region; let us draw up an agreement. You go ahead with the building; as soon as you complete the building let it out and whatever money you collect from the rent you can go on with it, as long as the House pays for itself. *(Interruption)*

Mr Chairman: I am afraid I have to call the attention of hon. House in this Committee to our Standing Order 29 Rules 4 and 5. I can assure you that I shall have to be very strict about this Order. Order 29—the behaviour of Members in speaking;

Order 29 (4): During a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones. Rule 5—Members shall not make unseemly interruptions when any Member is speaking.

I would implore hon. Members to let us deal with ourselves very honourably. *(Cheers from all sides of the House).* I can be tough at times!

Chief Osuntokun: I thank the Chairman very much. I hope hon. Members will take the warning of the Chairman.

The last point I want to make in addition to what my colleague has said is about this question of voucher which the hon. Member for Benin Central has been waving. I will very much appeal to him through the Chairman so that it would be investigated. For goodness sake let us sometimes tell some lies which can be easily covered. I mean that to tell a distressed falsehood in order to play to the gallery or to assassinate the characters of certain people is very disappointing. Mr Chairman I do not want to use a word which I think is really appropriate for the action of the Member but I would appeal to the hon. Member now to submit this voucher and stop merely assassinating the characters of Members on the floor of this House.

The assassination which he cannot do outside the gates of this House should not be done here. How is it humanly possible for a man to cover 9,000 miles a month, even if he is travelling day and night? *(Interruptions).*

Mr Oviasu: Point of explanation, Mr Chairman. I never said 9,000 miles a month. I said 9,000 miles in six months.

Mr Chairman: The hon. Gentleman said 9,000 miles in six months.

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Chairman, Sir whether he now shifts the period to six months does not make any difference. That gives an average of 1,500 miles a month which I think is not too much. Take, for example, the case of a Minister who comes from the Midwest, say from Asaba or from Benin area. If that Minister goes to his area twice a month he will surely cover 1,500 miles. What is the point then? The hon. Member shifts his ground because he has now seen the absurdity of the deliberate falsehood which he has told this House, and I will warn him, Sir, to stop embarrassing our loyal and sincere civil servants because the impression he has created is that there are certain civil servants who are supplying him with these figures which he comes to quote.

[CHIEF OSUNTOKUN]

These civil servants are not here; they can't defend themselves and he doesn't mention anybody, so that we will be tempted to cast suspicion upon every member of the Civil Service.

Mr Oviasu: If you have nothing to hide, why worry?

Chief Osuntokun: I think, Sir, that it is high time this hon. Member stopped embarrassing our civil servants in this way. As far as we Ministers are concerned we have nothing against our civil servants; they are loyal, they are hardworking, and we have no complaints at all against them.

Mr J. A. Riemu (Urhobo West II): Mr Chairman, Sir, I thought you knew me.

Mr Chairman: I beg your pardon.

Mr Riemu: I said I thought you knew my name.

Mr Chairman: I know you by your Constituency and not by your name (*Laughter*).

Mr Riemu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to make my comments on Head 321 of this Estimate. To start with, Mr Chairman, I will only deal extensively with this matter of fixed vehicle allowance being abolished and the local transport and travelling expenses that have carried under this Head an additional £279,000. If Members of this honourable House will remember, I was the first person to mention this particular item. I mentioned it on the 10th of April.

Mr Chairman: Transport allowances?

Mr Riemu: Local transport and travelling expenses. Since then, serious views have been taken of this item that we have come again to the floor of this House to discuss it. There is no doubt, Mr Chairman, that this amount will pass through vouchers that are always issued by Ministers whom we have been told several times are not to be queried.

Mr Chairman: You cannot go on repeating another gentleman's speech already made. Will you kindly leave that and say something else.

Mr Riemu: Well, Sir, some Members have said something which I would like to contradict. Some of them, Sir, have tried to deny what is an obvious fact. That is just what I want to say.

Mr Chairman: Show us the obviousness of the fact.

Mr Riemu: As I said before, Sir, this amount of £279,580 is split over the whole Ministries. It is not the Premier's portfolio alone. It is every Ministry.

Mr Chairman: I beg your pardon. I am dealing with only this Head and this Head alone.

Mr Riemu: No, they are denying that such things never happened.

Mr Chairman: I am not taking into consideration any other Head except Head 321.

Mr Riemu: Head 321. Well, if I may leave that and come to another Head—the one that has more than £22,000.

Mr Chairman: I don't want any other Head now. I am dealing with Head 321 and that is all. You could deal with all these Heads together during the Second Reading, but not now.

Mr Riemu: Alright Sir. I now go to the Premier. I have something very grave to say about him. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman: I am afraid you are ruled out of order. You can't go to him in person.

Mr Riemu: I am not going to him personally. I am going to his Ministry. It is appalling and very disturbing to know that since the Premier assumed this most exalted office he has not thought it expedient to visit any part of the Midwest.

(*Government Back Benchers: Ah! The Premier had done so*).

The only time that the Premier visited the Midwest was when he went to Ishan on an S.G.S. telegram sent to him by his supporters there. When he got there he was heavily guarded by policemen. We had thought he would use that opportunity to see other places in the Midwest but, unfortunately, something happened and he rushed back to Ibadan almost the same day. That was last year.

One thing concerning this Head is that the Midwest, all along, has been the abandoned baby of this Government, not only by the Premier but also by all the Ministers. Some of these Ministers would say they are visiting the Midwest whereas

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[MR RIEMU]

in fact they never go there. I don't want to impute motives. I know the reason why the Premier does not want to come to the Midwest. He knows that if he visits the Midwest he will be confronted with the facts and the extent to which the area is undeveloped, and so to keep away from the people altogether is the solution. I would have very much liked that the Premier comes to the Midwest at a time I am in the area so that I may serve him with Sapele water.

(Government Benches: Do you want to poison him!)

The only hope that I will express right now is that he will during his census tour not only visit Ishan, which of course will not be on an S.O.S., but that he will visit other parts of Midwest.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr D. K. Olumofin rose in his place and claimed to move that the question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the sum of £425,780 for Head 321—Premier's Office stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 343—ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Question proposed that the sum of £43,460 for Head 343—Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that this Head be reduced by £5. In so doing, I wish to say that we have all witnessed that since the introduction of Local government elections or democratic elections in this Region very many things have happened. The elections were meant to be democratic, but I can assure you, Mr Chairman, Sir, that the last elections to district and divisional councils in the Region, particularly in Benin Division, were autocratic. The Secretary/Treasurers who were styled "Assistant Electoral Officers" in each of these local government councils were secretly instructed to disallow the nomination papers of NCNC candidates by the Minister in charge.

(Government Benches: Ah! By whom?)

Yes! you ask me by whom? I say, by the Minister in charge. I am saying this because there is no Minister who has no dealings with other Ministers in the Government set-up. *(Interruptions)*. Whatever you may do to disturb me will not be felt I shall continue my speech.

Mr Chairman, Sir, under sub-head 2 of this Head of Expenditure a sum of £710 is allocated for local transport and travelling expenses. Well, we have recently held elections into district and divisional councils in the Region. It is therefore, not anticipated that there will be any elections in the very remote future. So, Sir, unless the Minister of Local Government gives us an assurance that elections will in future be held into the dissolved local government councils for which caretaker committees were appointed, there is no reason why such a sum of money should be set aside for local transport and travelling.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Riemu: I beg to second. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr Chairman: Order, order. The Minister of Local Government has got nothing to do with this Head. It is not his Head. It is somebody's Head.

Mr Atohengbe: I have moved, Mr Chairman.

Chairman: Has he moved?

Opposition Benches: Yes.

Mr Chairman: I do not know. *(Laughter)*.

Amendment proposed.

Mr D. E. Okumagba (Warri East): Mr Chairman, I think this is a nice opportunity given me to comment on the mistakes of the Government as far as elections are concerned. We on this side of the House have from time been wondering whether or not we have democracy in the Western Region. We have been watching the activities of the Government for some time now as far as dissolution and appointment of Management Committees of various Council areas are concerned. I take the case of the Akure District Council: that was a Council won.....

Mr Chairman: Order, order. The Electoral Commission has got nothing to do with the dissolution of any Local or District Council. The responsibility is that of the Minister of Local Government.

Mr Okumagba: They are brothers.

Mr Chairman: They are not brothers at all.

Mr Okumagba: Perhaps it will interest the Chairman to know what we feel about the running of the Department of the Electoral Commissioner in the Region.

[MR OKUMAGBA]

(*Government Benches: Wait until you come to the other Head.*)

Which is the other Head? Your estimates are so confused; when we speak about this you turn it the other way, and so on. Well Mr Chairman, I would not take your time; whatever I have to say, I shall reserve until it comes to the proper Head. (*Laughter.*)

Mr J. O. Abioshun (Iwo East Suburban): Mr Chairman, Sir, I will appeal to Government to make it possible that too many local elections.....(*Interruptions.*) (*Government Benches: What elections?*)

That during Parliamentary elections or any local Council elections, that Government makes things possible by closing down Customary Courts so that elections to that Council or House must be fair and free, and that during that time all tax collection should be suspended (*interruptions.*) So that elections into any Local or Divisional Council may be free and fair.

Mr Chairman: Perhaps, the hon. Gentleman will realise that this Head has got nothing to do with Customary Courts, with the collection of tax, and all the rest of it. It has got something to do with the conduct at elections, conduct at the polling booths and arrangement for the elections. That is all: anything beyond that, I will overrule.

Mr Abioshun: I know Mr Chairman I beg to sit.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North-West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think this Head should not appear in the Estimates of the Western Region.

Mr Chairman: Are you amending your Motion for an amendment? Your Motion is that the Head be reduced by £5, but here you are doing something else.....(*laughter.*)

Mr Omokowajo: I am coming to that now, Mr Chairman. There is something I observe Sir, that is, that electricity supply has been increased from £160 to £380. I think that in the olden days when people want to warm themselves up or when they want the use of a fan, they don't keep the fan on throughout the day. How many of you will spend £380 if you have your own building. It does not matter if you don't use electricity; the E.C.N. will not charge you: you just come and keep it on in the office—anything you want to do is electricity. I think last year, Mr Chairman, Sir, it was £160; this year it increased to £380, and still

you want to talk of austerity. What austerity when people want to enjoy at the expense of others? If £160 was used last year and £380 this year, if you get the addition or the excess—(*Interruptions.*)

I am saying now Sir, that this Government is trying to sacrifice innocent lambs to appease angry gods. When you cut my own salary and you want more fans, more electricity for your own office, what type of austerity do you want? I will repeat, Sir, you are just sacrificing innocent lambs to appease angry gods. (*Interruptions.*)

With these few points Sir, I beg to support the Motion that the Head be reduced by £5.

Mr J. A. Riemu (Urhobo West II): Mr Chairman, I beg to support the Motion calling for the reduction of £5 in Head 343—Electoral Commission. I do not think I have much to say about this very Head save that so many things have been done by this Commission; in fact so many people get annoyed sometimes. In the first place, Sir, where there are bye-elections everywhere in the Region, this Commission will only arrange for that bye-election to be held where it knows that that particular area is Action Group controlled.

Mr Chairman: Order, Order. May I correct the hon. Gentleman on this point. The Electoral Commission does not arrange or tell people when elections will take place. They are being told: they do not take sides.

Mr Riemu: Yes Sir, but I have been told by the Chairman himself that this Commission is responsible for arrangements for elections either at District Council level or Parliamentary level.

Mr Chairman: When there are vacancies anywhere, they are told to organise; they are not to fix dates or times either.

Mr Riemu: This is so Mr Chairman; I am not saying that they are to fix the date but I am saying that they have been told and that they refused to fix the date.

Mr Chairman: I tell you that that is not true.

Mr Riemu: I think the Chairman will wait and see that proved or not before he takes a decision on that being true or not.

Mr Chairman: I know when there is vacancy as far as this House is concerned and I know the procedure, and I am telling you that what you say is not exactly what is happening, and I would not say you are lying because that would be unparliamentary.

Mr Riemu: I do not doubt the Chairman, but the fact is that so many things do happen in this Region which the Chairman sometimes does not know.

Mr Chairman: I know that Electoral Commission does not fix dates for elections.

Mr Riemu: They do not fix dates but they are responsible for the arrangement of elections and they refused to arrange it in a particular case. They have refused to arrange for Urhobo West: that is a Federal election.

Mr Chairman: Is Urhobo West a constituency of this House?

Mr Riemu: No, Federal Parliament: a vacancy has been declared.....

Mr Chairman: Electoral Commission of this Western Region?

Mr Riemu: We have gone to Lagos and got mandate to put the matter on the floor of this House; to mention it here that they could not understand the reason why the vacancies which had been announced by the Federal Parliament had no arrangement being made for it here.

Mr Chairman: If you had the mandate of your people to raise it here, you have not done so; if you have not, ask a question as to whose duty it is. If you ask, you will be told but you have not asked; you have neither moved a Motion nor asked a question. You did not do what your constituents told you to do. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Riemu: That is exactly what they asked me to do. Another seat which this Commission has altogether brushed aside is that of Asaba because it knows that, if a bye-election is held for Osadebay's seat, definitely it will go to the NCNC.

Mr Chairman: I beg your pardon. The Electoral Commissioner is not here. It is not the duty of the Electoral Commissioner to declare a vacancy or to declare that the vacancy be filled.

Mr Riemu: That is right; I am now saying that the proper quarters have declared vacancies and sent it to this Commission and they have refused.....*(interruptions)*. I hope the Chairman is not a Member of this Commission. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Chairman: Which Commission? Electoral Commission? I am only a Chairman of this Committee. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Riemu: You have defended it in such a way that an average man will draw conclusions. In any case all I have said about it is in order, and I hope, whether this Commission is responsible or not, somebody around, who is responsible, will go back and say the people are really taking notice of what we are doing. So Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £43,400 for Head 347—Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 347.—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Question proposed that the sum of £30,360 for head 347.—Public Service Commission—Stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Oputa-Otutu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Head be reduced by £5.

About five years ago, I think during the time of Chief Awolowo, I referred to his failure for not considering any person from the Midwest for appointment as Member of the Public Service Commission. Although I am glad of Mr S. Ade. Ojo's appointment as the present Chairman of the Public Service Commission, yet it is true to say that members are drawn from one section of the Region, and that is the Yoruba side. It is very disappointing that, up till now, Government has found no suitable person from the Midwest to be a member of the Commission. Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel that this situation is unsatisfactory. It appears this Commission is exclusive to a section of this Region. I hope that the Premier will do his best to correct this in future. With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Chairman, Sir, I have a few comments to make on this item of expenditure. I doubt not the efficiency of the Commission but I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that capable senior officers are not being appointed to handle the finance policy of the Treasury, and I am drawing the attention of the Minister of Finance to it and to ask him to be very, very vigilant in promoting people to senior posts in the Public Service. It does appear to me that there is no officer who is an expert on finance in the Treasury. I have noticed from my own observation and the allocation of revenue to the councils of the Region that there has not been a sort of established policy. I remember that about a year ago the flat rate tax was reduced to £1 17s. 6d and he would remember, as the

[MR. OKUMAGBA]

Minister of Finance, the trouble which that gave him; and in this Session, we have another development tax. This habit of changing finance matters frequently shows that capable officers are not appointed by the Public Service Commission to the Treasury, and the earlier this is done the better. With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment. As far as I know, the Western Nigeria Public Service Commission is the best in the whole Federation, and the Treasury is manned by an able officer who has had experience in Government business in the East, Northern Nigeria, and in the Federal Capital. His personality and integrity can be attested to by any sane person in the community, including hon. Chief Oputa-Otutu and his colleagues.

With regard to appointments, I am satisfied that the Public Service Commission is carrying out its duty as efficiently as possible.

With regard to the point which was raised by hon. Oputa-Otutu about a Mid-westerner not being appointed as member of the Public Service Commission, this seems to me to be unfortunate. Appointments either to the civil service or to Boards and Corporations and to the Public Service Commission are such that they are not based on tribal derivation. They are based on considerations of merit, and I can assure the hon. Member that as and when a suitable person is found both from the Yoruba side, as mentioned by the Member, and from the Midwest, the Premier will not hesitate to make a suitable appointment, provided there is a vacancy.

With regard to the change in the allocation of taxes in the Region, this cannot be attributed to the inefficiency of the Treasury staff or to senior officers appointed by the Public Service Commission. Hon. Members will agree with me that our Six-year Development Programme, both in the Federation and in the other Regions has brought about a considerable change in the policy of our finance.

Besides, we also said that the first £300 of the salary of women should not be taxed. In areas where people were paying higher tax you have to make adjustments by way of equalisation grants. In any event, that would no longer happen under the present system, whereby Councils will be enabled through the help of the Regional Tax Board

to assess more accurately and to collect more efficiently; and by so doing, there will not be any recourse by Councils to Government for subsidies.

As I said before, Sir, the Government is quite satisfied that the Public Service Commission does its job efficiently, and we had no complaints, whatsoever about the personnel which we have there, that is to say, members of the Public Service Commission or, to talk of the whole Region, about the efficiency of those in the Civil Service of Western Nigeria today. *(Applause)*.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £30,360 for Head 347.—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule agreed to.

HEAD 721.—PREMIER'S OFFICE—OTHER
NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

Question proposed that the sum of £25,000 for Head 721.—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment to Head 721 that a new Sub-head 2 entitled "Purchase of Motor Vehicles" and a provision of £51,560 shown against it be inserted, thus increasing the total under that Head to £76,560.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £76,560 for Head 721.—stand part of the Schedule agreed to.

Sitting suspended at 12.05 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 1.20 p.m.

HEAD 322.—THE TREASURY

Question proposed that the sum of £382,190 for Head 322.—Treasury—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. O. Abiosun (Iwo South Suburban): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Head (Head 322) be reduced by £5.

You know this Ministry is a delicate Ministry. The financial strangulation in which the Government is in is caused by this Government claiming to be the first in everything. History has started to repeat itself in the Western Region.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £382,190 for Head 322.—The Treasury—stand part of the Schedule agreed to.

HEAD 323.—MISCELLANEOUS

Question proposed that the sum of £507,950 for Head 323.—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, Miscellaneous Head of the Estimates: As you can read from there, you will observe that such Head of Estimates ought to be composed of a variety of Heads of Expenditure such as have not been existing in any Head of Expenditure, but under this one, Sir, we notice such items as have been handled efficiently by the Treasury: Head 322 (Treasury) has been repeated here. I would like to draw your attention Sir, Mr Chairman, to sub-head 9—Collection Expenses on Income Tax. Tax matters have come under the responsibility of the Treasury. It is surprising, Sir, why tax matters were repeated here again under this Miscellaneous Head of Expenditure.

Then, under sub-head 19, Sir, we notice that a sum of £2,000 is allotted against Loss of Government Funds and Stores. I think the Government should not have encouraged increased provision on recurrent provision for Losses of Government Funds and Stores by seeing to it that losses were not repeatedly committed as in the previous cases.

Then, under sub-head 23, Sir, we saw "Refunds—General": This amounts to about £12,000. Why is this sum of about £12,000 allotted, whereas in 1960-61 £6,669 was allotted, and then last financial year £12,000 was also allotted? It is surprising, Sir, how these sums are being disbursed. Under the explanatory details it is not indicated now for what purposes these refunds are made.

Under sub-head 24, we saw that a sum of about £2,000 is also allotted for Safes and Cash Receptacles. In the last two years we had more than £3,000 allotted for Safes and Cash Receptacles. It is surprising how these items should be continuously repeated year in year out. A safe that was bought three years ago is still capable of holding some amount of money and lasting for a duration of, say, another five years. One wonders how often these Cash Receptacles should be bought by the Government.

With these remarks, Sir, I beg to move that this amount be reduced by £5.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £507,950 for Head 323—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule agreed to.

HEAD 324.—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

Question proposed that the sum of £52,700 under Head 324.—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. O. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West): I move that Head 324 be reduced by £5. The reason of my moving this is that it is time the Government of this Region stopped wasting money.

Some time ago I understand that the Premier should be entitled to a pension of about £1,000.

Not only that it should be better if we stop to employ these pensioners to deprive young men of their own rights. By this, Mr Chairman, Sir, I mean that pensioners who are receiving their due pensions for the services rendered to the Government in the past should not in turn be re-employed to the Government Service.

Chairman: You mean that they should not be engaged at all?

Mr Oyewole: Yes.

Amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank the Members of the Opposition who have spoken for creating a record in this House during the present Budget Session. However, it is an agreed fact by the hon. Gabriel Iyesi Oviasu that I have done my duty very well.

The hon. Member who spoke last said that we should not pay ex-Premiers. All the Governments of the Federation were agreed that pensions should be paid to ex-Prime Ministers and ex-Premiers—(*Cheers from Government Benches*).—and my colleague on the other side of the House would agree that if there is any man, any politician, in Nigeria today who has contributed to the great advance which Nigeria has made in the realm of good public administration, Chief Obafemi Awolowo is one. (*Shout of "Awo, Awo, Awo" from Government Benches.*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, one reason why the Opposition has spoken words to embarrass us is the fact that they are so unused to a crisis in the Action Group that what has happened in Jos really shocked them. They are so used to crisis in the NCNC that when it happens once in the Action Group they know how to ring it all about. In any event, the Action Group is a united Party indivisible and undivided. Chief the hon. Obafemi Awolowo is the Leader of the Action Group; Chief S. L. Akintola is the Deputy Leader. Mr Chairman, Sir, the Action Group leadership is undivided and indivisible.

I think that all the Governments of the Federation were agreed that pensions should be paid and a law which was passed here was passed in Lagos, the East and the North.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

I know the reason why hon. Members of the other side are annoyed at me; they wanted me to bring to the House a Bill about pensions and gratuities for Members of the Legislature. Mr Chairman, Sir, I am in sympathy with them as well as I am in sympathy with myself. We are not opposed to that being done.

(Opposition Benches: We do not want it.)

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have taken, in the words of lawyers before a High Court Judge, judicial notice of that. When I said this, the hon. Member for Ilesha was very quiet.

In any event, Sir, one Member was speaking about pensioners being re-engaged. He was suggesting that a man who has given service to the Government and whose services are still considered to be valuable should not be re-engaged. I refer in particular to the Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police, Mr Oluwole, alias Jingo. Mr Chairman, Sir, what happened was that when Europeans were occupying that post (as patriotic and nationalistic as all these people are) they had no objection, but as soon as a Nigerian, a full-fledged Nigerian became the Inspector-General, there is no rest. History and posterity will remember how patriotic, how nationalistic, all of you are. Mr Chairman, Sir, in any event, I think that it is the policy of Government to re-engage pensioners if they are found physically fit and if it is not possible to get suitable young men to occupy their places. In any event, the Superintendent-General of Local Government Police Force in the person of Chief Oluwole is still a very virile man: very virile, very efficient, and he still retains that characteristic pull which makes people call him *Alias Jingo*.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment that Head 324 should be reduced. *(Cheers from the Government Benches)*.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £52,700 for Head 324—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 326.—TRANSFER OF OTHER FUNDS

Question proposed that the sum of £59,730 for Head 326—Transfer of Other Funds—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Atohengbe: The inefficiency of the Treasury has repeated itself here once again, Sir. Under this Head of Expenditure, Sub-head 1, a sum of £1,500,000 was provided under Capital Expenditure and Development

Fund last year, but this year, a token figure of about £10 is provided and, under explanatory details, there is no indication to show and tell hon. Members why this situation arose. Under Sub-head 4, there is no provision last year for Educational Building Fund as being help to Voluntary Agencies and, this year, we have, Sir, a sum of about £39,700. All we need do is to appeal to the Ministry in charge of this Division to see that the allocation is evenly and fairly distributed without taking into consideration those whose political ideologies are against the Government. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, Head 326, Sub-head 1—Capital Expenditure and Development Fund. What we find here is a token figure. Last year, a sum of £1.5 million was transferred to the Capital Expenditure and Development Fund and, where the figures appear in the Estimates, they only show that when the final accounts are ready, the appropriate amount will be transferred.

Sub-head 4 of Head 326, namely, Voluntary Educational Building Fund—is in connection with an old Fund which is outstanding. It was a Fund which was used to help Voluntary Agency Proprietors of schools to borrow money from Government with a view to putting up buildings. What has been done here is to resuscitate the Fund so that those who are in a position to build schools can still borrow money, provided they fulfil all the conditions laid down by the Minister of Education and approved by the Cabinet. Mr Speaker, Sir, it has not been suggested by anybody here that grants being paid by the Minister of Education have always been based on political consideration.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 341.—AUDIT

Question proposed that the sum of £86,820 for Head 341—Audit—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, it is one thing to have Departments established and it is another thing that they do their job efficiently. Since the personnel of these departments are not here to defend themselves I think we should leave the matter like that. The Ministers are responsible for the making of policy but not the transaction of the business itself. I say this because most councils accounts have not been audited for the past three years and, at times, some recommendations of the Auditors are not

[MR ATOHENGBE]

carried out and Government does not take any positive action to see that these are carried out. In view of the remarks I have just made, I beg to move that this sum be reduced by £5.

Mr D. E. Okumagba (Warri East): I rise to ask a question dealing with the Audit Department in respect of all the accounts books of Councils all over the Region. I consider that the Audit Department, Mr Chairman, is a very important Department of the Government. They must see to it that there is no wastage of revenue and they must see that Government money is spent judiciously and that the funds collected are spent for the purposes for which they are meant. Mr Chairman, I am talking to hon. Members through you, and when they do not listen to me I get worried. The point I am making, Mr Chairman, is the important point about the auditing of accounts. I refer to the Local Government Councils and the accounts of the various Secondary Schools because in the past Government took a firm stand about this. It should be seen to that the sums collected by schools are spent on channels and for the purposes for which they are collected. Government should see to it that it pays the exact amount of grant. They should always see to it that if any amount is contributed by these secondary schools or Voluntary Agencies, these monies are spent for the purposes for which they are collected. That is the point that I am making, Mr Chairman. And it is the Audit Department that will see to it that this job is well done.

Amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Education is a self-accounting Ministry. It has the necessary finance officers who go into the Estimates and to the accounts submitted by the various educational institutions in the Regions; but, in view of the fact, Sir, that the question of school fees as well as grants which are payable to these institutions is a matter before a Commission of Inquiry, I do not intend to prejudice the report of that Commission of Enquiry. Members of the House will have an adequate opportunity of replying or of making statements or contribution to the debate on the reports of the Commission of Inquiry.

But one other aspect of the points raised by the hon. Member which I would like to point out is the fact about the Audit Department in the Estimates. Under Head 341 of the Estimates, there is a decrease in the total provision provided for them. A decrease of £3,460, that, of course, is due to the

fact that the Department originally used to be headed by expatriate officers with supporting staff drawn from the Nigerian and Expatriate officers cadre, and now the Department is almost fully Nigerianised. There is a decrease in the total provision made for that Department. In any case, Sir, in regard to the point which has been made about the audit of Local Government Councils accounts, I have already explained to the hon. Member that he can discuss that under the Ministry of Midwest Affairs.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £86,820 for Head 314.—Audit—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 345.—LEGISLATURE

Question proposed that the sum of £229,180 under Head 345.—Legislature—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. A. Adesanya: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the amendment standing in my name in respect of the Legislature. That is, that this head of Estimates be reduced by £5. I have two types of criticisms to make in respect of this Department and I am sure hon. Members of both sides of this House will support my comments on the Department that is primarily responsible for the efficient running of the business of this Parliament and the comfort and satisfaction of its Members.

First, my comment would be on the standard of reporting of debates of this House. Members of this Legislature have often been completely misquoted as to what they say on the floor of this House. At other times, speeches of Members have been grossly distorted. It is true, Sir, that Members have the opportunity of inserting corrections into the daily edition of the Hansard, but these distortions are often so beyond any resemblance of the original speeches that mere corrections are impossible. I would Sir, urge the Minister responsible for this Department to look into the question of training reporters and making them available during meetings of the Legislature. Members must have noticed that the standard of reporting during this Budget Meeting has been particularly low and something should be done about it. The Hansard must be a model of perfection, but how I wish I could say this of our Hansard!

Secondly, I would like to refer to the Clerks Department generally. In fairness to the Clerk to the Regional Legislature, I would like to say that Members of both Houses have received a reasonable amount of efficiency from him and his staff during

[MR ADESANYA]

meetings of the Legislature. But it would appear that the entire Department is understaffed. I realise, Sir, that these are days of austerity or economy—call it what you like—but a Department such as a Parliament should not fail to get its proper importance and attention by way of adequate staff provision to cope with work during the peak periods. This is the practice in most Commonwealth Parliaments and we should borrow a leaf from them.

It is unconventional and out of order for Members to move that any Head of Expenditure should be increased; but this is a suitable opportunity to appeal to the Government to examine thoroughly the structure of the staffing of the various Legislatures in the Federation and bring our own Parliament and its staff up to comparable levels. This will not only improve the morale of the staff of the Legislature but will also increase the efficiency and the respectability of the great institution of Parliament whose proceedings must take their rightful place among those of the Parliaments of other Democracies.

We of the Western Region of Nigeria have been leading others in everything noble and in everything glorious. If we are to maintain our lead, we must continue to retain the best brains we have at the moment. But to retain these best brains, we must not allow them to be in want of what their counter parts or even inferiors get in other parts of the Federation.

May I, at this stage, give this honourable House comparative figures of what obtains in other parts of the Federation and allow hon. Members to draw the logical conclusion?

FEDERAL PARLIAMENT:

One Clerk—Salary	£2,940
Deputy Clerk—Salary	£2,496
Staff, <i>i.e.</i> , number of Clerks... ..	12
Average number of sitting days —1960-61	71

NORTHERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

Clerk to the Regional Legisla- ture—Salary	£2,700
Deputy Clerk—Salary	£2,292
Staff	4
Average number of Sitting Days—1960-61	53

EASTERN REGION:

Clerk—Salary... ..	£2,496
Staff	5
Average number of Sitting Days—1960-61	49

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

Clerk—Salary... ..	£2,292
Staff	3
Average number of Sitting Days—1960-61	61

May I ask that, apart from the Clerk to the Federal Parliament in Lagos, our Clerk in the Western House of Assembly is the most experienced, yet his salary is only equal to that of the Deputy Clerk in the North.

Lastly, but not the least, is what I have observed of the position of Mr Speaker of this honourable House. It is needless to tell this House of the importance of Mr Speaker who holds the balance of justice and equity between the Government and the Opposition. Apart from the dignity which history has conferred on the place of Mr Speaker, the practical utility of his post as a foremost and most potent instrument in the implementation of democratic principles would certainly justify the accordance to Mr Speaker of the respect, comfort and conditions of service that would enable him to discharge these difficult functions satisfactorily.

I have had the privilege of visiting the Parliament of the United Kingdom and have seen the Palace of the Speaker at Westminster; I am not saying that the post of the Speaker in our own Legislature is shrouded with all the historical anachronisms of that of the Speaker in the United Kingdom, but the principles of liberty and democracy which these identical offices stand for make it absolutely essential that the same amount of importance should be attached to them. I would therefore appeal to the Minister responsible for the Speaker's Department to appoint a small committee to look into the conditions of service of Mr Speaker, with particular reference to his office accommodation, his staff, his robes and other privileges.

Again, Sir, I do realise that, as a politician, the Speaker must be willing to make the same sacrifices in furtherance of the austerity measures but, whatever happens, his position is unique in the history of all parliamentarians, and it would be derogatory to this Region if the conditions of service of Mr Speaker in Western Nigeria is anything lower than anywhere else in the Federation with particular reference to his salary, office accommodation and his staff.

Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to move.

Mr D. E. Okumagba: Mr Chairman, Sir, after listening to the argument advanced by my Friend on the other side of the House, one would have expected that his Motion should have read "I beg to move that the

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Head be increased by £1,000", but rather he moved that the Head be reduced by £5, I am suprised at this, and I disagree with him. I am moving an amendment that this Head be increased by £1. (*Laughter*). It is left to the Minister for Finance to use his good authority if he agrees with our argument to raise it substantially.

Amendment proposed.

Mr Oviasu: I associate myself with the views expressed by Mr Adesanya, the student who has just qualified in law. (*Laughter*).

During our last Parliamentary Delegation I met the young man as a student. I congratulate him for qualifying finally. Mr Chairman, I agree with him that our official reporting is very, very low indeed. But I do think that reporters are handicapped. I used to think they were Verbatim Reporters but, of late, I have investigated and found that they are not trained as such. I commend to this House that they should be given the proper training as Verbatim Reporters so that our reporting should reflect a high standard.

I also agree that the salary of the Clerks should be brought to same level as it is in other parts of the Federation. My hon. Friend has quoted facts and figures. We do agree that those figures are correct and accurate.

The present Clerk of the House is very efficient indeed. For the first time during the last Parliamentary Delegation he worked with us for continuous five weeks. It enabled us to assess his worth and efficiency in his job. It is the hope of reward that strengthens labour. It will dampen his enthusiasm if his counterparts are earning approximately £3,000 while he is earning £2,292. We do not want to lose his services. He has the qualities of being a good administrator. He has respect for both the Opposition and Government Benches, and when we are working with him and crack jokes he dreads to share in the laughter, because he has respect for the two parties. This characterises good administrators. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, the last and not the least is the office accommodation of the Speaker. It does not reflect the dignity of that office. That is not what is obtaining in other parts of the world. This Government has always claimed to be the first in Africa, the first in everything. They have been last in the provision of good office accommodation for the Speaker.

I feel that the Government should see to it that office accommodation befitting the dignity of this House be given to the Speaker.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Chairman, Sir, we are not surprised; by their fruits we shall know them. We are quite happy that the only department in which we are satisfied is the department of the Speaker. We are not surprised. We know that the Members of the House share in the good nature of the Speaker. So we find that there is a long retinue of people who do their work in the way they should do it.

But I do not agree with the first Mover of the Motion that speeches are reported badly. How can speeches be well reported when we have lawyers like himself reading their speeches? How do you expect them to take good reports when even a trained lawyer has not the nerve to make a good speech in Parliament? So I do not agree with you that the speeches are not well reported. The fault is that of the Members on that side, many of them are the people who have not the courage to make good speeches in Parliament and you attribute the fault to the reporters. The fault is your own.

I agree with the Mover of the Motion, but we are not agreeing with the comparison he has made with the other Regions of the Federation. We are satisfied with the efficiency of the Clerk, the Second Clerk and other members of their department.

We agree that the Clerk and Second Clerk and other members of the department should be upgraded.

Mr Chairman, I support.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the views already expressed by the previous speakers in respect of the Speaker and the Clerk of the House. I would like to add what, I think, the previous speakers have omitted.

Earlier on, on the floor of this House, I touched the question of the omnibus copies of the Hansard and the Speaker advised me to hold on until we came to this aspect of the business which we are now dealing with.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I like to recall that the latest omnibus copy of the proceedings of this Legislature which was distributed to Members of this House was the one for the meeting held in November 1960. The reports of other meetings that were held during last financial year have not been distributed, not to mention those meetings held in 1961; and now, Sir, we are in 1962. I would like to say

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that although many good things have been said about this department which I have earlier associated myself with, I would like to warn that such a delay is not to the best interest of Members of this House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the amendment that the vote under this Head be reduced by £5.

Mr Riemu: Mr Chairman, Sir, the less hon. Members on the other side talk, the earlier we will leave here.

Mr Chairman: I agree with you, but Machine Ororoh is not your name. (*Laughter*).

Mr Riemu: Whether they call me Machine Ororoh or not, I care less. I associate myself with the previous speakers who have showered encomiums on the department of the Speaker, popularly known as the Legislature. In fact, Sir, I am not surprised. After all, most of them on the roll of the staff of that department have been with us on this side of the House. (*Laughter*.) They are our people; we have trained them to work hard, so that it is unfair for us to desert them at this time. But there is one thing, Mr Chairman, which I would like to refer to, right now.

One thing we usually say in our place is that "evil communications corrupt good manners". That is what is working between the Legislature and some members of this House. This has gone to the extent that we say that the Legislature is uncompromising and unco-operative with whatever the Federal Parliament does. I think I have to remind hon. Members of the speech with which I started. For quite a long time now, Urhobo West constituency has been declared vacant by the Federal Parliament, and I understand that notice of this has been referred to this Legislature so that necessary arrangements may be made for a bye-election to be held in that constituency. As far as I know, Mr Chairman, Sir, there has been something like dilly-dallying on the part of this Legislature in the matter; and, in fact, this Legislature appeared to develop a sort of cold feet, but, whether or not they will allow that bye-election to be held, is not known.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I hope that arrangements will be made very soon for a bye-election to be held in Urhobo West II, so that the poor people may be represented in that Parliament.

Another constituency which is now vacant due to the resignation of Chief the hon.

D. C. Osadebay, is the Asaba South Constituency. Up to now, Mr Chairman, Sir, no bye-election has been held in this constituency. The seat has been vacant for over a year now, and since this Legislature has not ordered a bye-election the people in that area are being deprived of their right to be represented in the Legislature of this land. I must say, Sir, that certain things which happen here do not happen elsewhere. Last year there were so many resignations from the membership of this House. The resignations were tendered by the members concerned, Mr Chairman; the Speaker got them and something happened. They were not announced on the floor of this House, with the result that the people concerned are still in this House today.

Government Benches: Are you accusing Mr Chairman?

Mr Riemu: I am telling the Chairman.

Another point which is very important is the excess of £14,000 shown under local transport and travelling expenses. Last year, Mr Chairman, Sir (1961-62) an amount of money totalling £22,000 was provided for this, but this year (1962-63) it goes up to £36,000, an increase of £14,000. It is very embarrassing, Mr Chairman, Sir, when it is remembered that the membership of this House has not been increased. I think, Sir, that we should be told why the previous amount goes up so sharply. After all, £14,000 is not a small sum of money, and money matters are not matters of fancy.

Mr Chairman, Sir, there is one particular thing which happened only yesterday. A Motion that had been passed by the Federal Parliament calling for the creation of the Midwest State was rejected by this Parliament. I would like to advise the Chairman that condoning such a thing would lower the standard of debate in this honourable House.

Mr Chairman: I agree with you. That is why I am condoning it. (*Laughter*.)

Mr Riemu: I remember the first time I went to the Eastern House of Assembly, if I may be allowed to digress a bit, the gallery there was packed to capacity every morning. People who go there are V.I.Ps, not school boys as we have in our Legislature, who go there to listen to people like Otobo, Odebiyi, who are fluent speakers. (*Interruptions*.)

I don't in fact understand what you people here are talking about. They amuse themselves with the fact that they cannot talk sense without reading. It is not so in the

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Eastern Region, and that is why you find decent people in their public gallery, not school boys. (Laughter). Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish that the privilege of reading speeches were discontinued so that important people might come here to listen to us. As I have said before, this lowers the standard of debate in this House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the Motion that this Head be reduced by £5. In the first place, Sir, I mentioned, some time ago, that twelve people from this honourable House left here last year for the United Kingdom and they spent £12,000 in six weeks. On the average they spent £21 10s each; per day, and now this year you come out again with £1,000 in the Estimates. When you go again to overseas this year you will come back and say you have spent £24,000 for the two trips. I feel, Sir, that there is no need for these people to deceive themselves. Call a spade a spade. If you want to spend £1,000, tell us it is £1,000. Here, this year, you have £1,000 in the Estimates and, next year, when we come here we will see additional expenditure. Tell us exactly how much you want to spend so that when we get home we will know what to tell our people.

Here, Sir, expenses in respect of members of the Legislature last year totalled £22,000 and, this year, it has been increased to £36,000. I know their trick. You have increased that vote so that you may be able to make augmentations after finishing your own vote for travelling. That is the trick. We are only 124 members here, and 124 members in the other House who claim £22,000 for transport, and now this amount has gone up to.....(interruptions). Have you increased the membership of these Houses? Those of you who are back benchers there know nothing about the Action Group.

Government Benches: You know nothing. Are you an Action Grouper?

Mr Omokowajo: Mr Chairman, Sir, here in the Estimates we have a Chief Whip, two Whips. What are they whipping for God's sake? (Laughter.) They are weeping Jeremiahs.

(Government Benches: *They whip sense into the Opposition.*)

We have got an intelligent Government Chief Whip here, and I think that is sufficient.

These hon. Gentlemen called "whips" just come to this House to collect £1,030 and go to their homes to do their own business. The amount of £2,060 you pay to these whips should be used on something else. Mr Chairman, Sir, the meaning of "whip" is "cane". We do not want these whips. We want just one "Abel" on that side of the House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a House where we have a Clerk who is marking time. Last year, the Clerk to the Regional Legislature was on £2,300 per annum. This year he is on £2,300. Is that austerity measure or what? (Laughter.) If he doesn't go forward, he goes backward like the Ministers are going now. Instead of compensating the clerk..... (Interruptions).

I am not begging for anything from anybody. Mr Chairman, Sir, one of the members mentioned this. I can tell you that several of you were on £240 per annum before being elected into this House to earn £756 per annum. People sent you here because they thought you would contribute reasonably to the debate. Then when you go to some of these Private Secretaries they draft for you "Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg....." Nonsense. Salaries of all Legislators should be reduced. If we are given sitting allowances I shall welcome it. What is the use having Ministers who cannot present Bills.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, the points have been made about the inadequacy of the staff in the Clerks Department in the Legislature as well as the inadequate accommodation of the hon. Mr Speaker. All I can say at this stage, Sir, is that after the passage of Votes under Head 345—Legislature—the Government will look into the points which have been made by the hon. Members.

One Member spoke about the provision which appeared in the Estimates for 1961-62 in connection with the visit of Members of the Legislature to overseas countries. £1,000 was put there and I take time now to explain to hon. Members that because we did not know how many Members of the Legislature will be going to those overseas countries a token figure of £1,000 had to be inserted. After Executive Council approved the number of people going to these overseas countries and we knew how much was likely to be incurred by way of expenditure, we then came here by way of a Supplementary Appropriation Bill to increase the provision under the Head and item of the Legislature to about £12,000.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

The last speaker, Sir, the hon. Mr Omokowajo when he was speaking—(Interruptions).

(Opposition Benches: What did you call it.)

I cannot pronounce properly—I said Omokowajo. When hon. Mr Omokowajo was speaking.....

(Opposition Benches: You are not a Yorubaman).

Chief Odebiyi: I agree, I am a Mid-westerner. (Laughter). When he was speaking, he made the points that the rate of expenditure in respect of that visit was about £21.10s a day. If Members of the Legislature went overseas, in order to make sure for instance that a person like Rev. Edeki did not disturb a person like hon. G. I. Oviasu as far as movement in London was concerned, he should be provided with separate transport, and I am quite sure that if at the time we went on that tour I made a proposal to my hon. colleagues that they should couple up for transport, they would be so unhappy about it. I am quite sure that they would have come here and suggested that the Head of the Treasury should be reduced by £10. I know that the hon. G. I. Oviasu would have waxed in eloquence in disclaiming the activities of the political head of the Treasury. Be that as it may, I think that when Members of the Legislature go on overseas business, representing this Region, we must accord them that dignity which their counterparts enjoy when they come to Nigeria themselves. I do not think that £12,000 spent for six weeks by a twelve-Member Delegation is exorbitant. I do know Sir, that the hon. Omokowajo approached me before we selected..... (Interruptions). He consulted me before we selected Members of the Government as well as the Opposition side of the House, and he wanted me to help to see that he would be included in the number of those who were going to make this visit.

Opposition Benches: Why did you not include him?

Chief Odebiyi: I told him that Parliamentary democracy as well as consultation demanded that it was the Leader of the Opposition who ought to make the arrangement and, after the hon. Member was excluded, I told him it was not my fault but that I was only following Parliamentary procedure.

Mr Omokowajo: I can never travel with the Action Group.

Chief Odebiyi: Then one hon. Member also spoke about the increase in the vote under Head 345, Sub-head 4, namely, Travelling Expenses of Members of Legislature having increased from £22,000 to £36,190. Members of the House will remember that elections to this House were held on 8th August, 1960. Now if you look at page 145 of the Book of Estimates, you will notice that the actual—what we call actual—expenditure in respect of 1961 was £20,087. We have not yet got actual figures in respect of 1961-62 but expenditure which have been incurred so far has pointed to the fact that we are likely to spend not less than £60,000 in the current financial year because we have spent during the last financial year as much as £36,000. When we are estimating, what we use is the actual expenditure incurred in the previous year for the estimates for the next financial year and, in any event, if Members do not come here as often as Government intends, and if we do not increase their mileage beyond what they are getting at the moment, there will not be need for us to come back here for Supplementary Appropriation. But the point is that the provision here presumes that, in view of the fact that we have abolished basic, it is likely that mileage may be considered for increases.

Opposition Benches: What of people who do not get mileage?

Chief Odebiyi: People who do not get mileage, all they can do is to change their constituency from Ibadan, to Okitipupa. (Laughter). Incidentally, Sir, no Minister is paid under this Head of the Estimates for transport. The provision here is intended mainly for Members of the Legislature, excluding Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose the amendment.

Mr Adesanya: Mr Chairman, Sir, in view of Order No. 25, Sir, and in view of the explanation made by the Minister of Finance, I beg to withdraw this Motion. (Interruptions.) (Opposition Benches: No, No.) (Government Benches: Yes, Yes).

Mr Chairman: The hon. Gentleman's Motion is thereby withdrawn.

Question that the sum of £229,180 for Head 345—Legislature—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 705—LOANS

Question proposed that the sum of £2,000,000 for Head 705—Loans—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, we are aware that Local Government Councils and Statutory Corporations have been receiving loans from the Government every time. As a former Councillor, I like to recall that at one time my Council applied to the Government for loan but for the mere fact that it was controlled by the NCNC, this application was turned down. I like to say, Sir, that since the money that is being disbursed is owned by the people of the Western Region, irrespective of their political leanings, such loans as have now been provided for in the Estimates to be given up to Councils and Statutory Corporations in the form of loans should be distributed, Sir, without political discrimination.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Chairman, Sir, on this I refer the House to the fact that if loans are granted, commonsense dictates that the loans are to be recovered. Loans are not free gifts. Monies given out to people, mostly Action Group members, have now turned to be bad debts. Mr Chairman, I like to warn that when loans are given out the conditions of the agreement signed by both parties, that is, between the Government and the borrower, should be strictly followed and stipulations should be observed. Now, at this present moment, the finances of the Government are in a very bad position. The price of cocoa is falling. This is the mainstay of the economy of the Region, and therefore if there are government outstanding loans these loans should be recovered.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the point that I wish to make is that the Government is conniving at a great evil, whereas it is the duty of the Government to see that loans are recovered, and if the borrowers are not prepared to pay back, they should be sued in order to effect recovery. I do not think Government should give out loans without adequate security, and if the people are not prepared to pay, whether individuals or councils, the correct thing should be done and steps taken to see that the loans are recovered. Mr Chairman, this is the observation I have to make.

Mr Omokowajo: Mr Chairman, I beg to make some comments on this Head. The Ikale Idapomarun District Council in Okitipupa, which is controlled and dominated by the NCNC, asked for a loan to build a market but up till now nothing has been done. There is nothing behind it other than the Council belongs to the NCNC. Now I want to say that when you want to give out loans you should not think of the people who are going to use the money but think that the thing which the money is going to be used for

is going to be in the Western Region. That is what should be foremost in your minds. There is another point, Sir. We have so many debtors around Okitipupa area—they are Action Group members—and Government has done nothing to move the people to pay their loans. If you want to help this Region, and not to be protecting your members who raise loans but cannot refund them, adequate steps should be taken to recover the money because it is the Government's property and not the property of the Action Group. Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Chief Odebiyi: I thank those who have spoken from the other side of the House for not saying that the Head should be cut off. The point I have to make is that if their heads were cut off they themselves would not be here. (*Cheers*).

With regard to loan for market, I think that if the Ikale Idapomarun District Council fulfils all the conditions stipulated by the Minister of Local Government there is no reason why the loan should not be given; after all the loan is supposed to be given to District or Divisional Councils for that matter and they pay interest on it. This is a kind of business in itself. Government provides for the money and Councils do ask for the loan for profitable projects, and when they satisfy the conditions the loans will be given to them provided they themselves are credit-worthy enough to pay back both the capital as well as the interest.

With regard to other loans, this Government does not protect any debtor who obtains a loan from Government or from any Statutory Corporations. We are doing every thing possible to recover all the loans which are outstanding. With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

Question that the sum of £2,000,000 for Head 705—Loans—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 722.—THE TREASURY

Question proposed that the sum of £150,000 for Head 722.—The Treasury—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, Sir under this Head we were told that a sum of £150,000 is provided for Lump-sum Compensation. Outside the floor of this House we have been made to understand that this lump-sum compensation is the sum of money paid to expatriates who come to this country to serve the people. For more than a year now we have gained our full independence.

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in their own way. Whatever you think about it, it is the result that you produce that concerns us and that is what will interest the voters of the Region.

Mr Chairman, I take a serious view of my criticism of this head of the Estimates. It is such a very important Ministry to our economy and we shall like to hear the explanation of the Minister of Agriculture why we are not getting good results from his experiments.

Mr Abiosun: In support of the last speaker, Mr Chairman, I would like to say that agriculture is the live wire of the Region. (Interruptions.) That Ministry has never yielded anything. My advice, Mr Chairman, is to regulate spending without profit.

Sir, it was a sad news last year when we heard of a farmers' delegation overseas. I think it will interest this House if the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources can tell us how many of the farmers are actually practising, otherwise what is the use of a battalion of Permanent Secretaries, Parliamentary Secretaries and officials, and even women? Or can the Minister tell us whether Miss Moyo is a farmer? This is an extravagant way of spending our money. I think you cannot go on fooling people all the time. The time has come now when this Ministry makes a change so that the trust reposed in it by the Region may not be withdrawn either by force or by other means. (Laughter.) The Minister of Agriculture should make it possible to organise local training for farmers so that they can inculcate what they learn abroad in these farmers so that these farmers can practise it in their own farms.

With these few remarks, I beg to move.

Mr Oyewole: Mr Chairman, first of all I should like to move that the Head be reduced by five pounds. This Ministry is supposed to be the head of all in the Western Region because the life of every citizen depends on agriculture. Now I could just imagine sometime when I went to the farm to visit my people in Ibadan..... (Government Benches: Where?)

Ibadan area. Now they reported to me that the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources sent some maize to them but the maize failed to germinate. (Laughter.) It could not germinate, it could not grow. I learnt that they got the maize from a certain place. The Ministry of Agriculture used about £300 to buy this maize and they

distributed it all over the Region. To my surprise it could not germinate at all. The Minister of Agriculture is here. He knows everything about it; he knows about the matter. I say, Sir, that it is a waste sending crops out to farmers without a certificate by specialists. Any time that this Ministry wants to send anything abroad, like crops, it is better to let it be examined and passed by a specialist.

It is my belief also that we have so many Agricultural Assistants in the Ministry of Agriculture, according to this Estimate about fifty of them. If you go to them you see that they are doing nothing. They get no job to do because they do not tell them what to do. They only go from one place to another without trying to tell the farmers what to do about their crops. Their duties are just to tell the farmers what they do not know and to find the way by which they can develop their crop, but, instead, these officials travel from place to place, from one place to another doing nothing practically.

I do suggest that the Research Division should be re-constituted into an institute separately, or affiliated to the University of Ife or University College, Ibadan. This will enable our indigenous officers to do more work. If you go to their offices now, you see them dosing; some will just be sleeping, doing nothing; they do not get jobs to do. (Interruptions).

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like that we must find something to help the farmers because farmers, since all these years, have known the methods by which to plant their own cocoa and they have been dealing with many things like crops ever before this time. Every year we waste money on experiments. No good result, nothing whatsoever.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, from time to time we people who live in the rubber producing areas have brought complaints here that our rubber products are not properly cared for. Under sub-head 486 last year a token figure of about £10 was provided for a Rubber Research Officer. In view of the fact that there is no indication that this sum was augmented throughout that financial year, we understood that it means then that no Research Officer was employed. This year too, Sir, a token sum of £10 is allocated. Well if the Government is actually serious about improving rubber produce, the main crop of the Midwest people, it is most proper to see that a Rubber Research Officer is employed. Otherwise, all

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the sums added up together from sub-head 187, 188, 189 and 190 which would have to be disbursed for the purposes of improving rubber produce will not now be used since there is no Research Officer to control the expenditure.

I would like to add, Sir, that, all along, in my constituency, I saw areas (perhaps part of existing rubber plantation) where some acres of areas will be cleared up, the rubber cut down, and then some young rubber trees are supposed to have been planted around. Up till now, Sir, these rubber trees have not survived replanting. I think the error comes from the fact the ground or the soil, after the rubber trees were cut down, was not allowed, perhaps, to regain strength before new ones were replanted. If experiments were carried out in fresh soil, I am quite sure that the rubber research, as that being introduced in the Midwest area, would have yielded a better result.

I have visited the Ogba Agricultural Farm and I notice from there that it is not properly improved enough to cope with the agricultural needs of the area. My constituency is situated in the most fertile land in Benin forests. Uhumode district to Akugbe district area, put together, form that constituency. We have no farm settlement project. I am, on behalf of the people, Sir, requesting this House to see to the way by which farm settlement will be introduced into that area.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we have received information that discrimination by way of sending staff of the Ministry of Agriculture overseas for further studies have been practised in this department. I would, for the safety of the civil servants in charge, not like to mention names, otherwise I should have been able to do so if the Minister of Agriculture requests me to do so through the Chair. Now that he is quiet and never made such a request, I am appealing to the Government to see that such discriminations are no longer practised.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks, I beg to support the amendment that the vote be cut by £5.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chief A. O. Adeyi): Mr Chairman Sir, I rise to say a few words in reply to points raised by Members; and, in doing so, I am opposing the Amendment thus submitted.

The hon. Member who had just spoken referred to corrupt practices among the staff

of the Forestry Division. If a Member knows of any corrupt practices going on among the civil servants, I think the best thing to do to save the good name of this Government is to report such corrupt practices to the proper authorities, and these are the Police. Therefore reporting such corrupt practices on the floor of this House is negligence of duty. (*Applause*).

The same Member also said that the farm settlements established in the Region have not been up to expectation, and he was suggesting that there should be a re-organisation in our farm settlement scheme. I think that the hon. Member should first of all learn to crawl before he starts to walk and then learn to walk before he starts to run. We have just established the farm settlement scheme and, from our experience, I think the whole world is showering praises on the Government of the Western Region in this respect. Therefore if Members have not had the opportunity to see what is going on in other countries, I think they should find the opportunity as early as possible to find out so that they can make a comparison of what we are doing now in our farm settlements.

I would now like to refer to the point raised by another Member in supporting the Amendment. He said that in our agricultural endeavour there has been no sign of success achieved in the Ministry of Agriculture. At the same time, for the first time, he agreed that the Ministry of Education is doing something. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman does not know that knowledge is wealth and that when we are spending at least 45 per cent of the budget on education, this goes to ensure success in our agricultural activities. But since he has only paid a visit to the farm settlement and agricultural institutions in his area, the only one at Effurun, he has not done credit to the opportunity afforded him by the people of his area. I think he should visit more than one farm or experimental station so that he may be able to know what is going on in other areas and also to know how he could advise his people.

He also went on to say that there is no apparent benefit to the farmers in the area. When last I was replying to points made by some Members in this House, I mentioned the fact that the Members of this House should kindly assist me and assist the Government to inform farmers to make use of the agricultural officers who are in the field. They are there to advise farmers, and if farmers in the hon. Gentleman's constituency

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refuse to make use of the agricultural officers, then it will be his look-out and his fault because he has not done the duty for which he was voted for. He should ask the farmers in his area to make use of agricultural officers. They are not to charge a penny on top of what they are earning as salaries. I also said the other day that agricultural assistants are not beyond a distance of five miles from the home of any farmer in this Region and therefore it is up to farmers to make use of the agricultural assistants who are there to advise them any time they need their services. Again I am taking this opportunity to advise the hon. Members to kindly educate farmers in their areas to make use of these agricultural officers who will always advise them as to what kind of crop will be planted in their farms and how to handle their plantations.

Hon. Abioshun supported the Amendment by saying that the Ministry of Agriculture has not yet yielded any tangible result. At the same time he said that farming is the backbone of the economy of this Region. This we know very, very well, and that is why the Ministry of Agriculture is doing all that it could possibly do to make agriculture pleasant to farmers and school leavers, and as well fighting very hard to see that prices of exported produce are as satisfactory as they could be to the farmers.

He went on to criticise the Farmers Goodwill Mission. I think I should have to inform him that Mrs Ogunlesi is not here but she is one of the largest poultry keepers in the Western Region. This Government is not made up of people who would select people who are not farmers to go on farmers goodwill missions. Important farmers were consulted and in their own council meeting they selected reputed farmers to represent them on the goodwill mission and the farmers who went on this mission have done very good job and they have gone round the entire Region to educate the farmers who sent them as to what they have seen in the overseas countries which they went to.

I think the farmers who are directly concerned realise that they have actually benefited more than the hon. Member who comes to the floor of this House to make politics out of nothing.

The hon. Gentleman said that the farmers and parliamentary secretaries went on the mission. I think the hon. Gentleman should go back to consult the people who have given him such curious information and know the facts before he comes to this House to criticise.

The hon. Gentleman went on to say that farmers should be trained. For his information, I would like to tell him that 32,000 farmers in the Midwest have been trained in rubber tapping. Hon. Abioshun comes from Oshogbo area and I would like to inform him that the number of farmers trained in 1961 amount to 53,630. I do not know what kind of training schools the hon. Gentleman wants us to establish for these farmers. As a matter of fact, as far back as 1959, nearly 5,000 rubber tappers were trained in Benin Division. If the farmers who benefited directly from this sort of training do not complain, the hon. Gentleman should get hold of his facts properly before he comes here.

The hon. Gentleman, Oyewole, said that the Ministry of Agriculture supplied maize which could not germinate. It is unfortunate because the hon. Gentleman has no farm and has not been to any farm and he only comes here to say that he was informed. He said that he was informed and we asked "Which farm in Ibadan?" (*Government Benches: Mapo farm in Oja-Oba*). Oja-Oba! I do not know how the hon. Gentleman expects maize or corn to grow on the rock of Mapo. In any case, the Ministry of Agriculture makes the best use of experts and we always go by their advice.

One hon. Member said that there is no Farm Settlement in Benin. The policy of this Government is to see that Farm Settlements are established in each Division. The hon. Gentleman knows very well the rioting, stoning, and killing that characterised that part of the Division and that it will not be easy for the Government to establish a Farm Settlement in a place where there is no peace, calm, and tranquility; but I like to assure the hon. Gentleman that in Benin Division, or Benin Province, we have Farm Institutes and Farm Settlements and there is going to be a Farm Settlement in Benin Division in the 1963 Programme.

With these few remarks, I like to oppose the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £2,479,000 for Head 327.—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 706.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Question proposed that the sum of £1,160,580 for Head 706.—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, I rise to associate myself with the assurances given by the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources that more of agricultural development projects are being introduced in Benin Division. I would only like to say that such institutions should be extended to part of my Constituency which hitherto has been neglected.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 723.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Question proposed that the sum of £77,690 for Head 723.—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

*Sitting suspended at 3.36 p.m.**

Sitting resumed at 8.25 p.m.

HEAD 328.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £189,680 for Head 328.—Ministry of Economic Planning—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Atohengbe: I beg to move that this Head 328 be reduced by £5.

It was in 1956 that I had the fortune of being a member of the third annual Shasha Training Course. I can well say that I was one of those Shasha boys who constructed the road from Ajegunle *via* Ojo. The effect of good result of having attended that course is inestimable and invaluable. We were so impressed that we had wished that the Government should come to our area and establish some sort of Shasha Boys Training Camp in order to be able to educate our people to realise the effect or good result of community development.

Well, Sir, we tried as much as we could but, up till now, we have not got Government's encouragement. I am now appealing to the Government to see to it that, since a large sum of money is allocated for community development this financial year, the Minister in charge should find the best way of establishing a similar training camp in the Midwest area. For sometime now, the Community Development Officer or the Assistant Community Development Officer there has been transferred to Agbor. Since his transfer, the office there became greatly reduced from what it was. In view of this incident, Sir, I appeal to the Minister in charge to see that there is a resuscitation of the office.

Then, as far as the boys and girls clubs are concerned, the helper we had in Benin, one Mr Omoregie, did his best until he was also removed to Agbor. Since his departure from Benin, the spirit of boys and girls clubs also dwindled.

At the moment, there is no existence of boys and girls clubs in Benin. Also, Sir, adult education programme as being practised in Benin Division is not effective enough. We want more hands or staff to be employed in this service, so that a number of our people who had not the chance of attending schools in the early days should now be educated.

With these few remarks, I beg to move that this Head be reduced by £5.

Mr Okumagba: I support the Mover that the Head be actually reduced by £5.

Amendment proposed.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo: Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion for the reduction of £5 from this Head, I will have to mention Sir, that, if you scan through this Head, there is nothing you will find there more than salaries and personal emoluments. Much as I would praise the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development, I would wish to see that this particular Ministry does not require two Ministers. One is sufficient.

Our honourable Chief—an intelligent Oba, a capable man—alone is sufficient to do the job. If the appointment of two Ministers is not meant to provide a job for the hon. Gentleman, I feel that putting two Ministers is just a waste of money. A Minister is sufficient. And somebody we trust, for that matter. A chief in the Western Region—a reputable person—an Oba. (*Interruptions*). But you have confused the whole thing, when you mix Chiefs with Obas and all of them go about in the Western House! (*Laughter*). I feel that one Minister should be enough in that Ministry.

I would say that the Community Development Officer—or what do you call him: Adult Education Officer in our area, to be frank, Sir, is an Action Group supporter, but he is a hard worker. He does not mix politics with his job. I am saying that. He is a Civil Servant. I am telling you that he is a hard worker because he got that job from the person with whom I contested the nomination to stand for election. I am telling you that when the man contested the nomination with me he failed. Then the Action Group had to send my colleague off and then put this man

[Mr Omokowajo]

there. But I am telling you in this House that, despite that fact, he has been going round the villages; by the Grace of God, Sir, I am a member of nearly all the Committees of all the Development Organisations in Okitipupa.

I will go further and say that our people will prefer the Adult Education Organiser in Okitipupa, instead of your ill-equipped, windowless free primary schools. If you have got these adult education organisers to go round, Sir, and educate our young elements it will be something of joy to our people. Now, Sir, I feel that if you want the people in this Region to enjoy some benefits from this Region, adult education should be pursued vigorously. Some people have joined your party because by going to the adult education schools, they have been able to read *Irohin Yoruba*.

So, I think, Sir, that, apart from other points, I have got to congratulate the Minister and to emphasise that in that particular Ministry we require just one Minister.

Community Development.—Sir, I am very happy that this sum has been raised from £5,000 to £39,550. In our Division, Sir, we do not wait for the Government before we do our things. Some time ago, Sir, when the Action Group Government gave a certain contract to some people to construct the Iyewa River bridge in Okitipupa Division for £1,500, the Contractor refused to build this bridge but I had to go, with the help of the Adult Education Organiser there, and tell the people that we should work before we are helped by the Government. We have done the work now, Sir, and have been asking for Government's aid for over eight months. In fact when we were doing the job, I knew that the Action Group would say we have done nothing. I told the people to take pictures there, to write their names down, and I told the Action Group candidate who contested with me, because we were working hand in hand over there Sir, to put down the names of all the people who came to work there. We have sent to this Ministry for over eight months, Sir, but there is nothing forthcoming. If I had done it or if it had been an NCNC job, all alone, then you could say it is all NCNC, but the man I defeated in the election helped to bring his Action Group men, and I brought my NCNC supporters to do the job on Iyewa River in Okitipupa Division. Up till now, there is nothing forthcoming. So I will be happy if it could be noted that the people who work

there should be compensated because that will encourage the people over there to do more.

An hon. Member: Consult the Development Officer there.

Mr Omokowajo: He is never found there.

Motor Vehicles—Maintenance and Running Costs.—Last year, you bought motor vehicles for that Ministry for £900. The vehicles you are buying this year, you want to maintain them again with £900. How many vehicles do you want to buy in that Ministry? I should ask that, Sir, because an Oba is in charge of that Ministry, I don't want to embarrass him—(Interruptions). (*Government Benches: Good talk—don't embarrass the Oba*)—and as I am from a ruling family, I don't want to worry him. Mr President, Sir, with this few points I support the motion that £5 be reduced from that Head.

Mr C. O. Olamigoke (Okitipupa North-East): Mr President Sir, I rise to support the Motion that a sum of £5 be reduced from this Head and in doing so, Sir, I will have to remark that the Ministry has concentrated so much on the Urban area at the expense of the rural areas. The Ministry has discouraged people in the rural areas in that when they write to the Ministry for help or aid, they were promised that the aid was forthcoming but nothing was found. A certain road was constructed at Ode-Irele in Okitipupa Division. The townspeople altogether, irrespective of party leaning, worked to construct the road. The people later wrote for aid to this Ministry but there was nothing heard up to the present moment. Besides, Sir, there were boys and girls clubs. The Adult Education Organisers visited us and they promised to give us Government help but up till the present moment, there was nothing done—so that those boys and girls became fed up with the promises of the Ministry. I will have to advise that the Ministry should think now of the rural areas and try to encourage boys and girls clubs and, besides, Community Development projects must be encouraged so that if this is done, I think it will have to go a long way to the credit of the Ministry. It has been said that a Minister is enough for this Ministry, and we do not doubt the integrity and ability of our Oba to cope with this Ministry; that is the reason why I am supporting somebody who has suggested that in this Ministry, one of the Ministers there should be removed.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am happy to note that the Gentleman who first spoke, is a

[OBA AKRAN]

Shasha graduate and I think that in this House we have seen the result of what comes or what happens to people who have been to Shasha. The wonderful school makes you young. I am aware of all he has said; the fact is that he may not know it, but actually, in the Midwest we have a place which can be used as Shasha. We have a Pilot project in Onitsha Oloha where at present we have forty youngmen working. They have cleared about 100 acres of land and they are in the process of planting rubber—two acres per head for this period—then they will go on again. There are other people who can go and help them and learn and go elsewhere and do likewise.

About boys and girls clubs, I shall first of all look into the question of the man who has been transferred to Agbor and see whether the officer in charge will be able to help by sending somebody to the area because, wherever we find Shasha graduates, people who are willing to give the necessary help to their people, we like to help them to achieve their purpose. So we shall look into that. As to boys and girls clubs, it is entirely dependent upon the help which the leaders in the area are willing to give. I don't think it is a good thing that when Government sponsored a Club or got a group of Clubs ready, when the Officer goes away that everything should die down. That would mean that the people of the area themselves have been leaving everything to Government to do, which is very very much unlike the community development spirit.

About Adult Education, what I say here will provide the answer to the other people who have said something in that regard. We have just now, in addition to work going on in the field, got some person—a specialist staff—who is at the moment writing out a new system of Adult Education which will soon be put in operation. We shall hope that, by that means, the work will progress very rapidly.

As to the necessity of having a second Minister in this Ministry, I think the hon. Gentlemen will readily agree that we should have a Minister responsible for Community Development. That is not a work that one person can cope with. We have projects all over the place; we have clubs, and we have pilot projects. I am afraid that if we are going to do it properly, if we are to do it in the way it should be done, somebody must be going round all the time. Hence you want somebody in addition to the senior man in the place. We did

many things in that Ministry although it is not strictly executive, excepting for Community Development, but I am sure that a second Minister is very necessary indeed.

I am most unhappy to hear from hon. Gentlemen, particularly the Gentleman from Okitipupa, that they have done work for which they have not got any assistance from Government. That is something I shall have to look into. It is very unusual. Perhaps the hon. Gentlemen did not let us know when they were carrying on with this community development projects, but if we knew and approved them there was no reason at all why they shouldn't have got something; but I heard from officials here on hand that we have, as a matter of fact, made a grant of £1,000 to Okitipupa and that it is deposited with the Treasury for community development work in that Division. It is quite possible that you did not let them know what you did in time, but we have made this grant.

Another thing which has surprised me is the charge that we have concentrated so much on the urban areas. I am sure we are doing at least as much in the rural areas as we are doing in the urban areas. As a matter of fact, I myself would say we are doing so much in the rural areas than we are doing in Urban areas, but if hon. Gentlemen will be willing to help to give the proper leadership to their people and let us know when they are going to start a project, we shall send people to inspect and to make sure that it can be done by a Community, we shall always be willing to help. That is what the grant is for. I don't see that much has been said here, but if I may say this just now, this year which is just ended, we have made grants for Benin Division—£500 as Community Development grant; Ishan £1,000; Afenmai £200; Asaba £500; Agbor £900; Warri £400; Urhobo, in one case, £1,500, and Western Ijaw, £1,000; Okitipupa, as I have mentioned, £1,000; and we have other things happening in the field like the Pilot projects on which we are spending much. (*Interruptions*).

As a matter of fact, the hon. Gentlemen have spoken reasonably. I should like to inform them that thousands of pounds have been granted to their communities and I hope that when they require more grants and Government sees that their needs are worth looking into, they would be considered. As I have said, Sir, their communities have already got thousands of pounds; for example when the Sapele Youth Centre was being considered my Ministry gave them £2,000;

[OBA AKRAN]

we also gave them £1,500 for their other needs.

Well, Mr Chairman, I do not think there is anything odd at the moment. The hon. Gentlemen have been very kind to me and I thank them very much. (*Applause*).

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £189,680 for Head 328.—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 724.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £49,000 for Head 742.—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West I): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have this to say. I am the Chairman of Warri and District Federation of Boys' and Girls' Clubs. The one big problem we have always had at Warri is that we have the feeling that the Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development is not doing enough; for instance, we the leaders who support these boys and girls find ourselves subscribing now and then to maintain these clubs. Government should do something to help. We require transport for these boys and girls so that they can visit Benin, Ibadan and such other places, as the case may be, to watch sporting activities, boxing and the festival of the arts. We feel that at such times Government should make transport available from Ibadan to collect these youths and when the show is over the transport can be returned.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the former Minister in that Ministry promised when he came on a visit to Warri that he would help the Warri District Federation of Boys and Girls Clubs to build a club house, but up till the moment, no financial help from the Ministry has been received to that effect. I feel Sir, that regular visits by Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries will go a long way to encourage these boys and girls. I admit that we have sometimes had the services of a good Youth Organiser, who knows his work very well, but at other times such as now, the Youth Organiser is not quite as active as we would want him to be and this tends to make the work difficult. We the supporters of Youth Clubs in the Warri and Sapele District Federation of Boys and Girls Clubs are becoming exhausted over taxing ourselves

every now and then to help boys to travel here and there. I should be grateful if Government would look into the difficulties of these Youth Clubs.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move this Head be reduced by a small sum of £5 only.

Mr Chairman: I shall be glad if hon. Members will please speak aloud so that Reporters can hear them. They find it difficult to report if speeches are not audible. I hope Members will co-operate, to make the work of these Reporters lighter, by speaking aloud.

Amendment proposed.

Oba Akran: Mr Chairman, Sir, really, I must take this opportunity to speak on the help (grants) which my Ministry has rendered to Youth Clubs in Warri and Sapele. I would like to report that voluntary organisations in these areas have received grants from my Ministry. I can even say, without any fear at all, that these areas received adequate grants—more than some larger areas in the Western Region.

Mr Chairman, I appreciate what the hon. Gentleman has said. I have this to say, Sir, when next the hon. Gentleman speaks about Youth Clubs and makes suggestions, they will naturally receive due consideration. I have in mind, in particular, his advice for us to make transport available for the use of Boys and Girls who want to travel to various places to watch sporting activities, boxing and other activities. I shall pass this suggestion on to the officials concerned so that they can look into this matter because I do not want Warri to go down at all. (*Applause*).

Turning to the question of the club house, I am sure that Warri merits a first-class club house, but I am sure that the hon. Gentleman will himself realise that he has to do much more. We do not want Government to go and initiate these things; we make grants but people themselves have to contribute in large measure. The work we are doing in Sapele at present costs a lot of money; actually I believe that when they have completed it, it will be about £50,000 and we have given them £2,000. I know that other people donated handsomely at the beginning and the club house will soon be opened—I think in June. As I have said, if the hon. Gentleman will go back and initiate the proposal to build a Youths Club worthy of Warri, he will find that Government will not be lagging behind at all; we shall make our own contribution. I think that is all I have to answer for, Mr Chairman.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £49,000 for Head 724.—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 329.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed that the sum of £8,807,980 for Head 329—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Omokowajo: Mr Chairman Sir, before getting on with the other part of this Head 329, I have got remark, as I have said previously in this House, that when we speak of proper Ministers, square pegs in square holes, we have them in the Ministry of Education. (*Cheers*). The Minister of Education is a qualified teacher and at once a lecturer; the Minister in the Ministry of Education is a former Supervisor; I think, Sir, that with the two Ministers, we have nothing against them at all. In moving this motion I say that the Ministers are good, but what of the work of their rank and file?

Of the grants in aid to primary schools, what we of the Opposition stand here for is to be able to give constructive criticisms so that the Government too will be able to do something reasonable. In Okitipupa Division, Sir, about grants in aid to primary schools, you will find that in the creek areas—it is a pity that somebody from that area is not here—the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Chieftaincy Affairs—you will see one school here; when you walk twenty yards you will get another; and in some of these schools you will not find fifteen children. The headmasters, because they want to receive allowances would say Primary 1A has thirty pupils and B has sixty pupils. They would write that there are so many pupils in classes so, so and so, and these pupils are not there! There is no need telling such lies in order to cheat the Government. If the pupils are not many, I think the best thing is to send the few children to other schools and close these schools. I have learnt that headmasters receive grants on the number of pupils they have got in schools. Do head-labourers have to get grants because of the number of labourers they keep? Does the Minister of Finance get allowances for the number of people working under him? So there is no need giving any headmaster a bonus. It is a colossal waste. There is no reason for that and I am opposing it without fearing the consequence.

If you go to some of the primary schools (formerly in the Education Department you

pay them five shillings per pupil), count the number of card-boards and apparatus in the schools; you will find that schools that have been existing for over five years have no apparatus worth five pounds. You give the money to the Supervisors without asking Auditors to go into the accounts. What do you expect them to do?

These schools in fact are windowless. Your schools are windowless, ill-equipped, dangerous and dilapidated (*Laughter*). I think, Sir, that in Okitipupa Division now, when you give the contractors £200 for one classroom (you have got a previous classroom), it is just a question of one wall this way, one the other way, and one that way round, and although the contractor is told to do it with stone foundation, the contractor will do it with mud from foundation to top—no stone in the foundation! If you go there with shoes having protectors, you will find that by the time you get out of the school there is no cement on the ground again.

According to what I said some time ago, there are some pupil teachers working harder than even Grade II Teachers, some E.T.C. teachers working harder than Higher Elementary teachers; so if the Government wants to encourage teachers, what to do is to go into these schools and see that teachers are given remuneration according to the work done in the classrooms. If I continue longer I will mention the name of one teacher. He left his station for about three weeks loitering about, drinking palm wine and “African Mashanko” (*Laughter*). To get the teachers working, those who have less than 30 per cent success at the end of the year should be dismissed with ignominy. I was a teacher for eleven years. We were teachers together (I and the hon. Member on the Government side). (*Laughter*).

Government Benches: What are you now?

Mr Omokowajo: I am now a transport magnate, a financier and an industrialist. (*Prolonged laughter*).

The poor farmer in the farm cannot read the progress card of his child who is going to school, but we can read such reports. I feel that proper check be instituted on teachers.

I am glad that Supervisors are nowhere now. I support it. I am sorry to waste your time, Mr Chairman, I happened to have met a supervisor. I said: “What do you think about this question of removing these supervisors?” He said: “Very bad”. But I was very happy that they are removed because if

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the supervisors are not removed, the Region will have nothing left in five years' time. The supervisor will requisition for "thirty wall clocks". He will come to Ibadan here, to one of his cousins who will prepare a voucher for thirty wall clocks. Go to the schools, you will not find any wall clock. The Ministry of Education is so bold to do away with these supervisors and it is something for which the Government must be congratulated. (Applause).

Electricity and Water.—I think, Sir, that £3,000 is just too much. Let us use our firewood and reduce all this money spent on electricity and water.

Local Transport and Travelling.—A lot has been said about this huge sum of money spent on Local Transport and Travelling. I am not going to challenge the two Ministers concerned, Sir. We want the Minister to visit our area regularly. We have a Catholic Grammar School there. The School is well staffed and well equipped and the building is imposing, with Rev. Fathers with M.A., B.A. degrees, etc., as teachers. If you come to Okitipupa to see the Catholic Grammar School, you will be so impressed that you will like to see that the School is grant-aided.

Mr Chairman, Sir, under Technical Education Division, we have a Chief Technical Officer, Group 6, a Principal Technical Officer, Group 7. This is a colossal waste. What do you mean by "Chief" and "Principal?" They are the same thing. So, Mr Chairman, Sir, if the Chief Technical Officer and the Principal Technical Officer should be one man, that would save the Government £2,700.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I come to the Inspectorate Division. I am telling you, Sir, that there have been some occasions when people in the Inspectorate Division were sent up to Okitipupa to inspect the schools to see that there was the required number of pupils in the schools, they did not do that. Now, the people said that the Government prefers them to go into some schools. Whether you have pupils or not, they are going to the nearest schools. If the money is there, instead of wasting it you can spend it on other things.

In reply to the speech made by one of our learned men from Okitipupa, the Minister replied that we have got Modern Schools over there. I wish to know where the Modern Schools are. At Irele, where we have over ten Primary Schools, we have only one Modern School. At Ireliye, where we

have only one Secondary School, there is no Modern School there.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I know that my time is up. With these remarks, I beg to move that Head 329 be reduced by £5.

Mr Olamigoke: Mr Chairman, Sir, I have this comment to make. Some have said that Head 329 should be reduced by £5, and I associate myself with them; but on the Free Primary Education, we have got to praise the Minister of Education for making such a heavy building project. There are several school buildings in my area. The Minister of Education has made some bold plans, one of which has been the abolition of the post of Supervisors. There are some schools in which you have very few school children, but now you have increased the number of Inspectorate Assistants. Very good. But there must be an arrangement whereby people should be well looked after because schools in remote areas are not well supervised. The Government is giving help but the Local Councils do not pay their own share on Other Expenses Grant. Government must see to it that these Local Councils pay their own share of Other Expenses Grant.

Now, Mr Chairman, the Government should be good enough to merge some of these schools together in order that they may be able to be equal with the task that they are confronted with.

Now, something should be done to the "C" Teachers. The Government has done something in that way, *i.e.*, the establishment of in-service training, but they are so few that only the negligible fraction of these teachers can be benefited from this in-service training. There must be inspection of schools so that these teachers who are actually hardworking should be encouraged in order that they may continue the work of education in this Region.

Now, I come to Examination Fees. I was a little bit perturbed that examination fees should have been put at £38,000. Those in the Modern Schools pay as much as fifteen shillings. I wonder why so much has been voted for examination, because the children in the Primary schools and the children in the Modern schools pay examination fees when they want to take their final examination.

There is a world of difference between the urban schools and schools in the rural areas because there are several amenities enjoyed by the children in the urban schools which are not enjoyed by the children in the rural areas. What is the arrangement of the

[MR OLAMIGOKE]

Minister of Education about introducing broadcasting, perhaps television, to schools in rural areas? They are children of this Region and they are entitled to the amenities enjoyed by the children in the towns.

If we want this Region to provide good sportsmen, we have got to start right from the Primary schools. When Inspectorate officers go to inspect schools they must have to place special importance on sports in Primary schools.

There is a lot of injustice to some school masters in that when Inspectors go to visit schools they will have to report against teachers for children not having text-books. Are the teachers in charge expected to buy textbooks for these children? At one time the Inspectors raised the question of bad buildings against the teachers. Are the teachers responsible for all these bad buildings? It is not the fault of these teachers. So that when they go to inspect they have to confine their activities to the work of the teachers in the schools. Now somebody is suggesting that if children do not do well the teachers should be dismissed. No, it is not so. Mr Chairman, Sir, it is not the fault of the teachers, it is the fault of the local council. The schools are ill-equipped and it is when you provide the bricks that the people can work. It is when the teachers have the materials to work with that they can do their best in that circumstances.

So that when schools are ill-equipped and perhaps children have no textbooks and perhaps schools are bad, teachers should not be punished for it. When school Inspectors go about to award points against teachers over these things I feel it is most unfair.

I feel that when you come here to say that these Modern school leavers should not go to offices to seek jobs, it is you who have made it so, because in Primary schools, parents and children do not attach importance to hand-work in schools. It seems to me that that aspect of education is not well looked after. I am advising that trained Instructors should be in the Secondary Modern Schools and even in Primary Schools because when children start to work right from an early age with their hands it will not be difficult for them to go perhaps, to the farm or, perhaps, to do any other job other than white collar job.

I have said earlier on that there are certain teachers who actually have been teaching for a long time and who have been doing

very good work and should be encouraged. There should be special grades for them in order to encourage them.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to take my seat.

Amendment proposed.

Mr J. U. E. Agbaza (Urhobo East II): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Head in the Estimates. (*Opposition Benches: Are you going to support the Amendment?*)

I am opposing his Amendment. (*Opposition Benches: He is a Midwesterner!*)

Because I am a Midwesterner, that is the reason why I can very well counteract what you are saying here because you are trying to deceive this House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I never like to listen to these detractors because they are never in the Midwest themselves. Like what I said the other day, I am saying that the Midwest has never had it so good, and I am still saying it today. However, we have to be very happy that if you look throughout the Heads of the Estimates you will see, Mr Chairman that there is a lot of money being spent for extending Secondary Grammar schools in the Midwest Area. If I may say so, I can even name the Edo College, the Ughelli Grammar School and so many others which are being extended, so that education in the Midwest Area should for once be made. I think that, Mr Chairman, we are and should be grateful to the Government that the Midwest Area schools have taken a very new outlook.

Mr Chairman, Sir, there are just one or two points concerning Isoko area which I would like to point out, Sir, I am not satisfied with the way the children or students are admitted into the Higher Elementary Training College. This is not actually a Government matter, but what I am trying to bring before the Government is that in the only Teacher Training College, only Easterners are there. The Government of this Region provides the money to train teachers in the only Western Region Teacher Training College, and I have to say that there you have more Easterners than Westerners. I think that is something which Government has to look into. I am saying this with every amount of seriousness and I am very sure of my facts. Mr Chairman, Sir, I have already caused a personal and private inquiry to be held into the institution and I am satisfied, Mr Chairman, that what the Principal does in that institution is that he gets an Ibo man from the Eastern Region, he comes to the

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college and he says that he came from the Asaba area or that he came from Agbor or from Irrua.

As a result he gives a fictitious town, a fictitious father, a fictitious village, merely to ensure that he is admitted to that institution. We have now come to a position where Ibos man the college in Isoko and we have nobody.

(Opposition Benches: Don't be tribalistic).

This is not a question of being tribalistic. This is a question of being frank and I am facing the facts, Mr Chairman. I should be grateful if the Minister of Education will look into these facts as far as the only Teacher Training College is concerned.

There is a grammar school at Uzoro. This grammar school has for a long time been doing very well and fine; it has been inspected several times and it has been existing for the past six years and Government has approved it. Mr Chairman, grants-in-aid paid to this institution are not what we have expected. Incidentally I am a member of the Board of Governors. I really think that it is not because Government does not want to do anything but merely that certain facts which ought to be brought by the institution before hon. Minister have not been brought before him. I am merely appealing to the hon. Minister of Education that as soon as he gets those facts he should please ensure that he allows us to get grants for that institution.

Another point, Mr Chairman, is the way teachers are terminated in the Isoko area. I am not really satisfied about it and I am going to give you a particular instance. There was a teacher, Mr Chairman, called Mr Eyeye. He has been teaching for—*(Laughter and Interruptions from all sides of the House)*. This teacher has been teaching for twenty-two years in the C.M.S. Mission in Isoko district area. He is a Grade Two teacher and he has got his G.C.E. Last year, this teachers' child was very ill and he took the only child he has got in his life to the doctor at Emevor. It was on a Sunday and this doctor, female doctor, refused to attend to this child; she is Doctor Phillips, and the child died at Emevor. The doctor said she does not see patients on Sundays. Well, of course, Mr Chairman, as a representative of the area I protested to the doctor in writing. Then the next moment, what happened? Mr Chairman, Sir, Eyeye was sick, and he

became unconscious, his family wanted to take him before the doctor but they were afraid of what had happened in respect of the child of this very Mr Eyeye, and they refused to take this very man before the very doctor, and so this very teacher was taken before a private native doctor for treatment. But what happened? The C.M.S. turned round the following day and said that because this teacher has not conformed with the practice in the C.M.S. religion, he has to be terminated. And a teacher who has put in twenty-two years, his teaching service was terminated out-right like that, and he was asked to pack from the quarters with ignominy.

Mr Chairman, quite frankly, you know that if a teacher has put in ten years service at least he is entitled to something like pension and he is entitled to some form of consideration but I do not see why a teacher who has put in twenty-two years service, just because he was treated by a native doctor has to lose his appointment. Of course I made a protest again to the authorities and what they told me was that if I liked I could take the matter to court.

(Opposition Benches: What is the name of the man?)

The name of the teacher is Agbaza. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Chairman, this is really amusing the Members but it does not amuse me because the man comes from my constituency and my duty as a legislator is to ensure that people in my constituency are not unfairly treated. And I am saying this with all seriousness that the Minister of Education is to look into this. There is no law in the Western Region which says that if a teacher consults a private or native doctor he is to be terminated especially if his services had been very good and there had been no question or any type of complaint against him. I do not think that there is any good reason leading to his termination, but as he has been terminated, I am actually asking this august House to look into the matter.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this is merely perhaps repeating what I said the other day in a nutshell and which I was asked to keep up until the debates on this Head. It was on the question of the age for attending schools in the rural areas. I mentioned, Mr Chairman, Sir, the other day that in the rural areas, we have not got children who can be as brilliant as in the town or urban areas. That is to say, Mr Chairman, that in the urban areas, you

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have children who have never seen television, electric light; they have never seen radios and they never know what you are talking about when you are teaching them. When you tell them about television, they think that you are talking about God or something else. So Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that in the rural areas the school age has to be raised because the children there are so young and so uncivilised and so unintelligent that they do not even know what you are teaching them. But in the township areas and in the urban areas because they meet and mix a lot with other people, they can understand more readily and understand what you are telling them. Mr Chairman, Sir, if the Minister of Education should look into this, at least in the Isoko areas, I will be very happy. Then Mr Chairman, Sir, I must have to come to the conclusion.

It is not a matter which affects only the Western Region Government as a Government; it is a matter which affects the Federation as a Government. You know now, Mr Chairman, that in Nigeria, we are going to have five universities. We have the Ahmadu Bello University in the North; we have the Lagos University; we have the Ife University and the Ibadan University, and we have the Nsukka University. Where are we going to put all these graduates when they come out? I think, Mr Chairman that since our Government has been leading in all projects in the country, our Government should get the Federal Government to understand that an actual programme has to be developed so that there should be a provision as to how these graduates from universities should be properly placed. I think our Minister of Education should direct other Ministers of Education in the country to that effect. *(Cheers.)*

Before ending, Mr Chairman, Sir, I am merely sounding a note of warning on these secondary modern schools. They have been quite good and they are proving most useful in the rural areas. In particular, I am very happy that, in my constituency, secondary modern schools are a success. The only thing which my electorate has asked the Minister of Education to look into is whether the length of time in modern schools can be extended. *(Interruptions.)*

Chief Osuntokun: The last speaker has complained about Mr Oniyeye *(laughter)*. He said Mr Oniyeye had been terminated and he expected the Minister of Education to look into that. *(Laughter)*. I think he means

that the appointment of Mr Oniyeye has been terminated—*(interruptions)*. His correct name is Mr Eyeye. *(Laughter.)*

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: Mr Chairman, Sir, it is not correct to say that the primary education scheme of the Western Region is poor. I can give a practical example. My own daughter also experienced the same thing. After passing out from the primary school, she gained admission into a Secondary Grammar School. Mr Chairman, I would like to refer Members of the Opposition to Hansard of the Eastern House of Assembly. A member of the Government side there said "You will agree with me Sir, that in our Primary Schools, the standard of efficiency of education advancement is getting lower and lower every year". Therefore, Sir, our Free Primary Education is the best in the country. *(Cheers.)*

Finally, Sir, hon. Olamigoke mentioned that he congratulated the Minister of Education in regard to the work in his Ministry. I would like to associate myself with these remarks. I now come to other Members who would like to criticise the Ministry to be very, very careful. *(Interruptions.)* We have heard from the Government side what Government has spent on its Primary Education. *(Interruptions.)* Definitely our standard of education is the highest in the Federation. You will be surprised to hear Sir, that the Free Primary Education in the East has been abolished. *(Interruptions.)*

Mr J. O. Abiosun: Mr Chairman, in the first place—*(interruptions)*—the education system in the Western Region is moving well—*(cheers)*—but the method of approach is faulty. What is worth doing at all is worth doing well. When the Primary Education was started in 1955, I can remember and those of us who were here could remember, that we were jubilating, thinking that everything would go on like that, but, at a certain stage, the experiment flopped.

Somebody has said something about age group. The Minister of Education will be helping the nation a great deal if he can consider the age to enter school by children from the rural areas and the children from urban areas. Mr Chairman, Sir, it will be helping the nation a great deal if the present syllabus is looked into and, if possible, the Minister should be advised to make a general scheme for uniformity of purpose so that what is being taught in one school is taught in another.

[MR ABIOSUN]

What move is Government making to utilise these buildings? What is good for the goose is good for the gander.

Mr Chairman, Sir, more attention is being paid to boys' secondary grammar schools at the expense of girls' secondary schools. If you look round, you see many girls angling for secondary education.

Grants.—I think it will be good if the Minister finds means to see that schools make judicious use of the grants made to them. In some cases the grants are used to build Headmaster's offices and in other cases these Headmasters are not entitled to Headmaster's offices.

Supervisors.—Mr Chairman, I do not support the removal of school Supervisors. These are a set of people who have delivered Government from the hands of fraudulent managers. Many of these local managers are complete illiterates. (*Interruptions.*) If Government sends away these people, schools will suffer greatly. Many schools will be put to great disadvantage if these men are removed. Let the Supervisors continue in office. They should not go.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we are very happy to hear that an Inquiry is going on to ascertain the amount of fees being charged in secondary grammar schools in the Region. It will be good if the Inquiry is not thrown away as in the case of the Delumo Cocoa Inquiry. Some fraudulent people should be prosecuted after the inquiry.

Mr Chairman, we have some Muslim schools in the Region. (*Interruptions.*) I want the schools to be given good and adequate Arabic teachers. (*Government Benches: What are you?*)

I am a shadow Minister of Finance. (*Prolonged laughter.*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, there should be a great deal of re-orientation in the siting of Trade Centres in this Region. (*Interruptions.*) It will be good if examination fees are completely abolished. In those days we never paid a farthing but now-a-days.....(*interruptions.*)

Mr J. A. Ajuwon: Mr Chairman, Sir, point of order; Order 29 (5): Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.

Mr Riemu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support that the sum of £5 be reduced from the Ministry of Education Head of the Estimates. I must draw the attention of this House to the present free primary education

scheme which is very unpopular. Right now it has gone on for more than ten years and I think that it needs some radical change. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, because of the principle of automatic promotion, whether children do well or not they are shifted from one class to another at the end of the year. This is a very unpopular scheme. This unpopular scheme was introduced by the first Minister of Education, Mr S. O. Awokoya. When this scheme was introduced in this Region, people thought that it would bring some good for the people of the Region. But now, in the end, we have come to see that, instead of being a help to the people, it is a trouble. More or less it is doing more harm than good.

I have about six children. When I say six children I am talking of those inside and outside of my house. (*Laughter.*) Some of these children have been managed up to primary six stage. What I do from time to time is to hire a private teacher for them to coach them. (*Interruptions.*) So that I have to say that this very system should be changed to allow boys and girls to get real education no matter how costly it may be. If we want to be properly educated we must foot the bill.

Another system of education is that of Secondary Modern Schools. When they go there they pay from about £13 to £20 a year as school fees. (*Interruptions.*)

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Chairman, Sir, hon. Atohengbe is sleeping. It is because of the boring speech of the hon. Member. (*Laughter.*)

Mr Riemu: I now come, Mr Chairman, Sir, to my point—that of the secondary modern school—which is said to help those boys and girls who were unable to gain admission to secondary grammar schools. The point that I am trying to make is that that system cannot work because boys and girls who leave that school have nothing to do. Apart from that fact, Mr Chairman, they know nothing at all. I know that when one of our Members on this side of the House made this point a few minutes ago somebody on that side, I think an Alhaji, got up to tell us the number of children who have passed out from primary schools to secondary modern schools and who, perhaps, are doing well at present. I would like to tell the Alhaji that as far as that is concerned the children who are doing well in the secondary modern schools are those whose parents find time after their days work to lecture them on what to do and what not to do with reference to their lessons.

[MR RIEMU]

Mr Chairman, Sir, in those good old days when many parents were illiterates they entrusted the education of their children in the hands of the teachers, but, today, teachers are doing nothing, due perhaps to the very bad curriculum. Today if you boast by saying "we sent in about fifty children to take the entrance examination to King's College and 48 passed", that may be attributed to the amount of work done by the children's parents themselves. That is just one point. Mr Chairman, Sir, in any case, before I leave this point I would like to recommend to the Minister to re-introduce the old standard VI, no matter the cost to us. I have said before that we are prepared to pay for education.

Another point, Mr Chairman, is the shortage of Government secondary schools for girls in this Region, particularly in the Midwest. Throughout the Midwest area there is not one Government-sponsored Grammar School for girls. One thing that really embarrasses me about that is that when I hear over the radio that the Premier is opening one Girls' Secondary School at Oyo; another one at Ogbomosho—all Government sponsored—I begin to think of my own place. There should have been equal opportunities for boys and girls in this Region as far as education is concerned. If such opportunities do exist in some parts of this Region they should be extended at least to the.....

Mr Chairman: Order, order. The hon. gentleman's time is up.

Mr Riemu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I move that the £5 be cut off, whether the Minister likes it or not.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose that Motion that was moved on my Ministry's Head of the Estimates; and, in opposing it, I would like to answer some of the criticisms levelled at my Ministry.

First of all, I notice that Members of the Opposition Benches have showered some encomiums on me. I would like to say that a number of policies which we are prosecuting now were not necessarily originated by me. A number of them had been in the offing, and I must pay tribute to my predecessor in office who had actually started to re-organise a number of these. (*Applause*). Also, I would like to pay tribute to my colleague, the Regional Minister in my Ministry. We work in conjunction, and there is not one policy that could be attributed to one individual. (*Applause*).

Now in proceeding let me refer to a point which was made about the gross abuse which a number of school proprietors made on the collection of 5s per pupil. That was a very good point. In paying grants for other expenses for schools at the rate of 5s per pupil, we have found out that, in truth, they had been abused by some proprietors by writing fictitious names in classes in order to collect 5s per pupil. Therefore, we have now re-organised that section of our educational administration. From now onward, grants will be per class—a definite amount of money will be paid per class, whether there are ten pupils in the class, or thirty pupils in the class, or forty in the class, there will be so much per class, and that abuse will be eradicated thereby.

Mr Chairman, Sir, there is one very obvious point made by an hon. Member which I would like to go over. The Member has opposed the inclusion in the Estimates of the post of Chief Technical Officer and Principal, Technical College. In this particular instance, it is not possible for one man to do the two jobs. The Chief Technical Officer is the man in charge of Headquarters administration on technical education. He is in the Ministry. His office is just about two blocks away from mine. He co-ordinates all the work in the Trade Centre and Technical College. The Principal, Technical College, is physically situated at the Technical College. That is the reason why no one single person could do the two tasks together.

(*Opposition Benches: Squandermania!*)

A Member has mentioned, Mr Chairman, that Government should bear in mind the lot of "C" teachers—uncertificated teachers. If the hon. Member had read his Estimates carefully he would see that item 34 puts in a new provision which wasn't there last year—£150,000—which is a large sum of money to provide for the superannuation of untrained non-Government teachers when they are going to retire. That signifies the attention which Government is paying to the welfare of our teachers, particularly those of them who are untrained, so that when they reach their age limit they have something to provide for their old age.

Examination Fees.—We do not intend to allow examination fees to pay for all the expenses incurred on the examination. If it were so, primary school children would be paying about 15s to take their examination, and Grade II would be paying, say, £5, the same as the fees for the School Certificate

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and other overseas examinations. They are very high, because we have to pay examiners handsomely. We have to choose them carefully. They have to be very well qualified in order that they may mark papers conscientiously. That is why we have to include in the Estimates a sum of money to subsidise the expenditure on examination.

Broadcasting and Television Sets for Rural Areas.—We all know that at the present time we can only have television sets under two factors—you have to have electricity and then you have to be within a certain given radius of Ibadan or Ikorodu. If you are outside that area you will not get good reception. Now if more towns get electricity within that radius it will be possible for schools and Colleges to be supplied with television sets and we do supply the schools free of charge. At the moment, as a matter of fact, it may interest hon. Members to know that we are entering into consultation with a German firm at Dugbe in Ibadan to examine the possibility of providing battery operated television sets. (*Applause*). If we get battery operated television sets, then schools within the receiving radius of the transmitting Centre in the rural areas will also be provided with sets.

Electricity and Water Supply.—The hon. Member opposing that item suggests that a sum of £20,000 was allocated to me and my Regional Minister to cook our food in our houses. I wonder, since the two of us are not cooking human beings, why we should need all that money. He also asked why we do not use firewood. That was rather amusing. Amusing in the sense that some of us had been using electricity for cooking our food before we contested elections into the House of Assembly and the continuation of the use of electricity is not necessarily something new to us. The hon. Member was, a few years ago, a Grade III trained teacher who is now riding a chevrolet car—(*Laughter*)—so that if a man can improve tremendously within a few years it should not be grudged some of us who use electricity in our houses. But that is by the way.

The sum of £20,000 is not meant for the Ministers. It is meant for the payment of electricity Bills in the Government educational institutions—the Government College, Ibadan, Government College, Ughelli, Queen's School, Ede, Edo College and the Government Teacher Training Colleges—about seven institutions. That is the reason for the inclusion of that sum of money.

It is absolutely erroneous to say that the amount of money was for two Ministers to pay for electricity. I wish it were so, but it is not so.

The question raised about the only Teacher Training College is as to the inclusion of students from Eastern Nigeria. This is a matter which we are looking into. I promise the hon. Member that we shall examine the matter.

Concerning the termination of Mr Ayeye, I shall also look into the matter; but may I say one thing. There are Government institutions, which are few, and there are institutions wholly owned by voluntary agencies. The proprietors of these institutions have the sole right to appoint, transfer, discipline and dismiss teachers. Government does not interfere with the internal administration of voluntary agencies with respect to the appointment and termination of their teachers. That is not to say that Government is absolutely oblivious of the welfare of the teachers. It will be absurd to say that a teacher who has rendered twenty-two years meritorious service will by termination of appointment forfeit his pension right. That will be preposterous. I cannot believe it.

Concerning the raising of school age, I note that two Members have mentioned this point. I would like to correct one misunderstanding. This is the question of what I may call lack of knowledge of educational psychology. Intelligence is not restricted to habitation. A child in the rural area does not suffer in intelligence compared with the child in an urban area. Intelligence is inborn. A child has it or hasn't got it. It is born with the child. It is not given at school; so that to say that a child in a rural area should be kept at home for seven years before he goes to school in order to keep abreast of another child from a township area who goes to school at six is simply absurd. Intelligence is inborn. It is not given. Therefore the school age should be uniform. Whether from a township area or from a rural area, it is what is given that needs examining. We must make sure that the teachers we locate to the rural areas are as good as those in the township areas.

Arabic teachers.—For the information of hon. Members, may I say that Government is already doing a lot to safeguard the teaching of Arabic in moslem schools, and, as a matter of fact, Government has a committee which is empowered to examine potential teachers, and as soon as teachers are qualified from the examinations given by the committee they are posted to the schools. Six months

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ago a man came from Egypt to examine the question of teaching Arabic in Western Nigeria. He was greatly impressed by what we are already doing, and what he suggested is now being examined. He has promised us teachers from Egypt to come here to lecture in Arabic and we told him we shall welcome them and that if they can work in our schools we shall encourage them.

I have only got two points more. Somebody raised a point of Primary Schools: he said that he had about six children, and I corrected him saying, does he mean five and half or six and half? and he said—(Interruptions)—that we should scrap out educational system. May I just say that if the Western Nigeria started a scheme which was opposed for some years but later the same scheme was started by the Federal Government, and later it was attempted by the Eastern Government and in the North (grand plans are being made by the Northern Government to start the scheme seven years afterwards), who is the first and who is the best?

Opposition Benches: It is not encouraging; it is the automatic promotion that is bad in it).

The fact is that other Governments are now making plans to follow us. (Opposition Benches: No; promotion there is not automatic but on merit).

The last point is about education for girls in this Region. What the hon. Member said is sound concerning the rise in the population of girls in grammar schools. When we started the Free Primary Education in 1955, the proportion of girls to boys was 1:4 in school. Last year, the proportion of girls to boys rose to 3:4 and our Statisticians have told us that, four years to come, the proportion will rise and will be equal to 4.4 (Interruptions). That is the reason why we have re-adjusted all our plans to take cognisance of the right number of girls. We are using the measures fully and I want the Opposition Members to listen carefully. When a boy's Grammar School is established, it will not qualify for grants for two and half years minimum, but when a Girls Grammar School is established, from the very word "go" it will qualify for a grant—a special favour for girls schools.

Last year, thirteen new Grammar Schools were approved for opening: of the thirteen, eight were for girls and only the rest for boys. Of the remaining five, two were mixed for boys and girls; only three were purely for boys alone.

Thirdly, when a boys' school is approved for opening, it will only qualify for £10,000 grant for building, whereas a girls' school qualifies for £15,000. If anybody is going to open a school now we will ask him, "What about the boys' school in the area? Can't you provide for a girls' school?" In connection with this point, may I say that I went all the way to Benin to have a discussion with His Highness Oba Akenzua to decide the future of Edo College. I asked: "Will the Binis like to build a newly designed Edo College for boys alone or for boys and girls?" And he said they would prefer it to be for boys and girls. We have told our architects to remodify that plan so that special dormitories could be provided for girls so that adequate educational facilities can be opened for girls in the Midwest in a very large Government School. All these I am mentioning to convince you that the Government is aware of the rise in the population of girls and we are taking adequate measures to provide adequate facilities for them when they are old enough to go to school.

With these remarks, I beg to oppose the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £8,807,980 for Head 329—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 707.—UNIVERSITY OF IFE

Question proposed that the sum of £1,000,000 under Head 707—University of Ife—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Omokowajo: Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the Minister of Education is very intelligent and as such, I have to withdraw the Amendment. (Laughter).

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 725.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed that the sum of £444,000 for Head 725—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Chairman this is perhaps the most important item to me and I should have regretted it a great deal if I was not given an opportunity to criticise the Estimate.

Mr Chairman I rise to move that this Head be reduced by £5. We are interested in offering valuable criticisms under this Head because we are confident that we have a Minister who is not only able but has the courage to face the facts and we have had

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sufficient evidence that he realises that there are faults, major faults, in our educational system and he is doing his little bit to correct them. I refer here to his recent attempt to investigate abuses in the Primary Schools by most Management Committees of different Council areas who appoint teachers that are not required—Management Committees who spend the grants paid by the Government indiscriminately. Of recent, we have had another evidence of the boldness of this Minister in seeing that these mistakes are corrected: he has instituted a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the payment of unnecessary fees in our Secondary Schools. Since we are satisfied that the Minister himself agrees with the general public at least that there are faults in our educational system it is up to us to co-operate with him by offering useful criticisms.

Now, I think it is time we considered whether these Councils in the Region should not be prevented from having a hand in the running of our Primary Schools. I feel that politics should be divested completely from our Ministry of Education, and the only way in which we can do it is to remove the control of these schools completely from these Councils. Most of the corruption and the weakness in the system are due primarily to these Councillors having a hand and being fearless in misappropriating or mishandling the funds provided for the running of these schools. Most of the Councils are controlled by the Government party. That alone gives them the boldness to violate the provisions of the Education Law without fear as to whether there will be any blame or not. I am of the opinion that if most of these Councils school are controlled by the Inspectorate Division of our Ministry of Education, there will be much improvement. The time has come when we should reconsider giving the various Missions a great share in the Estimates of our Primary Schools. The argument in the past has been that these Missions interfere a great deal with the.....

Mr J. O. Oye: Point of Order. The point he is raising is irrelevant. (*Opposition Benches: Sit down. What Order?*)

Mr Okumagba: Mr Chairman, I gave notice to speak on the various Heads of Education. It is unfortunate that I had not the opportunity of speaking at the proper time and I had assurance from the Chairman that I should be given my time. Mr Chairman, I think that it is.....

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Chairman, you will agree that he has been making irrelevant points on this particular Head.

Mr Okumagba: I think, Mr Chairman, that the time has come when we should reconsider whether the Missions should not be given a greater share in the Estimates for these schools. The only point we have to guard against if we decide to do that is to remove the entire control of salaries of these teachers from the Voluntary Agencies and the Mission Authorities. If that is done, I do not think there is any possibility of their doing anything that will cause any dissatisfaction in the running of our Primary Schools.

There is a section of Ministry activity which I wish to criticise. I refer to the utilisation of building grants. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman: Order, Order. The speaker has left the topic under discussion.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Chairman, Sir, if the Minister concerned and the people concerned are so worried and they are not ready to accept criticisms from this side of the House I think the better thing is for us to leave them to carry on with their mistakes. I would therefore direct my attention to the section dealing with grants and the use of grants.

I think that in the colonial days the grants paid by the Government were supervised from the headquarters. I was surprised to hear that the Minister considered it necessary to institute a Commission of Enquiry before knowing all the facts affecting fees that are charged in various Secondary Schools. That means that the set-up of the Ministry has deteriorated in efficiency that it is not possible for the Minister to know, right from the Headquarters, that many things are going unsatisfactorily in the various Secondary Schools in the Western Region. I think the efficiency of the Ministry of Education is open to some criticism because it should have been possible for the Minister to know what is wrong with the fees charged in various Secondary Schools without instituting this Commission of Enquiry.

Mr Chairman, the Minister often remarks in broadcasts and in public pronouncements that boarding establishments should be discouraged in our Secondary Schools so as to get more students into our Secondary Schools. Does he think that the boarding system will not help very much and that it will harm the efficiency of our schools? I do not think that we can agree with the Minister of Education on this score. To be able to

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take in more students, I think the problem will be solved by erecting or building more schools.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to move that the Head be reduced by £5.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £444,000 for Head 725—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 330.—MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Question proposed that the sum of £2,189,350 for Head 330—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr G. I. Oviasu (Benin Central West):
Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to move that this Head be reduced by £5.

Barely two years ago this Government set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate ways and means of improving the Medical Service in Western Nigeria. We were very happy upon the step taken by the Government; we believed that was going to usher in a new era for the National Health Scheme. The Commission, Sir, did their work, up till this day, we have not received the report of the Commission. We would like the Minister of Health and Social Welfare to tell this House why that report was not published. It is a scandalous waste of money to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to do something by the Government and that such Commission never cares to prepare its report; or if the report is prepared, why has the Government failed to present the report as a sessional paper before the legislature? If the Government has nothing to hide we call for the report of that Commission.

The second point I would like to make, Sir, relates to hospital fees. I think it is not fair that Ministers, Legislators, high ranking Civil Servants, and in fact Civil Servants of all grades for that matter, should be exempted from payment of hospital fees, while poor peasants who are struggling to make even £10 a year are being asked to pay hospital fees. This Government is aiming at socialist democracy and the way to give practical effect to this is to socialise our services. Such an important service should be free to everybody. Hospitals in this country should be recognised as commercial institutions. Either the hospital fees be completely abolished or every body that attends the hospital should pay, but I support that hospital fees should be completely abolished. With

the double taxation now coming before us, development contribution of 6d in the £1, I do not see the reason why the hospitals should continue to take money from anybody.

The third point is that the standard of our hospitals is very low, in fact lower than that of some Mission hospitals. I wish the Minister to pay a flying visit and examine the work of such hospitals, see their equipment and compare them with those in Government Hospitals. He will find that our hospitals are very much below the standard expected of them. It is common in our Hospitals to see patients often lying on the floor. This terrible situation should be remedied. Also, blood banks and X-ray should be introduced into all hospitals in the Region. At the moment I do not think there is more than one hospital having blood banks and X-ray equipment in Western Nigeria. Those who know about the struggle for life-saving will realise the importance of having such things.

The fourth point I would like to stress concerns the Pharmacists. This Region is short by not less than thirty Pharmacists and Government finds it difficult to recruit the services of Pharmacists into the Region's Hospitals. The reason is that the Pharmacists are not well paid.

Another point is that there is a growing need for pharmaceutical services in this Region. I recommend to the Minister of Health and Social Welfare that he should take charge of this and see that Pharmacists in the Civil Service are paid salaries commensurate with their responsibilities and academic qualifications.

With these few remarks, Sir, Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, in supporting this amendment that this head of expenditure be reduced by £5, I have the following remarks to make.

It is alleged that, up to now, midwifery examinations are being done orally. It is an allegation as I have said, and the truth of it is left to the Minister to disprove. It may well have been intended by the Government to see that these examinations are done orally, but the state of the students, or perhaps those who are to subject themselves to these examinations, is not safeguarded enough because doctors are human beings. They have their own weaknesses. It may be that the doctors' weaknesses as a result of using their own discretion may affect adversely the fortunes of those who are subject to these examinations.

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Now, Sir, I happened to visit the Benin X-Ray Department. I noticed there that the department is not fully equipped; it is not supplied with up-to-date apparatus. In order that the X-ray department will be able to cope with its business it should be sufficiently equipped. For instance, it is not supplied with a drier; it is not supplied with a rack. The result of an X-ray department not having drier can be seen from the fact that people from Auchi, people from Sapele, Warri and the neighbouring places would come there to take their X-ray photographs; perhaps if there are smaller units with which these X-ray photographs are taken the negatives would be sent there for development as soon as they are developed, they ought to have been dried with a quick drier so that they can have the negative to go back with in good time. But they may be delayed; may be before the photographs are out the patients may have died or perhaps may have suffered adversely. You will agree with me that an X-ray department without a drier is not complete.

At page 78 of the Estimates, Sir, we observe a lot of allowances but the one I would like to touch is under sub-head 1, item 312, which reads "Inducement Allowances". Although it is a good thing to induce staff in order that we might get the best service out of them, yet the more Government discourages inducement the more it will have staff to remain inside the services because we were informed that the Region is short of doctors. This is well proven in the case of the Benin General Hospital. It does not actually mean that we do not have enough doctors for employment but inducement allowance has become such a permanent feature that one who is not given such inducement will get out of it; so I think that Government should now try to discourage, somehow, such inducement allowances.

The Social Welfare Department in Benin is encouraging when one considers how it began, the last stage of it and the present stage of it as well; but one fault there is that a Social Welfare Department should have attached to it a Remand Home. We have a Juvenile Court there and I understood the Minister has mentioned a few days ago that the Remand Home in Sapele will serve Benin. I think the distance will interfere adversely, so much so that it would have been better for Benin to have its remand home attached to the juvenile court institution there as well as the Social Welfare Department.

Under Sub-head 7 we notice that a comfortable sum of money is allocated for

grants generally. We understood that some hospitals in the Region have not been benefiting from this Government's grant; for instance, Zuma Memorial Hospital, Irrua. That hospital is well equipped. It has served the people all over that area very efficiently and properly too. I think such hospitals should be encouraged by way of grant.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Amendment.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr J. O. Odigie): I only want to remind the hon. the last Speaker that the Zuma Memorial Hospital at Irrua has got a grant of £1,500 from Ishan Divisional Council.

Opposition Bench: Are you from Ishan?

Yes, I am from Ishan. You do not know anything about Ishan (*Cheers*).

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Midwest Affairs (Mr B. E. O. Osagie): I would like to mention that a provision of £20,000 has been made in the current year's estimate, 1962-63, for a Remand Home in Benin City. (*Cheers*).

Amendment proposed.

Mr S. O. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West): I beg to support the Amendment that head 330 be reduced by £5. In supporting the last speaker on this side of the House on this very Head 330, I should like to make some remarks about Public Health Inspectors under this very Ministry.

Item 159. What I want to point out under this item is the way and manner these inspectors do perform their business. During last year when the election was about to be held in Ibadan they sent these people to Ibadan farms and villages just to threaten and to punish the villagers and farmers that they must get *salga* whereas in the bush or in the villages I do not think they need any *salga*. They can go to the forest. (*Government Benches: Shame shame*). They only wanted to use them as instruments of oppression at that time; that is why I dislike the way and manner they perform their duties.

Again, Sir, they know that in Ibadan here ever before this Government took over from the British Government we had better water since 1942—good one for drinking. They thought that the villages also must get good water. They made provision that they should dig some wells and they gave the money to the Chairman of these Ibadan District Councils—£80 for each well. What happened? These people

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failed to take instructions from health inspectors. When the health inspectors would advise them to have a well on a certain spot these people would refuse; they would say no. They would go to a hidden place where they know they can dig up to almost sixty feet before they can get water. These people did not want to listen to health inspectors in order to get good water.

Now, leaving that point, I just jump on to Minister's allowance of £480. At this time of austerity measures I do not think that it is good for any Minister to have allowances. They can serve their country if they so wish to do without even getting allowances.

Sub-head 2, page 79: I wonder why £95,000 should have been booked or arranged for these local transport and travelling expenses alone, whereas last year it was just £33,000. There were no austerity measures that time, but this year of austerity measure...

(*Government Benches: Services are increasing*).

How do you know? This one, I do not see to it. It is a sheer waste of money.

The same on page 79 sub-head 19. You have there "Medical Supplies Drugs and Equipment". What I want to say about that is that in Ibadan here, we have better hospitals like Adeoyo, but at the same time the nurses who are serving in these hospitals do not care for the things in the hospitals. The people who are supervising them are wasting our drugs. Some of them were caught when they were trying to play dishonest games. One man has just spoken there, the hon Mr Agbaza. He complained that a girl was sick sometime, and that at the same time he went to a certain doctor. He complained to the doctor but the doctor said that because it was on a Sunday he could not see anybody, and he failed to attend the man's daughter until that one died. It is a bad practice. It will be nice of the Minister in charge of this Ministry to try and lecture or to advise his doctors as well as nurses. Some of them are cruel to the patients. These nurses are wicked. They drive and treat patients like goats.

Anyhow, with these few remarks, I beg to move that the amount be reduced by £5.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): Mr Chairman I am very grateful for the intelli-

gent contributions which Members have made under Head 330 and I would like to answer the various points which have been made.

The hon. Member for Benin North-East said something about a Commission of Inquiry. It was quite true that Government set up a commission of inquiry which is popularly known as "Thomas's Inquiry" and the main purpose which that committee was to serve was to find out the possibility of integrating private practices with Government practices. The idea of a national health scheme as stated by the speaker was not at all suggested. As a matter of fact, we have not the resources, not only in the Western Region but in the country as a whole, to run a national health scheme at present. In the United Kingdom where the national health scheme is being run, it is being run with a great deal of difficulty with all sorts of problems cropping up day in and day out.

The report of the Thomas's Commission is already out and the Government is giving consideration to it and the decision of Government as far as policy is concerned is reflected in the White Paper which was laid at the table of this House by the hon. Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development. I shall remind hon. Members by just citing one instance in that White Paper which covers our Six-year Development Programme.

That programme deals with industrial rehabilitation scheme or centres for which Government has voted a token sum of £27,000. When these schemes are effected they might become expanded and cost a great deal of money more than we have at present, but much depends on the experience we gather as we work these various schemes. It is therefore not correct to say that Government has not done anything about the report or that Government has wasted money by setting up a commission of enquiry without submitting the report to the Legislature.

The second point which the hon. Member made is about hospital fees. He complained that civil servants and legislators should start to pay fees. May I say this, that this is a matter which is already agitating our minds.

Mr Oviasu: Point of explanation. I did not say that. What I said was that people earning salaries go to hospitals without paying fees whilst poor peasants pay fees.

Chief Osuntokun: That is the same thing. Mr Chairman, what sometimes distresses me about my hon. Friend is his insistent denial of his statements on the floor of this House. He said civil servants, legislators, etc., are not paying hospital fees, whereas the poor peasants are paying fees. As a matter of fact, I was going to speak in his favour.

This matter is already receiving the attention of my Ministry. We are already considering the wisdom of the possibility of making everybody pay hospital fees but it is not a matter which we, the Western Region Government, can conceive unilaterally. We cannot do it in isolation. All the Governments of the Federation must agree. We have already initiated meetings of Ministers of Health in the whole Federation. We had the first meeting in Lagos, the Chairman was Dr Majekodunmi. The four of us met and these are the various points which we are considering from time to time. We cannot take any action without the backing of the other Governments in the Federation otherwise the repercussion will be this. If we start and the conditions of service for civil servants in other parts of the Federation—say, in the East, the North or the Federation—are much more better than ours, may I say that we stand in danger of losing civil servants to our counterparts. In fact the same thing applies in the matter of austerity measures which we have all been talking about. To start with, we felt that there should not be car advances or allowances to civil servants, but eventually we discovered that if we only pursued that line of action, then we, particularly my Ministry, would stand in danger of losing highly qualified doctors, nursing sisters, etc., to other Governments. That is the reason why we cannot pursue these things unilaterally. Once all the Governments agree together, "A" cannot run to the East or "Y" to the West because he already knows that the conditions are uniform everywhere.

The third point is that the hon. Member alleged that the standard in the Government hospitals is lower than that in the Voluntary Agency hospitals, and he did mention a specific hospital. I must confess that I have never been to any Baptist hospital but I shall make it a point of duty, as soon as the House adjourns, to pay a visit to this Baptist hospital and see things myself. About this point I can say in respect of Government hospitals that the standards of service, the equipment in all our Government hospitals, are the same all over the Region and in some cases are even better than what obtains in

other parts of the Federation. This equipment is ordered specially from the United Kingdom. Unless the hon. Member is suggesting that the equipment which we have ordered from U.K. is not good, then that point has not been well made.

He talked about blood bank and X-ray plants. As a matter of fact, I had anticipated the question of blood bank. He made the same point last year. The question of blood bank is not something we should toy with. It is a highly specialised sort of job. The Government could have felt concerned if as a result of lack of a blood bank, throughout the Region, lives are being lost in the hospitals. But the Government already had two alternatives to meet the need of the absence of a blood bank. I did explain this to hon. Members last year and I will repeat it again.

Mr Chairman, the question of blood banks is not something we can toy with. We have, however, two alternatives to blood bank: by direct transfusion, that is taking blood from a suitable person to another on the spot without storing the blood: another alternative is by the giving of blood tablets which we have in many of our dispensaries.

The question of X-ray plant was raised by the hon. Member again. May I say that a few years ago, there were a number of hospitals which were not equipped with X-ray plants but, today, the situation has changed considerably. As a matter of fact, I cannot remember any hospital without X-ray plants at the moment. The only problem that faces us is the question of trained technicians to man these X-ray plants and Government is doing everything possible to see that these plants are manned. We send boys overseas to come back as Radiographers and we also send boys to Lagos to become X-ray technicians and these will then man these X-ray plants until such a time as we shall have an adequate number of Radiographers to man the various plants.

The hon. Member for Benin Rural did say that the Grade II Midwives examination should no longer be oral. Well, as far as I am concerned, there is a national board which approves this examination. It is a common examination throughout the Federation, that is for the East, the North and the West.

It is a common examination for both East and West and all the people know that this is what is called "practical examination". If that is what the hon. Member means by oral examination, I do not see how we can avoid practical examination in the Midwifery examination. Even the Doctors who are

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highly qualified also do practical examination before they pass out.

I come now to the question of extra plants not being supplied to some of our hospitals. You should not forget that what obtains in England—a temperate country—is not necessarily what obtains here. This is a tropical country. The need for extra plants is not all that absolutely necessary here.

Then the same hon. Member from Benin Rural also mentioned the question of inducement allowance. I think the trouble there is that he does not try to understand what that really means. The hon. Member himself agrees that there is a grave shortage of doctors in the country. The shortage affects all the Governments of the Federation and it is a question which we must tackle successfully together. Until we have enough number of indigenous officers—that is Nigerians—fully qualified as doctors to man these various posts we will have to continue bringing people from the United Kingdom, from the U.S.A., from Canada, from Western Germany etc., and these people are what we call “expatriate staff”. One of the conditions of service for expatriate staff is that we must induce them to come down here. That is why we have inducement allowance. Without this inducement allowance we will not get these expatriate officers to come to us.

I have almost forgotten a point which the hon. Member for Benin Central made. I am very grateful to the hon. Member and I would like to say how very highly I appreciate it. The point is about the salary of Pharmacists. Our pharmacists are as well paid as other Pharmacists in other parts of the Federation. Until all the other Governments consider the possibility of raising their salary there is nothing we can do at this end. If we take any unilateral action it is this hon. Member who will eventually criticise us as not contributing towards the unity of the country. The other Governments can meet and decide that the money that is being paid these Pharmacists is not much. There is nothing we could do. I personally believe that our Pharmacists are very generously treated and the hon. Member for Benin Central knows very well.

The hon. Member spoke about the Zuma Memorial Hospital. As a matter of fact the Zuma Memorial Hospital is a profit making hospital.

I have already spoken about the Remand Home for Benin when I said that one is

in the Six-year Development Plan and I did point out that already we have a Remand Home at Sapele. We also have a Remand Home at Warri. Sapele is thirty-three miles from Benin. Warri is thirty miles from Sapele. There is also a Juvenile Court at Benin.

The policy is that wherever you have a Juvenile Court you should try also to provide a Remand Home. I have already said that this question is being looked into. I mean that it is in the Six-year Development Programme. You cannot do everything in one year.

Then to the question raised by the hon. Member for Ibadan. It is unfortunate Sir that the hon. Member who has just spoken has not done his duty. What I mean is that he has not used his own language. My hon. colleague the Minister of Home Affairs has not seen to his education. If he has seen to his education he would have known the difference between public health inspectors and sanitary overseers. There are two groups of people: One is employed by Government and the other by the Local Government. He again went further Sir by suggesting that there is no need for Ibadan to have lavatories. (*Laughter*). He said there is no need for that because people can go to the bush.

He again criticised local transport and travelling expenses. I had an occasion to reply to that point on the floor of this House this morning and I do not think I have anything more to add to what I have said.

He also alleged that drugs are taken out of hospitals in order to practise what—(*Interruptions*)—Well, that suggests that the hon. Gentleman is privy to this particular practice, because he said that people patronise them outside. If the hon. Member is serious about his allegation, I think it is his normal duty, as a Member of this Legislature, and as a representative of a section of the Ibadan community, to make a report of this practice directly to the Police. I am sure the Police will look into it immediately.

Another Member referred to a point that one patient was ill and was carried to a Doctor Phillip, who refused to treat him because it was on a Sunday. I very much sympathise with the patient and his relatives. This Dr Phillip is not known to the Government. She must be a private practitioner, and as she is a private practitioner, it does not

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lie within my power to force her to open on a Sunday.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks, I oppose the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £2,189,350 for Head 330—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 726.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Question proposed that the sum of £110,620 for Head 726—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, I beg to propose the following amendments to Head 726. Provision to be increased by £57,500 to £168,130—

(a) increase provision under Sub-head 2 by £6,300, to provide an additional £5 grant and

(b) insert a new Sub-head entitled "Special Grant" with provision for £51,200 shown against it. This provision is made up as follows:

	£
(i) Grant to Wesley Guild Hospital	20,000
(ii) Grant to Anglican Maternity Hospital, Ado-Ekiti	10,000
(iii) Grant to Methodist Maternity Hospital, Ikole	6,000
(iv) Grant to Roman Catholic Maternity Hospital, Oke Ofa, Ibadan	6,000
(v) Grant to Maternity Centres at Ilaro, Oke-Mesi, Ajagba, Igbo-Egunrin and one Dispensary at Eporo	9,200
	£ 51,200

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £168,130 for Head 726—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 331.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question proposed that the sum of £389,130 for Head 331—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, of all the Ministries in this Region, this is the one that touches everybody most. Yet it is one whose good reference is most distant.

It is surprising that the Catering Rest Houses where hon. Members lodge during meetings of the House is as bushy as it is now and I have never seen the Minister in charge of that Department for a day in those premises. The locks fixed on the doors are unserviceable. They don't lock properly and when they lock properly, one finds it difficult to go in at his will.

Since we began this Meeting, I cannot remember having electricity for more than three days. Even this evening when we were coming here, there were no lights. It is generally accepted that the E.C.N. is responsible, but there were lights before the E.C.N. came. I should like to say, Sir, that since it is apparent that the lights might fail some time, provision should have been made for some local kerosene light or gas light or candle light. If hon. Members are to be lodged properly, Sir, I think provision should be made for light when electricity fails (*Interruptions*). I am serious about this. I know that those hon. Members who don't lodge in Catering Rest Houses cannot appreciate fully the point I am making. If the Minister in charge of this Department does occasionally visit these premises, he will know what feelings are under such conditions.

Leaving the light Sir, we come down to the bush surrounding the area. One evening, but for the mercy of God, I would have had a scorpion bite on my right leg. Today I would not have been standing here addressing the House. So that these are matters which the Minister of Home Affairs should look into. If the areas were not as bushy as they were, it would not have been easy to get a scorpion around the premises. It is meant to house august visitors from other places and their impression would be different from ours. You can imagine what impression it would give of Ibadan, which a Minister has said a few moments ago is the largest native town in West Africa.

Well we come back to the Rediffusion Services, I know this is a function which concerns the Minister of Home Affairs only as far as it affects the Catering Rest Houses, and I will touch it again when we come to the Ministry of Information. It is expected, Sir, that when we leave the meeting and go home, we like to hear some news. But up to the moment I left the premises I heard no news (*Interruptions*). In private hotels and bars, there are bells with which one invites the stewards. In the Catering Rest House, when the stewards are busy or are in the inner part of the dining hall, one has to shout to call for service or for

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stewards, and perhaps shout and shout until the saliva is dried, before the steward comes. Whereas in private hotels that are not half as good as the Catering Rest Houses, one bell, either electric or locally provided one, and the stewards will come. But here, Sir, there is nothing of that kind provided.

Well, Sir, under this Ministry, we are pleased that provision is made for the care or perhaps, the supervision of Ife Museum. We would have been happy, Sir, if such care or supervision or maintenance is exercised in the case of Benin Museum. The allocation of a sum of about £1,000 for Ife Museum is to encourage the Yoruba Arts so we would require a similar amount. It is not too late to make amendments in the Estimates so that a similar provision may be allocated for Benin Museum.

We come back again, Sir, to that of the Local Government Police. Although I have touched it in this House previously, I like to stress it again because it will serve my purpose to stress it again. I think the Local Government Police would welcome a change in their style of uniform as in the case of the Nigeria Police, their counterparts.

With these remarks, I beg to move that Head 331 be reduced by £5.

Mr K. O. Owonikoko (Oyo Central I): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the amendment to reduce this Head by £5. In the first place, Item 6—Catering Rest Houses—I think I want to mention here that the services of this Rest House here are very unsatisfactory. What surprises me a lot is that, at present, in the Catering Rest House, there are so many hon. Members owing debts. They don't pay. This is very unsatisfactory and surprising. I am making a very serious allegation about this. (*Interruptions*). Even if one goes to the place, there is a certain list there now. The Ministry of Home Affairs is still owing debts there, and they have never paid the money. I want the Premier to send someone down to bring the list here. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman: Order, Order. Do you say the debts were owing by the Ministry of Home Affairs or by the Minister?

Mr Owonikoko: The name is there—Minister of Home Affairs, Sir, I saw it with my naked eyes. So that this thing is very, very shameful that a Minister will go and owe in the Catering Rest House, if the

Minister stands up to challenge me, I want the hon. Premier to send for this list now. (*Interruptions*).

I could remember last year, a question was raised by the hon. Tabiowo that the Minister of Finance should provide more accommodation in Catering Rest Houses for the Members so that whenever they come here they can get places to lodge. The Minister of Finance told us that he considers the money they realise in this House—(*Interruptions*); so that they are thinking about the money they are going to realise. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, again "Protection of the Ministers Quarters—Payment to Ibadan District Council". This is a cheating to the electorate. The Local Government Police Ibadan were being given this amount—this £5,740 for the protection of the Ministers Quarters. After all, our Local Government Police in Western Nigeria is locally established. This is a cheating on the part of other places where we have Local Government Police as well. It is a waste of money. If this money is removed—the Nigeria Police is in Ibadan here—they can easily protect our Ministers. After all, the Western Region is quieter than the other places; we don't require any Police to follow them about. So that I think that when this money is removed and used for a better purpose, it will be more useful than giving £5,740 to Ibadan District Council for the Local Government Police under the pretext of protecting the Ministers.

Mr Chairman, Sir, coming to the question of Local Government Police. This is a very important matter. (*Interruptions*). The Local Government Police in the Western Region, as far as I am concerned, are equally good as the Nigerian Police, but there is a certain thing and I think the hon. Members will pay attention to this. This item Nos 61-68, should be scrapped entirely so that we shall get £4,350. What is the necessity of having a Superintendent-General of Police? After all, the Local Government Police of Western Region is locally established. Even according to the Constitution the Local Government Police is to be established on a provincial basis. Now the Western Region Government, for reasons best known to it, went and engaged a Superintendent-General, and he has to come under the Minister of Home Affairs. Under him he has got the Sub-Inspector from Ibadan, the Sergeant Major from Ibadan, the Corporal from Ibadan.

[MR OWONIKOKO]

(An hon. Member: They can't reinstate you because of this. (Interruptions).)

Please hold on. For a while I was a policeman. I arrested many people in Erunmu. (Interruptions).

Mr Chairman, I have said that when I was a police man, I arrested many people irrespective of their political leaning; the same cannot be said of the Local Government Police of the Western Region. We have agreed that policemen are human beings, and being so, are subject to favour people; that is to say that there are police men who are NCNC-inclined and policemen who are A.G.-inclined. You cannot deny what I have just said. But I want to say this: the engagement of an Inspector-General to supervise Local Government Police in the Region has created a great confusion in the Region. This has caused the Western Region a great loss. (Interruptions). Yes, they said that law and order were breaking down in the Region; it started in Ibadan. I do not see why the Inspector-General should be appointed, except that his appointment was motivated by a desire on the part of the Government to oppress the Members of the Opposition. I know that the Inspector-General must have called his men together in Ibadan and told them that they should remember that the Western Region belongs to the Action Group. He must have said that in the Northern Region, the NPC are using the Alkalis against their opponents, so they must do a similar thing here in the Region—by punishing the people, people who do not support the Government. But they forget that we are not in the Northern Region. Members of the Government, the Police themselves and all others, have brothers and friends here in the Western Region, so that nobody escapes the punishment. We cannot say that because we are in the Western Region, we should borrow a leaf from the Northern Region. Doing that would mean a comparison between a Standard Six boy and a Class Six boy. I know that this thing gives the hon. Premier a great deal of trouble.

The Hon. Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Chairman, Sir, what is giving me real trouble is the depth of the ignorance of the hon. Member, and I will ask the Minister to expose his ignorance. (Interruptions).

Mr Owonikoko: The sense and intelligence contained in the speech of a person is more important than the point we are trying to emphasise in this House.

I knew what actually happened in Ibadan, even though the chance has fallen to the Action Group to control the Government of the West. Always you see them defending these bad businesses very cleverly, very eloquently. They cannot deny that there are people here in the Region who are punished because they believe in a party of their choice. We should, I think, recommend to those who oppress their political opponents to search their conscience and see whether they are doing the correct thing. Mr Chairman, Sir, we should not deceive ourselves. We know what is happening in Ibadan; the Local Government Police have thrown their conscience to the woods. When I was a police man, I never arrested anybody because of his or her political conviction.

Chief Akintola: When you were a police man, were you ever instructed to arrest innocent people on purely political grounds?

Mr Owonikoko: No, that was because I could never be instructed to do that because I know that I have a conscience. Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the Government should realise that the time has passed when the Police was used to suppress a man's desire to fulfil his political destiny.

Mr Chairman, I have said this thing a number of times; the Government has not told us why it appointed an Inspector-General of Local Government Police. Why has the Government of this Region not thought it fit also to appoint an Inspector-General for the Local Authority Prisons? These people are being supervised by the Federal Director of Prisons. Mr Chairman, I am saying this without fear, that the Government has so used the Local Government Police in a way that those who do not dance to the tune of the Action Group music cannot be promoted; they will never be promoted at all in the Western Region. (Interruptions). But most of these people have been doing their work even before the introduction of party politics in this country. Have we stopped to ask ourselves why it has proved difficult to control them now that there is party politics? I see no reason why the Government should continue to deceive itself. We are expected to come here and say the truth, and whether the Government likes it or not, we shall continue to say the truth.

Mr Chairman, my own suggestion is that these Head and items should be removed entirely. Let these people—Sub-Inspectors, Sergeant majors, etc., be paid by the Local Government Councils so that the Ministry of Home Affairs can only have the general

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supervision of the men. We do not want this Inspector-General in Ibadan. I suspect that before any member of the Local Government Police Force is promoted, the recommendation may have to come through a local leader of the Action Group; in other words, promotion will no longer be on merit. The Minister of Home Affairs cannot deny that he is controlling the Local Government Police in Ibadan.

Mr Chairman, I therefore suggest that this item be removed entirely from the Head..... (Interruptions). There are Local Government Police in Ogbomosho, in Oshun Division, in Oyo Division, and everywhere for that matter. It is very unreasonable that we should be spending our money unnecessarily on the Local Government Police. The time has come when this matter should be looked into.

I now come to catering rest houses... (Interruptions). The Minister of Home Affairs invited many V.I.Ps from Lagos, including the Commissioner for the United Kingdom to Ibadan. I am very sorry that this place has been neglected. It is not properly looked after. Ibadan should be developed, Sir. It does not matter whether Ibadan supports the NCNC or the Action Group. You should not say that we should cross over.

Chief Akintola: Remain where you are in the NCNC. You are not coming back here; we do not want you. We shall not accept you.

Mr Owonikoko: I will ever remain in the NCNC (interruptions). What I am saying is that Ibadan is entitled to have amenities. You forget that there are NCNCers and Action Groupers in Ibadan. If you refuse to develop because you suspect that she supports the NCNC, then you must be making a very big mistake. I want to make it clear that you will be punishing the NCNC as well as the Action Group supporters if you refuse to develop Ibadan.

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

Amendment proposed.

Mr J. A. Ajuwon (Ibadan East Rural I): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support that a sum of £5 be removed from Head 331. I wish to make it clear, however, that the Opposition is not happy with other features of the Estimate. The Estimate has a bright

spot and also a dark one. The Leader of the House and Minister of Finance drew our attention to the dark clouds floating in our finances. The Leader of the House—(interruption). Please do not disturb me; I am coming to that.....(interruptions).

The Leader of the House was certainly speaking the correct thing when he said that he cannot support bouyant revenue unless (Interruptions).

Alhaji Opaleye: Point of Order: Order 27 (i): The Member is reading his speech. A member shall not read his speech but shall refer to extracts from books, etc. He is not making any reference to his notes, but he is reading.

Mr Chairman: He is not reading his speech. He is only referring to his notes.

Mr Ajuwon: Mr Chairman, I drew the attention of this honourable House to a fantastic, unwarranted and obsolete..... (interruptions): The use of £55,000 for the Catering Rest House for the year 1962-63 is unthinkable. In the year 1961-62, the estimate for the Catering Rest House was £48,500 and now an additional sum of about £7,000 has been included. (Interruptions). Mr Chairman, what I was going to say was that it would be better if the Government could use such a huge amount on industrial projects rather than using it for luxurious things.

Alhaji Opaleye: Point of Order. Order 3 (2). A Member may speak only from the seat allocated to him, provided that the Speaker shall allocate a seat to each Member.

Mr Chairman: Order, Order. The hon. Gentleman should not speak from that seat.

Mr Ajuwon: Mr Chairman, the low income earner—a poor man—spends his money on food, clothing and other necessities of life.....(Interruptions).

The rich man's income is spent on luxury. I do not think the aim of the Government of this Region is to create a class of privileged people who are able to send their sons and daughters to overseas universities and thereby secure them fat earnings.

Chief Odebiyi: What is the hon. Member talking about?

Mr Ajuwon: It is the question of using £55,000 for catering rest houses. That is a luxury, when there are thousands of people

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roaming about in the streets without jobs. That money should be reduced immediately.

Chief Odebiyi: From this type of Legislators, good Lord deliver us!

Mr Ajuwon: I must say that this money must not be borne by the tax-payers of this Region. I do not want to assume to be a statesman, Mr Chairman. I do not want to sit on the Treasury Benches (*pointing to Government front Benches*).

Another point is this: £5,840 for Minister of Home Affairs and Parliamentary Secretaries. It is noted that such a fabulous amount can be used for protection of Minister's Quarters when there are houses in the town which can cost the Government £24 per annum. These people are spending £5,000! Mr Chairman, this shows the public that Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries think they are superior; otherwise they should pack their kith and kin and come to live among the townspeople.

Mr Chairman, I would like to make an allegation with respect to the local government police. Promotion is not by way of merit. If you belong to the family of a Minister you get promotion, but if not you will not get any promotion for fifteen years. A man of fifteen years' service did not get any promotion, whereas a man of three years' service was promoted. Before a policeman may be promoted, it must be discussed in the house of an Action Group leader in Ibadan. (*Interruptions*).

(*Government Benches: Who is the leader? Name him*).

Mr Ajuwon: When a man is making his points, it is necessary for these Organising Secretaries to listen and learn, since they cannot develop an argument.

Mr Chairman, I would like to refer to Item 331. The Ministry of Home Affairs needs proper attention. It also needs a dynamic Minister because the present Minister is inefficient, weak and slow in action, and I will prove that to you. (*Prolonged interruptions*.) It is in this Ministry that a sum of £20,000 was drained away by the Acting Manager of the Printing Corporation.

Chief Odebiyi: On point of Order Sir, The hon. Member is referring to a case pending in court. The particular Corporation is not within the portfolio of the Minister of Home Affairs. He should withdraw any reference to that matter because it is *sub judice*.

Mr Ajuwon: Mr Chairman, I want the House to understand that in fact the matter is in Court.

Mr Chairman: The hon. Member, should not make any reference to the matter because it is *sub judice*.

Mr Ajuwon: Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to withdraw.

Chief Odebiyi: A matter which is *sub judice* means a matter which is under consideration by a court of law. Therefore the hon. Member has no right to refer to it.

Mr Ajuwon: Mr Chairman, well I congratulate the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House for being able to see that something is wrong with the finance of this Region. He has now agreed.....

Chief Odebiyi: What section is the hon. Member referring to?

Mr Ajuwon: Page 85.

Chief Odebiyi: What section?

Mr Ajuwon: 16 please.

(*Government Benches: 16 what?*)

Mr Chairman, he has now agreed that the finances of the Region are not as bouyant as they should be.

Mr Chairman, this is what we call "inducement allowance." Page 84. I do not know why a Minister should claim inducement allowance. Mr Chairman, I do not want to embarrass the Minister of Finance because he is speaking the mind of the Region even with the finances of the Region. He knew but he could not say it. (*Interruptions*). My argument is that a Minister with his Secretaries with £120 a year, will be seen them roaming about even without sleeping in that Quarter. There is no need creating items for some expenditure which do not exist.

(*Government Benches: What item? Cite it*).

I will tell you. The first one is "Disturbance Allowance." (*Prolonged laughter*).

Chief Akintola: Mr Chairman Sir, it is necessary for hon. Members here to be of assistance to other Members. We do fully appreciate that some of us are new, but what we say here is not for fun. I would like hon. Members to make intelligent contributions to debates; but when an hon. Member stands up to make noise without making a point, that is very bad. Disturbance Allowance and

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other such allowances are for civil servants, and when you have Allowances it does not mean that the allowances are for Ministers. If you have your limitations, for goodness sake hold those limitations. An intelligent, constructive Opposition will put up constructive criticisms. But when he gets up and makes a fool of himself, he lowers the standard of debate of this House. If he jumps up and starts to talk about Navy, Police, etc., that is understandable. Hon. Members should realise that we are being judged by other countries by the standard of our debates in our Legislatures. If he does not understand anything, ask from other Members. Some of the Opposition Members are becoming a pest.

Mr Ajuwon: I have to thank the Premier of the Region for contributing to my speech. (*Laughter*). Well, I represent certain section. This is what we do not want which I must say.

Mr S. O. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West): Mr Chairman, Sir, I support that this Head (Head 331) be reduced by £5. In the first place, last year the Premier of this Region assured this side of the House that the man promoted to the post of Superintendent-General of Local Government Police will co-operate with everybody in the Region and that the man will never abuse the office. I can tell you all the activities and work of the Superintendent we have in this Region. Since he assumed office, he is always trying to destroy the Opposition of the Western Region. For instance, I can tell you, without fear, that the Superintendent of Police in this Region called all his Local Government Police during or before the local government election. I can just recall now that this officer arranged with all those local government police that they should oppress the NCNC supporters in this Region, most especially in Ibadan here. He held the meeting with them. He told them, "Whenever you see any NCNC supporter just get a goat and keep it in his backyard; the following morning get a policeman to arrest him. Any local government police who did not take this advice should be arrested". Not only that; we should try to declare that post redundant. We do not want that post to exist again. On the assurance that the Premier gave us, we thought that the Superintendent of Police would never act in that way but since he has started to be acting in another way we do not know what to do again. We must warn the Government.

There was a time when the Leader of the Opposition was trying to make it known that there was a breakdown of law and order in the Western Region. We did not take action at that time. If we had taken action we know that some of the Ministers would not have been here. We must warn them now: in case of any election never try to incite Local Government Police against us any more.

About page 81, Head 331, Sub-head 6. These Catering Rest Houses were taken care of by the British Government before. The place was so neat when under the British Government, but now the place is too dirty and is always untidy, and the upkeep and maintenance cost £55,000. This money is just wasted for nothing.

With these few remarks, Sir, I would say that this Head should be reduced by £5.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion that Head 331 should be reduced by £5 for not encouraging the distillation of alcohol in the Region. Though we derive import duties on spirits, yet one of the ways of encouraging home product is to increase the import duties of imported goods.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Mr D. Ogundiran): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to comment on the points raised by some hon. Members on the other side of the House.

With regard to retrenchment of Stewards, this Department is not liable to keep reports of the day to day administration of Catering Rest Houses. What happened was that these boys were sacked. They were boys who had worked for three to six months and when they were found to be unsatisfactory they were retrenched. They were retrenched purely so that we may give better services, but not on a re-organisation basis. If they were retained and they continued to give bad services to you you would come to this House and complain. You will agree with me that these catering Rest Houses were built many years ago, and you will agree with me that everything must wear out at one time or another. Like the E.C.N. you know what happens—the failure of power is from Lagos.

An Opposition Member: What action have you taken?

When I have no light I go and sleep.

Now, the hon. Member wished that I should occasionally visit all the Rest Houses. In that Ministry we have an organisation and everybody there has his own business. I am

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not to supervise Catering Rest Houses personally.

My hon. Friend from Iseyin, I know why he was very bitter. He was in the Police Force, and, according to him he has arrested many people. He left the Police and got to this House because he was from where he came but I can assure him that when next there is an election he will not come back. He has a record in the Police Force for which any right-thinking person will be ashamed.

The hon. Member for Ibadan wants hon. Ministers to be touring rest houses in order to see for themselves what is taking place. He made much ado about Ministers' quarters. The protection of Ministers' quarters is in order to frighten away people who do not do honest work by day time. But I would like to ask the hon. Member for Ibadan whether, apart from being a Member of this House, he has other business to run. *(Interruptions.)*

Mr Oyewole: I am a businessman.

Mr Ogundiran: The Member for Iseyin spoke about the Superintendent-General. I thought this to be a question that will be regarded as not being serious. Whenever we on this side of the House say that we are right and they on the other side say that we are wrong, hon. Olowofoyeku takes the matter to the court; the court is the final place of redress.

Hon. Oyewole spoke about the Local Government Police Force. When he joined the Action Group before he came back—*(Interruptions.)*

Mr Oyewole: I did not join the Action Group at any time. *(Laughter and Interruptions.)*

Mr Ogundiran: Mr Chairman, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to oppose the amendment.

The Premier (Chief Akintola): I just want to contribute to one point which has just been made by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

The hon. Member for Iseyin made reference to the appointment of the Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police Force. I must say that this was the most proper appointment ever made. In other words, Mr Oluwole was the first Nigerian who was appointed the Superintendent-General in the Local Government Force. May I say, Mr Chairman, for the information of all concerned here, that

this was the first appointment in this grade ever made since Independence. Under the Constitution a Regional Government has power to set up a local government police force, and, in pursuance of that, the Local Government Police Force here was set up with the co-operation of the Nigeria Police. An officer is always seconded from the Nigeria Police Force. On this occasion when the expatriate officer in charge of the Force was about to retire from the Nigeria Police Force it was necessary to make a new appointment. Of course the expatriate officer who was holding the post was about to be taken away by the Commissioner of Police and we had to speed up matters. Before Mr Oluwole's appointment was made it was the Superintendent-General and the Inspector-General of Police, through the Commissioner of Police, Ibadan, who made the recommendation. Two other officers were considered along with Mr Oluwole; one of them was an expatriate. We had got to adhere quite closely to the recommendations of the high police officers. However, Mr Oluwole was the third, and all the pointers of selection of these high officials, as far as best choice was concerned, went to the third, *i.e.*, Mr Oluwole. I reiterate this. If there was any question about the selection of the third man, it was the Commissioner of Police who initiated it. I will show the hon. Member for Iseyin, the letter written by the Commissioner of Police if he cares to have it.

This is our Government, I know that if we want something such as the letter which I have promised to present, it will be at our disposal, and this will to a great extent substantiate my statement. Quite apart from that, I addressed a letter to the Prime Minister's Office in Lagos and I wrote a letter which I had already reproduced when there was controversy about this matter. The Local Government Police agreed with us that they too support the appointment of Mr Oluwole. Of course, in addition to the choice of Oluwole was that of Mr Agbabiaka—the latter was willing to come up here but the high officials I mentioned earlier had made the best choice as hitherto.

In the light of these explanations, how could anyone accuse this side of the House of appointing Mr Oluwole to the post of Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police Force? It has been stated in the newspapers, and it has been explained to us here. First of all, I want us to bear one important factor in mind, that is, that an indigenous Nigerian was expected to fill the vacancy, and, this being so, somebody one

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way or the other must be in the post; or is that because it happened in Ibadan that they do not like it?

They always say that the Local Government Police Force is at the absolute disposal of the Action Group to repress its political opponents. This is not so. Hon. Members have been speaking against Mr Oluwole and the Local Government Police Force in general on the floor of this House, knowing quite well that they cannot come to defend themselves. This action is an act of beating them from the rear. In fact, how can Mr Oluwole defend himself here? This is unfair!

This officer is an old man and I do not think that it will be fair of the hon. Members of the other side of this House to accuse him in this way. I do not believe that Mr Oluwole, with his own character, with his education, will fall so low and will be a party to those who will malign political opponents of the Action Group. I must say that if we have a man like Mr Oluwole, we don't need to have any fear about his integrity.

They shout that the Local Government Police is bad, the Superintendent-General is bad, the Ministers are bad, the Parliamentary Secretaries are bad, and that the Minister's pay is high. In this I must advise them that as they have Ministers with corresponding portfolios in the North and the East, and so on, it would be gratifying if they would compare side by side the estimates of their salaries and allowances; this problem of their accusation against us would then have solved itself. If this is done, I would accept any mistakes openly and make corrections.

If we want our Premier, our Ministers, our Parliamentary Secretaries to go about naked, if we want them to go and stay in the stalls at Dugbe market, they would not hesitate to do so. (*Laughter and applause from all sides of the House.*)

Finally, if we are satisfied that only £10 would be their pay, I would not mind to distribute the balance to my credit to all the people in Ibadan. (*Laughter and cheers from Government Benches.*)

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £389,130 for Head 332.—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 332.—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed that the sum of £192,060 for Head 332.—Ministry of Information stand part of the Schedule.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move that Head 332 be reduced by £5.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this is the Ministry which accords no recognition to academic brilliance; this is the Ministry which catapults mediocres to the apex; this is the Ministry where graduates are not required; this is a Ministry where the pre-requisite qualification for promotion is "Kodoism"; where rectitude, efficiency, ability are no criteria for advancement. I am going to substantiate this. I hope the Minister of Information is nearby.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the head of the Information Service, the Chief Information Officer, was Mr A. Y. Eke, M.A., M.Sc. For some reason or the other reason best known to the Minister of Information or the Government Party, this gentleman was "sacked". (*Laughter.*) I put the word "sacked" in inverted commas.

This gentleman, because he could not be used as a political tool, was not considered a fit and proper person for the office. He was accused at one time that he did not give sufficient publicity to Action Group Ministers. What happened is that they pretended to give him some higher appointment so as to make him leave the office. He was asked to take another post in the University, where, of course, there is no responsibility. That is how a brilliant son with a wealth of experience was pushed away.

I submit that this is morally reprehensible. The Government party members have many ways of going about their business. Those who are good boys get the job; those who are right and stick to their guns are bad boys and will never get any consideration. There should be a change of heart. There is no qualified person in the Ministry of Information.

The next point I want to make is about the running of the W.N.B.S. and the W.N.T.V. The relationship between the Managing Director and the staff leaves much room to be desired. Recently eleven of the staff there were suspended. After the Premier had investigated the matter they were taken back again. I understand that it was found out that these eleven men who were suspended did not merit the sack or suspension. But I thank the hon. Premier for conducting that investigation.

Chief Akintola: I did not conduct any investigation. (*Laughter*).

Mr Oviasu: That was the information I received. Well, Sir, the young man who is the Managing Director has no administrative experience. He is devoid of the milk of human kindness. I think Sir, that apart from his qualification he has no administrative experience and his dealings with his staff are most unsatisfactory. He is not accessible. Imagine a Managing Director sending a query direct to the junior staff without passing it through the immediate senior officer.

The bonus which is distributed every year, I have a good authority that this young man gives this bonus to those who are not fit in their duties.

There was information that there was an excessive waste of revenue in that department. I wish the Minister of Information to look into it. If the Minister investigates that, he will find out that what I am saying is correct. If we are to get efficiency from that part of the Corporation, there should be good relationship between the Managing Director and the staff. The present relationship leaves much to be desired. If the relationship continues as it is now, and if the waste of revenue persists, we shall have no other choice than to recommend the sack of the Managing Director.

With these few remarks I beg to move.

Mr Atohengbe: In supporting the amendment I have these few points to make. Last year on the floor of this House the Minister in charge of this Ministry promised that the Midwest area would get a television service. But, up till now, nothing has been done to redeem this promise. Each time when we come from that part of the Western Region we see television sets in the houses of Ministers and other friends. When we go back home we wish that we had had this amidst our own people to enjoy. So that it is very necessary that this television service be extended to that part of the Region—the Midwest area.

I have mentioned earlier, when I was speaking some time ago, that hon. Members would like to hear their contributions during the debates. When one stands up to speak one can scarcely know how much he has contributed until he has seen the report.

With these few remarks Sir, I beg to support.

Amendment proposed.

Mr A. T. Rerri: Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to express my support for the reduction of £5 from Head 322 of the Estimates. In doing so, Mr Chairman, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Information, through the Chairman, what he is doing about the fact that the W.N.B.S. and W.N.T.V. are at the moment being run at a loss. If that information is true what is the hon. Minister doing about it?

The second point which I would like to raise is that of technical advice which the Minister can check with his engineers. At the moment your engineers in the W.N.B.S. are transmitting about four band waves which they were transmitting about a year ago. The result is that the reception has not been as sensitive as it used to be, due to the fact that the band wave is too wide—four times what they were transmitting about a year ago. I can assure you that if you transmit a quarter of the band being transmitted now, you probably have four times the power you put on the air and you have less distortion of your radio.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would also like to mention at this stage that I do not know what arrangement the hon. Minister is making with a view to putting up radio-vision as a national affair, that is, the same rediffusion service linking the capital of the Region and all the Regional capitals so that we would not be speaking with different voices. From the technical point of view we would be making quite a lot of savings in capital equipment and maintenance of services. This is the way of avoiding duplication of staff and equipment.

With these few remarks I beg to support that this Head of the Estimates be reduced by only £5.

The Minister of Information (Chief E. A. A. Fadayiro): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this amendment, and to express surprise at the remarks made by my Friend, hon. Oviasu. It is no use for people to come here to say things which they know to be untrue. I would like to tell him right now that if there were many Ekes as Head of Departments, Nigeria would have been better today. Mr Eke has been a good friend of mine, and until recently he was the Chief Information Officer in the Region. I have had the privilege of working with Mr Eke for over fifteen year in the then Public Relations Office, and nobody doubted Mr Eke's efficiency and sincerity of character. Although this is the age of freedom, it is bad for people like hon. Oviasu to come here and play politics with such a matter. If

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Mr Eke wishes to leave the Service, nobody can stop him from doing so. There are so many other people who are equally suitable for the post, and to say that this Government sacked Mr Eke is untrue. Mr Eke was seconded to the University of Ife as Registrar. Mr Eke had been an Assistant Registrar at the University College, Ibadan, and to say that because Mr Eke did not toe the party line he was sent away is untrue. I don't think any of us here do it in the Region and it has never been our policy that Civil Servants should toe our party line. The Civil Servants have their own work to do, and it is very unfair for hon. Oviasu to attack people who have not the privilege to come to this House to answer him. As for qualifications, that is the business of the Public Service Commission, and I can assure hon. Oviasu that we have more than enough qualified men from which to pick at any time.

With regard to the allegation about WNTV/WNBS and the relationship that exists between the Managing Director and the staff, here again Mr Oviasu has descended so low as to attack a young man who has got one of the rarest qualifications in this country. Mr Olu Ibukun, the Managing Director, has got M.Sc. (Electronics), and is the only qualified man to take over this department. Instead of hon. Oviasu advising the youngmen who misbehaved, he has come to the floor of this House to plead their cause. What cause? I can say tonight that I have had another opinion about my Friend, Oviasu. I am really shocked by the allegations he made on the floor of this House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the question of bonus that the hon. Gentleman mentioned is not true. He deliberately told lies when he said that bonus had been paid. At the time that these young men.....(*Interruptions.*)

Mr Oviasu: Point of Order. Order 27 (5). He said I have told a deliberate lie.

Chief Fadayiro: You have told an untruth.

Mr Oviasu: I submit, Sir, that this is highly unparliamentary. Ask him to withdraw the statement.

Chief Fadayiro: You told an untruth when you said that the Premier of this Region interfered when the Staff of WNTV/WNBS were on strike.

Mr Oviasu: I await your ruling, Sir.

Chief Fadayiro: The hon. Premier never interfered.

Mr Chairman: Order, Order. I hope the hon. Minister will withdraw.

Chief Fadayiro: I meant that he was telling an untruth. I didn't say he was telling a lie.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Chairman, Sir, tell him to be careful.

Chief Fadayiro: As I have said before, these young men were engaged by WNBS/WNTV. It is a Corporation of this Government. They have their conditions of service and regulations. They went out of their way to go to Press and made vicious attacks against the Chairman, against the Managing Director, and even against the Minister of Information who was away at the time. If the hon. Gentleman had the interest of this Region at heart he would come all the way from Benin to speak to these young men. He was playing to the gallery because many of these men happen to come from the Midwest. What happened? When these eleven men were disciplined they quickly reacted and apologised and they were taken back.

I don't see how the hon. Gentleman can censure the Establishment for taking cognisance of the fact that they should be given another chance. These people are still there today.

As far as bonus is concerned, we have not paid any bonus, and so the question of discrimination in the payment of bonus does not arise.

My good Friend, Mr Atohengbe asked the question about the extension of television service to the Midwest. That definitely will come within the scope of our development programme. We have got experts out to carry out a survey from here to the Midwest so as to know at what points we are going to have transmitters. It might perhaps be necessary to have a studio at the other end, and I hope my good Friend will go back to tell his people with the satisfaction that it is one of the things we have in our present Development Programme.

Rediffusion.—This does not really come under us. It is a private company—Rediffusion Nigeria Limited. They have been very co-operative in this Region, and if the hon. Member approaches them on the matter they will no doubt look into it. My Ministry has done everything possible to cover the proceedings of this House and I can assure my Friend that if there is anything that is left out I will take immediate steps to rectify it if he approaches me.

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Hon. Rerri raised the question as to whether the WNBS/WNTV is not being run at a loss at present. This is a very good question. It will no doubt interest him to know that, for the first time in the whole of Africa, we are the only station being run entirely by Nigerians. We terminated our partnership with our overseas partners last October, and since then we have been running it on our own without going into partnership. At the moment we are running the station at a small loss. Television is very new in this country. We have the films to buy; we have the air time to sell, and we have to ask people to buy time on us. That is why I made a statement in this House, when I was replying to the Second Reading, that the question of Radio Nigeria and Television should be looked into. There was no need for the Federal Government to duplicate the service that is already being obtained from us. We have been in television for two years and two months, and if the Federal Government had taken us into confidence we would have told them what our experiences were and they would not want to go into any further expenses. In fact, there was no need to have another television in Lagos. We started commercial sound broadcasting, followed by the Eastern Region, and the Federal Government suddenly went into commercial sound broadcasting, with the result that it is competing against its own Regions. How could we cope at that rate when the Federal Government is competing with its component parts?

With regard to bad reception outside Ibadan about which hon. Rerri complained, we are doing all we can to rectify this.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I don't think I will be doing justice to myself without referring again to the case of Mr Eke. I am sure Mr Eke himself will be sorely disappointed that he should be brought to this picture in the way that hon. Oviasu had done it. Mr Eke left on his own accord. He was never sacked at all, as I said before. He of his own volition decided to take up the post of Registrar at the Ife University.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment.

Amendment negatived.

Question that the sum of £192,060 under Head 332.—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 333.—MINISTRY OF MIDWEST AFFAIRS

Question proposed that the sum of £70,270 for Head 333—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that under Head 333—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—two new items, sub-heads 8 and 9, under Other Charges be inserted as follows:

8. Semi-Permanent and Temporary Buildings. £10

9. Special Grants to Local Government Councils. £10

The purpose Sir, is to split the financial provision in regard to these two special sub-heads which appear under the Ministry of Local Government Head of the Estimates. As hon. Members are aware, the Ministry of Local Government, before responsibility between that Ministry and Ministry for Midwest Affairs were split, used to look after all Local Government Councils in the Region as well as maintain all semi-permanent buildings belonging to the Ministry of Local Government which are used by the Local Government Advisers. In view of the fact that the responsibilities of the Ministry of Local Government have now been shared between that Ministry and the Ministry of Midwest Affairs, this follows that these two sub-heads will be inserted so that the Ministry of Midwest Affairs will look after those Councils within the Midwest area as well as maintain semi-permanent buildings within the Midwest area. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Chairman, in the year 1958, the Foundation Stone for the Midwest Secretariat was laid in Benin but up till now, Sir, the progress of that building has not progressed beyond the foundation stone. May I know from the hon. Minister for Midwest Affairs when he proposes to complete that building for the Secretariat of the Midwest.

Mr J. O. Abioshun: Mr Chairman, Sir, let us call a spade a spade and not an agricultural implement. (*Interruptions*). I am moving that the vote for this Ministry be reduced by £5 for this reason.

It is suggested in public, Mr Chairman, that we should have Minister for Ijebu Affairs, Minister for Egba Affairs, and Minister for Ibadan Affairs. When they say the Midwest should not go, and they have a separate Ministry for them, why do they have that separate Ministry for Midwest Affairs? We might as well have Ministers for Ijebu, Ife and so on. (*Interruptions*). I wish it accepted by the hon. Premier that Ministers

are being called by the name of their constituencies (*Government Benches: No point*). With these remarks Mr Chairman, I beg to support. (*Government Benches: Shame, shame*).

Mr D. E. Okumagba: Mr Chairman, as much as I should want the debate to end quickly, I seize this opportunity to reply to criticisms of the points raised by me at my Press Conference by the Minister of Midwest Affairs. He pointed out that he was supporting the Motion moved by the Premier last Friday because I remarked that the Midwest must be created with or without the support of the Action Group Government of the Western Region. I would like to emphasise that that is quite correct; it is quite correct. Now, we of the Midwest are not prepared to leave the problem of our State creation to any party or to any Government. I think the final say lies in the people of the Midwest, and the only assent that is necessary is the assent of the Midwest to determine our plebiscite.

Mr Chairman: Order, Order. I hope the hon. Gentleman will confine himself to the matter under discussion.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Chairman, I beg to support the Motion that the vote be reduced by £5.

Further amendment proposed.

Mr Rerri: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the Motion to reduce this Head by £5.

Now, Mr Chairman, I would like the hon. Minister of Midwest Affairs to note that, as large as Urhobo Division is in the Midwest area, the provision of Rest House is very, very poor; the result is that when hon. Ministers, whether Regional or Federal, come to Urhobo Division, they always suffer great inconvenience in performing their duties in Urhobo Division, and therefore go to sleep at Warri or Sapele. I am raising this point because this is an inconvenience to Ministers and it is also an inconvenience to businessmen like myself who might travel out of town and who would like to have similar comfort whenever they go into these Rest Houses. In particular I should mention that the Rest House—I do not know really Mr Chairman, whether I am right in calling it a Rest House—the one at Ororokpe is quite an apology. I am sure the hon. Minister for Midwest Affairs will not like to pass a night in that place. There is one at Ughelli; this also requires improvement; so also the one at Oleh. Well, if much more cannot be done, at least

these Rest Houses should be brought to a reasonable standard. Another one is the one at Asaba.

I would like to end up finally by saying that with an increase of £46,000 under this Head of the Estimates, I do hope that the hon. Minister will, by his action during the financial year 1962-63, show a greater output in the general distribution of amenities in the area. I beg to support the amendment that this Head be reduced by £5.

The Minister for Midwest Affairs (Mr J. E. Otobo): Mr Chairman, on the point made by the Member for Warri East, I have no comments at this stage because it is unnecessary now to comment. He was trying to refer to what he meant by the creation of a Midwest State. I think it is too late to come back. Now that the new designation is that the issue of the Midwest lies with the people of the Western Region—and by this we mean that the people of the Midwest State should have a chance—when the time comes, they are bound to choose between the Action Group and the NCNC supporters.

The other point, Sir, A member for Benin wanted to know how soon the Midwest Secretariat will be built. My answer, Sir, is that the question of a Midwest Secretariat will be taken up as soon as possible and, in particular, as soon as a revised plan is completed. It may not be generally known that there was an original plan. (*Interruptions*). However it soon became apparent, as soon as we were thinking of setting up an Edo Minority Council—a Council with a very enlarged body—that the original plan would not serve our purpose, and so that plan has had to be drastically modified in order to provide for a larger assembly which will also provide them with larger rooms and larger offices and so on. I can assure you that as soon as that plan is completed around the time the Ministry of Works and Transport will like to deal with others, the work will be started on the building of a Midwest Secretariat.

I thank the Member for Western Urhobo for his interest in rest houses in Urhobo Division. I am made to understand that he is referring to ordinary rest houses and not to catering rest houses. His remarks therefore apply to ordinary rest houses and I can assure him that we are already looking into the question and that we are not very happy about the general set-up of the rest houses in Urhobo Division.

Further Amendment put and negatived.

[MR OTOBO]

Question that the amended sum of £70,290 for Head 333—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 729.—MINISTRY OF MIDWEST AFFAIRS

Question proposed that the sum of £8,000 for Head 729—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 334.—MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Question proposed that the sum of £78,570 for Head 334—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following amendments: That Head 334, Sub-head 1, Item (2), one Regional Minister, as well as its financial provision, be deleted and that Sub-head 334, Sub-head 1, Item (45) be reduced by £562, thus leaving a balance of £538, and that Sub-head 1 Item (4) be increased to £3,180 as against £2,940.

Amendment proposed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Chairman, I rise to move that Head 334 be reduced by £5. I would tell the Minister of Justice, through the Chairman, that he should take care of the Customary Court Presidents. Their activities very much savour of corrupt practices. I think one of the reasons is that the people in such low income groups, particularly people in grade "C" courts are given car advances. You find that staff regulations which govern this is different from the General Orders which govern the Civil Servants. I have seen them riding in cars. The tendency is that they try to play big after getting these advances to buy cars and they cannot maintain their cars with the meagre allowances given them. The result is that they sell justice to the highest bidders.

Another point I would like to make is about what happens recently at Benin City. This was a case which involved eight NCNC members from Ishan Division. These people were remanded in custody for simple assault, and they were there for weeks. The judge of the High Court refused bail. (*Government Benches: What time was that?*)

It was about three months ago.

Mr Chairman, Sir, it is perturbing that other Action Group members who were

involved in the same act were granted bail on the same day, by the same judge, but these eight people belonging to the NCNC were not granted bail and they remained in custody for about three months. Mr Chairman, I think this savours of injustice. These people have suffered undue hardship. I myself visited them personally in the prison and I noticed their condition was most discouraging.

I would like the Minister of Justice to take note of this. I do not like to mention the name of the High Court judge. If the Minister wants to know the actual judge, Mr Chairman, Sir, I have told him the period and the Minister of Justice knows who was the High Court Judge in Benin City. He contested election twice on the platform of the Action Group and failed, but to compensate him for his struggle for the party he was made a judge.

The Minister of Justice (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): Mr Chairman Sir, I did not want to interrupt the hon. Member for Benin Central when he was speaking about the High Court Judge. Actually it was not correct for him to speak of the High Court Judge in the way he has done. I did not want to interrupt him, but I want to point out that, in future, if he has any special criticism to make of a High Court Judge, he knows, as an old parliamentarian here, that the proper thing to do is to bring the question on a Motion attacking the judge.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member should withdraw his motion as it is against Standing Order 27 (8) which read thus:

"The conduct of Her Majesty, Members of the Royal Family, the Governor-General, the Governor, Members of the House and Judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a Substantive Motion; and in any amendment, Question from a Member or remarks in a debate on a motion dealing with any other subject, any reference to the conduct of the persons aforesaid shall be out of order."

Mr Chairman, Sir, with very, very great respect to you Sir, this is not the first occasion when the hon. Member has stood on the floor of this House to smear the character of people. Only yesterday morning, on the floor of this House, he made damaging allegations about Ministers building houses without advances; and now he comes again to attack a High Court Judge without doing so on a substantive Motion. I think the

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

whole thing is malicious, ill-conceived, mischievous and wicked, and it should be withdrawn. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Oviasu: Mr Chairman Sir, if you want me to come on a substantive motion. I shall be prepared to do so. (*Interruptions*). I have only made a statement of facts.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I insist that the hon. Member should withdraw the attack on a high court judge.

Mr Oviasu: Who is the High Court judge?

Chief Odebiyi: You said there was a High Court judge who was appointed and who previously failed an election before he was appointed. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman: I think withdrawal will not be sufficient: really, he should be warned.

Chief Odebiyi: The thing is out of order, Sir. It is out of order for him to raise the matter of a High Court judge here unless on a specific motion. He should not use the privilege of the House to damage innocent citizens of the Region.

Mr Chairman: When the hon. Member was speaking I thought he was speaking of customary court judges. (*Interruptions*). May be the hon. Gentleman will tender an apology to the House.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I cannot tender apologies to this House. If it is your ruling that I should withdraw, I withdraw. (*Shame, shame*).

Chief Akintola: The hon. Member has withdrawn, but I have repeatedly said here that the good name of this country and that of the Region depends largely on statements made on the floor of this House. If we continue to see nothing good about everything in the Region what type of reputation do you want this country to have abroad? If they are statements of fact, may I say that we have been in this game for sometime. There are judges of the Supreme Court in Lagos who were formerly members of his party. We have never raised that question here. I know many in the East who were members of his party; we have never raised it here.

We do not make appointments to the Bench; we do not make them, they are made by the Judicial Service Commission. Once an appointment is made, if even of him, who happens to be a Member of this House, as far

as we are concerned we will accept him: we will accept him as a Judge and as being above reproach; but why is it that it is only with this side that he always likes to pick a quarrel? I know my Friends of the NCNC—some of them professional colleagues, executive members of the NCNC—who are High Court Judges in the East and in the Federal territory of Lagos. We are no fools, and it is not that justice always falls in our favour. If they continue to pick these things up, if they can get an Action Group man we will be able to get three or four NCNC men. But if they continue to say that a man is bad because ten years ago he was an NCNC member, what will the country become?

Chief S. O. Ighodaro: Reference was made to corrupt practices in customary courts. Already much has been said about this. This I must admit is a good deal of exaggeration. There has been no concrete case in fact. Speaking specifically of Benin area, the hon. Member from Benin Central West has in my office drawn my attention to this non-granting of bail. If it was a true statement of fact that somebody was not granted bail, especially by a High Court Judge, the hon. Member, from the very statement he made, could be proved wrong because it is very, very rare to find that a High Court judge does not grant bail. If the accusation had been made of a customary court president, we might have said that perhaps the standard there was not stringent.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that when hon. Members come to this House to criticise customary courts or any other courts they wish us to take them very seriously. I hope that they will do me the compliment and that they will do this House the compliment of making statements after very, very careful investigation. The man in Benin, the High Court Judge there, is a man of great legal ability; he is a man of great ability and his record has been excellent.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think there is little that can be said here as far as the points raised by the hon. Member on the Opposition Side is concerned. Actually, during the debate on the Customary Court (Amendment) Bill, all that could be said was said in this House and, in fact, I was only wondering, when we came to this Head, what new points the Opposition would bring up. I was not surprised that hon. Oviasu should be accused of bankruptcy of ideas as a result of his new tactics here which I am sure he regrets.

Amendment put and negatived.

[CHIEF IGHODARO]

Question that the amended sum of £75,560 for Head 334.—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 342.—DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Question proposed that the sum of £41,740 for Head 342.—Department of Public Prosecutions—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move the following amendments: That in Head 342, sub-head 1, item (1), the provision be increased to £3,180 which is Salary Group 3—£3,180, and that the title under sub-head 1, item (2), be changed to Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions instead of Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions.

Amendment proposed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £41,740 for Head 342.—Department of Public Prosecutions—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 344—JUDICIAL

Question proposed that the sum of £180,650 for Head 344.—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 335.—MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING

Question proposed that the sum of £347,990 for Head 335.—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Chairman, I move that this item be reduced by £5 and that this £5 be subtracted from the salary of the Minister himself.

Mr Chairman, I am disappointed in this Ministry because of the contradictory explanations given to questions put to the Ministry in the past. The Minister, in answer to a question, explained that stamp duties and registration fees in respect of deeds submitted by Communal Land Trustees would not be paid and this was given to us in answer to a question some time last Session, but during the debate on a Bill submitted to this House this Session the Minister explained that the £5 charged by Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees in Warri was a fair fee which was charged as fee for registration and stamp duty on the land submitted by the Trustees, even though he has before him a letter submitted by me through the Speaker where the Trustees themselves wrote that

what they were charging for stamping and registration was £3; and he was even defending the increase in the land rent from £3 to £5 as demanded by the Trustees.

These are not the only sins of the Ministry. You will be surprised to find that in Warri the activities of the Town Planning Authority are embarrassing everybody. Now you will be able to imagine the present situation in Warri if the Ibadan Town Planning Authority declares all available land between here and Oyo and between Ibadan and Ife as town planning areas. That is exactly what is happening in Warri. You all know that land is scarce in Warri. In our Division we have only one town where cars and bicycles can be used and all the available farm land is just around this town alone. If that is the position, what is the necessity for embarrassing the poor farmers by declaring all their farm lands town planning areas?

The Minister knows the details, and it is very surprising that he has not been able to give people who complained to him in Warri satisfactory explanation about the activities of the Town Planning Authority in Warri Division.

Now it will surprise Members to hear that the Town Planning Authority intends to acquire an area of 97.3 acres for the establishment of a secondary school. It is like asking the Federal Government to grant Kings' College in Lagos Island an area of 60 acres. That is exactly what the Minister is giving his approval to the Town Planning Authority in Warri to do. What I am saying is that the Minister should have thought over it and even seen the necessity for reducing the area that should be acquired for the purpose of establishing this secondary school. I am not saying that land should not be made available for the secondary school, but what is the sense in insisting in a place like Warri on as much as 97.3 acres for the establishment of a secondary school? Mr Chairman the point I am making is that the Town Planning Authority in Warri town is doing everything possible to make the people embarrassed. I know it is not the intention of the Minister that the Planning Authority should use their own power as they now do. So Mr Chairman, I am appealing to the Minister of Lands and Housing to look into the problems of the people of Warri. I am sure that if he is patient and that if he listens to their complaints he will find that the case is a very good one.

Mr Chairman, I move that the amount be reduced by £5.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Chief J. O. Adigun): Mr Chairman, I am not sure that the hon. Member got the point correct that I gave a contradictory answer to a question which was asked on the floor of this House. He said that I mentioned that fees could be charged by Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees. I do not think that is correct. What I said was that there are no additional fees apart from those stipulated, and at that time I made it clear that fees charged should be for administrative expenses and postages.

I mentioned that even on Crown land the Government is charging a fee of £6 and that if Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees charge £5, they are not charging anything extraordinary and that it is to enable documents to be prepared and to maintain a number of officers, clerks and so on, who help and that the sending of documents to Ibadan and from Ibadan back involved expenses. It will not be fair to expect the Trustees to bear these extra costs.

The hon. Member also mentioned that new charges are being made by way of rent. Well, in the case of Crown lands, after a period of twenty years Government reserves the right to raise rent on crown lands, and I think it is only fair that the trustees should increase rent in their own cities because the land would have been developed during the period; it would not be fair to charge the same old rent that was charged when the land had not been developed at all. If there is a rent revision clause, automatically it will not be fair to charge the same old rent. If the rent was £5 before it was developed, and it is now £15, it must have taken into consideration the value of the development on the land. I think that is the normal procedure.

The hon. Member also referred to the whole area in Warri Division being declared as a planning area. It is within the competence of a Town Planning Authority to declare a planning area. If it chooses to declare the whole area of Warri as planning area, I do not think there is anything extraordinary in it. The same thing obtains in Ibadan here. There are other planning areas which have been declared planning areas by other planning authorities. Another example is Ikeja Division. It is such a wide area and the planning area declared by the Ikeja Town Planning Authority covers Ikeja, Badagry and Ikorodu areas and other areas outside Ikeja.

I think it will be unfair to the authorities of secondary schools at Warri referred to by the hon. Member to ask them not to acquire the area of 97.3 acres. The board of govern-

nors intends to expand the school in the future, and if land is made available to the school I do not think anybody should have cause to quarrel with them. If the hon. Member feels that his land is affected by this acquisition, he must make a proper approach to the college authorities. I think, that they will be prepared to listen to him if a good case is made and that they will be prepared to make necessary adjustments.

I am not in a position to agree with the hon. Member that the area declared by the Town Planning Authority at Warri is so large and embarrassing to the people of Warri.

So far, I have not got any complaints to this effect, and certainly, if people are embarrassed, the hon. Member should know that they ought to make representations to the Government. Mr Chairman, Sir, I oppose the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £347,990 for Head 355.—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 731.—MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING

(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed that the sum of £250,000 for Head 731.—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following amendments: That the provision under Head 731, Ministry of Lands and Housing, under non-recurrent expenditure, be increased to £273,480 and that consequential amendments be made in the Estimates to read as follows: "That a new Sub-head 5, entitled "Valuation of Properties of the National Investment and Properties Company Limited" be inserted and a provision of £23,480 shown against it.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £273,480 for Head 731—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 336.—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Question proposed that the sum of £15,960 Head 336.—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following amendments to Head 336, Ministry of Labour: That the new Sub-head 1, Item (4), 1 Principal Labour Officer on a salary of £2,300 be inserted, and

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the remaining items renumbered accordingly as 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and so on. Secondly, that the new Sub-head I, Item (9), namely, Minister's allowance, be reduced by £140 bringing it to £410.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £18,120 for Head 336—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 337.—MINISTRY OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £193,920 for Head 337—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr K. O. Owonikoko: I beg to move that £5 be cut from this Head. This Ministry is very important and it has a lot to do with the people of the Region. Our Councils derive powers from the Government, and these people are in the Councils. However, the Ministry of Local Government can in this Region protect the day-to-day running of the affairs of the Local Government Councils.

As a member of my Council in Iseyin District, I have to state that about three months ago that Council attempted to make a certain bye-law to stop drumming and the sound of bugles in my area. This bye-law was moved by the Council and forwarded to the Ministry of Local Government.

To start with, the Minister of Local Government returned these papers to my Council. He said a copy of the bye-law should be printed and distributed among the members of the public so that they could make their comments. This was done within a fortnight. All these things were pasted round the township and were followed by many representations to the Minister of Local Government.

I think the Minister of Local Government has taken the initiative to order the publication of this bye-law so that we may know the wish of the people in those areas. I think that is what is expected of a Local Government Minister. He should not just stamp the bye-law and cause trouble in many parts of the Region. But after all these representations have gone to the Ministry of Local Government, the Minister has not been able to make any enquiry.

With all these remarks, I appeal to the Minister not just to stamp the bye-laws but to see that they are in order.

Chief A. O. Adeyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the hon. Member is trying to mislead the Chairman on the point which he has just raised. He has actually informed the House correctly and properly on the representation which was sent to the Minister of Local Government for approval. Even though Iseyin is one of the ancient Yoruba towns, it does not mean that its regulations or traditions and customs are different from any Yoruba towns in Western Nigeria, and for the hon. Gentleman to come here to tell us that their custom at Iseyin is different from that of Ibadan, Oyo, Shaki is an attempt to mislead this honourable House and I do not think that the Chairman will allow this man to go away with this erroneous impression he is trying to create here.

As a matter of fact, members of the staff of the Ministry of Local Government gave very great assistance to the Opposition Members of Iseyin District Council in their opposition to these bye-laws which were sent to the Minister of Local Government for approval. Hon. Yerokun, a Member of the House of Representatives, sent many spurious representations to the Minister of Local Government which the Minister considered in his patience—we must credit this holy Alhaji for his patience in dealing with these people. He has exercised so much patience than any person has ever exercised in dealing with his people who go so low as to task and try to exhaust a man who has gone to Mecca and has done everything to climb that holy hill. All the same, in spite of his efforts to give this satisfaction, they were trying to mislead an Imam serving in Iseyin to keep on kicking against traditional authorities at Iseyin. The Aseyin of Iseyin is the only Oba in Iseyin and must be respected. (*Cheers*). I think that if any councillor happens to win an election and comes to the House of Assembly, he should know his limit. It is no licence for liberty to attack traditional authorities or people who are placed in positions of respect.

Well, I feel, Sir, that the hon. Member is trying to give us an erroneous impression to mislead you Sir. I just liked to give that information.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Chairman Sir, I think that democratic government in the hands of the Action Group of Nigeria is a dangerous weapon. Now I repeat Mr Chairman, Sir, democracy as an instrument of government, placed in the hands of the Action Group is a dangerous weapon. If we watch the operation of the Local Government Law in the Western Region, we

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come to the conclusion—the obvious conclusion—that the Action Group as a party can never govern well anywhere in Nigeria. They can never govern anywhere in the Federation, unless one condition is fulfilled. I agree that there are brains in the Action Group, but I know that the only condition under which they can govern fairly and justly is where there is only one party in the whole of Western Region. That is the only condition that must be fulfilled before we can enjoy the good Government of the Action Group of Nigeria (*Cheers*). Well when we listen to the speeches of the Premier in this House—

Mr Chairman: Order, Order. Will the hon. gentleman please go strictly into the.....

Mr Okumagba: I am on Local Government Sir. Mr Chairman, I will go strictly into the subject. You are ready for the work and we are all men. I can sit until dawn. Mr Chairman I make these remarks because of my study of the activities of the Minister of Local Government in the application of the Law to Warri Urban District Council, (*Interruptions*). The Minister of Midwest Affairs is not in charge of local government councils. It was, not he who dissolved Warri Urban District Council. I am criticising the Minister of Local Government and I have the right of speaking on the Local Government estimates. He will be able to reply all the points but he should allow me to make them.

When the election into Warri Urban District Council was won by my party the NCNC, we carried out very fairly and satisfactorily our duties to the electorates and quite satisfactorily to the Ministry of Local Government. There was no complaint from the Ministry of Local Government and also no complaint from the local government council. We were working on smoothly till sometime last year when we heard an announcement that the Council was dissolved and the Minister of Local Government gave no reason whatsoever for the dissolution. Surely, the reasons why a Council may be dissolved are all provided in the Local Government Law. We should have expected the Minister of Local Government to give us reasons why he considered it necessary to dissolve the Council but no reason was given. After the dissolution a Sole Administrator was appointed. The Local Government Adviser was appointed Sole Administrator for the Council area; and will the Minister of Local Government explain to us on the floor of

this House why it was necessary to replace the Sole Administrator by a Committee of Management?

I can understand the anxiety of the Minister of Local Government and I shall switch on to another subject for which he will find no answer and for which he will have nothing to say to cover him.

Mr Chairman, we are doing bad business; we ought to be sleeping now, so that we can come here tomorrow morning, quite free for the day. (*An hon. Member rose*)—

I am not yielding. (*Interruptions*). What is the necessity of rushing through in this mid-night? You can give us some time to rest so that we can come here tomorrow to expose their faults. Yes, I know we are on it. Mr Chairman, we are all men; we won't leave them to rush through the Estimates; we have to do our jobs. If we are only two or three, we are here to oppose.

Mr Chairman, I come to another role of the Minister of Local Government. It is the recent £650,000 Warri Market building loan. The Minister should first of all say whether in fact a contract has been signed between the Management Committee of Warri Urban Council and Gamon of Nigeria Limited, because surely an announcement was made by the Management after one of their usual monthly meetings that they had signed a contract with Gamon of Nigeria Limited for the building of a modern market in Warri at a value of £650,000. I want an explanation from the Minister because I knew, when I was a Councillor in the Warri Urban District Council, that no contract exceeding a certain sum can be executed by any Council without the prior approval of the Minister of Local Government. So I am right to conclude that if it is true that contract worth about £650,000 was entered into between the Management Committee and a certain firm in Nigeria, surely the Minister ought to have known, because he should give the final approval before any action like that can be taken.

I asked this question on the floor of this House when I made my speech on the Appropriation Bill but the Minister of Finance did not give me an answer. If he had given me any answer, I should not have raised this matter now. I want the Minister to explain if it is true that the contract had been signed or it has not been signed. If the Minister will confirm this I will be very happy because I would consider it a very great mistake if the

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Government of the Western Region could approve a project like that.

Why should a council with an annual revenue much less than £80,000 be saddled with a loan of £650,000? Even at this time of austerity, I will not consider a £650,000 modern market first in the list of priorities for Warri Urban District Council Area in an area where there is no sufficient water supply, in an area where there is no sufficient money for the construction of roads in the council area? Surely no man will approve such an expenditure for a council area of the size of the Warri Urban District Council. Therefore, I will be very much happy if the Minister assures this House that such contract has not been signed. I will even question the action of any company agreeing to build any market worth £650,000 for a council area without demanding a penny but only under the promise that the money will be paid and that the loan is guaranteed by the Western Region Government. I should have been very surprised and should have called on the Government of the Federation to investigate the interest of the Company in the matter. *(Interruptions)*. I am not yielding. Mr Chairman, I will be very happy this evening if the Minister of Local Government assures us that the debit contract has not been signed.

Mr Chairman, I move that the item be reduced by £5. I am a good representative of Warri and I won my election and they want me to represent them.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): The answer to the question whether a contract has been signed with the Gamon Nigeria Limited with the Warri Urban District Council is, "No". *(Cheers)*. The Committee of Management of the Council has only submitted an application to my Ministry for consideration and, through what is known generally throughout the Federation of Nigeria as Contractor-Finance, that Committee of Management is now seeking my approval to allow it to enter into an agreement of that nature with Messrs Gamon of Nigeria to build a modern market for the use of the people of Warri township. I am sure that the hon. Member for Warri East is not going to make himself ridiculous, because it will be very difficult for him to say, when he gets back to Warri, that Warri is not ripe for a modern market, like what we have in Onitsha, Jos and other parts of this country. As a

matter of fact, Sir, I can also assure him that the matter is being actively considered in my Ministry and I propose to place all the facts before the Government, and if Government is satisfied that the proposal is sound and that there is nothing wrong in Government giving approval for such a contract, it will act accordingly. It is one of the important policies of my Ministry that Local Authorities should explore further sources of revenue for many services which they are called upon from time to time to render to the people. As a matter of fact, markets certainly are sources of revenue for Local Authorities. I have approved several loans for Local Authorities to build motor parks and markets, and so on and so forth, and Warri cannot be an exception in this case.

The only point raised by the Member for Oyo North is in respect of a bye-law which has been approved by my Ministry in respect of drumming and sounding of bugles, and I am indeed grateful to my hon. colleague, the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, who has given the facts of the case. I only like to add that one of the contestants of the Aseyin stool, who happens to be a Muslim has always paraded himself about as an Oba, and I have taken the trouble to invite him and his supporters on several occasions, and efforts have been made to persuade him not to do so again. I have on several occasions also sent my senior officials to Iseyin to persuade this man, in the interest of free movement and in the interest of our holy religion, the religion of Islam, that he should desist from parading as an Oba in Iseyin.

I am sure, Mr Chairman, Sir, that I know many more people on that side of this House who will confirm that the sounding of bugles is certainly not one that is Islamic, nor are they used for prayers or at any hour of our prayers at all. I think I am an authority in that regard. *(Applause)*. Let us persuade our friend to desist from doing it. *(Applause)*.

Some time ago, his Council submitted a Bye-law to the Ministry for approval. I must say that I shall have no hesitation whatever in approving the bye-law in order to bring home to this misguided "Aseyin of Iseyin", the true position of things. He must be told that he will be acting against the Law if he acts in that manner. I will appeal to my hon. Friend, the Member for Oyo North, to take this to the old man that, from henceforth, he should desist from sounding bugles. If he does not desist from doing so, I shall not hesitate to evoke that particular section of the bye-law.

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

I am once more, in my usual practice, appealing to all Members, particularly Members opposite me, to do everything to see that peace, order and good government reign supreme in their part of the Region. If anybody tries to set aside what I have said, I shall have no hesitation whatever in teaching such a person a sound lesson.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £193,920 for Head 337—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 346.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE BOARD

Question proposed, that the sum of £19,310 for Head 346—Local Government Service Board—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr K. O. Owonikoko: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the sum of £5 be reduced from Head 346—Local Government Service Board.

Mr Chairman, Sir, as regards the Local Government Service Board, I have this to say. Very often in this House, the Government has always given the impression that it is ready to defend the Local Government Service Board. Members of the Government have always said that this Board does its work independently. However, it is not difficult to say something—something in defence of this Board—but what is very important is to put into practice what they have said. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Local Government Service Board is more or less a waste of money. But why not allow the Board to do its work itself? It appears to me that many of the appointments, especially the appointments of Customary Court Judges, are being done by the Local Government Service Board. Well, as far as the appointments of the Local Government Service Board are concerned, I appeal to Government to post some of these people appointed by the Board to different Councils in the Region.

What I have in mind is that Councils' staff should, from time to time, be transferred from one place to another. In my Council area, I can assert that appointments are not always subject to the interference of any Minister; but the same cannot be said of the Local Government Service Board, for Ministers have hands in some of the appointments. How can people appointed by politicians (and in some cases politicians themselves) discharge justice in an impartial way? At times, we find that some Action Group

leaders also have hands in the employment or appointment of some of these Judges. Now, this is worse, for people who are appointed through the influence of party men can never be expected to dispense justice impartially. (*Interruptions*).

In my town, Sir, before the Customary Court system was introduced, the old system—District Council Courts—was functioning; but when the new one was introduced, the people who were members of the old District Council Courts were thrown out. Up till now, Sir, nothing has been done for them. Of the three affected, two of them are senior Chiefs who have gained considerable experience in deciding cases. Why they were thrown out, we do not know. (*A member of the Government: What are their names?.....(Interruptions)*).

Mr Chairman, Sir, I believe that these chiefs were removed from the Customary Court panel for political reasons. I suggest that if the Local Government Service Board is to do its work, and efficiently too, it should be left alone; there should be no interference from within or outside the Board. Some people in my area have been parading the streets asserting that these chiefs were not appointed Customary Court Judges because they stood in their way. They added that because a Minister of State in the Western Region is from the area, they were very sure that whatever they wanted would be got. As a result of many things happening in the area, a representation was made to the Premier to this effect in which it was stated that the non-inclusion of these Chiefs has something to do with politics. We urged the Premier to do everything in his power to see that these chiefs are by right appointed Customary Court Judges. Well, Sir, we expected that the Premier would at least reply to our representations, but, up till now, nothing has been heard from him. Added to this, the local leaders of the Action Group have been bragging about that the Government belongs to them and they are sure that the Premier would not, even if he replies, give favourable consideration to the representation. Now, Sir, it is quite clear that the appointments of Customary Court Judges are subject to interference from outside "authorities". I was surprised when I heard this evening that the Board is independent, receives no order from anybody, and acts perfectly independently.

May I seize this opportunity to appeal to the Premier on the floor of this House to reconsider the matter. Mr Chairman, I

[MR OWONIKOKO]

suggest, among other things, that the Board should be entirely left with the appointment or recruitment and control of its staff; or, alternatively, the appointment of Customary Court Judges and other staff should be removed from the Local Government Service Board and placed in the hands of a more independent authority. I have already told you that there is a section of the people in my area who brag that a Minister in the Cabinet—their son—would help them so that they can continue to do what they like. (Interruptions). Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very serious. The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice should please look into my charges and act promptly. Appointments of Customary Court Judges must not be based on political grounds nor would outside interference be the solution of the ills which now exist:

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move. (Interruptions).

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £19,310 for Head 346.—Local Government Service Board—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 338.—MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS

Question proposed that the sum of £23,579 for Head 338.—Ministry of Chieftaincy Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Chairman Sir, this head should be reduced by £5. Mr Chairman, I have several reasons for proposing this amendment. (Long pause).

(Government Benches: Talk now).

I have thirty minutes. What is the point?

(Government Benches: Carry on).

If you want to keep us here, we would do the job as it should be done. (Laughter).

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 339.—MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Question proposed that the sum of £250,240 for Head 339.—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Chairman, I move that Head 339 be reduced by £5.

I like to draw the special attention of the Minister of Trade and Industry to the special statement made earlier during this Session by a Member of the Opposition calling for a Commission of Inquiry into the financial activities of the C.S.A. Limited (Co-operative

Supply Association Limited). We Members of the Opposition believe that the financial activities of that Company is not in good order, and to substantiate I quote some figures. That Company is always working at great losses. In the year 1957-58, it operated at a loss of £91,458. In the year 1958-59, it operated at a loss of £76,198. In the year 1959-60, it operated at a loss of £74,288. What I want at this stage is for the Minister of Trade and Industry to tell this House how that Company gets these funds. If it is Government funds, Government should do something about it because such Company does not justify its existence if it should continue to operate at such huge losses every year.

The second point I like to make is this: the retail trade. The Premier of this Region gave an indication some time ago that the retail trade or the distributive trade will be confined to the indigenous citizens of Western Nigeria. That statement was greeted with applause but, since then, no step has been taken to ensure that the distributive trade in Western Nigeria is confined exclusively to the citizens. If Western Nigeria takes the lead in that, it would be very nice. In fact this is not the only country in the world which is practising it. For example in the Sudan, before a man can engage in the distributive trade in that country he must have naturalised in that country and to naturalise he must have stayed in that country for twenty-five years. In Ghana, you all are aware that about eight Nigerian families were refused landing recently because the Ghanaian Government thought they were coming to engage in distributive trade in Ghana. So I do not think it would be out of place for the Western Nigeria Government to make necessary arrangements to ensure that the distributive trade is exclusively in the hands of its indigenous citizens.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr K. S. Y. Momoh): I think that not only the Premier's statement mentioned the question of distributive trade, but the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development and my own self also made statements here last week, and Government is pursuing the question very actively in conjunction with the Industrial Promotions Commission. I feel that that ought to have satisfied the wishes of the hon. Member. That is the position, Sir.

As far as the question of the Co-operative Supply Association Limited is concerned,

[MR MOMOH]

it is one of the biggest distribution companies in the Region and it deposits all its—(*Interruptions*). Whether there has been any loss or not, or whether there is a question of enquiry that must be considered. As I said last week it is no use asking us to appoint a Commission of Inquiry when no attempt has been made to substantiate the question of misappropriation. The point which the hon. Gentleman was making this morning is not a question of misappropriation; it is a question of losses, and that is not unusual in all business organisations. We would do our best to find out.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £250,240 for Head 339.—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put, and agreed to.

HEAD 735.—MINISTRY OF
TRADE AND INDUSTRY

(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed that the sum of £33,550 for Head 735.—Ministry of Trade and Industry

(*Other Non-recurrent Expenditure*)—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Chief Odebiyi rose in his place and claimed to move that the Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again..

Question put and agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the chair).

Committee report progress—To sit again this day.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Committee of Supply shall sit again at 11 o'clock today to consider the remaining Heads of the Estimates.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made, and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn till 11 a.m.—(Chief Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

House accordingly adjourned at 3.44 a.m. to resume sitting at 11 o'clock this day.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 17TH APRIL, 1962

(The House met at 11.38 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Oba C. D. Akran): I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

Oba Akran: I beg to move that at its rising this day the House shall adjourn *sine die*.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Establishment of a Fourth Region

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Premier, in moving the resolution disapproving and rejecting the so-called proposal by the Federation to provide for the creation of Midwest Region, indicated that the issue was serious enough to be taken to another forum. I wish to announce to the House that I have this morning filed two actions in the Federal Supreme Court challenging the validity of the steps already taken by the Federation, with the assistance of Northern Nigeria and Eastern Nigeria, purporting to approve by resolution the so-called proposal to create the new Region.

We live in a democracy under the rule of law. We are governed under a Constitution shaped by the hand of our own leaders. It is therefore our bounden duty to ensure that the authorities vested with powers and duties under the Constitution and the law of our country act strictly in compliance therewith. I am satisfied that this is not being done. It is my bounden duty, as Attorney-General

of Western Nigeria, to take appropriate steps to ensure that in so far as the interests of this Region are concerned the provisions of our Constitution are strictly complied with. You ask me what would be the alternative? I shudder to think that if we lose respect for the rule of law and the sanctity of the Constitution, democracy would take to its heels and anarchy would reign supreme. We are in duty bound, Mr Speaker, to do all in our power to prevent such an undesirable state of affairs.

BILLS: FIRST READING

The following Bills, brought from the Other House, were presented and read the First time; they were ordered to be read a Second time this day:—

(1) The Chiefs (Amendment) Bill.

(2) The Council of Obas and Chiefs (Amendment) Bill.

ORDER OF THE DAY

THE CHIEFS (AMENDMENT) BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): In November 1960, a Sessional Paper No. 14/1960 was laid on the Tables of the Legislature of Western Nigeria. In paragraph 9 of that Paper, it was proposed that the Minister of Midwest Affairs would be delegated with certain executive powers and that as Chairman of Midwest Minority Council, he would be in close touch with that Council and be in an advantageous position to appreciate the views and attitudes of members when exercising his powers.

In paragraph 10 of that Paper, it was stated that relevant laws would be amended to permit the delegation of executive powers to the Minister in regard to certain aspects of matters closely related to local usages and customs in the Midwest area. Such matters were to include besides, communal land and local government councils, the institution of chieftaincy and traditional authority in the area.

Last February, the Governor assigned the subject of chieftaincy matters in the Midwest Area, excluding Akoko-Oke and Warri Divisions, to the Minister of Midwest Affairs. In order to allow the Minister to perform his statutory functions, it is necessary to amend the Chiefs Law Cap. 19, to give the interpretation of "the Minister" as contained

[DR OMITOWOJU]

in Part I of the Law to mean the Minister of Midwest Affairs in respect of chieftaincy matters affecting the Midwest Area, excluding Akoko-Oke and Warri Divisions.

Oba Akran: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr V. I. Amadasun (Benin West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you this morning for giving me an opportunity to say something about this Bill the Second Reading of which has been lazily presented to the House by the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs.

Mr Speaker this Bill is indeed a very slippery one. People will think that this Action Group Government.....*(Laughter and interruptions)*. I am standing as Amadasun from Benin and opposing this Bill, firstly because of the political inconsistency of the Action Group, and secondly because the Minister to whom the functions are being transferred is by no means a Chief: he is a commoner. These are the two categories towards which my points of criticisms will be directed.

Now Mr Speaker, what does the Bill purport to indicate? The Bill, Mr Speaker, Sir, seeks to transfer chieftaincy matters in the Midwest to a Midwesterner. The reason behind that, Sir, is that the Mover himself does not know anything about chieftaincy matters in the Midwest. He wants a son of the soil to handle the intricate matters concerning the Midwest.

I should not have opposed this Bill. A few days ago, last Friday, fortunately for you, I was not in the House. Here is a Government that wants to transfer responsibility for a certain area not known to the Regional Minister to a person of the soil. The people in that area have cried out that they want the principle of self-determination to be given them by creating the Midwest State. They have now turned round to say, "We are going to the Court". Go and we will follow you. If you go to heaven, we will follow you too. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not playing; I am talking seriously. If you go to Heaven we are ready to follow you.

Now Mr Speaker, Sir, I remember vividly that, in 1955, a responsible man in the Action Group, Mr Showole—*(Interruptions)*. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to be protected.

Mr Speaker: You are already protected.

Mr Amadasun: Thank you very much.

Mr D. K. Olumofin: Point of Order. The question of Midwest is not the subject for discussion, so that nobody should talk about it now.

Mr Amadasun: I do not agree because he is not learned.

Mr Speaker: I have got to rule on that order. My ruling is that the point is upheld.

Mr Amadasun: Well, Mr Speaker, Sir, I still have my parliamentary views.

Mr Speaker: I beg your pardon. I do not say that the matter appertaining to the Midwest aspect should not be discussed. But the creation of the Midwest should not be discussed.

Mr Amadasun: Be that as it may, I have been able to prove the political inconsistency of the Action Group Government in the Western Region by being inconsistent and by transferring to one man in the Midwest, its policy, but when the people want self-determination they have been refused.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is pretty clear that the other House has agreed to and passed this Bill. I used to speak with respect in connection with the Chiefs. The other week, Sir, when I mentioned that the Chiefs' car basic allowance should not be taken away from them, as they were not given adequate remuneration for their traditional posts, some of the Chiefs became annoyed and the following day I became sick. Despite that, Sir, I am still going to say that the Chiefs should not pass such a Bill in the House. The reason, Sir, is that the Chiefs from the Yoruba section of the Western Region could condescend to pass such a Bill, but the Chiefs in the Midwest—I want Mr Otobo to understand—should not condescend to agree to pass such a Bill which gives power to a common person who knows nothing about the traditional chieftaincy affairs of the Midwest. I know that Mr Otobo is a man who can adapt himself to any circumstance. He could even mix with the Chiefs and pretend to be a sample chief, but I will definitely tell the.....

Mr Speaker: Order, order. There is a law in this Region that prevents people from parading themselves as Chiefs. I think that the hon. Minister for Midwest Affairs has not contravened that law. *(Laughter)*.

Mr Amadasun: I agree. I did not even mention that.

[MR AMADASUN]

Now Sir, I am saying in this House that before our son, the Minister for Midwest Affairs, handles the chieftaincy affairs he should consult the Obis and Chiefs in the Midwest before he takes any action. Previously, Sir, this was not known in the political history of the Action Group.

Finally, I am advising that this Bill should be treated intelligently by the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs if it happens that the Bill is not thrown away, and a message should be sent to the Chiefs in the other House that we are rejecting the Bill, that we are opposing it; and with your concurrence, please let us send it back to them and let them say something about it—whether it is good for them.

Mr D. E. Okumagba (Warri East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have certain observations to make about this Bill. I think that Chieftaincy as an institution has been debased. I cannot understand the reason for delegating powers to the Minister of Midwest Affairs when it comes to matters of appointment and deposition of Chiefs. I think, Sir, that in the Region there is a general policy concerning the selection and recognition of Chiefs. Mr Speaker, Sir, we have not been told in this House that there is a policy for the selection and recognition of chiefs in the Midwest different from the policy used in the other parts of the Region. If the policies are not different, what is the necessity of making one Minister responsible for the same type of job in the Midwest, and another Minister in the other parts of the Region?

The only purpose why the Government has made this arrangement is because there are certain peculiar intentions which are known to this House that they expect the Minister of Midwest Affairs to carry out, and they consider it easier for him to perform these duties if the necessary powers are delegated to him so that he may be in charge of the Midwest.

The point I am making, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that there should not have been any necessity for dividing this Ministry if there is a general policy. That policy can be applied everywhere in the Region and the same policy should have been applied by the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs. Now these powers have been delegated to the Minister of Midwest Affairs because they want him to perform certain duties which will be of interest to the ruling party of the Western Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we would not like to contradict the Chiefs when they express any of their sincere wishes and a message is sent to this House, but we find it difficult to agree with this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few suggestions I beg to oppose.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to make these few observations.

My good Friend from Benin has deviated from the point. All that I can understand is that he has been confused by certain announcement made in this House this morning. It is quite obvious that the Bill is entirely non-controversial. Those who are affected and are concerned with this Bill have already signified their appreciation and approval of this Bill. So that I regard the action of the Opposition not only as undue interference but also as an unpardonable encroachment on the rights and privileges of the Obas and Chiefs of this Region. As long as the Chiefs have passed this Bill, it is only brought to this House for information.

I think the Chief Whip of the Opposition, who is a seasoned politician like myself, should be able to know that if any Bill is passed in one House it is only sent to the other House for mere assent. It would be out of place for this House to throw out, as suggested by the last speaker, this Bill. It is not only out of place; it is also a serious disrespect to our Obas and Chiefs.

Mr Speaker: Point of information. The Bill is not sent here for mere information and just ordinary assent. We have to deal with it as we deem fit.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr J. O. Odigie): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. There is nothing controversial about this Bill and I feel that only those who are descendants of Chiefs and Obas are qualified to speak on this Bill. (*Cheers*). A commoner is not qualified to speak when this matter is being discussed.

Mr Speaker, there is nothing wrong in transferring or delegating some power to the Minister of Midwest Affairs in respect of Chieftaincies in the Midwest. It is not suggested that the Law be so amended to confer a different status on Obas and Chiefs in the rest of Western Nigeria. Mr Speaker, Sir, chieftaincy in the Midwest area does not

[MR ODIGIE]

differ from chieftaincy in the Yoruba area. A good student of Benin history will report that the first Oba of Benin came from Yoruba. (*Applause*).

I do not think there is any quarrel with this amendment. There is nothing substantial Members opposite have to offer; only to oppose this Bill. With these few words, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr A. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Bill in the sense that it is intended to assign responsibilities in respect of chieftaincy matters in the Midwest Area to the Minister of Midwest Affairs.

Since the enactment of the Chieftaincy Law in the Region, many things have gone wrong. It is true that the Midwest Area differs a great deal from the Yoruba West as far as chieftaincy matters are concerned. With your permission Sir, I beg to refer to page 11, section 17, of the Minorities Commission Report. The Action Group as a party supports the traditional authority of the chiefs but envisages the gradual reduction of this authority as the people become accustomed to the machinery of democratic government.

I like to refer to the publication in the *Daily Times* issue of 3rd December, 1960, where, in Abeokuta, a father and his son were vying to contest the same chieftaincy title. While this type of custom and tradition is tenable in the Yoruba West, they are seriously forbidden in the Midwest.

Mr Speaker, since the enactment of the Chieftaincy Law in this Region—

Mr Speaker: May I call the hon. Gentleman to order. This is not the time to speak on the Chiefs Law. I shall advise hon. Members to confine their speeches to this Amendment.

Mr. Atohengbe: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Now, Sir, that the Minister of Midwest Affairs is assigned with responsibility for chieftaincy matters in that area, we the people of the Midwest hereby warn the Government of this Region to allow him to exercise his powers strictly with the established chieftaincy custom and tradition of the people of that area as ordained by God.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr T. E. Igugu (Urhobo Central East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to associate myself with the people who have spoken on this

side of the House. In doing so, Sir, I know that the Government has now realised the implications contained in handing over the affairs of the people for which the Minister has no knowledge. In the past, Sir, the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs has been discharging all the duties all over the Region as far as chieftaincy is concerned. This has brought about all over the Region, and in the Midwest in particular, litigation, troubles, fighting, and so on and so forth, amounting to unnecessary waste of funds. (*Interruptions*). I cite two examples to substantiate my case.

In Central Urhobo, just late last month, certain people were conferred with chieftaincy titles without the knowledge of the people.

(*Government Benches: Mention them*).

I will mention them. One Ohanoram was made Orodgie. This very Orodgie stayed in Sapele. There are people at home who really deserve the title, yet the Minister has come all the way to give the chieftaincy title to his friend from Sapele. Not only that Sir: there is another man by name Esejo. He stays at Ikire, Ago-Owu. The Minister picked him from Ago-Owu and he is being officially known at home. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think this is very bad. How can you expect somebody from Ago-Owu to discharge his functions properly as a traditional member in the interest, or to the benefit, of the people 300 or 400 miles away? This is a very serious thing. Although we the people concerned shall take action about it, yet I want to make it known to the Minister. I think the Minister of Midwest Affairs on whom we are now trying to confer power in respect of chieftaincies in the Midwest shall take necessary steps to see that all these errors are set aright. If this is not done, I think the purpose for which this Ministry exists would have been lost. In short, Sir, what I mean to say is that the Minister of Midwest Affairs should take note of what I have said and try as much as possible to set aright what has been made wrong by the other Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West I): Mr Speaker Sir, I am opposing this Bill not because of its merits but because of its anomalies and its omissions. This is a Bill to amend the Chiefs Law. The amendment now being proposed is inadequate and my opposition arises from that.

[MR RERRI]

The most offensive portion which really ought to engage the attention of the hon. Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs and the Minister of Midwest Affairs ought to be the basic undemocratic element contained therein, namely, that in it the action of the Governor in Council could not be challenged constitutionally. It is a defect in this Bill. We must remove all the undemocratic elements in the Law if we want to amend it. I have mentioned that appointments by the Governor in Council should be questionable in a court of law so that anybody who feels aggrieved can seek redress.

I like also to mention another anomaly in the present set-up. Perhaps I should put this in the form of a challenge to the hon. Minister of Midwest Affairs. He should name the date of the installation of the Odie of Udu. What I am trying to say, Mr Speaker, is that by the law of this Region no person has been made Odie of Udu. Can an Awujale of Ijebu-Ode be installed without the Ijebu-Ode people knowing? If you instal an Obi or an Oba, it is not a hush-hush affair; it is a public thing of which even children tell the story years after. The present Ministers jointly responsible have not played fair with the electorate of this Region with particular reference to the appointment of chiefs.

One important point to which I would like to draw the attention of this honourable House is that, so far as the Midwest is concerned, the Action Group Government of Western Region is playing a most hypocritical game. The hypocrisy is this—Why do you create the impression that you do not want one thing and yet you turn round and do exactly the same thing? What I am saying is that if it is necessary to duplicate chieftaincy matters in the Western Region—I refer in particular to chieftaincy matters as applying to Yoruba West and chieftaincy affairs in the Midwest Area—what then is the grand idea behind the Government's hypocrisy in practising what it does not intend to do? I would like to sound a note of warning, and that is, that the Minister of Midwest Affairs is a very well known personality to me and I would like to warn him, as a Minister of State, and also as a friend of mine, that he should not allow any undemocratic element in the Chiefs Law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I say at this juncture that we in the Opposition have the highest regard for our natural rulers and when I lead the debate on the Second Reading of a Bill coming on, I will show how friendly

we are to these rulers. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am opposing this Bill for what it fails to do.

The Minister of Midwest Affairs (Mr J. E. Otobo): Mr Speaker, Sir, in reply to what the hon. Member has just said, I continue to be amazed and surprised by the inconsistencies of the NCNC. This morning, NCNC spokesmen have spoken with several voices.

The hon. Member has said that since chieftaincy matters have failed in the Western Region, chieftaincy matters should be re-assigned to a particular Minister in the Midwest Area. He also claimed that he is a son of the soil. I think all the Mid-westerners should congratulate me for all I have done on their behalf. I have received congratulatory messages from people like the hon. Chief Omo Osagie, who is an NCNC Minister in the Federal Parliament. I have not even gone so far as to mention congratulatory messages sent to me by other people like Chief D. C. Osadebay and other congratulatory letters from elsewhere in another form. (*Cheers*). Moreover, Sir, I have to point out another noteworthy instance of congratulation.

Last night there was a general acclamation on the vote of expenditure for my Ministry, and that reflects general satisfaction at the additional power which has been assigned to my Ministry. This morning again, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am greatly surprised that this honourable House is being inflicted with these criticisms. Mr Chairman, this I think is an overnight change. (*Laughter*).

(*An hon. Member: Are you a Mid-westerner?*).

Yes, I am; and I think I should be congratulated for exercising functions on your behalf.

Reference has been made frequently on the floor of this House to the fact that there are too frequent litigations about chieftaincy matters generally. All I can say about this, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that there have been fewer cases of chieftaincy matters coming before the courts. Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that with these few explanatory details, my hon. Friend will see that I am really entitled to be congratulated. (*Applause*).

A Member from Western Urhobo, Sir, said that he was opposing this Bill because there were certain shortcomings and that there were Bills which ought to be here but which are not now here. This Bill, Sir, is very simple, namely, it seeks to enable the Minister of Midwest Affairs to exercise or perform statutory functions under the Chiefs Law and nothing more. If, of course,

[MR OTOBO]

a Member on that side wants the Chiefs Law amended in other respects, as a Member of the House he is entitled to sponsor an amended Bill any day in this House. Nothing prevents a Member of this House, if he so wishes, from opposing an amendment by way of a Bill to any existing Law. You can do that, and if you think that there are certain defects in the existing Law, all that any Member of that side needs do is to consult their own lawyers and bring it by way of a Bill before this House. On our side, we can only do what we think is required under any circumstances at any particular time. In other words, the point I make here, Sir, is that the references made are irrelevant to the present objects and reasons of this Bill.

There was a charge of apparent hypocrisy on our side which I would not bother to answer. Enough was said on Friday about who is and who is not being hypocritical. All I can say is to draw the attention of the Members of this side to the provisions in the Constitution which relate to Midwest Affairs generally, and I have no doubt that it is under a similar Constitution they are operating their own Provincial Assembly in the Eastern Region. In the same way, under the Constitution, there is a provision made for an Edo Minority Area, in order to bring certain aspects of the Midwest administration to the notice of the Government.

I wish to assure the hon. Member, finally, that we certainly will not allow any undemocratic elements which do not exist in the Chiefs Law to mar good government in the Midwest, and I think, once again, on behalf of the more competent Members of the Opposition, that I wish to acknowledge my gratitude to them for wishing me well in my new assignment and portfolio.

Dr Omitowoju: Mr Chairman, Sir, most of the points raised by the hon. Members on the Opposition side have been very well answered by my colleague, the Minister of Midwest Affairs. I am sure that they themselves understand the provisions of the Constitution of Western Nigeria in respect of Midwest Area Minority Councils. The only trouble with people opposing this Bill is that, in their areas, they are afraid of the present Minister of Midwest Affairs, because of their activities in their respective areas against Obis, Ovies and Chiefs. I want to assure them that they have nothing to fear as long as they behave and keep within their bounds as far as chieftaincy matters are concerned.

I have gone round all the areas in the Midwest. The only trouble spots have been in Urhobo areas where they have chiefs which the Councillors refuse to recognise. The Government has taken every step to regularise these very grave faults, and that is the reason why they have been very violent this morning. I assure them that the Minister will see to it that the customary law which will reflect the system of chieftaincy declarations in their areas is properly followed. (*Interruptions*). They have given us a wrong impression that they have no system of chieftaincy. We have been there. We have seen the people. They have been oppressing them. Now we have taken these chiefs out of their clutches. They are now safe on this side. They are afraid that when they get to the Councils they will support members of the Action Group. There is no need to entertain any fear if they actually claim to be fair to these people. They have refused to allow them to perform their normal civic rights.

This Government is particular in retaining the institutions of Chieftaincy in this Region. We shall continue to do so, and any Council which misbehaves will be properly dealt with under the law. The Opposition have nothing to do with chieftaincy, so they should keep their hands off the Chiefs. Allow the Chiefs to decide their own future.

The question of allocation of any subject within the portfolio of a Minister is that of the Premier, who recommends to the Governor in Council. I thought that Members from the Midwest area would have been quite happy when they see subjects which are of a local nature being assigned to a son of the soil. I am really surprised to see that they are so very violent against him that they do not want him to come and function in that area. (*Interruptions*).

As I have said, the Member for Urhobo Central made certain points which I believe are erroneous and which I shall correct on the floor of this House. As I said there have been problems about chieftaincies in Urhobo areas. I have not given approval to any chieftaincy in that area at all, and to come to the floor of this House to say that I have installed some Chiefs wrongly, and so on, is just a way of causing confusion. Many of them have been installing Chiefs secretly. (*Interruptions*). I am only waiting to get all these things through the proper channel. (*Laughter*).

It is provided in the Chiefs Law that anybody who parades himself as a Chief or somebody who tries to instal somebody as a Chief is guilty of an offence. (*Interruptions*).

[DR OMITOWOJU]

In any case, where the normal customary law in respect of any Chieftaincy has been reflected properly in a registered declaration, there is no fear of anybody going to any court of law. There have been problems in Urhobo areas, and we are trying to solve them.

Investigations have been carried out. If one has any fear about certain Chiefs that have been given recognition, all one needs to do is to come to my Ministry and get an explanation. Do not come and deceive or mislead this honourable House. Some Chiefs are expected to go to the House of Chiefs. A Bill was passed into Law last January, to enable certain Chiefs to sit in an electoral college and select their own members to the House of Chiefs.

In Central Urhobo, there had been difficulties for very many years to get the Council to allow Chiefs in the area to function. The Government has to do something to correct that defect. (*Interruptions*). We have nothing to do with their own customary law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read a Third time and passed.

COUNCIL OF OBAS AND CHIEFS (AMENDMENT) BILL

SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Dr J. O. Omitowoju: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill to amend the Council of Obas and Chiefs Law, 1959.

This is a very simple Bill. It only seeks to enable the Minister of Midwest Affairs to exercise or perform the statutory functions under the Law in relation to the Midwest area of the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. T. Rerri (Urhobo West I): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Bill. In supporting the Bill I would like you, Mr Speaker, Sir, to note that we of the NCNC Opposition have great love and affection for our Chiefs and Obas. I would want the impression created that, as much as possible, our Obas should be allowed independent views. They should have the opportunity of deciding most of what they do entirely on their own. And that is why I now wish to put in one or two suggestions which I think will assist the hon. Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs in the proper application of the Council of Obas and Chiefs Law generally, and particularly this amendment.

Now the impression is being created, as a result of the activities of the hon. Minister and his other Action Group agents, that our Chiefs and Obas have party leanings. I am putting this charge on the hon. Minister. As I know it, our chiefs are our chiefs: they are the chiefs of the Opposition, and they are the chiefs of the Government, so that it will be ridiculous for our chiefs to behave in such a way.

Mr Speaker: Point of information. I should like to know what this has to do with the question of devolution of powers from the Minister of Chieftaincy to the Ministry of Midwest Affairs.

Mr Rerri: Mr Speaker, Sir, we are vesting the hon. Minister with powers under the Council of Obas and Chiefs Law, but certain of the powers which have been vested in the past have been badly used. So that they might not misuse the powers we are about to confer on them, which I am supporting, I am warning them to be very careful about how they use their powers.

Mr Speaker: Let me tell you the line of this debate. It is this: either these powers which already exist should not be transferred to the Ministry of Midwest Affairs or otherwise. Anything more than that, I disagree with.

Mr Rerri: Mr Speaker, Sir, I said that I was supporting the Bill but I think that if I am going to be party to the conferring of power on somebody, I should also be privileged to advise the user of that power as to how he should use it under the law. Mr Speaker, Sir, for your information, the Bill seeks to amend the Council of Obas and Chiefs Law.

The other point I should like to raise, Mr Speaker, Sir, is this. This transfer of power, as I said, is not being opposed, but we do not

like the role played by the Action Group Government in their machinery as far as that machinery affects the disposition of our chiefs and our Obas. The example I have is this.

Mr Speaker: You are reiterating the Second Reading of the Chiefs Law, and I rule that out of order now.

Mr Rerri: Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, if you will not want me to use the general terms of the Bill, if you will restrict me only to section 2 of it, I will merely say that the opinion that I hold is this, that the way the hon. Minister has used his power under this Law in the past has not impressed me in person and the Opposition in general, and we are warning that in applying this Law they should be very careful in taking the very best of heads of our Chiefs and Obas, because we would not want any degradation to their status arising from malapplication of the law which we as Opposition Members are party to.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Riemu: (Urhobo West II): Mr Speaker, Sir, we have heard all the arguments about this transfer. One thing I want this House to know, and properly too, is that we are not against the Law as such because the Law is already existing. What we are talking about is this: "Is there any sensible reason for the transfer of these powers to the Minister for Midwest Affairs?" Well, as far as we know, there is no sanity in transferring these powers to the Minister for Midwest Affairs because it is possible that he will misuse these very powers. If the powers are misused, all that will come out of it is that there will be any amount of bloodshed in the areas where the Law has been executed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, recently the Ughelli NCNC-controlled District Council was taken over overnight by the mad rush of Action Group traditional members in to the area council. Who was responsible? I think.....

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. Will the hon. Gentleman be reminded that I can only allow this debate to revolve on the advisability or otherwise of certain powers which were all the time being exercised by the Minister for Chieftaincy Affairs but which are now to devolve on the Minister for Midwest Affairs as far as those matters concern the Midwest areas of the Western Region.

Mr Riemu: Mr Speaker, Sir, we are reiterating that there is no necessity for transferring that power to anybody; at the same time, we are saying too that the aim

behind the transfer of that power to the Minister of Midwest Affairs is not genuine, that is, is it in the interest of the people of the Midwest? If it were, some other portfolios should have been shared into two, say, the Ministry of Works. Why not cut that into two and give some of the powers to the Minister of Midwest Affairs. Why not cut the Ministry of Education into two and give a portion of it to the Minister of Midwest Affairs so that he will administer it in the Midwest. We would have known that by the time fifty secondary schools are built in the Yoruba West, at least about ten would have been built in the Midwest. In a nutshell, what we are saying is that the intention is to get the man responsible, whose character is already dubious, to fetch out some people or to point out some people for punishment in the area. This is what is being mooted by the Government and that is why the transfer is being made. Only customary courts are being transferred.....

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I shall call the attention of the hon. Member to Standing Order 27 (6) which says that no member shall impute improper motives to any other member.

Mr Riemu: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sorry and I withdraw. What I am trying to say is that if the man into whose hands such power falls is a dubious person, he could use the powers anyhow. So I am saying, Sir, that the transfer is not called for; it is not worthwhile; it is not worth the trouble taken, and it is bad.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Midwest Affairs (Mr B. E. O. Osagie): In supporting this Bill, Sir, I would like to say that since the assignment of chieftaincy affairs to the Ministry of Midwest Affairs, the people of the Midwest have greatly benefitted. It is a sign of implicit conformity with the Edo Minority Council because the motto of the Edo Minority Council is that all matters relating to Midwest should be transferred to the Edo Minority Council.

The transfer of Chieftaincy Affairs to the Ministry of Midwest Affairs shows the keen interest of the Western Regional Government. This will enable the people concerned to get their own Minister in their own area to be in constant touch with them and to see that proper action is taken immediately whenever there is cause to do so.

The Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs knows that the place was too large for him. The people in the Midwest area, whenever they

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have to send a delegation about matters of chieftaincy affairs, have to travel about 234 miles away from Benin. The Government is so keen and sincere that it thought it fit to transfer this function to the Minister of Midwest Affairs whose office and headquarters are at Benin City. That shows the good spirit of this Government to the people of the Midwest. That is a good example of self-determination for the people of the Midwest area to settle their own affairs. The Minister of Midwest Affairs is a native of the Midwest; he is not from the Yoruba area or any other part of the Region.

I think that my Friend on the other side should have the courage to praise this Government for transferring this function to a Midwesterner. And, again, I think he does not know anything about chieftaincy institutions. Well, I am at Benin. I may say that what is troubling my hon. Gentleman from Urhobo area is personal jealousy. All our chieftaincy institutions are situated in Benin Division. No commoner has any say about chieftaincy institutions in Benin area. There is a certain class of chiefs who decide matters of chieftaincy. It is not for commoners to decide. I cannot blame him because he had not learnt about this.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr V. I. Amadasun (Benin West I): I rise to fall in stream with all that has been said from this side of the House. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Mover to the objects and reasons of this Bill. He will then come to the conclusion that this very amendment is unfair and is a challenge to the Chiefs in the Midwest area. What is put down under the objects and reasons is that this Bill seeks to empower the Minister of Midwest Affairs to exercise or perform statutory functions under the Council of Obas and Chiefs Law, 1959, in relation to the Midwest area of the Region. I want the phrase "under the Council of Obas and Chiefs Law" to be underlined. The word "Council" is a noun in the singular number. The Ministry of Chieftaincy Affairs is now being divided into two. In this very Bill, Council means that there is only one Council of Obas and Chiefs all over the Region. The Government of this Region finds it a necessity to break this Ministry into two parts and to transfer certain delegations to the Minister of Midwest Affairs. It should see to the reasonableness of making two Councils of Obas and Chiefs—one to be in the entire Yoruba section and the other in the Midwest

section. This is logical reasoning and cannot be refuted.

To show that this is a regrettable challenge to the Obas and Chiefs of the Midwest, I am to say that a few days ago we heard over the air and read in the press that some Obas in the Yoruba West resigned their seats and afterwards we heard that they were appointed Members of the House of Chiefs. In other words, in future, when chiefs are to be selected, these chiefs will by right go to the House of Chiefs. Four of them: The Deji of Akure, The Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, the Olowo of Owo, and the Oshemawe of Ondo. How many were taken from the Midwest? None was taken from the Midwest. If the Council were divided into two, one for the Yoruba section and the other for the Midwest section, the Council there should have recommended some of the chiefs there. What I am saying now is that since the Mover is magnanimous enough to share his responsibility with the other Minister, he should see to the establishment of a Council of Obas and Chiefs in the Midwest area.

Dr Omitowoju: Mr Speaker Sir, I should like to touch upon the points made by the last speaker. The question of selection of Obas and Chiefs as *ex-officio* Members of the House of Chiefs has nothing to do with this Bill. In any case, whenever the Minister of Midwest Affairs considers it necessary to recommend any of the Ovies, Obis, and so on, in the Midwest to become *ex-officio* Members, the door is quite open to them. I think that will be a sort of consolation to him.

He stated that this Bill is a challenge to the Chiefs in the Midwest area. It is not a challenge. The Chiefs themselves have given their blessing to the Bill and the Chiefs in this Region agree to work together. They do not want to have two Councils of Obas and Chiefs. The only condition where the Minister of Midwest Affairs comes in is that, being the Minister responsible for chieftaincy affairs in the Midwest, he would be the Minister to be consulted after the chiefs have considered who among them should come in. It is not the wish of the Obas and Chiefs that the Council of Obas and Chiefs should be split into two—one for the Midwest and one for the Yoruba West. Now I would like to tell the hon. Member for Urhobo West that he has nothing to fear as far as the functions of the Council of Obas and Chiefs in respect of the Midwest are concerned. The Obas and Chiefs decide their own case; no Minister can influence them.

The hon. Member for Urhobo West II stated that the Minister will misuse powers.

[DR OMITOWOJU]

I would like to assure him that that is not going to be the case with particular reference to the Minister of Midwest Affairs. He would be in close touch with the Chiefs in the Midwest. The hon. Member should not dabble in chieftaincy matters when he himself is not a chief. On questions affecting the institution of chieftaincy, local government and communal land in close relation with the lives of the people in the Midwest, it is essential that the Minister of Midwest Affairs should be in constant touch with the people there, and that is why the Government is delegating all the powers to him.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 2 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

Sitting suspended at 1.25 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 2.30 p.m.

1962-63 APPROPRIATION BILL

Committee of Supply (Second Allotted Day)

(House in Committee)

HEAD 340.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Question proposed that the sum of £1,810,840 for Head 340—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): Mr Chairman, Sir, since the only way open to me to speak on this Head at this moment is by a motion (in the form of amendment), I move that this Head of expenditure be reduced by £5.

Under Sub-head 10—Maintenance of Roads—a sum of £489,310 is provided. I like to say that the conditions of the Trunk B (Regional) Roads passing through Benin City are not all that pleasant. *(Interruptions)*. I am referring to Regional Trunk B Roads.

Mr D. K. Olumofin: On Point of Order, Sir, Order 3 (2): A Member may speak only from the seat allocated to him, provided that the Speaker may change the allocation from time to time.

Chief Odebiyi: May I speak on this question. It is clear that hon. Atohengbe has so distinguished himself at the Back Bench that it has been considered necessary by the Front Benchers to move him to the second Bench. *(Laughter)*.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to say that there is no grain of truth in what the Leader of the House has just said. Mr Atohengbe is being shifted to the present seat in conformity with the agreement reached by the Parliamentary Party of the NCNC, so that all that the Leader of the House is saying is not correct.

Mr Chairman: Order, Order. The hon. Gentleman was promoted. *(Laughter)*

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, as far as we are concerned, those who determine the policy of the NCNC Opposition are those on the Front Bench.

(Opposition Benches: Oh no; it is your own interpretation).

It is they who initiate policy for other people in their own Party to follow; and it is they who decided to move the hon. Member from the Back Bench to the Front Bench. At the material time, the hon. V. I. Amadasun was not here when we were all burning the midnight candle; he was not here; he was frolicking in town.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am reiterating again that the Leader of the House should desist from making any statement which is not in conformity with our Parliamentary practice in this House. The very application, seeking for a transfer made by hon. Atohengbe was duly submitted and passed through me to the hon. Speaker. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr A. Adisa (Ibadan South-East Rural): Mr Chairman, Sir, I take this opportunity to thank the Leader of the House for the very great complements he paid to the members of the NCNC by giving expression to the fact that the other hon. Member has so distinguished himself in this House that it was thought necessary to give him a conspicuous position among the Members of the Opposition. I believe, Sir, that there is unity—perfect unity—among the Members of the Opposition. What happened was that the Chief Whip misunderstood the Leader of the House, and it was thought that the Leader of the House was arrogating to himself the right which belongs to members of the NCNC. I seek to correct that impression and to say that the House should now go on with its business.

Mr Chairman: Order, Order. The hon. Gentleman may now continue to speak.

Mr Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, as I said earlier, I am referring to Sub-head 33. Under this sub-head a sum of £20,500 is allocated to Urban Water Supply Schemes: Grants to Local Government Councils towards Recurrent Expenditure. There are two District or Local Government Councils in my constituency; I suggest that grants be given to them. I like at this moment to appeal to the hon. Minister in charge to put into consideration all that I have said under this Head of the Estimates.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr S. O. Oyewole (Ibadan Central West): Mr Chairman, Sir, in supporting the last speaker on the point of Head 340, Sub-heads 32 to 40, I wish to make some observations in respect of the Building Division. I am happy to see that the officers mentioned in the Estimates, in particular under the Building Division, are officers who are very hard-working. To be frank, these officers are second to none, that is if I may borrow the phrase of the Government; and I do agree that they are very intelligent officers; they are all qualified. But I am concerned over one thing, and that is that the work which these efficient officers could have done has been given to the Nigersol. Now, Sir, this is very bad. The Government should please reconsider this matter. I cannot see why all the jobs in the Region should be given to the Nigersol.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I also want to know why contractors from Israel are preferred by Government. The Government does not encourage indigenous contractors. The Minister of Works and Transport should please answer this question. Mr Chairman, the contractors of the Western Region are jobless; they get no work to do and the minor jobs which might have been given to these contractors are invariably given to women contractors. One may ask: what can women contractors do? They have no responsibilities—at least, if they have, their responsibilities can never equal those of their male counterparts. These people have their wives and children to look after. These people have to maintain their dependants. (*Interruptions*). Another trouble with the Government is that when they do wish to give out contracts at all, they give these contracts to their Party supporters. The tendency is for Action Group supporters to get these contracts, no matter whether

his NCNC counterpart submitted a more reasonable tender, no matter whether his NCNC counterpart is better able to do the job. The Government should please look into these complaints. After all, we all pay tax; both members of the Action Group and those of the NCNC pay their taxes, and we therefore think that should there be any benefit accruing from these measures, such benefits should be shared equally between supporters of both parties.

Mr Chairman, I should advise the Government not to embark on projects which it knows will not yield sufficient profit. One should have thought that at this time when austerity measures are being introduced in the country, the Action Group Government of this Region should have known that it should not continue to waste the money of this Region. Another way in which it wastes money is the hiring of private buildings. As a son of the soil, I know that if I decide to erect some private buildings and the Government hired them, I would be gaining a lot by way of profit from the Government. I advise the Government to discontinue this practice; it does not pay. I advise the Government to please spend the money of this Region in a very wise and judicious way. (*Interruptions*).

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

Amendment proposed.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Chairman, I wish to make some observations.

You will all remember that when the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development was moving his Motion on the 1962-68 Development Plan, he said that we should first try to help ourselves. (*Interruptions*). I am sure, Sir, that everybody agrees with him.

There is one thing which the Action Group Government of this Region does. When it decides to construct roads, it will refuse to build bridges. For example, Sir, in my town, a few roads have been constructed, but no bridges have so far been built. I appeal to the Government to do something about this. (*Interruptions*). I do not know whether members of the Government think that they can deceive people all the time; for instance, Sir, during the last elections, many members of the Action Group tried to confuse my people. They promised to build this and that, but no sooner the elections were over than these men sneaked away, without fulfilling the promises they had made.

[MR. AMADASUN]

Now the Minister of Works is a man I know to be very intelligent, and a man who used to fulfil his promises. All I have to say is that he should be very strict in seeing that the various amenities falling within his portfolio are evenly distributed all over the Region. I was made to understand that, in the very near future, he would come to Benin to open the waterworks there. I have to congratulate him for all that he has done in giving a copious amount of water supply to the city of Benin. But I am saying it without mincing words, Mr Chairman, that the stand pipes in Benin City township are still inadequate. I live in a reputed area. It may be because I am living in that area that the Engineer has found it unnecessary to extend as many stand pipes as possible to my area. What I am saying now is that the Minister of Works should use his good offices to see that the required amount of stand pipes is extended to my own section of the City.

And secondly, this very Ministry is full of many contract works. I know it is not the duty of the Minister of Works to see that contracts are awarded but I think I have it on information from a reliable source that there is a committee saddled with the responsibility of giving contracts and I am of the opinion, Sir, that the Action Group gets money to maintain its Party through this very Ministry by going behind those who are responsible for giving contracts, instructing them to pay 10 per cent of the contract given to the Action Group Party. Whatever happens, I say this with authority because apart from that—(Interruptions).

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Chairman, may I say that the hon. Member, as a responsible Member of this House, has made a statement which is extremely far-reaching and, happily, he said he has said it with authority. He should have come out with a substantive Motion to that effect. He has not done so. I think that the abuse of the privilege of the House must stop. The Speaker is at liberty to set up an enquiry under the powers vested in him on behalf of this House to go into this. Let the hon. Gentleman produce all the witnesses he has. And may I explain that this being the Legislature, we can constitute ourselves into a court. I think the time has come for us to make an example. Whatever evidence he has should be produced publicly. I want him to produce the name of a single contractor who has ever suggested that any of us has a creditor and mention the name on the floor of this House: one single name. I will

mention to you that the Tenders Board consists of not only the representatives of the Action Group but also of those of the NCNC; and not a single Minister serves on the Tenders Board. If he is sure therefore that somebody or anybody is collecting 10 per cent, I would like him to mention the contractor from whom that amount has been taken; otherwise it would be honourable for him not to cast aspersions on the reputation of other people. (Cheers).

Mr Amadasun: Mr Chairman, I know the Premier of the Region is always very witty in making orations. I said that it was alleged. (interruptions). It is an allegation. That is exactly what I said. Even though we have not sailed beyond the Atlantic Ocean to England, we are students of law from England. What I am saying is that I have gone beyond the age to be threatened as the Premier was doing this morning. I would say, Sir, that I have had an opportunity of serving on the Tenders Board of the Region. I knew how it was constituted. But why have they not extended it to other members of the Opposition so that we can know exactly what is happening there? (interruptions). Mr Chairman, when I became very critical of this Board, I was given only a single opportunity one day and I did not see what really happened there because—(Interruptions). Yes, I am talking seriously.

Chief Odebiyi: Point of Information Mr Chairman, Sir, the Tenders Board is chaired by the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, and the panel of those who sit with the officials, namely the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, the Secretary to the Premier and Executive Council and the Controller of Works Services, is drawn from an equal number from the Opposition and the Government side of the House, and under no circumstance and in no case has an allegation been made as to the partiality or dishonesty of that Tenders Board. I am satisfied, Sir, and so is Government satisfied, that Members of the Tenders Board who are drawn from the official side, the Opposition side and the Government side of the House are doing their work efficiently and honestly and I think it will be a pity that members of the Opposition should use the privilege of the House to damnify the integrity and the good intentions of those sincere Nigerian citizens who serve on this Board. I am surprised Sir, and this has never happened before, because I have very great respect for the hon. Chief Whip of the Opposition. For him to descend to the level he has decided to can only be attributed to the fact that he has already been

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

fagged out; he is tired and he is looking forward to going back home to earn his pay. (*Laughter*). How much did he collect when he was there? (*Laughter*).

Mr Amadasun: I do not want this very matter to be very highly controversial. He knows that even if he says that the civil servants are angelic in all that they do, the civil servants are approachable. We are all politicians. I was in a Council and I know how I used to influence any Secretary of the Council. As a Minister, there is no Civil Servant that will not listen to him—I cannot say whether on the point of corruption or honesty. The point I am saying, Sir, is that as many members of the Opposition representing our Majesty the Queen should be given an opportunity to see what is going on in the Tenders Board so that we may know what is happening.

With these few remarks, Sir, I have to oppose.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): I am surprised Sir, that the hon. Member for Benin West I, who is the Chief Whip of the Opposition, has behaved in this manner and that he has not seen it fit to withdraw, being an hon. Member of this House. I should have thought that, with his experience, he should have been in a better position to lead his colleagues on the other side, particularly on a matter of this kind. It is a matter for regret, Sir, that this is not the case. My friend the Chief Whip of the Opposition was not willing to speak and, as a matter of fact, he did not file any amendment to the Bill; he was simply called upon by accident by the Chairman and therefore he is being absolved from this trouble.

In any event, one significant point he made which has prompted me to speak at all is that you will now see why Government has taken a decision to dissolve the Council of which he used to be Chairman. If he, as an important member of a Local Authority, can come to the floor of this House to confess that when he was in the Council he used to influence the Council and the members of the Council, he should have to withdraw that statement. You should all have sympathy with us in the Ministry of Local Government in the way we have to deal with this type of people all along. We have never at any time attempted to bring them into the open, but I have had an opportunity of proving this evening, from the confession of my Friend opposite, that we have been right and that Government has always been right in dis-

solving Councils. There are occasions when we dissolve and we refuse to give those reasons that we think ought not to be given; but here we are today! One of them has confessed that he was in the habit of influencing Council staff, and so on and so forth.

Mr Chairman Sir, I think it is about time that we do amend the Standing Orders of this House so as to prevent this kind of slanderous statement by Members of this House. We are all hon. Members of the House, but if a Member descends so low as to be regarded as being dishonourable and fraudulent in his utterances, it is about time, Sir, that our Standing Orders be amended with a view to preventing slanderous attacks on Ministers, hon. Members of this House as well as civil servants who are doing their best to keep this Region together. I am sorry, Sir, that I have to speak in this language. I used to have very great respect for the hon. Chief Whip, but he has confessed this morning that he felt sick when he last spoke against some chiefs on the floor of this House, and I warned that he should behave, otherwise he might fall sick again. (*Applause*).

Mr J. O. Omokowajo (Okitipupa North-West): Mr Chairman, Sir, HEAD 340—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT—This is a Ministry where I have seen that a servant is greater than his master. Here, Sir, we have one Permanent Secretary Group 4—£2,940—when his master is on £2,700. It is only in the Western Region that a servant is greater than his master.

Now, what I want to say is that if the Permanent Secretary is a Westerner and not an expatriate, we should all share of the austerity. This salary was fixed when expatriates were Permanent Secretaries and they did that on their own so as to take the money from the West overseas.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I will come to the salary of the Minister of Health. I am telling all of you here, even those of you who are graduates, that you cannot earn more than £600 per annum if you go to teach or you are in the Civil Service. You will observe that while some of us are emaciating, Ministers are growing fat bellies. I am sorry to say this. If you actually sympathise with this Region, is £1,500 not enough for a Minister? It is enough. Those who were practising Barristers could not get more than £1,500 per annum.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief S. O. Sogbein): Mr Chairman, Sir the hon. Member for Benin spoke about

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maintenance of roads in Benin town. I say that this is Trunk A. He should try to find out which is Trunk A and which is Trunk B in most of our roads.

The hon. Member for Benin Central is thanking Government for the provision of water while the other Member is asking for water. I do not know what he meant.

The hon. Member for Ibadan is complaining about Nigersol and that he had no work. I think he is a competent and qualified contractor. I don't give work; I am not a contractor. He also complained about women Contractors. I think they themselves should be given an opportunity. Women have education and so on. If they can do such work, I do not see any reason why they should not be given.

The hon. Member for Iwo said that we are discriminatory. I want to say that fortunately I was in Iwo for four years—1940 to 43—and I know the whole of Iwo. I think it would be better for them to thank this Government for all the provisions made there. And then he was talking of the construction of bridges. There was no bridge in their area for which pipes were collected and kept back. It was constructed by communal labour. It was a blantant lie. I am sorry he has misdirected this House. By the way, if you do some work by communal labour it is not my Ministry that will give grant for it; you will have to go to the Ministry of Community Development and they will consider your case.

The hon. Member for Benin Central started very well by paying compliments. I think he has been adequately answered. All I need to say is that he should refresh his memory by going to my office and taking a

copy of our Tenders Procedure. We have nothing to do with it. The hon. Minister of Finance in fact has to do with it. In fact, the Tenders Board is for all tender awards including my Ministry and other Ministries under the Government of the Western Region. I think he said that it was an allegation. He has been adequately answered. I hope that the hon. Chairman, when he takes his Chair as Mr Speaker, will take appropriate measures against those Members who spoke without foundations, because they had the privilege to speak but started to malign other people's character. When a Commission of Inquiry is set up, we hope that he will be good enough to substantiate his allegations with some facts and figures; Contractors will come forward to say from whom they get their tenders. Of course, I know he is worried because in the Federal set-up, a Parliamentary Secretary, who is a politician, is the Chairman of the Tenders Board and all his people there are under the thumb of the Minister. If you want all the people here to be under our thumbs we will not do that. (Applause).

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £1,810,840 for Head 340—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 701.—BUILDINGS

Questio. proposed that the sum of £2,980,510 under Hea. 701.—Buildings—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following amendment: That the provision be reduced by £12,650 to £2,967,860 and that consequential amendments to the Estimate be made as follows:

Details of Sub-head 7 (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare) at page 168 of the Estimates Book to be replaced by the following:—

Sub-head	Project	Estimated Total Cost	Estimated Expenditure, 1962-63
7	[1] Liberty Stadium	£ 490,000	£ 4,000
	[2] Additional Medical Housing	41,630	1,630
	[3] New Hospital, Ife	59,860	14,860
	[4] Standard Type Hospital, Asaba	83,000	11,000
	[5] Standard Type Hospital, Igbeti	77,000	22,000
	[6] Standard Type Hospital, Ibiade	81,000	20,000
	[7] Administrative Block and Mortuary, Sapele Hospital	7,200	2,000
	[8] Remand Home, Ibadan	21,200	16,200
	[9] Child Health Centre, Benin	25,000	25,000
	[10] Eye Clinic and Ward, Benin General Hospital	7,500	7,500

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

Sub-head	Project	Estimated Total Cost	Estimated Expenditure, 1962-63.
		£	£
[11]	General Hospital, Warri—O.P.D. and Administrative Block with Dispensary and Laboratory	8,600	8,600
[12]	Mortuary, Jericho Nursing Home	8,600	8,620
[13]	One A3, Six D2 and One C3 Quarters, Ossiomo Leper Settlement	3,000	3,000
[14]	New Operating Theatre and X-ray Block, General Hospital, Sapele	17,600	10,000
[15]	New Hospital, Isoko	8,000	8,000
[16]	New Hospital, Pakiama	70,000	40,000
[17]	New Hospital, Pakiama	70,000	40,000
[18]	Maternity Centres, Irrua and Ewu	3,600	3,600
[19]	Public Health Laboratory, Ibadan	27,500	20,000
[20]	One 30-Bed Ward for Abeokuta Hospital... ..	15,300	15,300
[21]	Maternity Centres at Ikehon and Okaingben	3,600	3,600
[22]	Cottage Hospital, Agenebode	20,000	20,000
[23]	Cottage Hospital, Ekpoma	20,000	20,000
[24]	Cottage Hospital, Ivbiosakon	20,000	20,000
[25]	Cottage Hospital, Ede	20,000	20,000
[26]	General Hospital, Akoko	35,870	12,600
[26]	General Hospital, Ondo	28,000	7,850
			<u>£ 376,740</u>

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following amendment: That under sub-head 25—Buildings General—a new Item entitled “Office Accommodation for Industrial Promotions Commission: Alterations and Repairs” with a provision of £3,500 be inserted.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £2,967,860 for Head 701—Buildings—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 702.—ROADS AND BRIDGES

Question proposed, that the sum of £2,443,430 for Head 702—Roads and Bridges—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the provision under this Head be increased by £269,010 to £2,712,440 and that consequential amendments be made to the Estimates as per the following items under that Head:—

(i) Substitute the following for what is shown under Sub-head 44—

	Estimated Total Cost	Estimated Expenditure, 1962-63
	£	£
Idogun-Imeri Bridge	22,000	12,000
(ii) Insert the following new Sub-heads:—		
56. Ijebu Water Side—Akila Road	250,000	50,000
57. Shabomi—Igbotu Embarkment	200,000	40,000
58. Imesi-Ile-Oke Mesi Road Construction	205,000	40,000
59. Bituminous Surfacing: Okitipupa-Igbokoda Road	85,000	40,000
60. Odoye-Ishara Road Improvement	50,000	30,000
61. Dredging of Mahin-Eruna Creek	133,000	60,000
62. Kila-Akonko Road Improvement	6,500	5,000
63. Sapele Bridge	500,010	10e

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

*Amendment put and agreed to.**Question that the amended sum of £2,712,440 for Head 702.—Roads and Bridges—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

HEAD 703.—URBAN WATER SUPPLIES

Question proposed, that the sum of £4,515,150 for Head 703.—Urban Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the following amendments be made to Sub-head 703—Urban Water Supplies: That the provision be increased by £2,230,000 to £4,745,150 and that the following consequential amendments be made:—

Amend provision for Sub-head 22 to read as shown below, and insert new Sub-heads 23 to 34 as follows:

Sub-head No.	Project	Estimated Total Cost	Estimated Expenditure, 1962-63
		£	£
22.	Sapele Water Supply	350,000	40,000
23.	Warri Water Supply Extension	60,000	20,000
24.	Shaki Water Supply	342,000	10,000
25.	Supare-Akungba-Oba-Akoko Water Supply	160,000	10,000
26.	Iperu Remo Water Supply Extension to Odogbolu and Aiyepe	100,000	40,000
27.	Oshogbo-Ede Water Supply Extension to Ifon, Ilobu and Erin	150,000	40,000
28.	Ikire-Apomu-Ikoyi Water Supply	365,000	10,000
29.	Ikirun-Iragbiji-Ado-Agba-Obagun Water Supply	300,000	10,000
30.	Asaba Water Supply	90,000	40,000
31.	Ile-Oluji Water Supply	85,000	30,000
32.	Okeho Water Supply	90,000	10,000
33.	Illa Water Supply	240,000	30,000
34.	Ejigbo-Ola-Okoko Water Supply	220,000	10,000
35.	Igbajo-Ire-Iressi-Otan Water Supply	350,000	10,000

*Amendment put and agreed to.**Question that the amended sum of £4,745,150 for Head 703—Urban Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

HEAD 704.—RURAL WATER SUPPLIES

Question proposed that the sum of £599,050 for Head 704—Rural Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 704—Rural Water Supplies be amended as follows: That the provision be increased by £52,500 to £651,550 and that consequential amendments to the Estimates be made as per items 18, 34 to 41, as follows:

Amend Sub-head 18 to read as under, and insert new Sub-heads 34 to 41 as follows:

Sub-head No.	Project	Estimated Total Cost	Estimated Expenditure, 1962-63
		£	£
18.	Uyin-Igede Water Scheme: Extension	30,000	10,000
34.	Lalupon-Erunmu Water Scheme	10,000	5,000
35.	Ajagba Water Scheme	6,500	5,000
36.	Eruwa Water Scheme	34,000	10,000
37.	Aiyede Water Scheme	14,000	10,000
38.	Emure-Ijaloke Water Scheme	8,500	2,500
39.	Atan Water Scheme	25,000	5,000
40.	Agenebode Water Scheme	20,000	5,000
41.	Unallocated	—	10,000

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £651,550 for Head 704—Rural Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 708.—ELECTRICITY DEVELOPMENT

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that a new Head to be known as

Head 708—Electricity Development—be inserted as follows: That provision of £440,000 be made, and that consequential amendments to the Estimates be made as indicated in Items (i) to (iii) of the amendment paper, as follows:

Project	Estimated Total Cost	Estimated Expenditure, 1962-63	Balance to Complete
	£	£	£
(i) Consultant Fees	5,000	5,000	—
(ii) Urban Electrification	585,000	285,000	300,000
(iii) Rural Electrification	200,000	150,000	50,000
	£ 790,000	440,000	350,000

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the sum of £440,000 for new Head 708—Electricity Development—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 736.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Question proposed that the sum of £122,500 for Head 736—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Question proposed that the sum of £19,119,220—total of the First Schedule—stand part of the Bill.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the total of the First Schedule be amended to read "£19,119,730."

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended total of £19,119,730 for the First Schedule stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Question proposed that the sum of £14,698,720—total of the Second Schedule stand part of the Bill.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the total under the Second Schedule be amended to read "£15,677,580."

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended total of £15,677,580 for the Second Schedule stand part of the Bill put and agreed to.

OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

Question proposed that the total sum of £1,270,370 under non-recurrent expenditure—stand part of the Bill.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that a new total under Other Non-recurrent Expenditure be inserted as follows:

"£1,379,430".

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended total of £1,379,430 under non-recurrent expenditure stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

POSTPONED CLAUSES

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Clause 2 be amended to read as follows:

"The sum of nineteen million, one hundred and nineteen thousand, seven hundred and thirty pounds shall be appropriated from the Consolidated Revenue Fund during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1963 for the services set out in the First Schedule to this Law."

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 2 as amended agreed to.

Clause 3.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Clause 3 be amended to read as follows:

"that £17,057,010 be inserted in place of the provision under Clause 3 of the Bill."

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—*contd.*

4. Mr M. A. Fetuga ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
5. Mr D. A. Popoola...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
6. Mr S. Sobande ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
7. Mr Y. L. Adekunle	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
8. Mr S. A. Akerele ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
9. Mr P. K. Tabiowo	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
10. Mr V. I. Amadasun	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
11. Mr R. A. Akinyemi	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
12. Mr I. A. Olukoju ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member

STATUTORY CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Mr S. Onasanya ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Chairman
2. The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
3. The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Economic Planning	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
4. Rev. I. Edeki ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
5. Mr A. A. Adesanya	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
6. Mr R. O. Areola ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
7. Chief F. Oputa-Otutu	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
8. Mr A. Adelodun ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
9. Mr A. E. E. Atohengbe ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

*Motion made, and Question proposed—*That the House do now adjourn *sine die*.—(Chief Odebiyi).

Population Census

Mr A. Atohengbe (Benin North-East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am particularly grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to address this honourable House. I like to speak on the forthcoming population census not because I am adept in that field but because I feel in duty bound to play my own part to make it more successful than that of 1952. Right from the beginning of this Session, it has featured prominently in speeches delivered on the floor of this House; it was begun by His Excellency the Governor; then followed the Premier and his Ministers; and now it has come to us.

Mr Speaker, Sir, now that we are about to travel to our respective homes, it will be fitting and proper for us to have a collective assurance that the forthcoming census succeeds so much, so well and so good.

(Hear, hear).

Mr Speaker, Sir, it has been emphasised that we should contribute to the success by seeing to it that our people at home

do not scare themselves away due to misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the purpose of the census. Our peoples should be properly educated on the purpose of the census, otherwise they might think it is for the purpose of taxation, or something like that. We should see to it that people do not exaggerate the figures beyond what they really are.

(Hear, hear).

Well, Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to bore the House by emphasising the importance of the forthcoming census. Whilst wishing every Member here safe journey to his home, including myself, I wish the Speaker who is not travelling from this town the best of the Easter Season.

(Hear, hear).

Mr Speaker: The Speaker does not remain in Ibadan all the time. He may go to his own constituency. *(Laughter.)*

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Oba C. D. Akran):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very, very anxious to go away to my constituency to start work on the census. I am very grateful to the honourable Gentleman for reminding us at this time that we are about to depart from here, that before we reassemble again there will have been a census taken. I am particularly grateful that he has said our duty is going to be this: that we encourage our people to come forward in order to be counted and to make sure that they are not

[OBA AKKRAN]

left out. I agree with him. I am sure that we shall all regard anybody who encourages the inflating of figures by some fraudulent means as doing a disservice to the country. I am sure hon. Members here will not contribute to that practice. All the same, I accept that it is our bounden duty to go into all the nooks and corners and to the villages to tell our people about the census, and to go into all the schools in the Region and brief the children to help us to interpret the purpose of the census to their parents. We too should do our very best to ensure the success of this forthcoming population census. I do not like to add much more to what the hon. Gentleman has said except to implore all hon. Members in this House to make it their bounden duty to go home, not only to stay in big towns, but to preach and encourage our people to ensure that they are counted.

Economy Measures

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, may I start by appealing to this honourable House to bear patiently with me because I have two important statements to make and, to me, both of them are of great importance. I think that in view of the fact that they have stayed here very long, it will require special effort for Members to bear with me.

Members will recall that in January last, I made a public statement in which I announced the intention of the Government of Western Region to introduce certain austerity measures affecting Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Chairmen and Executive Directors of Corporations as well as senior Civil Servants. As already reported by the hon. Minister of Finance during his Budget Speech, the austerity measures in respect of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Chairmen and Executive Directors of Corporations have already been implemented with effect from the 1st April, 1962.

With regard to the Civil Service, however, I had an opportunity a few weeks ago of meeting with the representatives of the Whitley Councils in this Region. I explained to them why it was necessary for all the citizens of Nigeria to make sacrifices at this time. I found, to my amazement and pleasure, that I was knocking at an open door. Every officer present expressed complete identity of views with the Government on this need for sacrifice. They went on to

point out that they of the Civil Service of Western Nigeria have indeed been foremost in the surrender of outmoded privileges which, they realise, are out of tune with present times and with the general state of the Nigerian economy. They quoted to me, as an instance, their acceptance, more than two years ago, of reductions in the level of privileges which were still enjoyed by their counterparts under the other Governments of Nigeria. They assured me of their willingness to co-operate with my Government in any austerity measures that might ultimately be decided upon, provided that they were taken into the fullest consultation over the determination of those measures.

In addition to assurances in the matter of consultation; I also told representatives of our Whitley Councils that while my Government considers it to be its duty to cut down wherever possible all extravagant spending, it was also our firm policy not to subject our trusted, loyal and efficient Civil Servants to intolerable hardships, and it is equally our policy to keep their conditions of service not too far out of line with those of their opposite numbers under other Governments. For this reason we have done our best to keep in touch with the other Governments over this issue.

In the light of the measures already announced or contemplated by the other Governments of Nigeria and of the effect on the cost of living generally of the recent fiscal measures announced by the Federal Government, it has been decided that it will not be practicable to abolish altogether, at this stage, the payment of motor car basic allowances to certain Civil Servants in this Region. I have, therefore, given instructions to the Treasury to continue the payment of these allowances, but that the scope of eligibility for them should be restricted on similar lines to those operating in other Services in the Federation, particularly in the Federal Service. This should, however, be done in a manner to ensure that officers who are already in receipt of the allowances but will no longer be eligible under the revised rules should retain personal rights to the allowances now payable up to the end of five years since they took the loan to buy the motor car or the end of the life of the car, whichever is earlier.

In the case of house rent, as hon. Members must be aware from Press Reports, I have set up a Rent Commission to review and advise Government on the rents to be paid, and it is proposed to await the report of that

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Commission and what the other Governments of the Federation propose to do on the question of economic rent before a decision is taken on the matter.

Honourable Members may want to know how far the privileges enjoyed by Civil Servants in this Region compare with those enjoyed by their counterparts in the other Services in the Federation in consequence of the 'austerity' measures recently announced by the other Governments. I would therefore mention the following four items which I am sure will be of interest to members.

(i) Reduction in the length of leave (with effect from 1st January, 1960).

Introduced by other Governments as follows:

North ...	...	...	...	1-1-62
East ...	...	...	...	9-2-62
Federal ...	...	...	...	1-4-62

(ii) Abolition of leave transport privileges and its replacement by a flat rate leave bonus, (With effect from 1st January, 1960).

The other Governments modified leave transport privileges with effect from the date indicated in paragraph (i) above

(iii) Abolition of local leave for indigenous officers (With effect from 1st January, 1960) and for Overseas Officers (with effect from 1st March, 1961).

Other Governments introduced similar measures with effect from the dates indicated in paragraph (i) above.

(iv) Withdrawal of privilege of overseas leave at Government's expense once every five years for each indigenous Senior Officer and his wife, and the substitution therefore of arrangement for overseas leave once only in each officer's career.

Except for the Federal Government which has abolished the privilege, officers in the other Services still retain this privilege of United Kingdom leave for themselves and their wives once every five years at Government's expense.

**Loan Assistance to the National
Investment and Properties
Company Limited**

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, the loan assistance offered by the Western Nigeria Marketing Board to the National Investment and Properties Company Limited, has given rise to some criticisms. There have been a number of wild speculations about the transactions. I wish to seize this opportunity to remind Members of the considera-

tions that led to the granting of this loan and the purpose for which it was given.

For many decades before the attainment of Independence, foreign firms and expatriate entrepreneurs so firmly established themselves in different parts of Nigeria that they left the indigenous people of the country in no doubt that they were not only political serfs but also economic slaves. The activities of the expatriate firms covered practically every phase of the economic life of Nigeria. The Asiatic firms in particular, which started with petty trading, later on extended their activities to real property. In places like Lagos, Ibadan, Kano and Port Harcourt, to name only a few, practically all the buildings in commercial areas were owned by expatriates who became landlords not only to foreigners like themselves but to many indigenous businessmen as well.

As land appreciated in value, these expatriate firms and individuals invested more and more money in it. Their incursion into the field of housing and real property constituted a menace. To solve the problems created as a result of this policy, the Government of Western Nigeria, which came into power ten years ago, adopted some positive measures with a view to helping indigenous Nigerians to participate more fully in the economic development of this Region. Indigenous Banks were assisted by the Government so that they might liberalise credit facilities and thereby be strong enough to extend to Nigerians financial assistance denied to them by some expatriate banks. This new policy was to assist Nigerians in order that they might be able to compete much more effectively with the expatriates. This experiment achieved the result intended. One of the ways of measuring its success was the number and value of new buildings in the commercial areas of Lagos, Ibadan and Ikeja now belonging to Nigerians. Indigenous Nigerians were able to invest in new buildings which previously were virtually the exclusive preserves of expatriate firms, because the indigenous banks were able to assist them. The indigenous banks, on the other hand, as I said earlier, would not have been able to help but for the generous assistance they received from the Government of Western Nigeria.

The second method by which the menace was combated was the establishment of the Housing Corporation. It was also to assist in providing a solution to the same problem in respect of which the application made to the Government about three or four years ago by the National Investment and Proper-

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ties Company Limited—an indigenous firm—for substantial loan assistance was favourably considered. (*Applause*).

The aim of the Company was principally to prevent the complete dominance of expatriate firms and foreign individuals in the field of real property. The Company felt that if it could enter into the development field with Government's support, it would be able to make sufficient impact upon it and thereby influence the trends. With the co-operation of the Government, the Company would make a substantial contribution to the economic prosperity of Nigeria and stimulate other indigenous private investors to erect good and well-designed buildings. The Company also has as its objective the provision of adequate accommodation for undertakings which, without them, might not come to the country. It was out also to prevent unwholesome speculations from being rampant in commercial circles and to eliminate unnecessary exploitation of tenants through the imposition of exorbitant rents. Why should all the best buildings in Ibadan be owned exclusively by Lebanese, Syrians, or the British for that matter? Why should all buildings of great commercial value in Lagos belong to foreigners? It was felt that Nigerians, in order to maintain the honour and the prestige of their country, should dominate the field of real property. The aims and objects of the Company are, in these respects, identical with those of the Government.

The Government of Western Nigeria, through its agent, the Western Region Marketing Board, assisted the National Investment and Properties Company, Limited, in order that they may prevent the Commercial areas in Western Nigeria from falling into the exclusive possession of expatriate investors. At the time the National Investment and Properties Company, Limited, submitted their application the Western Region Marketing Board, as the agent of the Government of Western Nigeria, in keeping with the policy approved by the Federation as a whole, was advised to change its policy regarding its securities. Previously, Government surplus funds were invested in British Gilt-edged Securities. It was to be expected that, while the country's funds were controlled by Britain, they would be invested in Britain and in British Gilt-edged Securities. As the need for development in Nigeria increased, it was necessary to divert Nigerian funds back to the country. That explains why the Western Region Marketing Board, as the agent of the Government of Western Nigeria,

considered it wise to divert part of its resources to the development of the Region.

A substantial sum of money was, therefore, invested in the National Investment and Properties Company Limited. The various loan advances made were in respect of specific individual projects which were carefully checked, scrutinised and expertly assessed. The loans were fully secured. The rate of interest was higher than could be obtained anywhere abroad. It was in fact above the Bank of England rate. All the assets of the National Investment and Properties Company Limited were mortgaged to the Western Region Marketing Board. Further, the loans were free from the plague of endless fluctuations affecting investments made abroad.

It is a matter for regret that, in spite of the soundness of the policy pursued by the Government, the profitability of the investment made by the Western Region Marketing Board, as the agent of the Government of Western Nigeria and the national interest which the Government was protecting, the financial relation between the Western Region Marketing Board and the National Investment and Properties Company Limited has always been the subject of bitter criticisms.

The criticism was based on two grounds. It was alleged that the loan made to the National Investment and Properties Company Limited would result in creating a small privileged class of millionaires. In other words, the Marketing Board, as the agent of the Government of Western Nigeria, has been indirectly accused of pursuing a policy which is not socialistic. The scheme presented to the Marketing Board by the National Investment and Properties Company Limited, for its success, calls for expert knowledge and mature experience. It is only men with the required technical know-how and adequate business experience that can execute it successfully. Further, the class of men that can undertake this kind of business must have a stake in it themselves. That is, they must possess some financial interest in the business themselves. The class of people so qualified is very small anywhere in the world, and more particularly so in Western Nigeria.

The project under review was conceived, designed and initially financed by its promoters—the Directors of the National Investment and Properties Company Limited. Contrary to the allegation of the critics, these Directors were not the creation of the Government or of the Marketing Board.

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

It is, therefore, unfair to accuse the Government of breeding a small privileged class of wealthy Nigerians. All the Government, through the Marketing Board, has done was to support the scheme of the National Investment and Properties Company Limited which, in the opinion of the Government; will lead to the realisation of its own objective, that is, to reduce the burden of the economic domination of the country by aliens. It may also be mentioned that the benefit accruing from a critical prosecution of the Government's policy and a nationalist scheme, of which the National Investment and Properties Company Limited project is a classical example, will not and cannot go exclusively to what the critics described as a small class of millionaires. It will directly and indirectly reach all classes of people. I am proud to say, Mr Speaker, that this scheme has provided opportunities of employment for thousands of Nigerians.

The Government is, in the second place, accused of a breach of trust in that, according to a critic of the Government, "the principal purpose of creating Marketing Board reserve is the subsidisation of prices for any period of time when the price for the produce marketed becomes adverse to the producer, therefore, security or no security, interest or no interest, it is reprehensible to utilise such reserves for any other purpose excepting that for which it is created". This charge is baseless as it is founded upon a misunderstanding of the principal purpose of the existence of the reserves of the Marketing Board.

The Constitutional Conference which was responsible for the distribution of the assets of the former Central Marketing Board decided that the reserves of the Marketing Board should be used by the Regional Government in the interest of the public and for the benefit of the whole community. In pursuance of this decision, various Governments in the Federation have utilised the reserves of Marketing Boards in building roads, in providing hospitals, dispensaries and maternity centres, primary education, in installing water supply and such like. In the Eastern Region, for example, the Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board provided the capital for the establishment of the University of Nigeria at Nsukka. I offer no apology for accepting a substantial grant from the Western Region Marketing Board for the establishment of the University of Ife. The employment of the reserves for these projects is certainly not a deviation from the purpose of the accumulation.

The Government is, in the third place, accused of sinking a substantial portion of public funds into a venture in which it did not participate. It is interesting to note that the principal objective of the venture has never been questioned. Critics of this scheme have not at any time doubted the desirability of combatting the domination by aliens of the economic life of the country. The main criticism in this respect is that the Government should at least be an active partner if not sole proprietor. This Government has given due consideration to this criticism and has examined all its implications. In pursuance of the policy of this Government, and in order to attain its objectives without either incurring public odium or necessarily inviting public criticisms, we have reconsidered the relation between the Western Region Marketing Board, as the agent of Government, and the National Investment and Properties Company Limited. The experience gained by the Government since the initiation of its Housing Corporation makes this reconsideration desirable.

We have therefore suggested to the Directors of the National Investment and Properties Company Limited two alternative solutions for their consideration. These are—

(1) that sufficient amount of money may be raised from private sources by the National Investment and Properties Company Limited to repay forthwith the loan made to them by the Government of Western Nigeria provided that such private loans to be raised by the National Investment and Properties Company Limited would not come from expatriate sources which would insist on the assets of the Company being transferred to them and thereby defeat the principal objective of the Government which is to keep these assets in the hands of Nigerians, or

(2) the whole or part of such buildings and assets of the National Investment and Properties Company Limited to the value of all or of a substantial part of the amount of loan granted be transferred to the Government through its agent, the Western Region Marketing Board, forthwith, and, thereby, altogether or substantially free the National Investment and Properties Company Limited from further liabilities. The market prices of the buildings to be transferred will, in that case, be determined by independent and reputable valuers. The valuation should be on the basis of completed projects.

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

The second alternative is the one which, after protracted negotiation, has been agreed to by both the Government of Western Nigeria and the National Investment and Properties Company Limited. In other words, the Government will take over all or part of the properties of the National Investment and Properties Company Limited, or at least as much as will cover the loan granted to the Company or a substantial part of it.

Meanwhile, I feel nothing should be said which may prejudice the negotiation which is now proceeding. I promise that, in due course, I shall report back to the House, giving all the details which hon. Members may require.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. Before putting the question, I should like to remind hon. Members of the following Standing Orders which should be strictly adhered to, if necessary, at our next sitting. Standing order No. 27 which is "Rules of Debate"; secondly, Standing Order No. 29: "Behaviour of Members not speaking"; and thirdly, Standing Order No. 37: "Order in the House or Committee". I commend these to hon. Members.

Question put and agreed to.

The House accordingly adjourned sine die at 4.46 p.m. pursuant to the resolution of the House this day.

**WESTERN HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY**

FRIDAY, 25TH MAY, 1962

The House met at 9.05 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (3)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of
the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr

Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.....(Inter-
ruptions).

*A grave disorder having arisen, Mr Speaker
suspended sitting in accordance with Standing
Orders.*

Sitting suspended at 9.15 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 11.40 a.m.

*Again another grave disorder having arisen,
Mr Speaker adjourned the House without
question put (pursuant to Standing Order 37(8)).*

*House accordingly adjourned sine die at
12.00 noon.*

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(to Omnibus Issue No. 28)

ABBREVIATIONS

1R, 2R, 3R= read First, Second, Third time.
Am=Amendment

M=Motion

Com.=Committee
Q=Question.

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