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WESTERN NIGERIA

House of Assembly Debates

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10TH SESSION 1961



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W2C-51

Western House of Assembly, Ibadan

His Excellency the Governor—Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., 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 G. Akin-Deko, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Lands and Housing—The Honourable 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 K. S. Y. Momoh, 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 S. O. Ighodaro.
 The Minister of Midwest Affairs—The Honourable J. E. Otodo, 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 Chief A. O. Adeyi, M.H.A.
 The Minister of Health and Social Welfare—The Honourable Chief J. O. Osuntokun, M.H.A.
 The Minister of State (Justice)—The Honourable J. E. Babatola, 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 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, The Olubadan of Ibadan, M.H.C.
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Oba Tewogboye II, The Oshemawe of Ondo, M.H.C.
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Oba S. O. Abimbola, The Oluwo of Iwo, M.H.C.
 The Minister without Portfolio—The Honourable Oba. S. L. Adetona Ogbagba II, The Awujale of Ijebuland, 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.

MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(Arranged in Alphabetical Order)

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------------|
| 1. Abiosun, Mr J. O. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Iwo South Suburban |
| 2. Adebisin, Mr K. S. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Egba Central I |
| 3. Adedoyin, Prince A. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Ijebu Remo South |
| 4. Adedigba, Mr M. A. | ... | ... | ... | ... | Iwo South-East |
| 5. Adegbenro, Hon. 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 |

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MEMBERS—*contd.*

10. Adenekan, Mr A. L.	Egba Central II
11. Adeniran, Mr J. L.	Ibarapa West
12. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.	...	...	...	...	Oyo East II
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
28. Akerele, Mr S. O.	...	...	...	...	Ife-Ila North
29. Akingboye, Mr A. O.	...	...	...	...	Okitipupa South-West
30. Akintola, Chief S. L.	...	...	...	...	Ogbomosho South-East
31. Akinyemi, Mr R. E.	...	...	...	...	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. Arowojolu, 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. Atoghegbe, Mr A.	...	...	...	...	Benin North-East
42. Atolagbe, Mr D.	...	...	...	...	Ekiti North-West I
43. Awopeju, Mr J. O.	...	...	...	...	Ijebu Remo North
44. Babatola, Chief J. E.	...	...	...	...	Ekiti North-East II
45. Babayemi, Mr A. A.	...	...	...	...	Egba North-West
46. Bello, Mr A. B.	...	...	...	...	Oyo Central II
47. Deko, Chief G. A.	...	...	...	...	Ondo North-East II
48. Ebubedike, Mr F.	...	...	...	...	Badagry East
49. Edeki, Mr I.	...	...	...	...	Afenmai North-West II
50. Ekwejunor-Etchie, Chief G. E.	...	...	...	...	Warri West
51. Elusade, Mr T. E.	...	...	...	...	Ife Town South
52. Ewah, Mr B. G.	...	...	...	...	Ishan North-East
53. Fadahunsi, Mr J. O.	...	...	...	...	Ilesha Rural South
54. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.	...	...	...	...	Egbado North-West
55. Fani-Kayode, Mr R. A.	...	...	...	...	Ife-Ila South
56. Fashola, Mr O.	...	...	...	...	Ibadan South-West Suburban
57. Fawehinmi, Mr B. O.	...	...	...	...	Ondo West I
58. Fetuga, Mr M. A.	...	...	...	...	Ijebu Central East
59. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.	...	...	...	...	Oyo North-West II
60. Idodo, Mr M. A.	...	...	...	...	Afenmai South-East
61. Igugu, Mr T. E.	...	...	...	...	Central Urhobo East
62. Ijie, Mr M. O.	...	...	...	...	Ishan West Central
63. Imafidon, Mr E. O.	...	...	...	...	Benin Central East
64. John, Mr C. O.	...	...	...	...	Oyo East I
65. Kehinde, Mr J. O.	...	...	...	...	Ede Ejigbo North
66. Kotoye, Mr N. A. B.	...	...	...	...	Egba East II
67. Lana, Mr R. A.	...	...	...	...	Oshun North-East II

MEMBERS—*cond.*

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

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House	Member
3. Mr J. O. Awopaju	Member
4. Mr S. T. Adelegan	Member
5. 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 A. Adelodun	Member
6. Mr M. O. Ijie	Member
7. Mr I. A. Olukoju	Member
8. Mr B. I. G. Ewah	Member
9. Mr A. B. Bello	Member
10. 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 S. Onasanya	Member
3. Mr J. U. E. Agbaza	Member
4. Mr A. Ajibola	Member
5. Mr D. A. Popoola	Member
6. Mr S. Sobande	Member
7. Mr Y. E. Adekunle	Member
8. Mr S. A. Akerele	Member
9. Chief V. I. Amadasun	Member
10. Mr P. K. Tabiowo	Member
11. Mr R. E. Akinyemi	Member
12. Chief J. O. Fadahunsi	Member

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

A. Adedoyin, Esq.

DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

S. T. Adelegan, Esq.

OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE

Mr J. M. Akinola ...	...	...	...	First Clerk to the Regional Legislature
Mr D. E. O. Oriola...	...	...	...	Second Clerk to the Regional Legislature
Mr E. A. O. Soyega	...	...	...	Acting Hansard Editor
Mr M. O. Maduemezia	...	...	...	Official Reporter, Grade I
Mr D. O. Ajulu ...	...	...	...	Official Reporter, Grade II
Mr A. O. Bamishe ...	...	...	...	Official Reporter, Grade II
Mr S. A. Onadele ...	...	...	...	Official Reporter, Grade II
Mr A. O. Idowu ...	...	...	...	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, 22ND MARCH, 1961

The House met at 9.15 a.m.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PRAYERS

RESIGNATIONS

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I have to announce that three seats are vacant in this honourable House as a result of resignation of the following Members:—

Mr A. Okusaga, Member for Ijebu South-West;

Mr S. L. A. Fajimi, Member for Ibadan South-East;

Mr O. Adebayo, Member for Ibadan South Suburban.

Mr O. Adebayo (Ibadan South Suburban): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to say that I have not resigned my seat.

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker Sir, on the announcement of the hon. Mr Speaker that those two Members have resigned their seats, I beg to propose that it will be a breach of the privilege of this honourable House for those Members to sit down.

Mr Speaker: I agree with the hon. Leader of the House and as long as those seats have already been declared vacant, whoever comes in on the pretext that he still has seat is a stranger to this honourable House and as such all strangers should clear. The Sergeant-at-Arms should see to that.

(Several Government and Opposition Members: Shame! shame!!) (The two men from Ibadan walked out of the Chamber of the House).

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker Sir, the programme has already been put in the pigeon hole for hon. Members. On the procedure for attending to His Excellency's command, the Sergeant-at-Arms will lead the procession with the Mace, followed by Mr Speaker, then Members of the Government and Opposition Front Benches will follow in twos.

Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Chiefs: Mr Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the Governor commands the presence of this honourable House to attend to him immediately in the House of Chiefs.

(Sitting suspended. Mr Speaker and the Members of the House then proceeded to the House of Chiefs).

Sitting resumed at 10.40 a.m.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr Speaker: I have to report that this House has attended His Excellency the Governor in the other House at his request and that His Excellency has been pleased to address a meeting of both Houses and for the purposes of greater accuracy, I have instructed that copies of his speech be circulated to Members.

The text of the Speech was as follows:

"His Excellency, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., C.M.G., Governor, Western Nigeria: Honourable Members of the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly: I have great pleasure in welcoming you to a new Session of the Legislature. This Session is doubly historic in that it is the first to be opened by a Nigerian and also the first to be opened since the Federation of Nigeria, of which we are a part, attained Independence. For me personally I have, since the last Budget Session, exchanged the seat of the President of the House of Chiefs for that of the Governor and now instead of listening with you to the Speech from the Throne it is my pleasure to deliver that Speech. I mentioned all these because they constitute evidence of immense progress which has been made by this Region and which culminated in the grant of Independence to Nigeria in October last.

The principal business before you at this Session, however, will be the voting of supply for the ensuing financial year.

The Estimates which honourable Members of the House of Assembly will be called upon to consider at the Committee of Supply have been framed to reflect the policies and objectives contained in the Development Plan. Since the Plan was drawn up, however, our revenue prospects have altered with the present uncertainty in the price which Cocoa commands in the world market. As far as the Recurrent Budget is concerned, the situation is by no means desperate; although if the present trends in the world market for our agricultural commodities continue, it may mean that there would be fewer surpluses for transfers to the Development Fund during the planning period which ends on 31st March, 1965. As you are already aware, my Government is doing everything possible to broaden the base of the Region's economy in order to reduce our dependence on the one major cash crop.

[HIS EXCELLENCY]

During this Session, my Government intends to introduce legislation which will provide, in accordance with the Independence Constitution, for the collection of Income Tax from non-Africans resident in the Region. As soon as the necessary preliminary arrangements have been completed, the "Pay As You Earn" system of Income Tax will be introduced in this Region in respect of persons who are in regular employment.

In the all-important field of Agriculture, my Government's bold and enterprising Farm Settlements Scheme will be pursued with increasing vigour. The scheme, which now settles over 700 and offers employment to thousands of persons, is intended to revolutionise agriculture by raising a new generation of young, educated, and independent farmers who will respond more readily to new methods of farming. The scheme is also intended to increase the employment opportunities for primary school and secondary modern school leavers. Attention is now focused on the raising of improved rubber and oil palm seedlings for the benefit of farmers in areas where these crops form the main-stay of the people's economy. Research into other crops such as coffee, citrus, and coconut will be intensified in order to ensure that our rural economy is speedily diversified.

In order to prevent the ruinous exploitation of farmers by unscrupulous moneylenders, my Ministers will introduce legislation which will regulate the pledging of farm lands and economic crops in loan transactions.

My Government continues to emphasise the importance of the training of agricultural workers and it is gratifying that the Schools of Agriculture are becoming attractive to our girls. The new buildings of the School of Agriculture at Moor Plantation will come into operation shortly.

My Government will review its Forest Policy to prevent indiscriminate exploitation and encourage afforestation, especially now that our timber and other forest resources are receiving the attention of foreign investors.

My Ministers attach very great importance to the development of the spirit of self-help and to this end they will ensure adequate organisation for community development activities throughout the Region. The aim is to generate in the rural areas a more active economic life which in the youth will play an effective role.

My Government is pressing on vigorously with the implementation of the 1960-65 Development Plan in active consultation and co-operation with the private sector.

My Ministers are fully aware of the desirability of co-ordinating all developmental efforts throughout the Federation and for this reason the current 1960-65 Development Plan will be projected to 1967 so that thereafter the planning period of the four Governments of the Federation will fall into the same quinquennium.

My Government will continue to develop the education services of the Region as rapidly as possible. In this connection, my Ministers are now considering the Report of the Banjo Commission which reviewed the current educational system of the Region and my Government's decision on the Commission's recommendations will be announced in the near future.

In the field of higher education, a Bill will be presented to you during this Session providing for the appointment of a Provisional Council to manage the affairs of the proposed University of Ife. Hon. Members will be pleased to know that my Ministers are determined to pursue this project with great vigour.

My Government will improve existing medical and health facilities and will extend these into those areas of the Region which are at present underserved. Close attention will be paid to the eradication of infectious diseases such as Yaws and Leprosy.

The training of medical and health personnel will be intensified and extended. Towards this end, schemes have been devised for the training of mental nurses at the Aro Hospital, where impressive work is being undertaken and two other training institutions in Ibadan, the Health Auxiliary Training School and the Nurses Training School, built at a cost of about a quarter of a million pounds, will be completed during this year.

My Government will continue its programme for the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents and Remand Homes are being opened in areas where this problem is acute. Family reconciliation services which assist the young with family problems, family planning and marriage education will be extended. Family Guidance Councils along the lines of the one which is proving quite successful in Ibadan, will be organised in other urban centres of the Region.

My Government is determined to improve the organisation and the service conditions of the Local Government Police. My Ministers

[His EXCELLENCY]

will maintain the high standard of service conditions which the Local Government Police Forces have attained and measures will be introduced to give more aid to Constabulary Committees and Local Authorities for the maintenance of adequate Police Forces in their areas. In order to provide proper training facilities for the Fire Brigade my Ministers have in hand plans for the establishment of a Fire Brigade Training School which will be the first in Nigeria and which will also cater for trainees from other Regions.

My Ministers are studying ways and means of improving the publicity organs of the Region. In particular, they are determined to maintain and improve upon the progress so far made by the Television and Sound Broadcasting Services. They hope, by establishing an integrated film unit, to have available a local supply of newsreels and documentary films both for use on Television and the Cinemas.

In pursuance of my Government's aim to improve the standards of Customary Courts, a Commissioner for Customary Courts will shortly be appointed to assist in the administration of the Customary Courts Law and to give advice on problems affecting these courts and ensure an efficient system of inspecting them. The printing of the last volume of the Revised Laws of this Region (*i.e.*, Volume VII) is nearing completion and my Ministers hope to lay this volume at the Table of each of the Legislative Houses before the end of this Budget meeting. Steps are also being taken to enlarge the Law Reporting Committee and to ensure that the Law Reports of this Region are issued regularly.

My Government will reorganise and expand its Survey Services. Aerial Photography and Mapping of towns will be undertaken for town planning purposes. Attention will be directed to the investigation and planning of industrial and commercial sites in areas which have such potentialities throughout the Region.

In Labour Administration, my Government will continue to maintain good labour and industrial relations and will strive to increase employment opportunities throughout the Region. My Ministers are actively considering the expansion of Employment Exchange Services and other facilities in order to meet the demands of the increasing industrial development taking place in the Region.

In the field of Local Government my Ministers will examine proposals for achieving an over-all simplification of the existing local government structures. They will

also review the present system of the payment of Grants-in-Aid to local government councils with a view to encouraging a greater degree of self-reliance leading to the expansion and improvement of the services which these councils provide. In regard to the councils themselves, my Government is concerned that women very rarely serve as councillors. You will, therefore, be asked to consider legislation which will provide for the representation of women on each council.

Legislation will be laid before you during this Session further to amend the Chiefs Law in order to facilitate the recognition of chieftaincy titles in those areas where methods of selection for and succession to chieftaincies are not well defined.

My Ministers will soon launch the Midwest Minority Council with the Minister for Midwest Affairs as its Chairman. In the course of this Session, you will be asked to amend the relevant Laws so as to permit the delegation of certain executive powers to the Minister in regard to certain aspects of matters closely related to local usages and custom in the Midwest Area.

My Government is actively pursuing a policy which, through the activities of the Industrial Promotions Commission, will increase the rate at which industrial projects are being established with a view to promoting greater use of our natural resources. Legislation will be laid before you providing for certain amendments to the Marketing Board Law which are designed to facilitate the operations of the Board in order to enhance its efficiency.

My Government hopes to complete, during this year, the programme of road tarring started in 1959. To the work of new construction of roads will be added that of reconstructing bridges on all Trunk B roads in order to ensure safety for the increasing number of heavy vehicles using those roads.

My Ministers plan to continue with the development of both urban and rural water supplies throughout the Region. Electricity supplies will be extended to several other towns and the rural electricity pilot scheme, which has proved so successful at Ijero, will be established in other small towns.

Honourable Members, the programme of the activities of my Government in the coming financial year shows that my Ministers will not relax their efforts to ensure the rapid development of this Region. They have striven to utilise our resources for the benefit of all our people and in this first year of our Independence it is the duty of

[His Excellency]

every citizen to lend his whole-hearted support to all schemes which are designed to promote the well-being of our people.

My predecessor in office said last year that "when the echoes of the celebrations have died down the hard work of making Independence a reality will remain". We have had our celebrations which include the memorable visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra of Kent and the inspiring message which Her Royal Highness brought to our people from Her Majesty the Queen. Since the celebrations, we have already been called upon to face some of the realities of Independence and nationhood. Our soldiers have been sent to the Congo as part of the United Nations Forces operating in that unhappy land. Our Police contingents have also gone there to play their part.

Nearer home, as I have already said, our principal export crop has met with reverses in the world market and my Ministers have had painfully to sanction the reflection of the Slump in the cocoa market in the prices which the Marketing Board pay to our producers. Although the circumstances leading to the present plight are beyond our exclusive control, measures are being taken, in co-operation with others equally concerned, to ensure a speedy return of prosperity to cocoa producers in Western Nigeria.

I mentioned all these as examples of sacrifices which our people have been called upon to make since we achieved Independence either in sending their sons to the Congo or for the farmers who have had to be contented with reduced prices for their main economic crop.

Apart from such sacrifices, however, there also remains the duty of all citizens to support the Government by paying their taxes. I deprecate the incidence of tax evasion which is rampant throughout the Region. My Ministers have also pointed out the evils of tax evasion. I am sure that all citizens who stop to reflect, that the great work of development and improving the lot of our people which the Government has on hand cannot be carried forward without funds, will rally round and pay their dues promptly.

The Balance Sheet of the first six months of our Independence in this Region is one of continued progress despite difficulties. My Ministers are determined that we shall be second to none in maintaining the unity and integrity of the Federation of Nigeria as well as its peace and prosperity. We can achieve

this goal only by all of us working hard and fulfilling all our obligations as citizens. I am confident that under the leadership of my Ministers the people of this Region will continue to face the challenge of our age and will strive to make Nigeria a worthy example of self-help for all rapidly developing countries in Africa.

I pray that the blessings of God the Almighty may rest upon your deliberations."

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, for the information of hon. Members it is intended that the meeting of this House should last for four weeks and if we are able to finish earlier, we would adjourn earlier. Members would have already been in possession of the programme of the meeting. In between there will be Parliamentary delegations to visit certain economic projects which are being carried out by the Western Nigeria Government, so on those days there will be no sittings of the House.

On Friday the 24th March, there will be a visit to the Ewekoro Cement Works, a venture costing over £4 million; then the N.P.C.C., Abeokuta, the Agege Dairy and Poultry Farm; and the Mushin Industrial Estate. On the 12th of April, there will be another Parliamentary delegation to Apoje Plantations, on the 19th of April, the Ilesha Farm Institute and the Esa-Oke Farm Settlement, about which most of us have heard a lot. The Budget Speech itself will be presented on Monday, 27th March, and the Debate on the Address will be concluded on the 5th of April. The House will adjourn for the Easter Holidays on the 29th of March and will resume on the 5th of April. It will be noticed that there will be no Saturday sittings, this will enable Members who want to see their families or visit their constituencies to do so. As the meeting of the House progresses if new developments arise I shall inform Members.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (4)

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (4) be suspended during this meeting.

The Minister of Justice (Mr S. O. Ighodaro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Free passage to the House for Members

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move the motion standing in my name, that this House prays His Excellency to give directions that the Commissioner of Police shall keep, during

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

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

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Committee of Selection

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that Chief A. Adekeye, Mr S. T. Adelegan and Chief J. O. Fadahunsi be members of the Committee of Selection.

Alhadji Adegbenro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICES OF PUBLIC BILLS

Notices to present the following Bills were given:—

(1) Income Tax (Amendment) Bill. (The Minister of Finance).

(2) Statutory Emoluments Bill. (The Minister of Finance).

(3) Loans Bill. (The Minister of Finance).

Chief Odebiyi: The Moneylenders Bill is not my responsibility the appropriate Minister will move it. I will also, give the first reading of the Moneylenders Bill.

The above Bills are to be read later in the meeting.

BILLS: FIRST READING

The following Bills were presented and read the First time, they were ordered to be read a Second time later in the meeting.

(1) Produce Inspection Bill (Minister of Trade and Industry).

(2) Marketing Board Law (Amendment) Bill (Minister of Trade and Industry).

(3) Local Government (Amendment) Bill (Minister of Local Government).

(4) Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill (The Minister of Finance).

(5) Lands Instruments Registration Bill (The Minister of Lands and Housing).

(6) Chiefs Law (The Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs).

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): We couldn't hear, you should speak louder, it should be repeated.

Mr Speaker: I am not here to repeat what Members say to other Members; he should address his speech to me.

(7) University of Ife (Provisional Council) Bill (The Minister of Education).

(8) 1961-62 Appropriation Bill (The Minister of Finance).

(9) 1958-59 Supplementary Appropriation Bill (The Minister of Finance).

(10) 1959-60 Supplementary Appropriation Bill (The Minister of Finance).

(11) 1960-61 Supplementary Appropriation Bill (The Minister of Finance).

Mr Oviasu: It is for the Minister to lay the Bills on the Table and read them from a piece of paper.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**Motion for an Address**

The Deputy Speaker (Mr S. T. Adelegan): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in the following terms:—

That this Honourable House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his Excellency's most Gracious Speech.

And that this address be formally presented jointly by the Leader of the House and the Leader of Opposition.

First of all, Mr Speaker, Sir, I should wish to congratulate His Excellency for the richly deserved honour of being the first Nigerian Governor to present an address to this House in this historic Session following the attainment of independence by the Federation of Nigeria.

In his characteristic modesty His Excellency has omitted the part he himself played in the evolution of this blessed country from colonialism to full and mature independence. However, as praise should be given where it is due, this Honourable House will wish to place on record the past services of this illustrious son of Nigeria in his capacity as natural ruler and as statesman. There is no doubt, Sir, that this Region, which has always been lucky to have as its pilots wonderful men of experience and steadfastness, will gain immensely under his fatherly and mature experience.

In this memorable address His Excellency has touched practically on all aspects of the prodigious programmes of this far-seeing Government, and though it might be well-nigh impossible to comment on most of the matters mentioned, there are such in these programmes as easily attract the eye and on some of which I would wish to talk in brief.

[MR ADELEGAN]

One aspect of this Address, which has impressed me as most realistic, is the way in which His Excellency has presented, in an undisguised form, the social, economic and moral problems facing this Region and the tremendous efforts his Government is making to solve these problems. Take for example, Sir, the present uncertainty in the Cocoa market. Everybody knows, Sir, that the most important cash crop which has earned this Region envy and sometimes hatred from some people and some other Regions is cocoa. It must therefore be of concern to all lovers of this Region that at the time we are meeting for this Budget Session the price of this most vital product is falling sharply, resulting in the falling of producer prices, altering our revenue prospects and reducing surpluses for transfers to the Development Fund. But there are some in this Region who would choose to be mischievous in every Government measure; who claim that the Government has been responsible for the lowering of the prices and would wish the Government to subsidise prices by using money badly needed for development. Every sincere son of this Region will say "No". No Government, no Minister in this Region, eats cocoa. Cocoa is sold abroad and the Government can only pay back to producers what it receives from the markets.

One fact, Sir, which is not always borne in mind by those mischief makers is that while the Government of this Region had been paying £160 to £170 per ton for cocoa, the Marketing Board of Ghana was all the time paying £110. And this is exactly what the Government of Western Region is now paying. This is not to spite in any way the Ghana Government which is accepted by many as progressive and which, of course, is the idol of these mischief makers. It is only to show that in deciding to pay £110 for cocoa the Western Nigeria Government has done the best in the prevailing circumstance. This year alone, Sir, even when paying the reduced rate of £110 per ton of cocoa, the Western Nigeria Government will still have to subsidise the cocoa producers with some £6 million. I would therefore appeal to the mischief makers to change heart and cooperate in the settlement of this vital matter.

It is, however, a matter for great jubilation that the farmers—the producers—who are primarily concerned in this matter, fully understand the situation and would only laugh at mischief makers. They know their friends and retain full confidence in this Government. We all take solace in this and

the fact that the Government is doing everything possible to broaden the base of the Region's economy in order to reduce our dependence on this major cash crop.

One other factor, Sir, of the realistic approach of this Government, is in the settlement of tax matters. It is gratifying to note that while the Government will make tax easier to pay by introducing the "Pay as you earn" system, it will also arrange for collection of tax from non-Africans and combat tax evasion.

Government has been particularly lucky in having as Minister of Agriculture at this moment a versatile and resourceful man, who takes his job as a vocation and has practically succeeded in revolutionising agriculture in Western Nigeria. When this Minister paid visits to Israel a few years ago, he was being ridiculed and called names from certain quarters. But it is gratifying, Sir, that this very quarters has now come back to learn from this Region the value of farm settlements which are the products of the trips to Israel. This is going to be not only an effective means of checking unemployment but also of bringing revolutionary schemes to the practice of agriculture throughout the Federation of Nigeria. In short, Sir, the Eastern Region has now borrowed a leaf from this Region. (*Opposition Benches: Concentrate on the West and leave the East alone.*) I must make comparison.....Everybody enjoys the prospects of farm settlements being set up in the Western Region. The Government should, however, continue to encourage the growth of food products as much as that of cash crops (*Opposition Benches: Read on.....read on.....perhaps it was written for you by the Hon. the Minister of Local Government to read here*). Prosperous countries like England and the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. do not depend solely on cash crops. The Government has so far encouraged the growing of food crops by issuing loans to farmers. This system should be intensified and more effectively supervised.

Sir, when I remember how in this Region some ignorant farmers would pledge their cocoa or farmland in order to be able to seduce a third or fourth wife, my heart blesses the Minister of Agriculture for the proposal to introduce legislation to prevent the ruinous exploitation of farmers by unscrupulous money-lenders. It is also gratifying to note

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that the Government will review its forest policy to prevent unscrupulous exploitation. I wish to remark, Sir, that in my constituency such unscrupulous exploitation has caused great public concern.

Opposition Benches: You do not need to come and read a speech written for you here.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, on point of order.

Standing Order 27 section (1) prevents a Member from reading his speech, Sir.....
"A member shall not read his speech".

Mr Speaker: The Hon. Member is only referring to his notes, and not reading.

(Cheers from Government Benches).

Mr Adelegan: Sir, I would wish to commend this Government in its practical and positive approach to the problem of Nigerian unity. What more positive demonstration of this practical approach can be found anywhere in this Federation than the proposal of this Government to alter its development plan to make it possible for the planning period of the four Governments of Nigeria to fall into the same quinquennium. True, there are those apostles of chaos and confusion whose only thought is for cataclysms, imbroglios and states of emergency. If they have any thought for the well-being of Nigeria and the prosperity and happiness of its citizens they would be well advised to borrow a leaf from this Government.

Free Primary Education in Nigeria is the baby of the Action Group Government. The Action Group, as the mother, knows much more how to care for her baby's health and when to take her to the doctor for a medical check-up. In this light, Sir, one feels to praise the Government for setting up the Banjo Commission—made up of veterans and experts in educational practice. We do not know yet what recommendations this Commission has made but hope that soon copies of their report will be made available to hon. Members. But one thing one feels to praise the Government for is the fact that it has maintained the system without fail all these years. Government has at no time beheaded the classes, thereby causing mass retrenchment of teachers and distress to children or voluntary agency organisations. Rather, the remarkable thing is that Government has all along taken teachers into confidence and by respecting these professionals, has reaped rich dividends. In other places, the continued snobbery of teachers' organi-

sations has been causes of continuous frictions—the reduction of classes without notice has resulted in grief and unemployment for myriads of teachers.

The decision of the Government of Western Nigeria to build a university has only come as a logical corollary of sound educational organisation and a steady tier of progress. First, Primary Education was expanded and established, then secondary education and sixth form work was expanded. The Government can now go on to the building of a university. There are examples in the Federation of a government which proceeded to plan a university even though its primary education scheme was breaking down and another which has started the nucleus of a university while at the same time sending for experts in the United Kingdom to plan its universal primary education. This is like building stone skyscrapers on mud foundation.

↵The Government deserves a pat on the back on the development of roads. In the whole of the Federation the Western Region Government has developed and tarred the highest mileage of roads. The permanency and quality of these roads will only be appreciated by those who have occasions to travel to other parts of Nigeria, especially members of the Opposition who have need to travel to the East for inspiration.

I would, however, draw the Government's attention to the need to redouble development projects for the rural areas in order to keep their populations happy and therefore intact. It is quite gratifying that the Government is considering the extension of rural electricity and rural water supplies. But I can see also the need for rural village and country planning and more rural health centres. Government should consider as a matter of urgency the supply of water to most rural areas.

The proposal to improve the organisation and service condition of the Local Government Police is most welcome. A fallacious opinion is being held by many in this Region that the Local Government Police is inferior to the Nigeria Police. The Nigeria Police are looked upon as paragons of infallibility and impartiality while the Local Government Police are ridiculed and paid less than the Nigeria Police. Government should bring this situation to a steady and efficient end. The Local Government Police should be given the same efficient training and the same pay as the Nigeria Police. Government should also look into the situation whereby during elections the Local Govern-

[MR. ADELEGAN]

ment Police are not allowed to handle political cases. The Nigeria Police Force are also human beings and can have their own sympathies and prejudices. I would like to suggest that the Local Government Police should be renamed "The Western Nigeria Police".

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr N. A. Adibi: Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion I would wish to make some general observations. It has been well said in the Speech from the Throne that this Budget Session is unique for being the first one since Nigeria has attained Independence.

The return of the Action Group into power in this Region is an unqualified testimony and honour given to a party and its government. (Cheers).

Opposition Benches: Speak up please!

Mr Adibi: I was saying, Sir, that the return of Action Group into power in this Region is an unqualified testimony and honour. The political sanity of the Western Region electorate, in voting into power the Action Group, a dynamic and progressive party, has been yielding rich dividends. This will continue to be so as long as the electorate continue to support this Action Group Government. The return of Action Group (interruptions).

Mr Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I say that as the hon. Member is making his maiden speech, it is only courteous that Members of this House should listen.

Mr Speaker: I agree entirely with the Leader of the House.

Mr Adibi: I was saying, Sir, that the return of Action Group into power has ushered in the dawn of a new era of peace, progress and prosperity for the Western Region in particular and the Federation of Nigeria in general; for the latter because in all progressive measures for social welfare of the masses, this Action Group Government has always set the pace for the other governments to follow.

This is a Government with a purpose. It is a Government which practises parliamentary democracy and the rule of law (*prolonged cheers*).

I suggest, Sir, that there are two political economic doors to any independent Region or country—there is the one door for "adversity" and there is the other for "prosperity". In the "adversity" room there is confusion, indiscipline, planlessness, tribalism, hero-

worship, suppression and oppression of the minorities, financial instability, regimentation of opinions, deplorable conditions of the masses who are sacrificed to the dogs, loud noise-making, and what is more, arrogant, inefficient leadership. In the "prosperity" one you have discipline, orderliness, sound planning, equal opportunities for all according to talents and initiatives, good financial husbandry, respect for minority views and exemplary leadership. The key to this all-important room is in the hands of this Action Group Government.

Opposition Benches: Where is the key to the other room?

Mr Adibi: I do not know. Don't ask me.

This Government has a keenly reflective hind-sight and a clear, penetrating foresight.

The Opposition Party Members here seem to have completely lost their political hind-sight, while their foresight is blurred, watery and yielding with the days. They believe in boisterous noise-making, and goodness, how they make it forgetting that empty barrels make the greatest noise! No wonder, then, sterling qualities of the Action Group Government have placed it in a coveted position of exemplary and dynamic leadership, and no wonder it always sets all progressive paces.

A progressive Government like this deserves all the co-operation the governed can give it. We are all in duty bound, no matter our positions in life, to give full support to the Government in offices, workshops, in business, on the farms, in schools, etc. We should work very hard and be productive to our best.

Taxes should be paid when due, without being chased for them. No progressive schemes are operated without money and the Government has no magic wand to provide necessary money for development schemes. The money must be provided by you and me.

Foreign visitors from America, Germany, India, etc., have had nothing but praises for the Western Region's various social welfare schemes. This is a Region waking into a coveted prosperity through the untiring efforts of the able men at the helm of Government affairs. The Region could be made more prosperous.

New agricultural projects, e.g., Farm Settlements, will not only stabilise our economy but make the Region the bread basket of the Federation of Nigeria. For a

[MR ADIBI]

balanced and stable economy, agricultural development should go side by side with industrial and technical developments. There is ample evidence that Government has embarked on this three-pronged development plan.

The University of Ife is yet another proof of foresight and planning for which this Government deserves a great pat on the back, (*Hear! hear!*). My fervent prayerful hope is that the University will in due course so develop that it will have extensions in one or two other places in the Region. It will, I think, be of unlimited benefit not only to this Region or country, but also to Africa as a whole, if the University will specialise in both science and technology.

Self-advertising is often necessary to achieve one's ends, and it cannot harm unless one loses one's commonsense and feeling of proportion. It will be a justifiable pride if Government should do more of self-advertising of its social services and achievements.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the situation in the Congo is very deplorable. It is a pity that the situation arose at all. The Congo affair is a test for the United Nations Organisation. Whether it will at last succeed or not remains to be seen.

It is not very encouraging that the Federation of Nigeria is unable to make any clear-cut policy on the events in the Congo. Nigeria, therefore, seems to appear power-shy, waiting for other African countries to give her a lead. Warmer blood of vigour, vitality and dynamism should run always in the veins of an independent Nigeria leadership (*hear! hear!*). Nevertheless, our soldiers and police force serving in the Congo deserve high commendation for the very admirable way they do their duty and for conducting themselves in such a good manner as to win for them and their country praises throughout the world. (*Hear! hear!*).

In conclusion, Sir, this is a time in our political history that requires all the best of us all, in leadership as well as in followership. We have to prove to the world that Nigeria has arrived as a Nation among the Nations of the world.

So, therefore, in this first year of our independence, let us all resolve anew to work harder, to co-operate with all who are well-meaning, to uphold democratic ideals and respect human dignity and rights; to leave this place better than we found it, and to make life more abundant for all (*hear! hear!*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second. (*Prolonged applause*).

Further Debate on this Motion adjourned till Monday, 27th March, 1961.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn, I should like to mention to Members that arrangements are being made for two separate parliamentary delegations to the Ewekoro Cement Factory, Abeokuta, and the Agege Dairy Farm on Friday. A notice has already been passed round to Members who wish to opt for one or the other. I hope they will pass this to the Chief Whips so that they could really make the necessary arrangements.

Alhadji Adegbenro: I beg to second.
Question proposed.

Refusal of Leader of Opposition to be presented to His Excellency the Governor

Mr J. A. Awopeju: Mr Speaker, Sir. I wish to say that this House deprecates and deprecates the conduct of the hon. Leader of the Opposition by failing to team up with other VIPs for presentation by the hon. the Premier to His Excellency Sir Adesoji Aderemi, Governor of Western Region. Sir, I should say that this is a piece of slight not only to His Excellency but also to this honourable House and the people of this Region at large.

No matter what the Leader of Opposition may personally be thinking or nursing in his mind, he, as the Leader of the Opposition, is officially bound to play his part and respect this House and the Governor. There is a world of difference between Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode, Q.C. and hon. R. A. Fani-Kayode, Leader of the Opposition; so also it is in the case of His Highness Sir Adesoji Aderemi, Oni of Ife, and His Excellency Sir Adesoji Aderemi, Governor of Western Nigeria.

I would say that when the Leader of Opposition was making his election speeches he cited the scriptures at large. I think he has given to me the cue and I should like to use it. Now I would recommend to my good friend to read the sayings of St Paul when he said "Fear God, honour the King and love brotherhood", and not only that, the Fifth Commandment is also appropriate for his consideration, illumination and reflection.

Now, Sir, I do agree with Shakespeare as stated in Richards II that 'if man is made to see a vision and that either.....(*interruptions*). Sir, I could say that the wisdom of Achitophel

[MR AWOPEJU]

was turned into foolishness when he rebelled against David the King, a man to whom he could have been a worthy councillor, and so also was Haman got in the toil and the gallows prepared for Modecai.

I think my good friend of the Opposition might have read the book of Esther. I strongly appeal to the hon. Gentleman to let bygones be bygones, to execute his own part to open up a new era for reconciliation and change. I do agree with Thomas Calyle when he said (*prolonged cheers*) that:

"Today is not yesterday,

We are that day.

How then can our works and thoughts continue always still.

If they are being defeated."

"Change, he said, "is payable yet ever lived, and if memory has important worth so also is hope".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful for this opportunity.

Chief Odebiyi: It is true, Sir, that the Hon. Leader of Opposition is one of those who are normally traditionally presented to His Excellency the Governor at the State Opening of Parliament. The Leader of Opposition arrived this morning, took his place on my left side and as soon as His Excellency was approaching to where he was standing he said he was going to the toilet. Everybody knew, Sir, that the Leader of the Opposition was trying to avoid His Excellency because if he were not trying to avoid His Excellency he could have waited to receive the handshake of His Excellency and could have gone to the toilet later.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I tried to suggest to the Leader of Opposition to wait but he did not do so. There were others on the line who noticed this including the Chief Justice and a few others including the Bishop of Ibadan and all others who were there.

I need hardly say, Sir, that what happened this morning was a challenge to the Constitution because the Governor is the Queen's representative and is the Head of State and therefore any honour which is due to the Queen ought to be given to whoever represents the Queen here. It does not matter whatever may be the personal attitude of the Leader of the Opposition to the Oni of Ife but as Governor of this Region, an institution which is reflected in the Constitution, I think, Sir, that the hon. Leader of Opposition, even as a Queen's Counsel, owes a duty to pay that respect to the Governor.

Mr B. Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think this incident which is very slight has been unduly magnified and it is a matter, Sir,

which we, on this side of the House are prepared to reply to at the appropriate time. (*Jeers.....*)

Mr F. H. Utomi: Well, I wish to raise on the floor of this House again a painful situation just occurring in Asaba Division.

Mr Speaker: Order. I thought you were going to speak on this motion.

Mr Utomi: I submitted my motion on Adjournment.

Mr Speaker: I am sorry, you cannot raise it now.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): I have been terribly much shocked to observe that this historic Session of this hon. House had to start with such an unfortunate incident as has already been described, but am a little bit shocked to listen to the Member for Ilesha admitting that it was indeed a slight. On whom? On the person and dignity of the office of the Governor.....(*uproar.....*)

Mr Olowofoyeku On point of correction. I said it is a slight incident.

Chief Akintola: He said it was a slight incident.....(*interruptions*).....I say this that we on this side of the House believe that the hon. Leader of Opposition is entitled to all rights and privileges pertaining to his office and the hon. Leader of Opposition expects us to extend to him all his rights and privileges.

We are all sensible enough, responsible enough, to draw a line between Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, the Governor-General of the Federation, and Dr Azikiwe as a person. The Governor-General must be respected under any circumstances whatsoever. (*Applause*).

Do not treat this incident as being slight. I think the sooner the Members of the Opposition have a private talk with their Leader, the better. I know there are sensible people opposite me. We want to respect him as the Leader of the Opposition of this House and we want to respect his office as part and parcel of the constitution and so should the office of the Governor of the Region be respected. By the Grace of God the Governor is the Head of State today and by birth and position which he has attained in this Region, we feel he ought to be respected by any Member of this House.

We say, as a final warning, if an incident like this is repeated, appropriate steps which will be effective will be taken. (*Loud applause from Government benches*).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.40 a.m. until 10 a.m. on Thursday, 23rd March, 1961.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1961

(The House met at 10.05 a.m.)

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS EDUCATION

Status of Secondary Modern Schools

10/116. Mr M. A. Fetuga asked the Minister of Education whether Government intended then or in the near future, to raise the status of the present Modern Secondary Schools to that of Secondary Grammar Schools. interruptions from the Opposition Benches.....

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr R. A. Olusa): The whole question of Secondary Modern Schools in the Western Region is undergoing a rudimentary review. The Banjo Commission set up by the Government towards the end of last year to review the educational system of the Region has made far-reaching conclusions. On the question of the Secondary Modern Schools which will conform in status to, or not being different from those of Secondary Grammar Schools, the Government is at present considering these proposals.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Produce Inspectors

10/117. Mr S. A. Sanni asked the Minister of Trade and Industry to state the total number of Produce Inspectors in the Region.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Chief A. O. Adeyi): There are 326 inspectors of various grades in the Region. interruptions from both Government and Opposition Benches.....

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, on point of order, Sir. May I refer to Standing Order 15 (2) which says that "when called by Mr Speaker a Member shall ask his Question by rising and begging leave to ask Question No.....of the Minister ofor such other Member as may be appropriate".

Mr Speaker: In explanation to that I allowed Members to make mistakes on account of their newness.....(wild applause and interruptions from both Government and

Opposition Benches).....their newness to this Honourable Assembly; and I am really happy that it has been pointed out by the honourable the Leader of the House as to what is the proper procedure under the circumstance.(prolonged applause and cheers from Government and Opposition Benches).....

Establishment of Industries

10/109. Mr S. A. Akerele asked the Minister of Trade and Industry why village industries, such as brick-making and pottery, have not been established in Aiyede and Ishan areas in Ekiti North-East Constituency—an area famous for clay and native pot-making throughout the whole of Ondo Province.

Chief Adeyi: The staff of the Clay Section of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in the Region is now conducting investigations into the suitability of clay in the Aiyede and Ishan areas in Ekiti Division. The first result of tests carried out on bricks made from the clay of the area is not very successful. It is learnt that better clays are available in certain parts of the area and further investigation is still being carried out.

Loans to Indigenous Businessmen

10/37. Mr Y. Adekunle asked the Minister of Trade and Industry when and how Government would implement the decision to help indigenous businessmen in the Region with reasonable loans.

Chief Adeyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Western Region Finance Corporation is now giving new loan assistance to indigenous businessmen who are engaged in activities calculated to increase the economic welfare of the Region. The Corporation has issued a number of industrial loans to assist such industries as quarry, saw-milling, rubber processing, ceramics and yam processing such as the one in Ede. The question of loans to traders has been under consideration for some time now and Members will be fully informed when a decision is reached.

Patronage of Government Projects

10/38. Mr Y. Adekunle asked the Minister of Trade and Industry whether Government would consider the advisability of encouraging Government Departments and other public authorities to patronise the industrial, agricultural and commercial projects already set up in the Region.

Chief Adeyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, Government fully recognises the necessity for giving the fullest patronage to industrial, agricultural and commercial projects which are operating in the Region. To this end, directives have been issued to all Government Departments and separate Corporations emphasising the need for giving the fullest patronage to products of local industry in all cases where the prices and qualities prove to be competitive. Furthermore, the Federal Government, in consultation with the Regional Governments, has organised a schedule incorporating numbers of products of local industries approved for Government purchase. The schedule which is a fairly wide circular is subject to revision regularly as and when new industries are being established.

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Members of the parliamentary delegation which is taking place tomorrow to Agege Poultry Farm, Ikeja and Mushin Industrial Estates, the Ewekoro Cement Works, and the Nigerian Pre-stressed Concrete Company, Abeokuta.

It is expected that those who have already been allocated to the different tours will be here at nine o'clock tomorrow to join the *super de luxe* buses which had been purchased by Government for this type of tours.

Lunch will be served at the Ikeja Arms for those who will go to the Ikeja Industrial Estate, and at the Catering Rest House and, if I may add, Sir, the hon. the Minister of Local Government has kindly consented to offer hospitality to as many Members as possible who pass through Abeokuta tomorrow.....(*prolonged applause from Government Benches*).....

BUSINESS MOTIONS

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

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY 27TH MARCH, 1961

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that at its rising this day the House shall adjourn until Monday, 27th March, 1961.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

The following Bills were presented and read the First time; they were ordered to be read a Second time later in the meeting:—

(1) The Statutory Offices Emoluments Bill (*Minister of Finance*).

(2) The Local Government (Amendment) Bill (*Minister of Local Government*).

THE STATUTORY OFFICES EMOLUMENT'S BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker Sir, under the Western Region Constitution, certain offices are supposed to be statutory offices. These offices are, the Chief Justice, Judges of the High Court, the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Director of Audit. Sometime ago last year the salaries attached to these posts were revised, and as a result, there is need for a revision of the Bill itself so that the new increases in the salaries attached to these posts may be reflected. I think, Sir, that Members of the Opposition, will agree that in view of the increases this Bill is very necessary.

I therefore beg to move.

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Chief J. O. Adigun): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: The Minister of Finance hasn't said anything that warrants an utmost certificate of urgency from the Governor in Council showing the reason why this Bill should be stream-rolled for their purpose. For this reason, Sir, I beg to propose an amendment. The amendment is that this Bill be read a second time this day three months.

Chief Odebiyi: May I call the attention of the hon. Member to Standing Order 41 (1): At least one day's notice shall be given

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

for the presentation of a Bill. Yesterday, Sir, I gave notice of this Bill and only twenty-four hours' notice is necessary and that has been done. I have complied with the necessary provisions of that Order.

Mr Oviasu: I think, Sir, that we Members on this side are just seeing the Bill for the first time. I would have said that the Minister of Finance is telling a blatant lie.....

Chief Odebiyi: Most unparliamentary, Sir! Most unparliamentary!

Government Benches: Withdraw that word!

Mr Speaker: I strongly advise the hon. Gentleman to withdraw that language.

Mr Oviasu: I do Sir.

(*Government Benches: Shame, shame.*)

The Leader of Opposition (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, Sir, I made every effort to obtain a copy of this Bill from my pigeon hole and from the Papers Office. I can assure you, Mr Speaker, speaking from the floor of this House and with all seriousness, that Members of the Opposition did not get, I repeat, did not get, a single copy of this Bill in the Papers Office up to this morning. I am certain that the Leader of the House will accept my word for it.

Chief Odebiyi: There are many things that I can accept, Sir, but I don't think I can accept this from the Leader of the Opposition.....(*interruptions*). For all I know, Sir, the Clerk of the House distributed these papers personally yesterday.

(*Opposition Benches: No, no.*)

Mr Speaker: I should like to know from the hon. Gentleman who has moved this amendment whether or not he is satisfied with the explanation of the Minister of Finance.

Mr Oviasu: Very far from being satisfied. Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that this Bill be read this day three months. This Bill, Sir, is dealing with statutory offices emoluments and is providing for increases in the salaries of Chief Justice, Judges of the High Court, Chairman of the Public Service Commission, and the Director of Audit. You know, Sir, that the Chief Justice is earning £3,500 and Judges £3,000; Chairman of Public Service Commission £3,180, Director of Public Prosecutions

£2,940, Director of Audit £2,940. Members of the Public Service Commission who are supposed to perform a full-time job, earn £2,500 and Members of the Public Service Commission who perform part-time job earn £1,500. Well, Sir, this represents a very substantial increase and this money will be taken from the coffers of the Treasury of this Region.....(*interruptions*) and if we are to have our say, I think, Sir, that we should have been given time to study this Bill before we know whether these increases are justified or not. We feel that the increases in the statutory offices in the upper segment of the Public Service should not necessarily be as high as all that. It is the lower income group who require such increases because both those in the upper segment and those in the lower grade all buy from the same market.

Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be read this day three months. (*prolonged cheers from the Opposition side.*)

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, in seconding this motion.....I wish to say that we are participating in a Government which is not capable of understanding simple parliamentary parlance. But I must say, Sir, that although the Minister of Finance is quite justified when he said he could give only one day's notice in order to present the Bill, but is this notice and presentation the first Reading of the Bill? Surely, Sir, what is required between the time of First Reading, printing of the Bill, publication of the Bill and the Second Reading is giving the Opposition ample time to study the contents of the Bill. Even if the Minister may be correct, Mr Speaker, and in actual fact, made available this Bill to the Opposition yesterday afternoon is it justified rushing to expenditure, the public funds and revenue without giving the Opposition ample time to consider such a Bill? Is that parliamentary practice or is that democracy? (*Government Benches: Yes.*)

Mr Speaker, if this is the practice of democracy, I am certain this Government will accept without hesitation the things happening in the South African Government. Certainly, when it comes to money matters this Minister of Finance should look after public funds as if he had been looking after his own personal purse.

I am sure, Sir, that the Minister will consider his own personal budget carefully before he rushes to make any large expenditure.

[MR FANI-KAYODE]

As a trustee of public funds he must discharge that trust equitably. We are not here, Sir, for fun. The days when politics was mere fun are gone, those were the days when attacking the British Imperialists was the sign of glory..... (*interruptions*).... But today, Sir, we are having the Government of our own people and every step of that Government must be carefully watched and jealously guarded by the trustees of public funds.

I am saying, Sir, that today the Minister should realise his big responsibility. He cannot come to this House, steamroll a Bill, involving and committing the Government to thousands of pounds a year, without giving us any opportunity to study such a Bill. Should the Opposition not be taken into confidence when financial matters regarding this State are to be discussed?

This Government, Sir, assured us of its co-operation only last year. This Government, Sir, that is, the Premier and this Minister of Finance, called Members of the Opposition, assured us of their co-operation, assured us that they will take us into confidence. Is this the example of that co-operation and that confidence? Are they going to treat us with contempt by coming to this House and treating the whole House like babies?(*interruptions*). But one day the sins of this Government will cry to Heaven; the sins of the Government will cry to the very depth of this earth on which we are living.

The people shall rise against oppression. Again and again oppression shall be destroyed in every corner of this world (*cheers from the Opposition Bench*) whether the oppression is from the white race, whether from white fascists or black fascists, and the Party which is treating the other Party with contempt shall be relegated to the oblivion to which it must go.

Amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment (*cheers*). The increases which were proposed and which are now reflected in the Bill which I have just presented before the House were the increases agreed to by all the Governments of the Federation when the Mbanefo Commission was published *vis a vis* Morgan Commission. What we are doing here is nothing different from what has been done in the North, in the East, and in the Federation. What we are doing here is not the question of arguing on the wrongness or rightness of the increases. What we are doing is to revise

the Law which governs the Law of statutory emoluments. The time for arguing whether the increases should be made has already passed. I concede to the hon. Leader of Opposition that in his opinion he may be right for what he has said but surely we cannot be said to have behaved in a very bad way. We have not shown any bad manners in the way we have handled any Bill or any public fund in this Region (*cheers*).....that is reinforced by the fact that in less than a year the electorate put us here with a great majority, whether the Leader of Opposition likes it or not. What he ought to do is to go out and whip the electorate for having voted us into power.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said I don't intend to cross swords. I can assure the Leader of Opposition that we are here and can give back measure for measure, number for number and language for language. (*Cheers*). I should have thought that the Leader of Opposition who himself knows the constitutional implication of the Bill before the House ought to have known better; what he should have done is to deliberate with us zealously. On this side are many people who can never allow themselves to be misled. As I have said before, the question before the House is not whether these increases are justified or not and I am not surprised that the Opposition on every occasion when similar Bills come before the House has indulged in the same old arguments. You often hear from them talks of victimisation, oppression, suppression (*interruptions*) talks of customary courts, taxation and so on. I think, Sir, with great respect, the members of the Opposition ought at least, for once, to introduce something new—something that will enliven the debate in this House. We are already bored by listening to the same old long drawn and unimpressive terminology.

For these reasons, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Original Question again proposed.

The House divided.

(*Chief Odebiyi : Mr Speaker, Sir, for the information of Members, sometime ago when we had a division in the House people made a mistake. The "Noes" should go in through the "Noes" lobby and the "Ayes" should go in through the "Ayes" lobby and come out through the other side.*)

Tellers

AYES 58

NOES 33

57. Chief A. Adekeye

58. Mr N. A. B. Kotoye

AYES 58

NOES 33

1. Mr Y. Adekunle
2. Mr S. T. Adelegan
3. Mr I. A. Adelodun
4. Alhaji A. L. Adenekan
5. Mr J. O. Adeyemo
6. Chief A. O. Adeyi
7. Mr N. A. Adibi
8. Mr J. O. Adigun
9. Mr J. E. U. Agbasa
10. Mr E. Aina
11. Mr A. Ajibola
12. Mr L. A. Ajimobi
13. Mr C. I. Akere
14. Mr S. A. Akerele
15. Chief S. L. Akintola
16. Oba C. D. Akran
17. Mr I. O. Aniyi
18. Mr E. Anuku
19. Mr R. O. Areola
20. Mr S. B. Aruwajoye
21. Mr B. Ashiru
22. Mr A. Atie
23. Mr D. Atolagbe
24. Mr J. O. Awopeju
25. Mr J. E. Babatola
26. Mr I. Edeki
27. Mr B. G. Ewah
28. Alhaji B. O. Fawehimi
29. Mr M. A. Fetuga
30. Mr O. O. Gbolahan
31. Mr N. A. Idodo
32. Mr J. O. Kehinde
33. Mr R. A. Lana
34. Mr K. S. Y. Momoh
35. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi
36. Mr J. O. Odigie
37. Mr J. A. Odutuga
38. Mr D. Ogundiran
39. Mr Y. Ogunyale
40. Mr B. Ojeniran
41. Mr E. O. Oke
42. Mr B. Olaniyan
43. Mr I. A. Olukoju
44. Mr R. A. Olusa
45. Dr J. O. Omitowoju
46. Dr S. D. Onabamiro
47. Mr D. O. Orowole
48. Mr B. E. O. Osagie
49. Mr J. E. Otobo
50. Mr J. O. Oye
51. Mr D. A. Popoola
52. Mr S. A. Sanni
53. Mr O. Sobande
54. Chief S. A. Tinubu
55. Mr C. A. Williams
56. Mr A. A. Zuokumor

1. Mr J. O. Abioshun
2. Mr K. S. Adebessin
3. Mr M. A. Adedigba
4. Mr M. A. Adewumi
5. Mr W. Agbahowa
6. Mr J. A. Ajuwon
7. Mr S. O. Akerele
8. Mr V. I. Amadasun
9. Mr E. B. Arowojolu
10. Mr A. Atoghegbe
11. Mr F. Ebubedike
12. Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode
13. Mr O. Ishola
14. Mr T. E. Igugu
15. Mr E. O. Imafidon
16. Mr J. L. Lawal
17. Mr S. A. Layonu
18. Mr A. O. Obadara
19. Mr D. E. Okumagba
20. Mr P. V. Okwesa
21. Mr O. Olaitan
22. Mr C. O. Olamigoke
23. Mr B. Olowofoyeku
24. Mr J. O. Omokowajo
25. Mr F. Osuhor
26. Mr G. I. Oviasu
27. Mr K. O. Owonikoko
28. Mr S. O. Oyewole
29. Mr A. S. Somotan
30. Mr F. H. Utomi
31. Mr T. E. Elushade

Tellers

32. Mr A. T. Rerri
33. Chief J. L. Tifase

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee.

Clauses 1 to 5 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

BILL: FIRST READING

The following Bill was presented and read the First time; it was ordered to be read a Second time immediately.

The Chiefs (Amendment) Bill.—(*Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs.*)

THE CHIEFS (AMENDMENT) BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs (Dr J. O. Omitowoju): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law further to amend the Chiefs Law.

[DR OMITOWOJU]

Difficulties have arisen in certain areas within the Region in connection with the settlement of dispute in respect of Chieftaincy titles and the traditional membership of local government councils.

In some of these cases there is no established tradition regulating the selection of candidates to succeed to these titles and chieftaincy declarations cannot therefore be prepared. Further there are some local government council areas where through lack of established tradition there are no persons with proper chieftaincy titles and the instruments of these councils cannot therefore contain provision for traditional members.

In order to overcome these difficulties and at the same time to meet, in deserving cases, the wishes of a community to have traditional representatives on its council, it is proposed to confer upon a competent authority to lay down customary law relating to non-traditional chieftaincies including the right to "create Titles". It will also be necessary to prescribe procedure for the creation of new titles while ensuring that the procedure to be adopted provides adequate safeguards against any abuse of their powers by the competent authorities. It is therefore proposed that competent authorities should be appointed for the purpose of a new Part of the Law relating to the creation of titles.

The competent authority should be either any person whose consent is required for the appointment of a recognised chief or a prescribed authority or, where neither exists, an appropriate statutory local government council body.

The procedure to be followed will be that the competent authority should be empowered to submit to the Governor in Council proposals for creation of new titles after due enquiries have been ordered to be made as to the wishes of the Community associated with the proposed titles.

A declaration of proposed custom relating to the title to be created should be forwarded with the proposals and where appropriate, reports and conclusions of the enquiries set up should be forwarded along to the Governor in Council.

When the Governor in Council is satisfied that the proposals represent a true statement of customary law it shall publish a notice in the Regional Gazette of its intention to create after expiration of thirty days from the date of publication of the notice, the proposed chieftaincy title and the manner in which it

should be created. The period allows for representations to be made by the public within that period.

The Governor in Council may after considering any representations which may be made by interested persons or bodies approve or reject the proposals or approve the creation of the title but modify the declaration of custom relating to it. Notice of the decisions taken by the Governor in Council shall be published in the Regional Gazette. Chieftaincies so created should be "Minor Chieftaincies" unless and until Part II of the Law is applied to them and become recognised Chieftaincies.

Finally it is proposed to insert appropriate penalty clauses to make provisions invalidating any chieftaincy title created or purporting to be created without the approval of the Governor in Council.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Adeyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker Sir, we on this side of the House vehemently oppose the passing of this Bill. We shall give our reasons to this House and we hope that for once this Government will withdraw this Bill. Mr Speaker Sir, what does this Bill propose to do?

What evils exist that it is proposed to obviate? What wrongs exist, Mr Speaker, that it proposes to remedy? This Government has deemed it further to amend the Chiefs Law. A law, Mr Speaker, which, as it stands, gives scope for the greatest abuse of power over the rights of the people. A law which makes this Government the final arbiter of the dignities and traditions of the people of our land. A law which precludes the people from seeking justice and their claim tested in the open arena of the law courts, under the deserving eyes of the people and of the whole world. A law which allows the Governor in Council to become a veritable star chamber answerable to none; either to the people or to God. A law, Mr Speaker which allows this Government to give, decisions behind closed doors, to carry out its selfish and pernicious iniquities like thieves in the night. A law comparable only with the worst form of colonial edict issued under the hated imperial regime. A law under which your accusers will condemn you. If you are a Prince, which you are, or if you pretend to be a king or a Prince, Mr Speaker, you might be condemned. Mr Speaker, a law under which you may be deposed without trial if you are from a poor home in this

[MR FANI-KAYODE]

Region. A law which deprives people of the basic fundamental human rights and freedom of speech for any person to criticise this Government and under which the offence is punishable by two years' imprisonment. If anybody should criticise the penalty imposed by this government is as if it were a criminal act. Here, Mr Speaker, is the independence we have fought for! Where is the freedom we are longing for? The battle for freedom has just begun. A time will come when the common people of the Region will rise, not only at these iniquities, but also the stones and breeze and nature itself shall rise, and sink this Government into oblivion.

It is a travesty of everything that is just and fair, everything that is Christian and everything that is Godly, to tell iniquitous lies to our people. What further sabotage to democracy and justice is this new law? Is the new law going to abolish the evils of the old one?

Mr Speaker, we have carefully scrutinised everything in the Bill. The new law may be applied by this Minister to any area of his choice in the Western Region from time to time as occasion demands. In these areas new chieftaincies can be created by persons virtually appointed by the Government and the customs and regulations of selection of any person to these chieftaincies will be decided absolutely by the Government at its discretion. This law makes a caricature of the native law and customs in the Region and a caricature of the traditional rulers in our country.

In all these matters, Mr Speaker, which are of a pure civil nature, this Government has attached a penalty of two years' imprisonment. Mr Speaker, is this in the name of democracy? Is it in the name of good Parliamentary Government, freedom and justice? The Action Group has given a stroke of death to genuine chieftaincy in the Region. By this way the Action Group can create its own chiefs whenever it desires. We have examples of this—a Lagos man becoming surreptitiously an Ibadan chief. What the Action Group has done shamelessly in the past without fear of any challenge, without fear of any criticism and any challenge to their action, it now seeks to do openly. Who will criticise the action of this Government? Mr Speaker, Sir, once this Government is clothed with this law the Action Group can create a network of stooges and terrorists operating under guise of chiefs at the expense of persons holding political views contrary to theirs. In this connection, I shall recall Action Group veto on the appointment of Chief J. O. Fadahunsi and

the threatened prosecution of Right Hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, when he was Premier of Eastern Nigeria for commenting on Obanla chieftaincy appointment and he was to have been given two years' imprisonment if he were not a man of stature and reputation.....
(interruptions.....)

Chief Odebiyi: Standing Order 27 (7). Her Majesty's or the Governor-General's name shall not be used to influence the House.

Mr Speaker: The name of Governor-General shall not be used to influence the House.

Mr Fani-Kayode: It is not true to say that my purpose is to influence this House. I am at liberty to cite instances to support any statement I make on the floor of this House and what I did, Mr Speaker, was to give an example. What chance, what right, what an opportunity has an ordinary citizen when they hear of two years' imprisonment?

Mr Speaker, you can remember also the appointment of Omo-Osagie to the chieftaincy title of Iyasere of Benin by the Oba of Benin and the action the Government took against the Oba of Benin to revoke the appointment. Many political opponents of the Action Group have suffered this fate. This is in the name of Parliamentary Government. This is in the name of law and for what purposes does this Government want further powers.

The objects and reasons were given in the text of the Bill and not modified by the Minister for Chieftaincy Affairs. I shall assist him. "Difficulties have been experienced in certain areas within the Region in connection with the settlement of the disputes in respect of chieftaincy titles and the traditional membership of local government councils".

By all the logical arguments that can be adduced by this Minister for Chieftaincy Affairs, on what grounds of reasoning, of law or even commonsense is his reason for presenting this Bill, which he has had the audacity, I repeat, the audacity, to come and fool us Members of the Opposition, and the Speaker—in fact, the whole House? The second part of his reason is that "in some of these cases there is no established tradition regulating the selection of candidates to succeed to these titles and chieftaincy declaration cannot therefore be prepared".

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is nowhere in the Western Region where there is no traditional method of selecting chiefs. There is nowhere in the Western Region, Sir, where these methods are not long established.

[MR FANI-KAYODE]

The meaning of the word, "traditional" suggests long usage originated by custom, by time. If these methods are not established, according to this Minister, what then is the essence of the name "traditional chiefs"? How then does this Minister come before this House to talk of a traditional chieftaincy that does not exist? I hope, Sir, that the Minister was not in an operation room when the objects of this Bill were couched for him to be presented to this House.—I hope, Sir, that in a case like this the Attorney-General should be consulted to look into such a Bill before it is brought before this House.

Furthermore, Sir, he states that "further, there are some local government council areas where, through lack of established tradition, there are no persons with proper chieftaincy titles and the Instruments of those councils cannot therefore contain provision for traditional members".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I repeat again that the mere word, tradition, presumes long usage. What the Minister wanted to say may be that he did not know the method of selection in those areas. If this is so, why can this Government not institute an enquiry into the method of selection and then incorporate their findings into a declaration for inclusion in the law. This is the only thing that the Minister could have done. I must submit, Mr Speaker, Sir, that if there is no tradition whereby traditional chiefs are appointed in these areas, there cannot be traditional chiefs. The hon. Minister should not, in future, come to insult us with this type of reason. The reason he gives is illogical..... "that there are no persons with proper chieftaincy titles and the Instruments of those councils cannot therefore contain provision for traditional members". I hope to analyse this reason, ignoble as it is. If there are no traditional chieftaincies existing, why does he want to create them, knowing full well that the word, tradition, means long usage? Can he, just by a stroke of the pen, create long usage? Mr Speaker, Sir, I can say with the greatest sense of responsibility that this is an insult to the intelligence of the Members of this House; I believe, the intelligence of the people of this Region and, in fact, that of Nigeria as a whole. That this Minister can come before this House with this mumbo jumbo to fool us and hope to pass this Bill through is what shocks me and in fact all sensible members of this House.

I must say further, Sir, as I have said before, that tradition is used to reflect a state or condition of things brought about

by time. How, then, can a traditional chief exist without long usage?

May I say that one day, Sir, the Action Group Government of the Western Region shall be called upon to give an account of their stewardship. As their predecessor, they shall be warned, and one day, they shall stand condemned before God and men.

It is clear, Mr Speaker, Sir that the object and reason for this law is to be able to inject Action Group sponsored spurious chiefs into Local Government Councils where they (Action Group) require to have majority—and this will be in an NCNC controlled council. This is why this Minister cannot say a word supporting this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must say that here we talk of democracy and talk of justice. This Bill is an obvious preparation for destruction of the democratic rights of the elected members of the Local Government Councils in the Western Region. When our Premier joins others in decrying South Africa he is only decrying evils of a greater degree. As the Premier of this Region is pointing an accusing finger at South Africa, let him know that he is doing the same things as are done in South Africa, and as one of those who oppose the fundamental principles of democracy.

I must say that this Bill is a travesty of justice, of law and of democracy. It is a political savagery couched in legal terms and constitutional language. It is parliamentary cannibalism. Mr Speaker, Sir, it must be rejected by this House now and for all times.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: I rise to oppose this very obnoxious Bill presented to this House by the Hon. Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs. The reason for my doing so, Mr Speaker, are as follows:

The argument presented by the Leader of the Opposition this morning is so difficult for the Members on that side to understand, that I have to bring them to my side.

It is a political victimisation of the Oba of Benin, in depriving him of his divine prerogative of conferring minor chieftaincy titles on his subjects and of settling disputes, if any, arising therefrom.

It is a means whereby Action Group Councils are given power to recommend only Action Group members as traditional

[MR AMADASUN]

members of councils; thus depriving the natural rulers, who are prescribed authorities, of their traditional duties.

It aims at making the conferment of chieftaincy titles in the Western Region, a political issue, whereby only Action Group members could be made chiefs, on the approval of the Governor in Council.

The Bill is an outrage, on the chieftaincy tradition and custom of the peoples of the Midwest.

In order to understand all bad things that the present Bill brings in its train, it is necessary we refresh our memories with the principal aim of the 1957 original Chiefs Law of the Western Region. This principal aim, Sir, was to put an end to the hitherto many chieftaincy disputes, which were always partially settled in courts, that were prevalent in the Yoruba country. Thus section 11 of the original Law lays down the procedure for the selection of a candidate from amongst candidates from many ruling Houses. Section 12 of the original law, Sir, also lays down the procedure to be adopted in the selection of a candidate for a vacant chieftaincy in non-Yoruba areas. Section 15 stipulates that the Secretary of the competent Council should then inform the Minister who in turn shall present the matter to the Cabinet for the approval or disapproval, of the Governor in Council. Part III, section 18 (2, 3 and 4) of the original Law confers, on the prescribed authorities, the power to appoint any person or persons to fill vacant minor chieftaincy titles, and to settle any disputes arising therefrom.

The old Law, Sir, makes chieftaincy matters purely the concern of the king-makers and of the natural Rulers. The present amendment law seeks to make chieftaincy matters the concern of the Ministers and of the Action Group Councils of the Western Region.

In the new amendment Law, Sir, the competent authorities who should make proposals and declarations in respect of chieftaincy titles are the Councils, any person to be appointed by the Minister, and the prescribed authorities. These proposals and declaration have to be inquired into by a Minister (who is a politician) in order to ascertain, whether the proposals are acceptable to the Action Group members in the community concerned. After that the Minister has to submit to the Governor in Council the reports of the inquiry, the declaration of the competent authority and

his recommendation. If the Governor in Council is satisfied, then a notice has to be published in the Regional Gazette to create the chieftaincy and the manner in which the selection of a person to be the holder of that chieftaincy might be regulated. After all these long and intricate processes and in order to consummate its political ambition, the Governor in Council has to consider representations in respect of the creation or selection of a holder to a chieftaincy. By this process, Sir, it could be seen that chieftaincy matters have become matters for politicians in the Western Region.

A few months ago, Sir, the Oba of Benin, acting in accordance with the ancient tradition and the cherished custom of the Benin people, conferred the Iyase title on Chief H. Omo Osagie, Minister of State in the Federal Government. But soon afterwards an order came from the Minister of Chieftaincy to the effect that the conferment of the title should be nullified, purporting that the conferment was against the provisions of section 17 (1) of the Chiefs Law. In other words it was necessary that the prior approval of the Governor in Council be got before the conferment of the title could be made possible. In 1958 and 1959 many chieftaincy titles were conferred by the Oba on many Action Group members, but none of these, Sir, was nullified by the Action Group Government of Western Region.

In matters of chieftaincy the Benin law and custom are clear and unmistakable. In Benin Division, unlike other Divisions in Yoruba areas, the Oba of Benin is the accredited traditional exponent of Benin law and custom, in so far as chieftaincy matters are concerned. The Benin people, Sir, will oppose very vehemently any attempt by the Western Regional Government to make chieftaincy matters the concern of the Action Group Councils in Benin Division. No wonder, Sir, because of this anticipated amendment, the Action Group Iyekuselu District Council at its ordinary meeting on 10th March, 1961, acting in pursuance of the essence of a letter No. C.A. 13/4/7/65 of the 2nd of February, 1961, recommended twelve Chiefs as traditional members, without reporting this matter to the Oba, who is the recognised prescribed authority in chieftaincy and all traditional matters in Benin Division.

The chiefs recommended as traditional members are—

Chief Ogbonnewan Idusin (Enogie of Uhogua).

Chief S. A. Idugboe (Enogie of Iykeze).

[MR AMADASUN]

Chief Obayagbona Aigbekaen (Enogie of Iyowa).

Chief Ogboe Uwadiae (Ohonvia of Okhume).

If you want to know traditional chiefs you should refer to the Oba of Benin. He is the only traditional chief all over the Region. (*Government Benches: Is he the only one!*) Yes, the only one. All these people are members of the Action Group. For instance, Mr S. A. Ominai is the plantation manager of WAIFOR in Benin. He was made the Okago two years ago but he is not a traditional Chief.

A. Government Back Bencher: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw attention to Standing Order 7 (1).

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member not read his speech. (*Cheers*).

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister is looking for a way to give the responsibility of natural rulers to the local councils so that the councils will simply recommend people who are not traditional chiefs in their areas as traditional members of councils to the Action Group Government. It is a very clever and surreptitious way of depriving traditional chiefs the prerogative they inherited from their ancestors and because of these reasons which are clearly stated and which are understood by even the dullest members on the other side who manoeuvre the electorate for power. (*Government Benches: So dull people can convince electorate!*) I beg to oppose this Bill vehemently.

Mr Speaker: This appears to be a convenient time for a short break.

Sitting suspended at 12.05 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.40 p.m.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, this morning the Leader of Opposition in opposing the Chiefs (Amendment) Bill made a lot of scathing remarks about the activities of the Western Nigeria Government. In one statement he referred to the veto—the alleged veto which was applied by the Governor in Council in regard to the Obanla chieftaincy title. Unfortunately, the hon. Member for Ilesha Central, hon. Tunji Olowofoyeku, who could have put him in the right, failed to do so and that is that it was only the Owa of Ilesha who could have appointed the Obanla of Ilesha. Unfortunately, the hon. Member was not in a position to apply any restraining influence on the excessiveness of the Leader of Opposition. When the hon.

Leader of Opposition was speaking he made certain remarks by saying that the hon. Minister of Chieftaincy affairs ought to have been advised by the Attorney-General either *de jure* or *de facto*. I think, Sir, that this is the appropriate and opportune moment for me to make an adequate reply to the jibes of the Leader of Opposition. Who is the Attorney-General of the Western Region today? The Attorney-General of the Western Region is the veritable hon. S. O. Ighodaro, M.A. (Durham), B.A. (London University), B.C.L. (University of Durham), Diploma in Theology, LL.B. (London) and Diploma in Education (University of Durham). (*Loud cheers*). In terms of scholarship and erudition I have no doubt in my mind that the Attorney-General of the Western Region is a much more capable person than the Leader of Opposition. (*Cheers*) (*Opposition Benches: The Leader of Opposition is Q.C. and far greater than an ordinary Barrister*). Mr Speaker, Sir, they are talking about Q.C. By honour the Attorney-General is higher than any Q.C. in the country. And in any event there are Q.C.s and Q.C.s (*Laughter*).

However that may be Sir, the hon. Leader of Opposition spoke about the Chiefs (Amendment) Bill in a most annoying manner. He spoke of the enactment as the greatest abuse of power over the people. Then he spoke of the Government design in the existing law to preclude the question of chieftaincy matters from the law courts. Mr Speaker, Sir, we are not doing anything different from what obtains in Eastern Nigeria where the Opposition party in this Region is the Government Party. We are not doing anything different from what obtains in Lagos where the Opposition Party is the junior partner in the coalition. (*Opposition Benches: You went round but were rejected*). In any event, I know the hon. Leader of Opposition as a learned counsel. He is capable of speaking with great decorum and decency. This morning unfortunately, Sir, he allowed himself to be swept off his feet by speaking in such a manner as easily gave him away as a man with a grudge. Why did he speak like a man with a grudge? Once in the life of every man and nation comes (*interruption*) a time when he has to decide whether to stand by truth and justice or not. The hon. Leader of Opposition was a party to the Chiefs Law when it was originally passed. He was a member of the party in power. (*Opposition Benches: No bearing*). Not only that, he was chairman of the Action Group controlled council of Ife—Ife Divisional Council..... (*Opposition Benches: And so what?*) and the

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

Legal Adviser of Action Group Party. At one stage, Sir, he was the Assistant Federal Secretary of the Action Group Party of Nigeria. Mr Speaker, Sir, if I were in the hon. Leader of Opposition's position particularly on matters on which either impliedly or expressly I was a party, I would hesitate to speak on any subject which had already been discussed and approved by the party when I was a member. When the Obanla of Ilesha was to be appointed the man who advised us here on this side of the House behind the scenes was the hon. Leader of Opposition.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker Sir, I must protest.

Chief Odebiyi: Not only that Sir, when the hon. Member for Ilesha, Chief Fadahunsi aspired to the leadership of the Opposition, it was no other than the present Leader of the Opposition who prevented the man from realising his life ambition. No wonder Sir, for the past two meetings, the hon. Member for Ilesha has not seen it fit to attend the meetings of this House. When the Leader of the Opposition was speaking, he said that the Premier has accused Oba Akran. Since the death of the late Chief Bode Thomas, who was member of the now defunct legal firm of Thomas, Williams and Kayode, Chief S. L. Akintola, now Premier of the Western Region, was hon. Fani-Kayode's boss.

The Member for Benin spoke very very bitterly about the appointment of the Iyase of Benin. (*Opposition Members: Which part of Benin?*) When I talk of Benin, I mean Benin. As far as I know, Benin is indivisible. Surely Sir, there is a declaration that governs the appointment of any Iyase of Benin made by Oba Akenzua II of Benin, Uku Akpolopolo. Surely Sir, it is not being suggested by Members of the Opposition that we should violate age-long tradition and custom.

Sir, because the question of the appointment of the Iyase of Benin is a matter which is still being handled by the Ministry of Chieftaincy Affairs, I do not intend to let out any official secret in the discussion of this matter, but this much I can say, if the Oba has complied with the declaration, the Minister, however powerful, would not have been able to advise the Oba to conform with tradition. (*Opposition Members murmured*). The Oba himself, fortunately by God's grace, is still alive and I am quite sure that he is only within fifty feet of the precincts of this Chamber. He himself admitted that he made a mistake and therefore he himself

voluntarily withdrew from the difficult situation in which he found himself. If the Oba knew Sir that he was on very strong wicket, he would have stood his ground because everybody knows the Oba is a man of his conviction.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition said that by the enactment of this Chiefs Amendment Bill, the Governor in Council would be gloved with plenty of plenipotentiary powers to make and unmake any chiefs. For all I know, he will not dispute it here that he himself is the Olu of Mekunwen, the uncrowned Oba of Mekunwen, and the crowned Oba of Yaba. I think Sir, that the Members of the Opposition have failed to recognise the importance of the bill before the House. What does the bill seek to redress? There are certain areas of the Western Region..... (*Opposition Members: name them*) One of the places which is affected by the provision of this Bill is a place called Mushin which is a cosmopolitan area, Agege is a cosmopolitan area, and even in Lagos, with the so-called age-long tradition; it is by the grace of God and the work of this party that the head of the Dosumu family became the Oba of Lagos. It is this same party which today is being called "pernicious" that was responsible for adding dignity and decorum to the stool of Oba of Lagos. According to the members of the Opposition, we wouldn't have been allowed to do this if they were in power. Now, in the objects and reasons, the position was made quite clear to members of the House. It is stated that difficulties have been experienced in certain areas. It doesn't mean that in a place like Benin where there is age-long tradition and custom, this Law will apply. Not in Abeokuta, and also not in Ife, and not in Ilesha and Illa and in Egbado, and also in Aniocha. It doesn't mean that where there are established custom and tradition, this Law will be invoked. What the Law intends to do is to try to bring order into areas which could easily be confused by the activities of the Opposition party in trying to place wrong persons against the others in their quest for chieftaincy titles. Also, we want to try and limit such areas in the Western Region. We want to try to prevent the Opposition from exploiting such situation as are likely to arise from the non-passage of this bill. They have come to this House to talk of the usual phrases. What are they? You heard them this morning and the Leader of the Opposition repeated them. But in the interest of those of you who were not here, I will repeat them—political victimisation, oppression, suppression, repression, all the "sions". Sooner or later before the close of this meeting, we will hear

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of arbitrary taxation, customary courts, etc. The only plea which I am going to make is that at least for a change, this is 1961, they should stop these things. In 1952-53, the same phrase; in 1955-56, the same phrase by somebody else, from 1957 until last year another person. Now a new Leader of the Opposition has come to this House to say the same thing over again. (*Mr Olowofoyeku: then it must be true*). The Member for Ilesha said it must be true.

Mr Speaker Sir, this bill coming before the House is very necessary so as to regulate the procedure for conferring chieftaincy titles in those areas where there is no accepted tradition and I have mentioned the places which are concerned. (*Opposition Members: you want to make tradition*). The Member for Benin said we want to make tradition. Even the House where we are sitting became a tradition. What we started doing in those days up to now have become tradition. People make traditions. (*Opposition Members: Which was in existence before this House*). There was no confusion in Mushin (*Opposition Members: You brought confusion there*).

Now Sir, the other point I want to make before I take my seat is that in Cap. 19 of the Laws of the Western Region of Nigeria, 1959, Volume One.....(*One Opposition Member: When did you become a lawyer?*) I am not a "charge and bail" at all.

The Part II of the Law refers to recognised chiefs. The provisions of this Bill refer to our minor chiefs. There is a difference between recognised chiefs under Part II and minor chiefs to be created, under Part III of the Law.

In regard to the points made by the Member for Benin, I refer him to the Laws of the Western Region of Nigeria, 1959 Vol. I, Cap. 19, section 9:

"Where a declaration in respect of a recognised chieftaincy is registered under this Part, the matters therein stated (including any recommendation under paragraph (b) of sub-section (2) of section 4) shall be deemed to be the customary law regulating the selection of a person to be the holder of that chieftaincy to the exclusion of any other customary usage or rule".

(*An Opposition Member: What are you getting at?*)

(*A Government Member: He is explaining to you*).

Members of the Opposition are so dull that they do not see the difference between red and black. Everything is black.

All the provisions of the Chiefs (Amendment) law stipulate that it is in respect of those areas where there are no customary usages and there are very few areas, that the Governor in Council ought to be competent to do something about them.

With those few remarks, I beg to support this Amendment Bill.

Mr J. A. Awopeju: Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to support this Bill I have to comment that I naturally expected the Leader of Opposition to adopt an edifying attitude or to lay an edifying contribution to the Bill. What did my friend do? The sole point raised by the hon. Leader of Opposition was that the present law was adequate and therefore it should have been left as such. It is said that to err is human but to persist in error is folly. If the law is not adequate enough and there are certain loop-holes to be sealed, I see no reason why anybody should quarrel with this Government for closing the loop-holes.

An Opposition Member: Are you a lawyer?

Mr Speaker: The hon. gentleman is a Barrister at Law (*Laughter*).

Mr Awopeju: The Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, published in 1958 and released only in 1960, have undergone a spate of amendments rendering some unamended volumes obsolete and misleading. So we do not want to be foolish by persisting in our errors; hence this Bill makes provisions for where there are loop-holes in the present law.

I must say that it is regrettable that the hon. Leader of the Opposition should make a scathing reference to the Attorney-General. Now we have only one Attorney-General here. He is hon. S. O. Ighodaro, the most lettered Attorney-General in the whole Federation of Nigeria—a veteran pedagogue and an erudite scholar and lawyer. I regard it as contumelious for somebody to make such comments in this House. It is the height of an exhibition of bad manners and crude impertinence. It is uncalled for and unkindly meant. It is high time it was stopped. Laws are made for the disobedient, the intractable and the recalcitrant citizens; and so we come to this House to make laws to curb the mischievous propensities in such ones.

[MR AWOPEJU]

Now, Sir, it is said that the purpose of this Bill is to inject into local councils some Action Group members. the purport of the injection of Traditional members into local councils is to do justice to these men who might be unable to withstand the onslaught of election vendetta. The object is not to inject spurious chiefs as suggested but to put in legitimate and responsible chiefs into various councils where they ought to be as of right.

It is interesting to note that this Bill stems out from the old law of 1957 to which my good friend, the Leader of Opposition, made his contribution. In point of fact he was one of the architects of the parent law. He is now a *deus ex machina* to the NCNC in this dramatic episode. It is an attempt to play to the gallery, to pander to the vulgar taste of the uninformed and to humour the fancy of the unwashed.

I say, Sir, that the opposition to the Bill is not made in earnest by way of constructive criticism, but out of sheer freakish perversity.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Oviasu: The speech of the Minister of Finance and that of the last speaker took a long time but they said nothing. Two Members of the Opposition have spoken on this Bill directly. The two Members who have spoken on the Government Bench spoke about the personality of Fani-Kayode, which is irrelevant. Mr Speaker, Sir, that is a parade of ignorance.....(*interruptions.....*)

The amendment is an addition to Part III of the principal Law which deals with certain minor chieftaincy titles. By it, Government seeks to achieve what it failed to achieve under the Chiefs Law. The objects and reasons as given by the Minister for Chieftaincy Affairs are calculated to deceive the unwary.

We are therefore opposing this Bill for the following reasons:—

It is a bold attempt to make a mockery of our customary or traditional laws for selfish political purposes.

It aims at making only Action Group supporters chiefs in the Region, for example, the Government party loves chieftaincy titles so much that all of them in the Front benches now hold chieftaincy titles. (*laughter*).

Mr Speaker: You mean majority of them?

Mr Oviasu: Most of them got their own through the backdoor.

Chief Odebiyi: Is the hon. Member suggesting that Chief Akran got his title through the backdoor? (*laughter*).

Mr Oviasu: It is a vigorous attempt to inundate local councils with traditional members of Action Group leaning.

It is pernicious and iniquitous, for example, clause 20B (c) which reads:

“Where there is no person or perscribed authority as described in the preceeding paragraphs such local government council whose area of authority is wholly or partly inhabited by the community with whom the proposed chieftaincy titles is to be associated as may be nominated by the Minister”.

The operative word is “nominated by the Minister”. The Action Group Ministers are full of bias. If he is to appoint members he is going to appoint persons who are Action Group supporters.

It is obnoxious because by clause 20D (e) the Governor in Council can reject proposals of a competent authority especially if that authority is not Action Group inclined or is neutral.

The Bill is so framed as to allow differential application, and this is a challenge to the rule of law. Clause 20D (1):

“The Governor in Council shall consider the poposals and declaration made by the competent authority together with the report of the findings and conclusions of the inquiry held under sub-section (2) of this section, and the recommendations of the Minister thereon, and if the Governor in Council is satisfied that the proposals represent a true or adequate statement of customary law he shall publish a notice in the Regional Gazette of his intention to create, after the expiration of thirty days from the date on which the notice is published as aforesaid, the proposed chieftaincy title and of the manner in which the selection of a person to be the holder of the proposed chieftaincy title shall be regulated so as to permit representations to be made by the public within that period.

This clause is a gateway for fraudulent manipulations by the Governor in Council. If Action Group supporters oppose a declaration in respect of a chieftaincy title, then the Governor in Council will rule against such a declaration.

Finally, Sir, it is my duty to tell this honourable House that this law aims at removing the prestige and power left with

[MR OVIASU]

in mind is Oba Akenzua of Benin, who in December 1960 created twenty-one titles which the Government asked him to denounce publicly or face a two-year jail sentence! The Iyase title, the most important of the twenty-one titles, was conferred on Chief Omo-Osagie, NCNC Federal Minister, and whose title the Government of Western Region forced the Oba to withdraw. This happened as a result of nocturnal visits to Ibadan. The next thing we heard was a letter by the Minister for Chieftaincy Affairs asking the Oba that, unless he denounced publicly the conferment, action might be taken against him. The Oba as the consenting authority in Chieftaincy Affairs in Benin, does not need to have Government permission to create titles. All he need do is to create and ask for Government recognition by gazetting their names. That is what used to happen in the past; for example, the four Benin chiefs now in the House of Chiefs (Action Group supporters) had their titles that way. Government did recognise them. Now that the Oba is no longer regarded as an Action Group member and confers titles on NCNC members—Chief Osagie and Okotie-Eboh—the Governor in Council refused to recognise these twenty-one chiefs. Action Group Presses refer to these men as Mr Osagie, Mr Okotie-Eboh, etc.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is this incident, in which the Minister for Chieftaincy Affairs played a prominent part, that led to this Bill.

Will this Minister tell this honourable House, Mr Speaker, Sir, whether since Oba Akenzua was compelled to submit these twenty-one titles for approval, the Governor in Council has given approval.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time, ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Question proposed.

Mr Olaitan: Mr Chairman, Sir, I should like to move an amendment to section 2 of the Chiefs Law. Under section 2 it reads: Any person who purports to create any chieftaincy title contrary to the provisions of the Law shall be committing an offence. I am moving the amendment for the omission of the word "purports" and to read "Any person who creates any chieftaincy title". The reason why I do this is that, as a legal practitioner, the word

"purports" reads ambiguous and most of these cases will go to customary courts for trial and these people are more or less laymen and they won't understand what is meant by the word "purports". But if the word "creates" is used it will be so simple to the minds of the people deciding the case that they will use it. In the dictionary the word purports means: "that which is intended to be done". Without any disrespect to the draughtsman of the Bill, I feel that if the word "creates" is used it will mean some sense rather than the word "purports".

(Opposition Benches: Tell them).

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, nobody has a right to create. He can only pretend, purports to create. In any event, Sir, I think it will be pretentious, even on the part of anybody on the Opposition side, to claim to have the competence of the legal draftsman of this Region today, Dr F. A. Ajayi.

Mr Olaitan: I proposed the amendment in that invariably these cases will be handled by local government policemen in the Region and in a day or two they will take these people to the court to be punished, but if the Attorney-General has a say in the prosecution before action is taken, this will be much better. For example, in the Income Tax Law it is provided that you cannot prosecute any person without the consent of the Attorney-General. This is Section I of the Income Tax Law. So I will be suggesting that the Attorney-General gives the sanction before any action is commenced.

Chief Odebiyi: The Attorney-General does not prosecute. Everybody knows now that the Director of Public Prosecutions prosecutes.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment.

Motion made and question proposed That the Bill be read a Third time (Dr J. O. Omitowoju).

The House divided. Ayes 52, Noes 28.

DIVISION LIST

AYES 52

1. Adekunle, Mr Y.
2. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
3. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
4. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
5. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.
6. Adibi, Mr N. A.

7. Adigun, Hon. J. O.
8. Aina, Mr E.
9. Ajibola, Mr A.
10. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.
11. Akere, Hon. C. I.
12. Akerele, Mr S. A.
13. Akintola, Chief S. L.
14. Akran, Oba C. D.
15. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
16. Anuku, Hon. E.
17. Areola, Mr R. O.
18. Aruwajoye, Mr S. B.
19. Asiru, Mr B.
20. Atie, Mr A.
21. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
22. Babatola, Hon. J. E.
23. Edeki, Mr I.
24. Ewah, Mr B. G.
25. Fawehinmi, Mr B. O.
26. Fetuga, Mr M. A.
27. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
28. Idodo, Mr M. A.
29. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
30. Lana, Mr R. A.
31. Momoh, Hon. K. S. Y.
32. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
33. Odigie, Mr J. O.
34. Qdutuga, Mr J. A.
35. Ogundiran, Hon. D.
36. Ogunyele, Mr Y.
37. Oke, Mr E. O.
38. Olaniyan, Mr B.
39. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
40. Olusa, Mr R. A.
41. Omitowoju, Dr J. O.
42. Onabamiro, Dr S. D.
43. Orowole, Mr D. O.
44. Osagie, Mr B. E. O.
45. Otobo, Hon. J. E.
46. Oye, Hon. J. O.
47. Popoola, Mr D. A.
48. Sanni, Mr S. A.
49. Tinubu, Chief S. A.
50. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for Ayes

51. Atolagbe, Mr D.
52. Kotoye, Mr N. A. B.

NOES 28

1. Abioshun, Mr J. O.
2. Adebesin, Mr K. S.
3. Adedigba, Mr M. A.
4. Aghahowa, Mr W.
5. Amadasun, Mr V. I.
6. Arowojolu, Mr E. B.
7. Ebubedike, Mr F.
8. Elushade, Mr T. E.
9. Fani-Kayode, Mr R. A.
10. Igugu, Mr T. E.
11. Imafidon, Mr E. O.

12. Lawal, Mr J. L.
13. Layonu, Mr S. A.
14. Okumagba, Mr D. E.
15. Okwesa, Mr P. V.
16. Olaitan, Mr O.
17. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
18. Olowofoyeku, Mr B.
19. Omokowajo, Mr J. O.
20. Osuhor, Mr F.
21. Oviasu, Mr G. I.
22. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
23. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
24. Somotan, Mr A. S.
25. Tabiowo, Mr P. K.
26. Utomi, Mr F. H.

Tellers for Noes

27. Rerri, Mr A. T.
28. Tifase, Chief J. L.

Bill accordingly read a Third time and passed.

UNIVERSITY OF IFE (PROVISIONAL COUNCIL) BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Bill for a Law to provide for the establishment, constitution, powers and function of a Provisional Council of the University of Ife and for purposes incidental to or connected with the foregoing matters.

The purpose of this Bill, as is clearly shown under the statement of its objects and reasons, is to set up a Provisional Council with all the requisite powers for the planning, building and opening of the proposed University of Ife. The Bill includes provision for the establishment, incorporation and constitution of the Council, the tenure of office of its members, the general powers of the Council and its powers and functions in relation to the general management of the affairs of the proposed University.

In the short space of four months a team has been sent overseas to study and observe the architectural design, organisational layout and administrative set-up of Universities in foreign countries, including the United States of America, Mexico, Brazil and Israel, and have reported back to Government on such features of the Universities in those countries as could be incorporated with advantage in our proposed University of the Western Region.

Also during this short period a decision has been taken by the Government concerning the siting of the University, and Ife has been chosen for this purpose. Preparations are already well in advance for acquiring a

[DR ONABAMIRO]

suitable area of land for this new University near the town of Ife, and detailed work is in progress on the designing of plans for the buildings to be erected on the site.

Mr Speaker, Sir, for a University to be worthy of its name and to command the respect of the learned world, it must be independent of Government in the day-to-day running of its affairs. Members of this honourable House will be gratified to hear that the Government of the Western Region is determined to ensure the full independence of the new University of Ife, in order that the atmosphere may be created right from the beginning in which pure learning could thrive. It is for this reason, Sir, that the Government would not like to handle the affairs of the new university for one moment longer than is absolutely necessary to start the project off. That is the reason, Sir, why every effort is being made to set up a Provisional Council as soon as possible into whose hands the day-to-day administration of the University could be entrusted.

When this Council is set up, it will be its duty to proceed to the appointment of some Professors and Lecturers, make regulations concerning the courses to be given in the University, and generally prepare the way for the opening of the University in the shortest time possible.

Mr Speaker Sir, after the Bill in the printed form has been sent out, a few very simple amendments have been made. These are as follows:

(i) The title of Principal has been changed to Vice-Chancellor, in conformity with the status of the Institution as a full University which is not a University College.

(ii) The appointment of an Assistant to the Chief Executive of the University is provided for under the title of Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

(iii) The number of members that may be appointed to the Council who shall be persons not employed on the academic or administrative staff of the University has been increased from five to nine.

(iv) Provision has been made to ensure that members of the House of Assembly shall not be debarred from appointment to the Provisional Council of the University, and vice versa.

(v) Only the first Vice-Chancellor, the first Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the first Registrar shall be appointed by the

Governor in Council, and subsequent appointments shall be made by the Provisional Council.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if this Honourable House would be graciously disposed to pass the Bill for the establishment of the Provisional Council, we would have taken another big step towards realising our hopes for the University of Ife.

Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr B. Olowofoyeku: Mr Speaker, Sir, the establishment of a university in Western Nigeria is a need which has been keenly felt by everyone. In fact my party has envisaged the establishment of at least eleven universities for the Federation of Nigeria. It is the intention of my party to have established in the Northern Region four universities. It is the intention of the party to have established in the Eastern Region three universities; three universities in the West and one university in the Federal territory of Lagos. The practical possibility of this policy has been demonstrated by the establishment in the Eastern Region, by the NCNC Government of the East, of the University of Nigeria (*cheers*). Mr Speaker, Sir, this was at a time when the Action Group Government of the West was merely groping in the dark and unable to grapple with the realities of higher education in this Region. (*Opposition Benches: Fire on!*) The policy of the NCNC on higher education has been a matter of frequent discussion at party level. (*Government Benches: Your party level*). Yes, my party level. At one stage or the other, we had as our scribe, a man who goes by the name, Dr Sanya Onabamiro. He later deflected from the party. He went to serve under a man whom he had had occasion to call "a self-appointed leader." As he was going he took away with him the ideas of the NCNC. Mr Speaker, Sir, we of the Opposition will not oppose this Bill. We will not oppose it in principle. It was conceived by us. But if the proposed university is going to be of lasting benefit it must command the respect and admiration of generations yet unborn. It must rank in cadre as one of the most famous universities of the world. The provisional council must be as widely representative as possible. (*Cheers*).

A few months ago a White Paper on the establishment of this university was laid on the table of this House. In that White Paper there was a promise that there would be established two committees—that there

[MR OLOWOFOYEKU]

was going to be a University Planning Committee and a University Parliamentary Committee. I believe, Mr Speaker, Sir, that it is the former that had undertaken a journey of which we don't know the utility, yet. A journey has been taken round the globe and I believe this was taken by the Planning Committee. I am open to correction in this respect but the latter committee has become an abortion. There has been no Parliamentary Committee for this university. I believe, Sir, that the reason for this is because the Government is afraid to put its cards squarely on the table. It is the intention of the Government to put the Opposition in blissful ignorance. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is one more of the examples in the catalogue of the contempt, disrespect, and disdain with which the Government of this Region has for long treated members of the Opposition. In matters which are vital for our well-being and the sum total of the population, we are left out. We are expected to show up in public events and we even have no right to attend to the call of nature. *(Laughter)* Mr Speaker Sir, when high-ranking members of the Action Group, when Obas and Chiefs and Ministers of State publicly declared a non-fraternisation with a former Governor-General those people were paragons.

Chief Odebiyi: Point of order. This has no relevance.

Mr Olowofoyeku: I am speaking about the contempt with which this Government is treating the members of the Opposition.

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I sit down, I would like to say that the siting of the College has been a little controversial. From my own point of view, I would have liked the University to be sited between Ife and Ilesha. Mr Speaker Sir, I am not saying Ilesha in particular because I don't want to be selfish, but there is one matter which.....*(Government Front Benches: Everybody wants the University in his home town)*.

Unfortunately Sir, we have not been put into confidence by members of the Government party.

Mr Speaker: I shall not agree that the hon. Gentleman should discuss the question of siting now.

Mr Olowofoyeku: With due deference to Mr Speaker, I am bound by the ruling of Mr Speaker, but the Minister of Education said that this University is going to be sited

in Ile-Ife. May I understand Mr Speaker, that I am not entitled to address the House upon the siting? *(Silence)*. Well Sir, if I must proceed without making further reference to the siting of the University, I will still make one more point and that is in connection with the membership of the Provisional Council. In this Bill, the appointments to the Provisional Council are to be made by the Governor in Council. We want an assurance Sir that the appointments will not be made an occasion of political jobbery. We want an assurance Sir that only the best people will be appointed to the Council and we want an assurance Sir that people whose political opinion is not the same as that of the Government, would not necessarily be prevented from advising this Provisional Council. With these few remarks, I support.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, because this Bill has received unanimous support of both sides of the House, I do not intend to make any lengthy speech on it. But a point was made by my hon. Friend from Ilesha that the Government is treating the Opposition with contempt. I am very sorry if anything has been done to create that impression in the mind of the Opposition. I have always been saying it that the Government of this Region is the responsibility of all of us, whether you are on the Government Bench or on the Opposition. Every member of this House, regardless of whatever party he belongs to, has the appellation of "honourable". We believe that all members here are honourable and as such it is the duty of the Government party, and of all members, to treat every member of this House with every respect. If anything has been done to give the contrary impression, it must be due to a misunderstanding. I have always been giving the assurance in this House that if there was any doubt in any member's mind on any matter leading to a misunderstanding, my doors are always open, either in the office or in my private lodge, he can come and let us discuss it, whether you are a member of the Government Party or Opposition.

I say this sincerely from the bottom of my heart. I have been a member of the Opposition myself in my political life and I have been a colleagues of some of those who now sit opposite me; and we have always thought that it is the duty of the Government to treat us with respect, and I owe it a duty to treat all of you with every respect that you deserve. I assure you once again that it is not our intention at all to be disrespectful to you.

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

Now, reference has been made to a declaration of policy matter on the floor of this House a few months ago to the effect that a Parliamentary Committee was going to be appointed to advise on matters relevant to the proposed University. This intention was made manifest in the policy paper brought to this House and I gave the assurance after consultation with the Minister of Education that this Committee was going to be appointed to advise. But we must be sure before we play the role of an adviser that the party to be advised comes into existence. You cannot have advisers without a party to be advised and if a committee of advisers has not been appointed now it is because the body that the committee will advise has not come into existence and the body to be advised is the one we are trying to create by law. If we have not appointed a committee before now it is not in a way to disrespect you or that we don't want to take you into confidence; but immediately the Law being considered now is passed, it is the intention of my honourable Friend, the Minister of Education, to announce to you the names of the Members of the House who are appointed to the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Higher Education. It is not our intention to treat you with contempt at all. Some matters of importance come to us without any previous notice. In that case, we cannot give you sufficiently long notice. But whenever we have notice on any matter for a fairly long time, I assure you that it is our duty to take you into confidence. Whatever may be our political differences, we shall give you due respect; with uncertainties of politics, it may be that some of us will not sit on this side, or some of you on that side. So, I feel for this reason, and in order to insure ourselves against the uncertainties of political life, we will give you due respect.

Mr B. I. G. Ewah: Mr Speaker Sir, the West Regional Government is to be congratulated on its plan to establish a University at Ife. The siting of the University could not be controversial since it has been fixed by experts and considering the history of Ife as the traditional home of Yoruba race. I will suggest, however, that an extension of the University should be sited in the Midwest.

Mr F. Ebubedike: Mr Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak for the first time. I am going to speak here on the establishment of provisional council for the University of Ife. I support the establishment of the Council because this is the first of the highest achieve-

ments this Regional Government is ever going to make. It is gratifying to see that today the Action Group Government of the West is now taking this policy, considering what was said on the building of the University of Nigeria. Mr Speaker Sir, it ought to be so, knowing quite well that the man in charge of the Ministry of Education has been an old member of the NCNC. I have to say that in considering this Bill we would like to be assured by the hon. Minister of Education that sections 8 and 18 of the Bill will not be used to create unwarranted jobs for the Government party political good boys.

Likewise, Mr Speaker, I would like to point out that the Minister of Education should make it clear to us that section 11 (1) would not be affected by tribal and political tendencies.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Education should make it clear that section 2 (i) will not be affected by political changes. I wish to congratulate the Regional Government for the number of our primary and secondary school leavers which is growing yearly and the Government has thought it fit to provide opportunity of higher education for them. The university which we are going to open should not be like that one where children are not taught science. Many of them do not know the names of common plants in Nigeria how much more of grass. When the Provisional Council is established.....

Chief Odebiyi: I do not agree with the hon. Member. Even the babalawo knows the names of herbs.

Mr Ebubedike: We want it to be on the model of Ibadan University and in accordance with Nigerian background. I congratulate the Minister of Education.

Mr E. B. Arowojolu: I have to congratulate the Minister of Education for his achievements which he has made during his short term of office. You all know that this Minister was called "guinea-worm" doctor. He went from this side to the Action Group to carry on the policy of the NCNC which has already established a University in the Eastern Region.

I want to give some suggestions. The proposed Provisional Council should be made up of men of intelligence so that not only Members of one party should be appointed. You all know what happens in Corporations and Boards and even people who failed to be elected during the last Elections have been made Chairmen of Corporations and Boards. Let this not happen in the Provisional Council.

[MR AROWOJOLU]

In recruiting staff for that University you must see that you recruit scientists from Russia and other Communist countries to teach science.

Mr I. Edeki: Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to point out that the Regional Government should be congratulated on its move to establish a University in Ife. The Regional Education policy has been very sound. Primary Schools have increased and the quality of education has been of a high standard. The opportunity for secondary education has increased four-fold and sixth form work is being expanded. The creation of the proposed University is going to be the apex of our educational pyramid. There are Regions which build their educational pyramid from the apex downwards. We have taken the initiative by laying proper foundation for our University which I have referred to as the apex of our educational policy. The foundation of this University must be based on the needs of this Region—engineers, technologists, agriculturists, and educationists. Of course, I do not say that humanities must be relegated to the background. The atmosphere of the college should be such as to favour the growth of those qualities which make a man or woman a good citizen.

Once again, I congratulate the Western Region because of its move to found a University at Ife.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill because it is the responsibility of every Government to provide adequate facilities for education for the inhabitants of its area. I have stood up to speak about this Bill because the Action Group on this occasion have been frank to admit their fault in saying that they were not the first to establish a University in Nigeria. Afterwards you will hear their Ministers boasting they were the first to establish Free Primary Education in Nigeria and in the whole world. They have said that their Television is the first in the world. They claim to be the first to do everything. But in the founding of a University they were not the first, but the NCNC Government of Eastern Nigeria. Even the Northern Region founded the Ahmadu Bello University College before them.

Government Benches: It is a college and not a University.

Mr Amadasun: What is the difference between a college and a university? When the Minister first laid the White Paper before

this House he told us that a team of experts was going round the Region to find a suitable site for the University and that the recommendations will be brought to this House. If the recommendations had been brought here we, of the Midwest would have been able to know why no suitable site was found in that area. My own city, Benin, has the necessary geographical qualifications.

Mr Speaker: I have ruled a few minutes ago that the siting of the University should not be dealt with.

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(*Government Benches:.....And the Leader of Opposition is from the same town*). Finally, Sir, when erecting this University we want the buildings to be magnificent. We want the contract to be given to people who know something about the building of Universities and not Nigersol or Oni and Sons...
(*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these observations, I beg to support this Bill.

Alhaji B. O. Fawehinmi: I would like to congratulate the Western Nigeria Government for their big achievement in the field of education. When the Action Group Government of the Western Region introduced the Free Primary Education, Members of the Opposition cried but today, they are reaping a lion's share of the benefits of that scheme. When the Finance Corporation was established, these very people cried as loud as ever and today too, they are also benefiting from the fruits of that institution.

I am going to refrain from mentioning names because those concerned know themselves. Action Group does not believe in rushing; we believe in good planning, and that is why the Action Group is slow to act but when they act, they are like fire. Before they put up any scheme there must be actual deliberations and experts must be consulted. This fulfils the saying that "he who laughs last laughs best". The Action Group does not believe in doing things spasmodically so that people may praise them but they find time to do things well so that everybody may be able to enjoy the fruits of their good leadership.

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(*Laughter.*)

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On the question of the university it is very easy for our friends to say that they were the first to take the initiative; we do not believe in putting something on paper without actually starting it.

For these reasons, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to congratulate the Action Group Government of the Western Region, and support the Bill.

Mr D. A. Popoola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to say a word or two in connection with the speech of the last speaker but one. He was trying to prove to the House that the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria is trying to copy the Eastern Region. The Western Nigeria Government controlled by the Action Group does not copy but it takes time to plan its projects.

We were the first to have the Free Primary School operating; then we turned our attention to the Secondary Grammar Schools. After we have done all that, now we are engaging our attention in our University. But in the Eastern Region, where they boast of being the first to build a University, the Free Primary Education is not functioning well and even then is not extended to all the classes, having only last year been extended to reach Standard 3. I am confident, and share the opinion of other hon. Members that the structure and other things at the University of Ife will have no equal.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I congratulate the Members of the Opposition for recognising the merit of this Bill straightaway and so helping this Bill to be one of no controversy.

Normally, if they had stopped there I would have liked to thank the hon. Members for the many suggestions which they had given to us; but in the course of their speeches they had done more than this. My hon. Friend from Ilesha made a point that I left the NCNC and carried the NCNC idea on higher education to the Action Group. I think that demands an answer.

I think it was generally recognised in the years I was with the NCNC that I was their educational expert. What can one do when advice was put on stoney ground? When I was in the NCNC these very ideas were mine but what could I do when these ideas were not heeded nor taken? I would like to raise one matter and remind the Member for Ilesha of one incident which happened in the Constitutional Conference of 1957.

One evening when we were trying to develop what our stand should be on the creation of the Midwest State.....

Mr Olowofoyeku: Point of order..... Standing Order 30 (1): "Debate upon any Motion, Bill.....shall be relevant to that Motion, Bill....."

Mr Speaker: The hon. Minister is replying to the points you touched, in point of explanation. He should be, and is hereby, allowed to continue.....(*cheers from Government Benches*).

Dr Onabamiro: ...during that evening members of the Eastern wing of the NCNC refused to agree with the Western wing of the NCNC on the creation of the Midwest State because they felt they would compromise on the issue of the creation of the COR State. Then we fell into two irreconcilable factions.....(*interruptions from Opposition Benches: it is not correct, it is not correct, we have never opposed the creation of the Midwest State*). So it was that at the Conference when the NCNC supported the creation of the post of Deputy Prime Minister the following day an NCNC Member rose up to attack the decision taken by the party hierarchy. And I left the delegation alone and came back to Nigeria by myself a week before the Conference closed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it was shortly afterwards that I left the party as a whole. All the idea or the educational policy which I had been trying to get through found itself on stoney grounds and so I decided to leave the party.

Mr Speaker, Sir, another Member of the Opposition has risen to say that the Western Region Government always claimed to be the first in everything but that it was not the first to build a University. I would like to refer the hon. Member to the Report of the Ashby Commission which says that the University of Nigeria could not hold its own but should be joined with the Nigerian College at Enugu to form a complex. Having this in mind, Sir, it stand to reason, therefore, that this is the very first time which we are going to have a fullfledged university which can stand on its own.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee,

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Question proposed.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following amendments:—

(i) substitute a semi-colon for the full-stop at the end of Clause 2.

(ii) Delete the words "Principal" and substitute "Vice-Chancellor" in lines 6 and 7.

(iii) Insert after the definition of "the University" the following new definition:—
"the Pro-Vice-Chancellor" means the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 2 as amended agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 (1).

Question proposed.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, I beg to move an amendment by:

(i) deleting the word "Principal" and substituting "Vice-Chancellor".

(ii) inserting a new paragraph (c) as follows:

"(c) the Pro-Vice-Chancellor".

(iii) re-numbering paragraphs (c) and (d) as (d) and (e) respectively.

(iv) a new paragraph (d) to read as follows:

"(d) not less than five nor more than nine members who shall be persons not employed on the academic or administrative staff of the University."

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 5 (1) as amended agreed to.

Clause 5 (2) agreed to.

Clause 5 (3).

Question proposed.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment by:

(i) inserting a new Clause 5 (3) as follows:
"5 (3) (a) A member of the House of Assembly of Western Nigeria who becomes the chairman or other member of the Council shall not vacate his seat in that House by reason only of his becoming such chairman or other member, and a chairman or other member of the Council who becomes a member of the House shall not cease to hold office as chairman or other member of the Council by reason only of becoming such a member of the House.

(b) For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that the office of chair-

man or other member of the Council is not an office of emolument under the Crown.

(ii) substituting a colon for the fullstop at the end of the former Clause 5 (3) now to be numbered as Clause 5 (4).

The new clause 5 (4) is to be amended by—

(i) deleting "Principal" and substituting "Vice-Chancellor".

(ii) inserting "the Pro-Vice-Chancellor" immediately after "Vice-Chancellor" in the first line.

(iii) inserting a new proviso to the new Clause 5 (4) as follows:

"Provided that no appointment to the office of Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor or Registrar other than the first appointment to any of these offices shall be made by the Council".

(iv) re-numbering Clause 5 (4), (5), (6) and (7) as 5 (5), (6), (7) and (8) respectively.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 5 (3) as re-numbered and amended agreed to.

Clauses 5 (4) and 5 (5) as re-numbered agreed to.

Clause 5 (6) as re-numbered.

Question proposed.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment that Clause 5 (6) as re-numbered, be amended by substituting "five" for "three" in the third line.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 5 (6) as re-numbered and amended agreed to.

Clause 5 (7) as re-numbered agreed to.

Clause 5 (8) as re-numbered:

Question proposed.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Clause 5 (8) as re-numbered be amended by:

(i) deleting the word "Principal" wherever it occurs in the paragraph and substituting "Vice-Chancellor".

(ii) inserting "Pro-Vice-Chancellor" after "Vice-Chancellor Designate" in the second line.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 5 (8) as re-numbered and amended agreed to.

Clause 6.

Question proposed.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the whole of Clause 6 be deleted and the following new Clause be substituted therefor:—

“Tenure of office of members of the council. 6 (1) Subject to any other provisions which may be made by any other law, any person appointed to any of the offices mentioned in sub-section (4) of section 5 shall hold his office until such time as the authority which appointed him thereto shall otherwise determine.

“6 (2) Any person holding any of the offices mentioned in sub-section (4) of section 5 may at any time, by writing under his hand, addressed to the authority which appointed him, resign from his office.”

*Amendment put and agreed to.
Clause 6 as amended agreed to.
Clauses 7 to 15 agreed to.
Clause 16.*

Question proposed.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

(i) Delete the word “Principal” and substitute “Vice-Chancellor” throughout this Clause.

(ii) Insert after paragraph (a) of sub-clause (1) a new paragraph as follows:

“(b) the Pro-Vice-Chancellor”.

(iii) Re-number paragraphs (b) and (c) of sub-clause (1) as (c) and (d) respectively.

(iv) Insert a new sub-clause (3) immediately after sub-clause (2) as follows.

“(3) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor shall be the Chief assistant to the Vice-Chancellor in the discharge of his functions under this Law and shall have such functions and perform such duties as the Vice-Chancellor may from time to time assign to him”.

(v) Re-number the present sub-clause (3) as sub-clause (4).

*Amendments put and agreed to.
Clause 16 as amended agreed to.
Clause 17 agreed to.
Clause 18.*

Question proposed.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the word “Principal” be deleted and “Vice-Chancellor” be substituted.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Chairman, Sir, I move that Clause 18 be further amended as follows.

(i) delete “may” and substitute “shall”

(ii) delete the whole of “if he thinks fit” and then delete from “him” to “Academic Board”. and substitute “the Council from amongst the members of the Academic Board”.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the new Clause now will then be: “The Vice-Chancellor shall have powers to exercise disciplinary control over students of the University and, shall, for the purpose of his power under this section, consult any committee appointed by the Council from amongst the members of the Academic Board”.

The reason for this amendment, Sir, is that experience has shown that some Vice-Chancellors in some Universities, not only in Nigeria but also over the world, are always harsh in the disciplinary measures given to students. So that if they are given that power under this Clause to appoint a disciplinary committee, then the advice of the committee will not be obeyed by the Vice-Chancellor and this committee will have no statutory backing. If the disciplinary committee is to be appointed by the Statutory Council, then any advice given by that committee must in some way be obeyed by the Vice-Chancellor.

This is my own amendment, Mr Chairman, Sir.

Further amendment proposed.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment on the ground that after eleven and half years’ experience as a lecturer in a university (*hear, hear*) myself, I think I am confident to express an opinion as to how students’ discipline should be organised. The authority for disciplining students should be vested in the Chief Executive of the University and should be made flexible for him on how he should exercise that authority. If you compel him at any given issue to summon a committee of the Academic Board before he can take any decision, it will hamper his disciplinary ability with the result that certain decisions which have to be taken within hours have to be deferred until the Board can be convened. So that it will be open to him to summon an advisory board on disciplinary matters when he thinks fit and to take executive action either with his own initiative or in conjunction with the Registrar.

[DR ONABAMIRO]

I beg to oppose.

Further amendment put and negatived.

Clause 18 as amended (but not further amended) agreed to.

Clauses 19 to 20 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported with amendments, read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Parliamentary Delegation

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Monday, 27th March, 1961 at 10.00 a.m. May I remind hon. Members about the parliamentary delegation which is to take place tomorrow to Ewekoro, Agege Dairy and Poultry Farm and Mushin Industrial Estate. If Mr Speaker would give the indulgence I would like to go through the names.

(a) *To Ewekoro Cement Works and N.P.C.C. Abeokuta.*

1. S. L. Akintola
2. D. S. Adegbenro
3. Y. Adekunle
4. I. A. Adelodun
5. J. G. Adeniran
6. A. O. Adeyi
7. J. O. Adigun
8. Y. Aina
9. L. A. Ajimobi
10. S. A. Akerele
11. C. D. Akran
12. E. Anuku
14. P. Ashiru
15. D. Atolagbe
16. J. E. Babatola
17. G. A. Deko
18. E. Etchie
19. E. A. A. Fadayiro
20. M. A. Fetuga
21. M. A. Idodo
22. J. O. Kehinde
23. R. A. Lana
24. B. O. Obisesan
25. J. O. Odigie
26. D. Ogundiran
27. Y. Ogunyele
28. E. O. Oke
29. I. A. Olukoju
30. R. A. Olusa
31. S. Onasanya
32. D. O. Orowole
33. J. O. Osuntokun
34. J. E. Otobo
35. J. O. Oye
36. S. A. Sanni
37. S. O. Sogbein

38. C. A. Williams

To Agege Dairy and Poultry Farm and Industrial and Mushin Estate, Ikeja:

1. A. Adekeye
2. A. Adedoyin
3. S. T. Adelegan
4. A. L. Adenekan
5. S. A. Adeniya
6. J. O. Adeyemo
7. N. A. Adibi
8. A. Ajubola
9. J. E. A. Agbasa
10. C. I. Akere
11. A. O. Akingboye
12. I. O. Aniyi
13. S. B. Aruwajoye
14. A. Atie
15. J. O. Awopeju
16. A. A. Babayemi
17. I. Edeki
18. B. G. Ewah
19. B. O. Fawehinmi
20. O. O. Gbolahan
21. M. O. Ijje
22. N. A. B. Kotoye
23. K. S. Y. Momoh
24. J. A. O. Odebiyi
25. J. A. Odutuga
26. J. A. Ogunmuyiwa
27. B. Ojeniran
28. S. A. Okeya
29. B. Olaniyan
30. D. K. Olumofin
31. J. O. Omitowoju
32. Z. A. Opaleye
33. B. E. O. Osagie
34. I. A. Ositelu
35. S. A. Otubanjo
36. D. A. Popoola
37. O. Sobande
38. S. A. Tinubu
39. K. K. Zuokumor
40. K. O. Owonikoko.

May I remind hon. Members that they are expected to be here at 9.00 o'clock tomorrow. The buses will take Ibadan-Abeokuta road and Shagamu-Lagos road. It will be necessary for every member to assemble here first so that the WNTV can cover the tour effectively starting from 9.00 o'clock tomorrow morning. We hope those who are not going will be here to give inspiration to those who are going. I believe the Leader of Opposition will be here at least to cheer those who will be going.

Chief Adeyi: I beg to second.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, we would like to know the leaders of these delegations.

Mr Speaker: When they get here tomorrow they will choose their leaders.

Question proposed.

**Parliamentary Committee for
the University of Ife**

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Speaker, Sir, a Parliamentary Committee to advise the Provisional Council of the University of Ife and on the various reports which will be submitted in connection with the project will be set up. There will be nine members in this Parliamentary Committee and its chairman will be the hon. the Deputy Speaker, Mr S. T. Adelegan.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to interrupt. I know it is unusual to interrupt a ministerial statement. If the Minister allows, I will continue, but if not, I will resume my seat. Even if the Minister is going to reject the advice of the Opposition the Opposition should be informed before any member is appointed or co-opted by the Minister.

Dr S. D. Onabamiro: I appreciate the views of the hon. Leader of Opposition. We have selected university graduates amongst us who have experience of University running and can advise. There are nine members: six from Government and three from the Opposition.

The hon. S. T. Adelegan, B.A.—*Chairman*
The hon. R. I. Edeki, M.A.
The hon. S. A. Akerele, M.A.
The hon. R. O. Areola, M.A.
The hon. N. A. Adibi, M.A.
The hon. J. O. Awopeju, B.A., LL. B.
The hon. R. A. Fani-Kayode, M.A., LL.B., Q.C.
The hon. B. Olowofoyeku, B.A., LLB.
The hon. A. T. Rerri, B.A.

I shall consult the Leader of Opposition later on in case he will like to suggest some amendments.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode: I shall be in consultation with him Sir.

Sitting arrangements

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, next time you may find that you may not be sitting in the position you are sitting now. Sitting arrangements will be made in consultation with the Leader of the House and the Leader of Opposition as to where Members ought to be. Thank you for the co-operation I have received so far.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 3.45 p.m. until Monday, 27th March, 1961, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1961

The House met at 10.05 a.m.

Mr Speaker in the Chair

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EDUCATION

Retiring Benefits to Voluntary Agency Teachers

10/3. Mr D. A. Atolagbe asked the Minister of Education to state whether the Regional Government would extend the same retiring privileges to Voluntary Agency Teachers as those enjoyed by the Civil Servants.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr R. A. Olusa):

The payment of superannuation benefits to non-Government teachers is governed throughout the Federation by the non-Government Certificated Teacher's Superannuation Scheme Rules, 1950. To be eligible for a pension and gratuity under these rules, a non-Government certificated teacher must have completed fifteen years' continuous service in this country and must have attained the age of fifty-five years. A non-Government certificated teacher who is fifty-five but has not completed fifteen years' continuous service is eligible for a gratuity only, provided that he has served continuously for a minimum period of five years.

The compulsory age of retirement in the Western Region Public Service is now sixty years. It is still fifty-five in the Federal Public Service and the other two Regional Public Services in the Federation. In all the Public Services of the Federation, an officer may elect to retire voluntarily at the age of forty-five. A civil servant in any part of the Federation would be eligible for a pension plus gratuity if he retires on reaching the compulsory or voluntary age of retirement. Otherwise, he would be eligible for a gratuity only if he is confirmed in his appointment after completing his probationary service which normally lasts for three years and has served continuously for a minimum of ten years.

The answer to the Hon. Member's question is that the Government does not propose to extend to voluntary agency teachers in the Region the same retiring privileges as are enjoyed by civil servants in its Public Service. In any event, the Government of this Region

could not proceed unilaterally in this matter since, as stated above, the payment of superannuation benefits to voluntary agency teachers is governed by rules applicable throughout the Federation.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: I want to know from the Minister of Education the difficulties confronting the voluntary agency teachers who have retired in the way of getting their pensions and salaries.

Minister in the Ministry of Education (Hon. J. O. Oye): I require a notice to that effect.

Opposition Benches: This is a supplementary question and as such it does not require a written notice.

Mr Speaker: The Minister wants a notice.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Grade I District Councils

10/58. Mr N. A. Adibi asked the Minister of Local Government to state the number, names, and responsibilities of the District Councils that had been raised to First Grade.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Local Government (Mr A. Atie): There are at the present time three councils which have Class I status. They are the Ibadan District Council, the Benin Divisional Council, and the Egba Divisional Council. The responsibilities of these councils are clearly stated in that part of their Instruments describing the obligatory functions which they can, if they wish, perform. The hon. Member is advised to look up these Instruments, which are W.R.L.N. 223 of 1958, W.R.L.N. 191 of 1955 and W.R.L.N. 164 of 1955 respectively.

Local Government Service Workers

10/60. Mr Adibi asked the Minister of Local Government what steps the Regional Government had taken or were taking to improve the lot of the Local Government Service workers in general.

Mr Atie: The Regional Government is continually reviewing the conditions of service of Local Government employees and one of the most recent steps in this direction of the provision of schemes of service for all Local Authority Staff in the Local Government Staff Regulations, 1960 (W.R.L.N. 376 of 1960). These Regulations provide for

[MR ATIE]

scales of salaries and conditions of service which are similar to those for civil servants on comparable grades.

The Unified Staff Regulations and Schemes of Service for members of the Unified Service will be published shortly.

These schemes of service clearly lay down the qualifications and conditions for recruitment and promotion into the various posts.

In addition training courses are being provided within and outside the Ministry to enable Local Government Staff to get qualified for higher posts in the service.

AGRICULTURE

Farming Land in Irekari and Ekamarun District Council Areas

10/94. Mr I. A. Olukoju asked the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources whether Government would favourably consider the request of the people of the Irekari and Ekamarun District Council Area in Owo South I Constituency for a reallocation to them of a portion of the Forest Reserve Area for purposes of farming in view of the increasing number of farmers in the area and also of the desire of the people to improve their lot by actually participating in the modern farming methods.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye): An official committee set up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources is now working on problems of Forest Reserves for the purpose of Farming and the result will soon be made known to all.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: I hope that the Government.....

Government Benches: You can only ask a question and not make a statement.

Mr Amadasun: Yes I am still asking a question. I want the Benin Division to be considered too. What of Benin Division?

Alhaji Opaleye: Let us await the report of the Official Committee.

EDUCATION

Condition of Service of Teachers

10/112. Mr S. A. Akerele asked the Minister of Education what steps were being taken to nullify the existing disparity in the conditions of service between persons in the Teaching profession and their counterparts in the civil service.

Mr R. A. Olusa: The Government set up the Regional Advisory Board of Education and the Terms of Service Committee both of which meet at regular intervals to discuss and make recommendations to the Government on the Education Policy of the Region and the Conditions of Service of the staff of non-Government Institutions and Schools. Recommendations on the Conditions of Service are invariably based on existing conditions for Government Teachers. The following conditions which are the outcome of the recommendations of these bodies and negotiations with the Nigerian Union of Teachers clearly indicate that steps have in fact been taken to make the conditions of non-Government teachers not less favourable than those of their counterparts in the Government Service.

Salary: (a) Non-Government Grade II and IIA teachers earn from £180 per annum to £474 per annum and £227 to £474 per annum respectively as against £174 to £432 in Government Service.

(b) Non-Government Grade I teachers earn from £335-762 per annum. If a Government teacher is promoted Senior Teacher, he earns from £450-567 per annum.

(c) Non-Government teachers who pass the Ministry of Education Certificate or the Professional Teachers Certificate earn from £351-762 per annum as against £450-567 if appointed Assistant Education Officer Grade II in the Government Service.

(d) Non-Government Graduate Teachers with teaching qualification, earn from £762 to £1,584 per annum. In addition, expatriate officers are paid expatriate allowances, as against £720 to £1,584 in the Government Service.

Leave:—(a) Non-Government Teachers are free during school holidays except when on refresher courses which do not normally last for more than one week during any holidays. As in the Government service Expatriate non-Government Teachers take leave after a tour normally not exceeding eighteen months according to the terms of their contracts.

(b) Non-Government female teachers take twelve weeks maternity leave with full pay. This is being reviewed by the Terms of Service Committee to fall in line with six weeks with pay and six weeks with half-pay.

[MR OLUSA]

(c) Non-Government teachers like their counterpart in Government are subject to Medical Board after three months continuous sick leave.

Transport Facilities.—As in the Government service, Voluntary Agencies and Local Authorities grant motor vehicle advances and suitable allowances to expatriate teachers and indigenous teachers holding positions of responsibility.

Retiring Benefits.—There is a Government Superannuation Scheme for non-Government Teachers which is similar to the Pension rights enjoyed by their counterparts in the Government service.

Other Conditions.—Certain allowances which are not applicable to Government Servants are paid to non-Government Teachers:

(a) Annual bonus for teachers with inspection reports;

(b) Responsibility allowance for Headmasters, Principals and Supervisors.

Prospects of advancement.—(a) A teacher with Grade I Certificate, the Ministry of Education Certificate, or the Professional Teachers Certificate is eligible, on recommendation, for promotion into the extended scale of £690 to £1,580 per annum whereas his counterpart in Government service is promoted to the intermediate scale of £450 to £822 per annum.

(b) The Terms of Service Committee, in conjunction with the Nigerian Union of Teachers, are now discussing the possibility of promoting Principals of tried ability and considerable experience to a superscale comparable with that of the Principals of Government Institutions.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and 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.

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Chief J. O. Adigun): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 33

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move the motion standing in my name that Standing Order 33 be suspended this day to enable the Minister of Finance and his Secunder to complete their speeches on the Motion for a Second Reading of the 1961-62 Appropriation Bill.

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

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

The following Bill was presented and read the First time, it was ordered to be read a Second time immediately:—

The 1961-62 Appropriation Bill (*The Minister of Finance*).

THE 1961-62 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 thirty-two thousand, five hundred and ten pounds for recurrent expenditure and nineteen million, three hundred and forty-four thousand, five hundred and seventy pounds for capital expenditure to the service of Western Nigeria for the year ending the 31st day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty two”.

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.

GENERAL

It is again my pleasure and privilege to present the Budget of Western Nigeria. Since the last budget meeting of this House two notable events have taken place. First, there has been a general election to an enlarged legislature in this Region. The result of that election (as everyone can see) is that my Party still sits on this side of the House and in greater strength. Secondly, the Federation of Nigeria has, since the 1st of October last year, become a sovereign independent nation and has taken its proper place in world assemblies.

With these events behind us, I think this is an appropriate occasion to stand back and try to see where we have been and where we

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

are going. Just a decade ago, this country was being administered by a Government which was neither of the people nor responsible to the people. I must say, without any bitterness, that when my Party first took over the reigns of Government in this Region, it had to contend with the heritage of colonialism. Colonial powers have an interest in monopolising their dependent territories as far as possible for their own interests and such interests have not always coincided with those of the colonies. This fact has been accepted by a good many citizens of the metropolitan countries themselves. There is no doubt, however, that we have derived great benefits from our association with the British. I hope we shall continue to do so.

Furthermore, until very recent years, the attitude of the industrialised countries seemed to be controlled by the fear that industrial development—and in this term I include improved agricultural methods—in the primary producing countries would jeopardise their own economic prosperity. Economists have since agreed, however, that those fears were entirely unjustified. Analysis of statistical evidence has shown that *per capita* exports of manufactured goods from industrialised countries to other industrialised countries are many times more than those to non-industrialised countries. The reason for this is simple. As a result of basic economic forces, the imports of manufactured goods increase as countries become increasingly developed. Economic and technological progress means greater productivity, greater money income, greater capacity of people to satisfy their needs and desires for a wider variety of goods and services.

Nigeria is now politically independent. We must not only be proud of this: but also be prepared to face the challenge of independence. Our duty now is to so plan our economy as to raise productivity and the standard of living of our people to the highest possible level in the shortest possible time.

A short while ago, I tried to emphasise the fact that we have achieved only political independence. The truth, of course, is that the whole world is economically interdependent. That leads me to a point which has been made on many occasions by various leaders in this country. We shall welcome the assistance of the more advanced countries in the form of capital or technical "know-how" in our efforts to promote rapid economic growth. I believe it is inevitable, to some extent, that economic aid to underdeveloped countries should be regarded as an

adjunct of international diplomacy. I trust, however, that it will be pushing at an open door for me to appeal, especially to our friends in the Commonwealth, America and Western Europe, that the countries which are in a position to help should give greater thought to the benefits which higher standards of living in the under-developed countries could bring to the world as a whole. Nigeria has received a large number of economic delegations, especially since our attainment of independence, and there are hopeful indications that the richer countries of the world are prepared to change from the negative attitude towards foreign aid.

Having said all this, let us consider what we ourselves have done or can do to help our economic growth. As far as this Government is concerned, everything possible within the limits of our resources has been done since 1955 to engender rapid economic growth. Education, health and welfare services have been expanded far beyond what would have been considered by the greatest optimist as within the realm of possibility. Existing highways have been considerably improved and new ones have been constructed. Electricity and good water supply have been taken to many more towns... (applause).

Mr Amadasun: (*interruption*) No, there is no electricity in Benin City.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, one man said there is no electricity in Benin City. I would say that the hon. Member does not live in Benin City but in the district.....(applause). Industrial estates are being set up to promote and facilitate the establishment of industries. Assistance by way of loans and technical advice have been provided to farmers to enable them increase their productivity. Through Government agencies, like the Development Corporation, many industries and plantations have been established and these provide regular employment for more and more of our people.

In terms of money, the Government controlled by my Party has spent over £50 million on capital account alone in a deliberate effort to bring this Region quickly to the point of "take off" to greater economic prosperity and more abundant life for all. I must remark, with a sense of pride, that we have been able to do all these entirely without resource to loans from external sources. Our public debt at present consists only of £1 million loan from the Federal Government and £10 million from the Western Nigeria Marketing Board.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

Honourable members may be interested in the following statistics from which the growth of Government expenditure can be compared with that of revenue since the financial year 1956-57 when the Estimates were separated into Recurrent and Capital:

Year	RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE		
	Recurrent	Capital	Total	Recurrent	Capital	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
1956-57	15.5	26.9*	42.4	11.3	5.9	17.2
1957-58	15.7	0.4	16.1	12.1	4.0	16.1
1958-59	16.6	0.9	17.5	13.5	6.4	19.9
1959-60	19.7	1.5	21.2	17.1	11.7	28.8
1960-61 (Revised estimate) ...	19.7	12.9	32.6	19.3	16.0	35.3
	87.2	42.6	129.8	73.3	44.0	117.3

* Loans and Transfers from the Capital Works Account.

It will be noted from the figures just quoted that recurrent revenue has increased at an average of £1.05 per annum as against an average increase of £2 million per annum in recurrent expenditure.

Now, I would like to address myself to everyone here and to the community at large. I have indicated what we consider to be the proper business of Government in this matter of economic development—that is, to assist and promote. There are two major ways in which the ordinary citizen's own behaviour is of vital importance. First, we must all help to correct the wrong impression that Government's financial resources (for meeting the cost of services which it provides) are limitless. It is our duty, as representatives of the people, to bring all to a greater realisation of the fact that Government has no means of meeting its commitments other than taxes (direct or indirect) paid by members of the community. It should be clear also that even where a government is able to raise loans, it is the people who ultimately will make the repayment through the taxes paid. This means that a more enlightened attitude must be shown towards the payment of taxes—especially income tax.

At this time last year reforms, which were acclaimed by all, were introduced in our income tax system. Considerable reductions were made in the taxes payable by the great majority of the citizens. Women were exempted altogether from the payment of either general rates or special rates. Government undertook to assist local authorities in meeting any shortfall in their incomes which might result from the new arrangements. We have no intention, at the present time, of increasing the rates of income tax or changing the system of assessment and collection, except in regard to the introduction of Pay As You Earn system which I shall deal with

later. I wish to appeal once again that everyone—in the interest of the community as a whole—should eschew the present wide-spread practice of trying to evade the payment of tax entirely or to pay less than one's just dues. I believe that even at existing rates, the revenues of local authorities would almost be doubled if we all performed our most elementary duty as good citizens. It must be borne in mind that the more the revenues accruing to local authorities the less the grants which the Regional Government will have to make to them, and, therefore, the more the money that will be available to both local authorities and Government for meeting the demands for better roads, better educational facilities, more hospitals, etc.

I would also like to appeal here to Local Government Councillors in this Region. As leaders and representatives of their various communities, they should take greater pride in the efficient performance of their duties. They should cultivate greater financial responsibility and get away from the idea which seems to be gaining ground, that it is the business of the Regional Government to provide the money for every improvement they would like to see in their community. It is the duty of councillors to show good example and inculcate in the members of their community the spirit of self-help. Government will do its best to improve the lot of the people, but they on their part must not sit back and wait for everything to come from the Government.

I will now turn to the second point regarding what we ourselves can do to accelerate our economic growth. We must cultivate the habit of saving. This is the best way of finding money for the capital with which to promote the industrialisation we all hear so much about these days. The

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

ultimate aim as far as my Party is concerned is that the greatest share in manufacturing industries established in Nigeria should be held by the citizens of this country as individuals and not by the Government. Because we cannot afford to wait, the Government and its agencies have, however, been establishing various industries in partnership with overseas firms. We want people to come forward as soon as possible to take over at least the Government shares in these establishments. It is only by saving that we may find the money to buy these shares. Also, as is the practice in other countries, the Governments of the Federation through the Federal Government must seek from the people of Nigeria more and more loans for financing their development programmes. I hope the £10 million loan recently launched by the Federal Government will prove to be a huge success and a good augury for the future. We do not need to have large sums of money individually before we can invest in Government stocks or buy shares in companies.

Recently, I had the privilege of addressing a Club in Abeokuta known as the Egba Investment Club. As members may know or have heard, the aims and objects of the Club are "to encourage individual savings.....and to provide funds for the industrialisation of Egbaland". This is an example worth copying in all parts of this Region. Elsewhere in the world, such as in America and the United Kingdom, the idea of an Investment Club has been translated into a popular movement. We must all start to think seriously of such organisation as Investment Trust Companies which are designed to provide a means of mobilising the savings of potential small investors and channelling these savings to profitable investments. As far as I know, most of the more developed countries are rich because a great many of their people have been able to accumulate large amounts of savings which they have been willing to lend to Government or local authorities or to the entrepreneurs who promote large companies. When private savings are put into productive investment they generate more wealth and more savings, and as the process goes on the standard of living of the people rises continuously. Another matter which has a bearing on this question of saving is the organisation of business enterprises. We must start right now to think less of the one-man business. There is a lot that can be done in the private sector if we will only pool our resources. An industry which

cannot be started by one man who has only £2,000 to put in it can easily be started by twenty people each with £2,000 coming together.

I have been speaking about what we can do to help ourselves. I make no apology, therefore, for repeating the plea that our workers—be they in Government service or in private undertakings—must work harder and show greater sense of responsibility. Above all, let's strive at all levels for a situation where there will be less talk of bribery, corruption and dishonesty.

THE YEAR 1959-60

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must now turn my attention to the Bill which is the subject of the motion before this House. As is traditional I propose, first, to review briefly the Government accounts for the last year for which the final out-turn is known, *i.e.*, 1959-60, and for the financial year which is ending in a few days' time. The year 1959-60 ended with a little less favourable financial position for the Region than was anticipated in the review which I gave this House a year ago. As compared with the original estimated surplus of £2.9 million the actual surplus turned out to be £2.5 million. Although there was an increase of £1.2 million over the estimated revenue, actual expenditure on the other hand turned out to be £1.6 million more than the original estimates. The increase in expenditure was due mainly to the interim increase in salaries and wages paid by this Government with effect from the 1st of April, 1959. Yet, because we started the year with a handsome balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund, it was possible to transfer during the year a total sum of £5 million to the Capital Expenditure and Development Fund and the Revenue Equalisation Fund. The accounts for the year 1960-61 were therefore opened with the following actual balances:—

	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund	3,757,258
Development Fund... ..	3,879,490
Revenue Equalisation Fund	4,977,480
	<hr/>
	£ 12,614,228

REVIEW OF 1960-61

The danger in our present revenue structure, of which we have always been aware, has been brought more glaringly to notice during the current financial year. As a result of what has happened in the world market for cocoa the revised estimate of revenue under the item for export duty on cocoa is roughly £1 million less than the original estimate of £5,499,000.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

There have recently been very lively debates over the action of the Marketing Board in reducing the producer price of cocoa, following the continuous fall in the world market price for the commodity. I am sure we shall be hearing more about the matter even if it was possible for me to refrain from making any reference to it in this Budget Speech. Let me say that it is quite a legitimate thing for the Opposition to seek to replace the Government Party; but I consider it the height of irresponsibility for members of the opposition to play politics with what we all know is the life-blood of this Region. We are justly proud of our achievements so far in the development of this Region and it is no secret that over 50 per cent of the capital improvements undertaken by this Government has been made possible by the generous financial contributions of the Marketing Board. It has been argued that the primary purpose for which the Board was established is to stabilise the prices paid to the farmers for their produce. That is certainly true. But none of my friends opposite has told the people what would have been the situation if there was no Marketing Board making available to Government part of its accumulated profits for improving the living conditions of the people generally. They have not told us whether the lot of the farmer would really have been better if they had more cash which, inevitably, would have passed to other hands or which, in terms of purchasing power, would be worth less and less.

I am not ashamed to acclaim the Marketing Board as the goose that has been laying golden eggs for this Region. Because my friends on the opposite benches have lost hopes of ever sitting on this side of the House, they would like to see the goose killed. We are not prepared to do that. The farmers of this Region have shown by the result of the last election that they can easily recognise a false prophet when they see one. It is remarkable that when the Leader of the Opposition was using cocoa producer price in his electioneering campaign, he did say that prices would be reduced *because* of the downward trend in the world market. I hope he will be telling us later during this meeting what he would have done if, by any mischance, he were the Premier of this Region in present circumstances. For two seasons running, the Marketing Board was paying more to the producers than the price commanded by cocoa in the world market. It has been suggested that the Marketing Board should have continued to do so. That, I think, is another way of saying the Board

should be wound up. If a merchant sells continuously at a lower price than he buys, he will sooner or later go bankrupt. That, to me, is elementary.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must return to the review of the accounts. The revised total estimated revenue for 1960-61 is £870,640 less than the original estimate of £20,558,880. Expenditure on the other hand is likely to amount to £19,288,240 as compared with the estimate of £18,762,570. With an increase in expenditure and a decline in revenue, we are naturally faced with the prospect of a much smaller surplus than was envisaged at the time of the preparation of the 1960-61 Estimates. The actual surplus might not exceed £400,000 whereas a surplus of £1.8 million was originally budgeted for. The financial statement at page 12 of the Estimates book show, however, that the Consolidated Revenue Fund is likely to have a balance of about £4 million when the accounts for 1960-61 are closed.

As regards the capital budget the revised estimates show that the figure of £16 million will be reached for actual expenditure in 1960-61. This reflects a considerable increase in executive capacity. Total receipts of the Development Fund during the year is expected to be £15.7 million and if we add the opening balance for the year, there will still be a balance of about £3.5 million in the Fund at the beginning of the new financial year.

OUTLOOK FOR 1961-62

I turn now to the budgetary outlook for the 1961-62 financial year. As in previous years, our fortunes must depend very largely on what happens to our export produce, especially cocoa. In the light of what is already happening in the world market for cocoa, it is difficult at the present time to forecast any improvement in our revenues. The estimates which I am presenting to the House consequently shows a slight net decrease as compared with the original estimates for 1960-61.

In recent months, a series of conferences have been held under the auspices of the Food and Agricultural Organisation to see what could be done to bring about a situation of more stable prices for cocoa. I hope that these conferences would not be in vain. Our best hope lies in finding new markets for our cocoa and in stimulating greater consumption of cocoa products in America and Europe. I can assure hon. members that we are doing everything possible towards these ends.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

Hon. members will no doubt be wondering what revenue proposals I have to make in view of the continuous decline in our major source of revenue. In our present stage of development and in consequence of the revenue allocation arrangements which form part of our Constitution, I am afraid there is very little any one Region can do to increase its revenues. As members are aware, about 80 per cent of the revenues of the Federation as a whole comes from indirect taxes (*i.e.*, export duties, import and excise duties). These taxes are levied and collected by the Federal Government. Export duties and some items in the imports and excise list are returned 100 per cent to Regional Governments on the basis of derivation. In addition, shares of import duties on general imports are received by the Regional Governments. A study of the Summary of Revenue at page 13 of the Estimates book will show that Nigeria as a whole has a great problem: how to reduce the proportion of the country's revenues which come from sources not entirely within its control. In the view of my Party, the answer lies in industrialisation; and no one will deny the fact that this Region is already taking great strides in this direction. We believe that as more and more industries are established, there will be greater employment opportunities for our people; the standard of living will rise generally and people will be more able to meet their tax obligations. What is more, the country's balance of trade and payments situation will be greatly improved. I should like to say, at this juncture, by way of suggestion rather than criticism, that it is necessary for the Federal Government to show greater and more enlightened interest in this matter of the promotion of industries.

The total revenue for 1961-62 is estimated at £20,368,420. This is £190,460 less than the original estimate for 1960-61 but £680,180 more than the revised estimate. It will be seen from the Estimates that a large decrease of £1,556,880 is shown under cocoa export duty. This would have been offset entirely by the estimated increases amounting to £1,600,090 in respect of (a) Mining Royalties and Rents and (b) Grants from the Distributable Pool; but, unfortunately, the yield from import and excise duties on tobacco continues to fall. The latter items show a total decrease of £435,480. The net increase of £1,164,610 shown under Head 311, Statutory Payments from Federal Government is mostly accounted for by the increases in general import duties which

were introduced in December last. Similarly an increase of £291,750 is expected from export duty on Diesel Oil. A total net increase of £96,250 is also expected under the Heads classified as "Regional Revenues from other Sources". A notable item in this category is Motor Vehicles and Drivers' Licences which shows an increase of £50,000.

Under Head 301, Personal Income Tax, a decrease of £295,000 is shown because, as already stated, the income tax collected from Africans will be retained entirely by the local government authorities. As I mentioned in my last budget speech, jurisdiction over the income tax of non-Africans will be transferred to Regional Governments during the 1961-62 financial year. This change would not, however, necessarily mean an increase in our total receipts. The income tax collected by the Federal Government from non-Africans has in the past been paid over in full to Regional Governments. Arrangements are being made to introduce in this Region during the new financial year the Pay As You Earn system of tax collection in respect of persons in regular employment. The system, called PAYE for short, will be operated by the Tax Division of the Treasury and will take away responsibility for the taxing of persons in regular employment from the local government councils. The great advantage of the system is that the burden of tax will be spread throughout the year, instead of tax-payers having to find the tax money in one lump sum. Rules and tax tables will be distributed to employers to enable them to make the appropriate tax deductions from each employee's salary every month on pay day. I am sure all tax-payers who will come under the system will welcome its introduction and I hope that all employers will co-operate fully with the Government.

In Government finance, expenditure, as I have already shown, has a tendency of increasing at a faster rate than revenues. In our own case the rate of increase was bound to be accentuated by the need to expand various services in consequence of the high tempo of development which is going on all round. For example, additional staff and equipment are needed to meet the demands of more hospitals, dispensaries and educational institutions. The more roads constructed or tarred, the more recurrent expenditure that must be incurred on their maintenance if the capital expenditure is not to become a waste. Since the year 1959-60 there has, of course, been an unusual rise in recurrent expenditure due to the revision of salaries and wages.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

The total recurrent expenditure proposed for 1961-62 is £19,941,170, and represents an increase of £1 million (approximately) over the original estimate for 1960-61. This total has been arrived at after the most rigorous scrutiny of the proposals submitted by various departments. As usual the greatest proportion of the total provision will be spent under the Heads for Education; followed by Agriculture, and Health and Social Welfare. About 33 per cent of the recurrent expenditure will go into personal emoluments.

I would like to emphasise that with respect to all Government expenditure we shall continue to search for economies and to eradicate inefficiency, waste and extravagance wherever we find them. I appeal to all members of the legislature, regardless of party, to deal with the Estimates much more seriously than they have done in the past. I would prefer to hear less encomiums showered on the Government and also less talk of victimisation and oppression allegedly perpetrated by tax assessment committees and customary courts. It is the duty of members to help us in the search for ways and means of getting more revenues to meet the rapidly expanding services, and to assist in tracking down waste and extravagance. I can assure all hon. members, and indeed every citizen in this Region, that every good suggestion leading to economy and efficiency will be sincerely welcomed and considered.

Having forecast revenues at £20,368,420, and expenditure at £19,941,170 I expect, in the absence of unforeseen changes, that a surplus of nearly £500,000 will be achieved in 1961-62. Disregarding any transfer which it may be possible to make to the Development Fund during 1961-62, it is estimated that the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund at 31st March, 1962 will amount to £4,584,508.

Turning to the Capital Budget, I would like to say quite frankly that our ability to carry out the expenditure programme for 1961-62 will depend largely, once more, on the amount of financial assistance which can be got from the Marketing Board, and also on the raising of loans from other sources. As members may recall, our 1960-65 Development Plan showed quite clearly that the proposed expenditure will exceed estimated internal resources by about £29 million. If the present trends in revenues continue and are coupled with increase in the cost of materials, etc., the gap which must of necessity be filled by raising loans may prove to be even wider.

I indicated earlier on that our public debt at present stands at only £11 million. To amortise the loans, sinking funds have been established and to these we contribute the total sum of £220,000 each year. We also pay interests amounting roughly to £384,000 per annum. I am confident that we can comfortably service a much higher amount of public debt.

Members will see at page 157 of the Estimates book details of the receipts which we expect for the Development Fund in 1961-62. Three major items make up almost all the total of £22.8 million. If our hopes are realised there will—as will be seen from the financial statement at page 156 of the Estimates—still be a balance of about £7 million in the Development Fund at 1st April, 1962. This will be after the highest ever capital expenditure of £19,344,570 proposed for 1961-62.

I would like to draw special attention to the provision under Head 701 (Buildings), sub-head 6 (30) for the proposed University of Ife. I am sure you will be hearing more about this project from my colleague the honourable Minister of Education.

CONCLUSION

Taking the recurrent and capital budget together, the total expenditure for the prospective financial year is £39,285,740. The major components of this huge expenditure programme are—

	<i>£million</i>
Education	9.7
Roads	5.5
Loans to Statutory Corporations	4.4
Agriculture and Natural Resources	2.9
Health and Social Welfare ...	2.6
Urban and Rural Water Supplies	2.6
Works and Transport	2.2
General Administration and Miscellaneous Service	9.4
	<hr/>
	£ 39.3
	<hr/>

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is the fourth time in succession that I am having the privilege of presenting the Region's Budget. I know it can rarely fall to the lot of a Minister of Finance, when preparing his budget, to be faced with conditions of his own choosing. Our aim, in spite of difficulties, is to provide suitable conditions for sustained economic growth. I can foresee my friends opposite trying to minimise the achievements of my Party and pretending that they could do

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

better. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would leave them with the words of the great philosopher, Plato—

“The greatest ignorance is when a man hates that which he nevertheless thinks to be good and noble, and loves and embraces that which he knows to be unrighteous and evil”.

These past nine years have been devoted by this Government to social and economic activities which would make for the happiness of the masses of our people. Schools, roads, bridges, hospitals and industries, to name a few which we can see all round us have been established with our own resources in what I like to term “operation bootstraps”. From now on, the magnitude of our economic projects demands our having to look beyond our borders for the large sum of money that would be required for effective industrialisation and modern agricultural development which would solve most of our unemployment problems. If you ask me what sort of operation that is, I’ll say it is “operation take off”.

I beg to move. (*applause*).

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the motion so very ably put by my colleague, the honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill for a Law to appropriate the sum of £19,132,501 for recurrent expenditure and £19,344,570 for capital expenditure to the service of Western Nigeria for the year ending 31st March, 1962, be read a Second time. It is not my intention to go over the grounds admirably and adequately covered by the honourable Minister of Finance. I shall address myself mainly on that aspect of the Budget which deals with development.

Included in this budget are provisions for Buildings, Roads and Bridges, Urban Water Supplies, Development Loans, Education, Health, Agricultural Farm Settlements, Electricity.

Because the Roads and Bridges fund is, by far, the largest of all of the Capital Heads, I consider it proper to start by way of reference to the request in this category. Perhaps I should point out that each category of this budget had been carefully reviewed and scrutinised by the operating Ministry itself, by other reviewing officials and by the Treasury in an all out effort to ensure that costs are kept at the minimum.

As hon. Members will have noticed from the details at page 173, Head 702 of the Estimates, the work on roads and bridges

development and reconstruction is spread evenly all over the Region, care being taken to ensure that the pattern of development is such as will enable investments injected into the agricultural and industrial sectors to be as productive as possible. Perhaps I should remind hon. Members that this is but the second year of a Five-Year Development Programme, and that the full pattern of road development will be clearer still as the programme unfolds itself.

It is hardly necessary to comment upon the impact of the highway system upon the economy of the Region and, indeed, of the Federation as a whole, and upon the well-being of its citizens. Motor vehicle registration is increasing year in and year out. The dependence upon the road system for transportation, for pleasure, business, produce evacuation, and industrial activities, becomes more evident with each passing day. I do not think we have kept pace with the increasing traffic demands on our highways. On the other hand, we have in the past years carried out a record-breaking construction programme. We need to do still more. That is precisely what this budget proposes.

Next to the £5½ million provided for Roads and Bridges, there stands, as hon. Members will observe, loan funds totalling nearly £4½ million which are meant to finance agricultural credit, farms and plantations and capital participation in industrial projects by Government Agencies holding shares on behalf of the public. The importance of agriculture in the economy of this Region, as indeed of the whole Federation is too obvious to require discussion. In addition to the share of agriculture in the provision under Head 705, an amount somewhat over £½ million is proposed under Head 709 for agricultural development—to cover Farm Institutes, Farm Settlements and Fishereis.

This impressive estimated expenditure on agriculture is not out of balance with the yields derivable from agriculture. And is agriculture not the occupation of nearly 90 per cent of the Region’s population, I have to invite honourable Member’s attention to page 157 of the Estimates which contains revenue Head 700: Capital Expenditure and Development Fund Receipts. It is clearly stated there that the Western Region Marketing Board will be providing a sum of £14.5 million out of the estimated development revenue of £22.8 million. The admirable contribution by the Marketing Board is therefore justified by the amount of expenditure on agriculture which Government is making. It could not have been otherwise because any economic programme

[OBA AKRAN]

which does not put agriculture in a central position, at least in the foreseeable future is, to say the least, lopsided.

Mr Speaker, Sir, although our economy is basically agricultural, there is the need to broaden the base of the economy by some diversification by way of industrialisation. Indeed, after a certain stage, an agricultural economy needs a certain amount of industrialisation in order to achieve healthy, accelerated growth. Honourable Members, even those honourable Members on the other side of the House, will testify to the very tangible fact that the industrial development of the Region has quickened. The number of industrial concerns that have gone into production in the year ending is encouraging. There is reassuring evidence, Mr Speaker, Sir, that more industries will be following. Honourable Members know the basic fact that industries are, so to speak, gregarious creatures. The establishment of initial industries has cumulative effect on the further development and establishment of more industries. Businessmen are always keen on exploiting what economists call external economies, and it is only, when a number of industries have been set up in any area that these external economies emerge.

As more industries are established in different parts of the Region, more employment opportunities for our boys and girls are created. At present there seems to be floating about a certain category of unemployed people. These are mostly boys and girls who have completed the primary education and have not been able to pursue post-primary education in either Secondary Grammar Schools or Secondary Modern Schools, or in any one of the Trade Centres that have been opened in the Region. It is therefore in the interest of the economy that more industries should be established to provide increasing employment opportunities for our children. This is precisely what the present budget sets out to achieve.

Government is not sparing any effort to provide adequate inducements for these industries. On the other hand, the interest of this Region is the first consideration when dealing with foreign businessmen. Hon. Members are already aware of the declared policy of this Government as far as local participation in industries is concerned. Government, as a matter of policy, still insists that there should be local participation in all important industrial projects and Government development agencies have been assigned to hold shares in

trust for the people where local initiative is not forthcoming. At this stage, I wish to invite the attention of Hon. Members to page 185, Head 705: Loans, Sub-heads 2, 3 and 5 of the Estimates which total over £3.7 million. This amount has been provided to assist Government development agencies to fulfil their statutory functions. By this far-sighted policy, Government is reducing the friction, if any, which will arise in the future when the indigenous businessmen will become bold enterprisers, investment conscious, and seeking investment opportunities. The agencies will then unload to the public these shares they at present hold in trust. This is just one of the many ways in which the Government of the day is catering for the needs of the people. Our Government is government of the people for the people—to use the hackneyed phrase.

Again, Mr Speaker, I fear, I must ask hon. members to return to page 185, Head 705 this time Sub-head 4. The major part of the finances provided under this sub-head is towards the development of Industrial Estates. This budget proposes to increase facilities which will attract and encourage private enterprise—both foreign and indigenous—to invest in industry. And it is partly to this end too that a total over £3 million is requested under Heads 703, 704, and 708, namely, to provide water and power—two major necessities in any scheme of industrial development.

I want now, Mr Speaker, to explain that the request for a little over £4 million under Head 701 includes provision of £1 million for the University of Ife, and of a little over £1 million for educational institutions of a post-primary character, directly managed by the Government and for hospitals and medical institutions. Mr Speaker, Sir, I take it that in our present stage of development, it would be a waste of words and time waiting to explain why this expenditure proposal is justified.

Mr Speaker, Sir, when I had the privilege to introduce a motion for adoption of the Western Nigeria's Second Development Plan, 1960-65, I had the opportunity of informing hon. Members that one of the guiding principles of the Plan was the creation of adequate pre-conditions that would accelerate the "take-off" of our economy into sustained growth. In order to achieve this desired objective, the order of priority in the Plan was fashioned to strengthen our strategy of development. Emphasis was shifted from the social services to the productive activities. Industry and agriculture received more emphasis. Technical and commercial educa-

[OBA AKRAN]

tion came into prominence. This is precisely what this budget proposes. But Mr Speaker, Sir, this does not, in any way, signify that public and social services are not provided for under the current Plan. Far from it. The precise implication is that public expenditure on these social services has been ordered to grow at less rapid rate than public expenditure on "productive" services—productive *vis-a-vis* social—services. This is the aim of the budget presented to you.

Totally, this budget is predicated on an ambitious developmental programme designed to accelerate the pace of industrialisation, to achieve the modernisation and intensification of our agriculture, to facilitate business and commercial transactions in the private sector, to increase employment facilities in the urban areas, to generate the pace of economic activity in the rural areas and, lastly but of serious importance, to improve appreciably the quality of the Region's manpower. This programme, I am assured, Mr Speaker, Sir, is an entirely feasible programme. Beyond that, I am convinced it is a very necessary programme.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in a very true sense, this Budget is a reminder to us of our newly won status of Independence; it is a call to greater and renewed effort. The budget is a programme geared to meet the demands in Western Nigeria within the context of a fast-moving world, the world of rapid industrialisation and of economy based on scientific advance and knowledge. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Question proposed.

Mr Speaker: The debate on this will be adjourned till the 6th of April, 1961, to enable members to go through the speeches of the Hon. the mover and the Hon. the seconder of the Motion. It appears to me that this is a convenient time to have a short break and therefore during the short break copies of the Speech of the Minister of Finance and of the Speech of the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development and also a copy of the Estimates will be distributed to members in their Pigeon Holes in the Papers Office.

Sitting suspended at 11.40 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.50 p.m.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Debate on the Address

Adjourned Debate on the Question (22nd 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.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: I rise, Mr Speaker, Sir, to support the Motion on the Speech from the Throne in principle in that the Speech from the Throne is one made by an African who is no less a personality than Sir Adesoji Aderemi, K.B.E., C.M.G., Governor, Western Nigeria. Sir Adesoji Aderemi, the first African Governor of Western Nigeria, putting domestic politics aside, is an illustrious son of Africa whose activities in the evolution of taking Nigeria out of the shackles of white imperialism, will forever be remembered (*hear, hear*). He should also be very warmly congratulated for being the foremost Natural Ruler in the West, who has made it impossible for the NCNC to remove the taproot of the Action Group party in Nigerian politics. I wish to say that if the Governor did not help these weaklings they would not have found themselves back in the Government. We could not defeat them in the last Regional elections because a father helped these weaklings to success hence they have been ruling this Region since 1952. Were it not for Sir Adesoji Aderemi the NCNC, a dynamic party in coalition with the NPC from the North, could have captured the Government of this Region from the Action Group.

The Speech from the Throne, be that as it may Sir, contains some important facts for which His Excellency has to be warmly congratulated. If the Speech is carefully read through by hon. Members of this House it could be seen that it is pregnant with the following facts which are worthy of note:—

Chief Odebiyi: On point of Order. Standing Order No. 27 (8): 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 Substantive Motion; and in any amendment, question to 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. The Hon. Member refers to the Oni as Governor.

Mr Speaker: I hope the hon. Gentleman will not continue to address the House in that form.

Mr Amadasun: The following facts are worthy of note:—

(a) Legislation to be made by this House to make it possible for the Government to collect Income tax from non-Africans in accordance with Independence Constitution.

(b) The agricultural farm settlement scheme of the Western Region has now settled 700 youths and offered employment to thousands of persons.

(c) Research into the raising of rubber, oil palm, coffee, citrus and coconut seedlings has now been vigorously pursued by the Government of the Western Region.

(d) During Sir Adesoji Aderemi's time as the Governor of the Region, the School of Agriculture has become very attractive for our girls (*hear, hear*).

(e) During Sir Adesoji Aderemi's time as the Governor of Western Nigeria, the Government of the West is now considering the extension of family reconciliation services and organisation of family guidance councils to other urban centres.

(f) During his time, Sir, the Ministers of the West Regional Government are made to be aware of the advisability, desirability (*Government Benches: Which one of the two?*)the desirability of the co-ordination of developmental efforts throughout the Federation.

The Speech contains repetition. Apart from the above facts, Sir, the lengthy Speech from the throne contains the usual obsolete annual expressions of the Governor. My ministers are vigorously pursuing the policy of free primary education, free medical services, and of payments of the five shillings minimum wage to labourers, etc. I think it is time the Government stopped boasting of all these things year in year out. We should tell the Governor not to come here to repeat these things again.

(*Opposition Benches: Hear, hear, tell them.*)

The Prime Minister of Nigeria—In external matters, Sir, it was very good of His Excellency to have made mention of the heroic part which the Nigeria army and police contingent are playing in the strife-torn Republic of Congo. Mention, Sir, could have been made also of the noble, bold and historic role played by the Prime Minister of the Federation, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, at the most recent Prime Ministers Commonwealth

Meeting held in London. The Prime Minister of the Federation, Sir, has to be warmly congratulated for making South Africa to withdraw from the family of the British Commonwealth of Nations. The apartheid..... (*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Apartheid is no English (*laughter*).

Mr Amadasun: The apartheid policy of South Africa will for ever remain condemned by Nigerians. Chief Festus Okotie Eboh should also have been congratulated by His Excellency for his being the Acting Prime Minister of the Federation, during the absence from Nigeria of the Federal Prime Minister, a post which he held creditably well. (*Interruptions: He is an ex-convict!*)

Chief Odebiyi: On point of correction. Chief Okotie Eboh has already appealed; so he is not an ex-convict (*laughter*).

Mr Amadasun: Thank you, Mr Leader of the House, for correcting your back benchers. They do not know really what is happening but I am glad you have corrected them. It is only you people in the front benches who know what is really happening. The back benchers do not know anything (*laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Chief Okotie Eboh is not an ex-convict (*shouts of shame, shame, from Opposition Benches*).

Mr V. I. Amadasun: *Creation of Midwest State.*—In page 4, paragraph 5 of the Speech from the Throne, His Excellency lucidly expressed that His Ministers would soon launch the Midwest Minority Council; and that during this Session, some amendments would be made to the relevant Regional Laws, so that launching the Midwest Minority Council might be a reality. Today Sir, the national usefulness of the Minority Council, has been overtaken by constitutional changes in Nigeria.

At the 1958 London Constitutional Conference, Sir, after the Minority Commission's recommendation, it was agreed that the Midwest Minority Council be established to allay the fears of the people of the Midwest and to spur the Government to the desirability of developing the Midwest; an area which even up to date, has not been developed, when consideration is taken of the fact, that many industrial projects, *e.g.*, Ewekoro Cement Industry, the Housing Estates at Ibadan and Ikeja, the Aluminium Industry and the Asbestos Industry at Ikeja are blamably sited in the Yoruba West by the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria.

[MR AMADASUN]

For the reason that if the Minority Council were to be launched, say, in 1959 or thereabout, the Action Group legislators would form a minority and those of the NCNC would be on the majority, the launching of it was deliberately delayed until after the 1960 Western Region Elections where the Action Group got a marginal and shameful majority.

Government Benches: Shame! Is 32 to 80 a marginal majority?

Mr Amadasun: When you have been ruling the Region for many years.

What the Midwesterners want today, Sir, is the creation of the Midwest State or Region. They would not like to be ruled through a minority council, the delegated powers of which are vested in only the Minister of Midwest Affairs. This is blatantly undemocratic.

6. *Uneven Distribution of Amenities.*—If the Speech from the Throne is carefully perused, Sir, it could be seen that social and industrial amenities are not evenly distributed in the Western Region. All the industrial projects, Sir, which employ many workers are sited in the Yoruba West, with the result Sir, that many Midwesterners remain jobless. It is always the policy of this Government not to employ a Midwesterner; and those already in their services are never promoted or cared for.....

Chief Odebiyi: I think Sir, it will be wrong to bring Civil Servants into the debate.

Mr Amadasun: Apart from the Water supply for Ishan and Agbor, many other big towns in the Midwest, such as Benin City and Issele-Uku have not been provided with urban water supply. The rural electricity pilot scheme which proved successful at Ijero has not been introduced in any rural centre in the Midwest. Television which many are now enjoying in the Yoruba West will never be introduced in the Midwest until after a century of its introduction in the Yoruba West. It is the duty of His Excellency, Sir, to see that amenities are evenly distributed all over the Western Region.

Finally, when I went to the Poultry Centre the other day, I reserved what I wanted to say till I get to the floor of this House where I am covered by Parliamentary Privilege. (*Laughter*). In the Midwest there is an Association of Midwest Farmers. This Association is highly interested in poultry. We heard that the Western Region has sent some people to Israel to study

poultry and I have it in command of the Chairman of the Midwest Council that names of members will be sent to the Government for recommendation to study poultry.

After all it is not fair that only members of the Action Group should enjoy life more abundant by eating eggs.

Finally, I beg to support this Motion of Thanks for the Governor's Speech in protest.

Mr B. I. G. Ewah: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for the brilliant and historic Speech from the Throne.

This Speech is a further confirmation that this Region is the most progressive part of the Federation of Nigeria, for it shows that the Government, by her providing essential amenities for the people governed, has put to practice the saying that "The Welfare of the State is the Supreme Law".

Since this Speech was ably delivered to us, I have had the privilege to visit some of the establishments and industrial projects mentioned in the Speech. Asbestos Factory, Housing Corporation, Poultry Farming, Aluminium Factory, Milk Factory, etc., all at Ikeja and I must confess that when I just merely say that I was highly impressed by what I saw, although I was a bit disturbed that no such industry has been established in my own place,.....(*loud cheers from Members of the Opposition*).....it is because I have not got more appropriate words to give vent to my opinion on these wonderful developments. They were very wonderful indeed.

Much as it is not true, Mr Speaker, Sir, to say that certain areas in the Region especially the Midwest are deliberately neglected in the distribution of amenities, I have this request to make. By the absence of Industrial projects and large agricultural establishments in the Midwest there is a tendency for the sons and daughters of this area to drift to other parts of the Region in search of jobs. This may, in the near future, reach a very alarming height. I am therefore commending to the attention of the Government the immediate examining of possibilities of industrialising the Midwest, and I am convinced that, with the dynamic and progressive Government we have, the Action Group Government of the people for the people by the people (*loud cheers from Government benches*), it will not be far distant before factories are established in the Midwest to make full use of the resources of this area, e.g., Rubber and Timber. The establishment of Rubber Marketing Board at this stage is most desirable, for if the

[MR EWAH]

prices of cocoa in the World Market continue to fall, in the future the saviours of this Region are sure to be rubber and timber.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to add that the award of scholarships should be extended to the sons and daughters of my constituency and the Midwest as a whole as none has ever been awarded to any son or daughter in my North-East Uromi Ishan Constituency though so many of them are qualified.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I understand there is a project in hand to instal electricity both in Uromi Hospital and Uromi Catering Rest House. It is advisable for the Government to enhance this project and extend the same facility to the inhabitants of Uromi.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. E. Agbaza: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is really a pleasure for me to stand up to express my thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his apt Speech from the Throne. Thanking His Excellency, there is something I will like to express and ask this House to observe. It is in respect of the Opposition. I am not satisfied about it. (*Laughter*).

I must say Mr Speaker, Sir, that this Government has been in power in this Region for over nine years and you will notice that each time this Government has been returned with a greater majority. Now, you will notice Sir, that each time the Opposition members have come here for the past nine years (*Interruptions*), the only criticism they have is that either they have been victimised or they are being oppressed. If I may say Sir, that is the only type of criticism that the Opposition has always come here to say. If there is any other thing which they have done let them tell us... (*Interruption*) Mr Speaker, Sir, if there is any other type of contribution that the Opposition has ever made it is to tell us that the Assessment Committees have over-assessed their members. You will agree with me that in the whole Federation our policy is the best. And if you will allow me to say, assessments and other things are aspects the Government have to perform as the representatives of the people. This Government has been voted into power because the electorate are satisfied with it, and I must of course have to tell the Opposition that if the electorate believe in their policy they would have voted them into power, but unfortunately they do not. Mr Speaker, Sir, I must say that I am happy I am not on that side of the House. I will never be there. I will never enjoy that side of the House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, during the Speech from the Throne, you will observe that His Excellency had actually enumerated the policies of this Government, and I am sure that there is no Government of the Federation which can boast of the type of facilities and the type of amenities well presented before this honourable House from the Speech from the Throne.

You will observe that this Government has provided hospitals in every division of this Region. I come from Urhobo. There is a hospital at Ororokpe..... (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I am compelled to invoke order 29, rules 4 and 5 to remind members of behaviour in this Honourable House. "All members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones" and furthermore "Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking". I shall have to use my power if these Rules are contravened.

Mr Agbaza: As I was saying, Mr Speaker Sir, there is a Government Hospital at Sapele. There is a Mission Hospital which is subsidised by the Government at Eku. If they have not been to Urhobo, please let them know now. As I was saying the Government has been able to provide hospitals in every division in the Region and in places where there are no hospitals Government has been able to provide maternity centres and dispensaries. I am sure honourable Members went to Moor Plantation and they saw the School of Agriculture being built.

And from the Speech from the Throne you heard all the Government has done and is still doing, and I am sure that that is enough to thank the Governor for his Speech from the Throne. (*Interruptions from the Opposition*).

We heard from a Member on the other side that the Midwest is not being well catered for. I wonder who made him the spokesman of the Midwest? I am from the Midwest myself. You will notice that the Midwest have rejected you people from that side. And they have now seen the truth and they now believe that it is only the Action Group Government that can only save them from the hands of the NCNC people. The trouble with most of Members from the Midwest is that they don't live in the Midwest in their constituencies. Those members from Urhobo, if you travel along Warri/Sapele road, you will see the agricultural projects. If you come from Sapele, you will know how much Government is spending on bridges. Even the tarring of roads between Ughelli and Oleh is costing the Government £750,000. And of course

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during the last Session a sum of £60,000 was voted for the development of rubber in the Midwest area. I am sure that this is proof positive that the Government is not in any way cheating the Midwest in the provision of amenities. Mr Speaker, Sir, I don't wonder if for anything the NCNC is inconsistent, because they are known for their inconsistency in their constituencies. If they want to make any criticism, it must be reasonable and must be justified. I can assure them that in the case of co-operation, it will always be given to them from this side of the House. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very sure that the Speech from the Throne is one of which every person should be proud. I have to say that as an individual, we should thank His Excellency for such an able Speech.

Chief J. L. Tifase: Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Motion of Thanks, I will say that this House is getting tired of the repetition of the Governor's Speech from the Throne at every Budget Session. Sir, this is a new age, and the time has come when the Speech from the Throne should contain something new which will raise the hopes and aspirations of the suffering people of this Region. Sir, how many times are we going to be told of the various amenities provided by the Government? In fact some areas of this Region are being discriminated against. Every village in Ijebu Province has got electric light. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I am not being embarrassed.

Chief Tifase: Ondo is in entire darkness. I am greatly disappointed Sir.

I am greatly disappointed at the omission of any mention of the siting of the University of Ife. The decision of the Government to build the University at Ife is very unfair. This is a clear case of discrimination against Ondo Province. I think, Sir, this will not go unchallenged by all. The progress of Ondo Province, Sir, is to me beyond ideology and my friends on the other side should not be afraid to speak out their minds to bring pressure on Government.

The Health Policy of this Government is to develop all Provincial Hospitals in the Region to first class hospitals with Specialist Surgeons. It is surprising, Sir, that while other Provincial Hospitals like the Abeokuta, Ijebu-Ode and Benin have all been developed, the Ondo Provincial Hospital at Akure has been reduced to the stage of a Divisional Hospital with very poor equipments, drugs, and no Specialist Surgeon. I hope the

Government will start to improve the Hospital to the stage of a first-class one.

Mr C. I. Akere: On point of Order! Order 27 (1)—A member shall not read his speech.

Mr Speaker: My ruling on that Order is that the Order quoted is in order.

Chief Tifase: I am happy Sir that the Governor has made mention of his Government's determination to improve the organisation and the service condition of the Local Government Police. There is no doubt, Sir, that most of our Local Government Police are not better than the old Native Authority Court Messengers. They lack Police etiquette and constitute themselves into instruments of terror to the public. The time has come when the Government should centralise the training of these Policemen by establishing a Regional Local Government Police Training College instead of the Provincial local training.

Mr Speaker Sir, mention has also been made about appointing a Commissioner for Customary Courts in the Region in the Governor's Speech. The trouble with our Customary Courts in the Region is more than appointing a Commissioner. A thousand and one Commissioners cannot get rid of unscrupulous, greedy and corrupt customary court judges who commit every crime in the name of the Action Group in this Region today.

Alhaji Opaleye: Point of Order Sir, Order 27 (7). The hon. Member said that the Customary Court Judges are corrupt; that is a judicial function.

Mr Speaker: The conduct of the judges of the Customary Courts should not be brought into the debate.

Chief Tifase: The system is really corrupt Sir.

Mr Speaker: It is the system that is corrupt; not that their conduct is corrupt.

Chief Tifase: I will rather suggest Sir, that this Government should set up a high powered Commission comprising the representatives of the political parties in the Region to recommend to the Government how many grades of Customary Courts will be required and how best the Government could improve the standards.

In the last paragraph of the Governor's Speech, the need for the unity of this country has been stressed. Sir, if there is any time when everybody, irrespective of his political

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affiliation in this country, should begin to think about the position of this country in Africa, I think now is the time. Nigeria has by far the largest number of political agitators in Africa. We have the population and we have the resources. We have to take our decision whether ours is ultimately to go the way of other dead empires or whether our country will become the leader of Africa and the world.

It is my belief, Sir, that our failure to lead Africa is not mainly due to the weakness of any particular leader, but to the type of Constitution we have in this country. *(Government Members: Tell your Prime Minister)*. Nigerian Constitution has given too much powers to the Regions of the country so much so that every citizen has almost forgotten that he belongs to one and only one country. *(Interruptions)*.

What we need today in this country is a new solidarity, national unity with one aim, one mind and one goal. In this regard, if it be true, Sir, that we in this Region usually set the pace for other Regions of the country to follow, then, Sir, let us take the initiative of summoning a meeting of all political leaders in this country for proposing a new Constitution for the country which will make everybody think of Nigeria as an indissoluble unit *(cheers)*. Unless, Sir, the leaders of this country agree to write a new Constitution which will project the Nigerian personality, we will fail in our endeavours to lead Africa.

We need unity capable of creating a new era of constructive relationship among the various political leaders of the country. This unity will emerge as the people of the country begin to think of this country as one nation under a dynamic leadership which will be within the framework of democratic constitution.

Sir, the progressive elements of this country are looking anxiously to who, among our leaders, will be the hope of the nation.

I beg to support the Motion.

Mr J. O. Adeyemo: Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the laudable and comprehensive Speech from the Throne, it is an admitted fact, I have to emphasise, that everywhere in the whole of the Federation of Nigeria, the progressive Government of Western Nigeria leads while others follow, in formulating policies, in industrialisation, agriculture, in the field of education, health and social services.

While the Free Primary Education of the Region and the secondary and post-secondary scholarship schemes have turned out to be a huge success, our hard-working Government has added one more industrious pace to its progress in the field of education, namely, the University of Ife, the establishment of which was recently announced. This is a tremendous achievement which marks the attainment of independence by the Federation of Nigeria, but before going on to other subjects, may I, through this opportunity which has been granted to me appeal to the Government for the establishment and founding of a School of Journalism in the Region as is the case now in Ghana; journalism being an important part of our education in this era.

Turning to that aspect of the improvement and progress which has benefitted my town and district, my encomium to the Regional Government would be incomplete without expressing my deep appreciation and gratitude for the approval and establishment of the Irepodun District Council for Ifon, Ilobu and Erin, the building of dispensaries and a maternity hospital in the district and the tarring of Oshogbo-Erin-Ilobu roads. But while expressing gratitude and appreciation for these amenities, I should not forget to present to the Regional Government the vital but remaining needs of my people which are, the building of more maternity hospitals in my constituency, the tarring of Erin-Ede road and the extension of pipe-borne water supply and electricity to my district, as the extension of the last-named amenity in this Region is apparently quite unrivalled compared with other Regions in the Federation, and the earlier the scheme is implemented, the more disgraced the doubting Thomases, who make politics out of anything, would be.

In full support of the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for the Speech from the Throne, I have to appeal to the Regional Government for the extension of the establishment of agricultural and other development projects to my constituency, the Action Group Government of the Western Region being praiseworthy and remarkable for progress and developments at every minute, every hour, every day, every month and every year. For the information of the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the people of my constituency have given out almost one thousand and five hundred acres of rich land for agriculture and development projects.

I should like to praise the Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development for various projects which are being

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carried out in the Ministry because political independence is impossible without economic freedom.

The Local Government Police of this Region is second to none in the Federation.

In conclusion, I am appealing through this democratic Government of Western Nigeria to the Government of Northern Nigeria to create Minority Councils for the Middle Belt and the Kabba/Ilorin areas. Members of this honourable House know very well what is happening in the North; how people from Minority areas and non-N.P.C. party supporters are being oppressed, repressed, depressed and distressed everyday. The Government of this said Region should let the Fundamental Human Rights entrenched in the Nigerian Constitution be workable and practised.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Further Debate on this Motion adjourned until Wednesday, 29th March, 1961.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that the House be adjourned till tomorrow morning.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I beg to second.

Mr Speaker: The fact that the adjournment of the House has been moved does not necessarily mean that the House will immediately adjourn so let Members remain in their seats and not begin to rush to leave the the House.

Question proposed.

Refusal of Leader of Opposition to be presented to His Excellency the Governor

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): I said this morning that I intend to make a speech from the floor of this House, Mr Speaker, Sir. I must deal with a matter which closely affects the Constitution of this Region, Her Majesty's Representative, the Governor, Her Majesty's Premier and Her Majesty's Leader of the Opposition, which has raised a tumult in Parliament and outside it. Let me state unequivocally from the outset that Her Majesty's Opposition fully appreciates its responsibility to the House and to the Queen's representative in the Western Region of Nigeria in an Independent Nigeria. The Constitution under which our country exists at this moment is of our own making and we are proud of the position as a free State within the Commonwealth. Today we of the

Opposition are the watchdogs of the people, to see that this Government keeps to the letter and spirit of that Constitution and we jealously guard the prerogative of Her Majesty from all assaults, usurpations and any indignities from all or any quarter with all our strength, with all our might. For anyone to suggest that we are not aware of this responsibility or that we fail to discharge in any way this honourable duty is sheer impudence, much more impudence for anyone to suggest that we, the guardians of this Constitution, would, and have, shown the slightest disrespect to the very institution from which our own position of honour as Her Majesty's Opposition is a reflection. It is not only impudence, it is wickedness in its most perverse nature. I shall state the facts and reveal to the country how this Government has shamelessly attempted to discredit Her Majesty's Opposition and thereby divert the attention of all right thinking people from its own shortcomings, iniquities and perversions which the Government realise must be spotlighted in this Session of the Parliament.

The struggle in existence is one between the Government and the Opposition, it is shameful to drag the Governor into it. On the formation of this new Government the Premier of the Region and the Leader of the House both promised to have consultations with the Opposition on all major issues and take the Leader of Opposition into its confidence on these issues. Despite these assurances the Government from the onset had treated the Opposition with nothing but contempt.

During the past Sessions Bills were flung into the face of the Opposition on the floor of this House without adequate notice or sufficient time for preparation by the Opposition. The Opposition protested—took up the gauntlet and fought the point in this House. The Leader of the House assured us of his co-operation in the future. Again during the last Session of this House, the White Paper on the University project was laid on the table of this House, again the Government assured us the Opposition would be taken into its confidence on the development of this project—which is a major development concerning every member of the Community and for which colossal sums from public revenue would be expended. Not taking chances, I approached the Leader of the House, Chief Odebiyi, and obtained from him personal assurance that the Opposition will be consulted at all stages of the development of the project. And the very White Paper published by Government itself

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contained a provision for the setting up of a Parliamentary Committee drawn from both sides of the House to advise Government on the project.

The first thing I heard again about the project was the Government delegation overseas to investigate the project, the Bill for the Law setting up the University was prepared, site selected. The project as a project is almost complete. Even now we understand the Building Plans are with the Architects—the Bill is now Law. The University Council will soon be appointed. At no stage of the developments was the Opposition notified much less consulted, and from the floor of this House two days ago the Premier apologised and informed us he had no intention to slight the Opposition, and the Minister of Education read out a hurriedly prepared list of Members of the Parliamentary Committee including Members of the Opposition again without consultation and the Premier again apologised and said Government will consider further suggestions of extending the membership from the Opposition. Again the Government broadcast its intention to make a drastic innovation in the Local Government Law of the Region by giving to women special opportunities of taking part in Local Government Councils.

This is a major political change in the country. The Opposition was not consulted much less taken into confidence, neither before the public declaration nor afterwards, although Government consulted various women organisations. The Bill for the change was prepared. It is before this Session of the House of Assembly. These are only two major items. This Government has continuously treated the Opposition with the greatest contempt and we had made it quite clear to Government that we cannot and will not accept or tolerate such a situation. This is the background.

This Session of the House of Assembly was summoned for 10 a.m., Wednesday, 22nd day of March, 1961. On Sunday night the Western Nigeria Television News announced that the time of the Meeting had been altered to 9 a.m. No communication of the change in time was made to the Opposition or its Leader except on the eve of the opening day by News over the WNTV. I had breakfast at the Catering Rest House with a few Members of the House and proceeded to the House of Assembly at 8.50 a.m. I arrived at Parliament Buildings at 8.59 a.m. with Mr Oviasu, another Member of the Opposition, in my car and on entering the gate to the first courtyard saw soldiers drawn up on parade. We drove past the

soldiers on parade to the second gate which led into the inner courtyard of the Parliament Buildings. We alighted from the car and saw a line of robed Judicial dignitaries, Ministers and other VIPs lined up inside the inner courtyard with the Premier standing a little to the front, on the left side of the line.

I and the Premier greeted each other and as both myself and Mr Oviasu were walking past the line to enter Parliament Buildings, Chief Odebiyi, Leader of the House, called me from the VIP line. I went back to him where he was standing on the line and he said "You are to take part in this ceremony". I asked him "what ceremony"? and he said it was usual for Government to arrange a special ceremony for the Opening of the House including a presentation of the important Members of the House and the community to the Governor. I asked him why Government had not thought it fit to invite me to the ceremony and the presentation. He then told me it was purely a matter of routine and thereupon showed me a programme of events with my name in the list of persons to be presented. I told him Government has a duty to invite me or, at least the courtesy to inform me and has failed to treat me with the slightest respect or consideration and that I take objection to the situation.

At the time I had gone into the line to speak to Chief Odebiyi, the Governor had arrived and was inspecting the Military parade in the outer courtyard over 80 yards away from the inner court, and we were almost completely severed off by the walls of the inner court of the building from the inspection. I stood in the line a few minutes to consider the situation and to decide whether to ignore this fresh slight to the Opposition and attend the presentation or to protest and refuse to attend it. The famous first picture of the Press must have been taken at this stage, and from the picture the critics missed the fact that the Owa of Ilesha who appeared in the second picture between the Chief Justice and the Speaker had not even arrived to take his place in the line at that time. The Governor was, speaking metaphorically, miles away. Whilst I was making up my mind whether to stay or not the Band struck the National Anthem which signified the end of the inspection of the Military parade and everyone stood at attention till the end. At this time the Governor was still at the place of inspection in the fore-court as I had stated, and before the Governor made any move to leave the inspection site.

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Immediately after the National Anthem, I informed Chief Odebiyi that I refused to accept his unkind and peremptory invitation to attend the ceremony and started to walk away. Then Chief Odebiyi, on a personal note, called me by my first name and said it would not be nice if I went away and I replied that I was not staying and added rather facetiously that in any event I was going to Winston Churchill, he said "what?", I said the toilet and walked away. I reported the incident to our Members in the Building and left it at that.

After the Speech from the Throne a few of us gathered in the Corridors of the House and were chatting with the Odemo of Ishara, a photographer had just taken a picture of myself and the Odemo laughing and shaking hands (although he later made a fire eating speech devouring me for what he felt before the picture was taken) the Premier came down from a nearby staircase and called on the Odemo when we all turned and he said "I want to make a report to you concerning Kayode with whom you are shaking hands". The Odemo went to him.

Later as I was going into the House for the business of the day, the Odemo, the Olowo and Dr Maja came up to me and said they would like to see me. We entered a Committee room and the Odemo said Akintola accused me of not waiting to be presented to the Governor. I gave the facts exactly as I have now and said I refused to be treated as dirt by the Government and that I might even raise the matter later in the House. The Odemo said they would inquire into the matter and that I shall hear from them later. I was therefore shocked when I heard Mr Awopeju making his accusations from the floor of the House and I recognised at once the machiavellian twist and slant the Government had given to the circumstances.

The Government had taken advantage of its distardly wrongs to discredit me and the Opposition in the eyes of the whole community in the most diabolic way. I did not refuse to be presented to His Excellency and thereby show disrespect to the representative of the Crown. I refused to attend the Presentation ceremony to which the Government had no the slightest courtesy to invite me or even the churlishness to have just notified me. These are the facts.

Even if the facts as represented by the Government are true: that I excused myself to answer the call of nature and that was the sole reason for leaving the line, would that not have accorded with decency, good

training and good breeding? Why should the Government read evil motives to an innocent statement and action? This is the greatest condemnation of the utterances of the Premier and his galaxy of members of the House of Chiefs. If the Hon. the Premier had not been genuinely satisfied with the alleged explanation for leaving the line would he not have demanded an explanation from the floor of this House?

The Official Opposition is the largest minority party in parliament. It is a recognised institution which exists in its own right in a two-party system of Government and the Leadership of the Opposition has rights attached to the post and statutory recognition of these rights is part of a democratic system of government. Rights which form the basic fabric of a two-party system. We are not cowed by the threats of Government to withdraw its recognition. If the threat materialises, the Opposition shall accept the challenge and know too well how to fight in the circumstances.

We of the Opposition in this House shall give co-operation only in return for co-operation but expect no mercy from the hard-hearted Government party, we expect no quarter and we give none for this Government is becoming more dictatorial everyday. The vast masses of this Western Region, our supporters in the main, have been threatened, bullied, victimised and cajoled by the iniquitous acts of the Government of the day. We shall stand up for them, for our rights, without fear of the loss of office or threats to our rights.

We of the Opposition, and I as its Leader, hold the institution of the Governor in the highest esteem and would not do anything or take any step to farmish this exalted institution which by its very nature has always stood and should always be above the arena of party politics. In fact, speaking personally, as a son of Ife, it is my pride that the Governor of the Region today is from Ife and I am certain that both I and His Excellency will be personally happy when that day arrives, and it is fast approaching, when both His Excellency the Governor of the Western Region and the Hon. the Premier of the Region shall both come from the University Town of Ife.

I choose to ignore with contempt the coarse vituperations poured on me by members of the Government party especially in the House of Chiefs. That is to be expected as these are the best examples of good breeding and parliamentary decency of the gentlemen concerned. This I must

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say however. I do feel that the floor of Parliament is not the best forum to invite people to murder and assassinate me, or issue threats of assassination. Apart from anything else I feel it is in very bad taste.

In this respect I must, however, inform the following members of Parliament through the Speaker that I take notice of their implied and expressed threats of assassination as stated in Hansard. Hon. Awopeju who reminded me that "The gallows was prepared for Modeca." The Elekole of Ikole who said "Nobody will regret it if he perishes"... The Deji of Akure who said "I am not here to curse anybody but I am sure that young people who fail to respect elders always have short life". Chief Oyesina who said "if in the olden days Fani-Kayode did that and somebody shot him we would have praised that fellow". And the Olojudo of Iddo Ekiti who said "Fani-Kayode has surely done what nobody has ever done and shall surely see what nobody has ever seen". I am warned that these gentlemen be warned as well.

Let these gentlemen remember that I have been shot at twice before, but I assure them from now on I shall never again be a sitting duck. In the same way, members of the House of Chiefs in 1956 threatened the life of the late Adelabu, but I am not Adelabu. *Verbum satis sapientis*. As for my friend Chief Williams, I cannot resist, Mr Speaker, saying that his utterances in Parliament came as a surprise to me for, as a gentleman and a lawyer, I would have thought the legal maxim "*Audi alteram partem*"—you should first hear the other side of the story—would have now been ingrained in him. He is an able-bodied—very much able-bodied—man. If he desires to cross swords with me let him come into this House through the purification of the polls and an election polls. For here men are not parliamentary parasites. In this House men are men and are proud of it.

I have spoken to the Government, Mr Speaker, only co-operation from them shall secure co-operation from us. Only confidence shall beget confidence. Anything else will bring conflicts from which we shall not shrink, whatever the circumstances, till in the end freedom and justice become the inalienable right of every citizen of this Region.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a pity that the hon. Leader of the Opposition was not magnanimous enough to give me a copy of his statement before he made it on the Motion for Adjournment because the statement raised quite a number

of controversial matters. But there is one thing that runs through the whole statement which the hon. Leader of the Opposition made. Never was there any mention whatever of any word of apology to his Excellency the Governor for the slight which the hon. Leader of the Opposition gave to him on the State Opening of Parliament.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition made certain statements about the attitude of Government to the Opposition. He did say, Sir, that it was through the WNTV that he got to know that the State Opening of Parliament will take place at 9 a.m. instead of 10 a.m. With your permission, Sir, I would like to read the letter of summons which was sent to all Members of the Legislature dated 3rd March, 1961 and despatched on the 6th of March, 1961:

"To All Members of the Regional Legislature.

Meeting of the Western House of Assembly.

The Clerk of the Western Legislature presents his compliments to Members and hereby informs them that the Budget meeting commencing the 10th Session of the Regional Legislature will begin on Wednesday, 22nd of March, 1961.

Proclamation to this effect is being made by the Governor in pursuance of section 30 of the first Schedule to the Nigerian Constitution, Order in Council and will be published soon.

Although the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly will be meeting at 9 a.m., all Members are advised to be in their seats by 8.45 a.m."

If the hon. Leader of the Opposition doubts what I say, he has access to the Clerk of the House and he can get a copy of the summons for his own purpose (*Opposition Benches: Did you send him one?*).

Government Benches: He has one.

Chief Odebiyi: Included, Sir, with the letter of summons was the programme for the ceremonial opening (*Opposition Benches: No, No!*). Assuming that was not even sent to the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition said he was not informed. But I suppose, Sir, he knows how much his salary will be, he knows what his entitlements are, he knows his privileges but does not know his duties.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a maxim which states:

"*nobless oblige*"—every position of honour has its duties. The hon. Leader of the Opposition is prepared to fight for his rights but he is not prepared to discharge his duties as Leader of the Opposition.

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Assuming, Sir, that the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition is true, why did he not make this statement on the floor of this House when the matter was raised? His advocate on the occasion was no less than hon. Tunji Olowofoyeku, Member for Ilesha Urban, who said that we were making a mountain of a mole hill. He said it was a "slight incident". Why did he not explain, Sir, that it was as a result of the attitude of the Government to the Leader of the Opposition that made the Leader of the Opposition to leave the line.

Not only that, Sir, I think, as a rule, I do not like to betray the confidence of my friend. The hon. Leader of the Opposition, when he stood on the line by my side as the Governor was approaching,—I would not have said this, Sir, but I am compelled by circumstances beyond my control to say what I want to say now—I said we were going to be presented. I said that it is a tradition that on the State Opening of Parliament certain Members of the Legislature are always presented to His Excellency. This is not the first occasion, Sir, the Leaders of Opposition are always presented and the predecessor of the present Leader of Opposition co-operated so much with this Government that his position was enhanced more than in any part of the Federation. Then he said he was not shaking the Oni's hand, but that he would only bow. I said "if you bow there is nothing wrong in bowing" and he said he was going to the toilet. When the Leader of the Opposition left, what happened? He came to the front bench of the Opposition and sat with hon. Olowofoyeku. There is a photograph, Sir, which was taken of the hon. Leader of the Opposition and hon. Member for Ilesha Urban (*Opposition Benches: How did you know that the picture was taken?*).

Then he made a statement for consultation on major issues. If it is true that the Leader of the Opposition was quarrelling with the Government for not taking him into confidence, why did he not put it up or lodge his complaints with the Premier? Why was it that it was His Excellency that he wanted to vent his spleen upon and slight the Governor? Why was that necessary? Assuming, Sir, that everything that he has said was true, why not walk up to His Excellency at Government Hill or to Governor's Office to explain it away? The hon. Leader of the Opposition had done none of these things.

It is quite obvious, Sir, when the incident was raised on Wednesday last, the Leader of the Opposition was completely dumb-founded

and he did not know what to say, and the advocate was the hon. Member for Ilesha Urban who said it was a "slight incident".

I think, Sir, that what has been said today is an afterthought. The Leader of the Opposition having been condemned by public opinion, by Members of the House of Chiefs, by his own back benchers (*Opposition Benches: No! No!*).....I know, Sir, that erstwhile Members of the Opposition who heard about this incident were so annoyed and felt that it should be taken up at a higher level.

The fact, Sir, that the Leader of the Opposition did not do anything to allay or to dispel the misapprehension of all of us on that day, as well as Members of the House of Chiefs, as well as His Excellency the Governor, showed that the act was deliberate, on his part. Having done all that, Sir, he now stood up on the floor of this House to make a statement which neither explains away what has happened nor contains any apologies to His Excellency the Governor. If the hon. Leader of the Opposition was sincere in his protestation of loyalty to the person of Her Majesty's representative, namely, the Oni of Ife who is Governor of this Region, he should have said so in his speech and he would have included in his speech that he would take the next available opportunity to explain the situation to His Excellency. That does not appear in him, neither was there any apology.

Now, Sir, he spoke at length about assassination, oppression and the usual thing. Surely, Sir, all of us who are here now are mortals. We are bound to die one day. Is it not true, Sir, in the Yoruba song: "Any boy or child who looks at his mother's face is bound to enter hell of fire. Any child who despises his parents is bound to enter into the hell of fire". That is the Yoruba song which we were taught when we were young. We are living witnesses to the fact that any young man who defies or disrespects those who are older than him always ends his life ignominously. As a matter of fact, Sir, that has always been the guiding principle in my own life. How much I may disagree with anybody, I disagree on principles not on personalities. I think, Sir, what I would like to leave for his consideration is that he ought to mend his ways (*Mr Fani-Kayode: Thank you, Sir*).

Apart from the fact that the Oni of Ife is Governor of this Region, he has risen to his position by reason that he was loved by his people. Even in business, Sir, before he became the Oni of Ife, he was successful and apart from the fact that he is the Governor

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of the Region by virtue of his office he commands the respect and courtesy of everyone of us.

I would have thought, Sir, that the fact that the hon. Leader of the Opposition is a Member from Ife-Ilah near his paramount ruler, should have made it much easier for him to walk straight to his paramount ruler to explain it away. Did he do so? (*Government Benches: No*).

I am quite sure, Sir, that if a similar situation had arisen with any other Member of this House, including the devil's advocate, he would not have done it at all.

I think, Sir, that the statement which the hon. Leader of the Opposition made is ill-timed, ill-conceived and completely mendacious. (*Uproar*).

The Economy of Western Nigeria

Mr Oviasu: Mr Speaker, Sir, on Friday, 24th March, hon. members of this House went on a tour, visiting some of the Region's industrial projects. One group went to Ewekoro Cement Factory while the other group visited Ikeja Industrial Estate. I was in the group that visited Ewekoro and the Pre-stressed Concrete Factory at Abeokuta. We were conveyed there in a comfortable omnibus. The radio in the bus supplied melodies. The approach of our bus was heralded along the route by two active despatch riders of the Nigeria Police Force.

I congratulate the Premier for the excellent arrangement and for making it possible for legislators to undertake such useful trips while the House is in session. Outside the period of the session very few would have had the opportunity of visiting these projects.

After such visits one cannot resist the strong urge to comment on what was seen or observed. First to spring to my mind was the hypocritical tendency of this Government. When Zik and Ojukwu, a few years ago, undertook an economic mission to U.S.A. and Europe with a view to attracting foreign capital investments into the Eastern Region, this Government was loudest in its condemnation of such trips as tending towards the exchange of political freedom for economic servitude. Shortly after that, this Government did exactly what they accused the Eastern Regional Government of doing. It stands to reason therefore that this Government steals NCNC ideas without paying the slightest compliments to the NCNC Government for its dynamism. I strongly believe that industria-

lisation will take this Region to a dazzling height of prosperity if the Government is careful and wise in her planning. It is not enough to have a rich Government whose citizens are poor. What we want is a Region with contented citizens, whose standards of living are high.

A Government may be so rich to have enough money to waste over sending rockets to the moon while her citizens are groaning under abject poverty. That is not the Government we want in Western Region. We want a Government that will create equal opportunities for her citizens.....(*interruptions from Government Benches and cheers from the Opposition Benches*).....and raise their living standards. It does not appear to me that industrialisation in Western Region is actively directed towards this end. In all the projects jointly owned by foreign investors and Government agency—the W.N.D.C.—African workers are poorly paid. Labourers are paid 3s 6d per day and other African staff do not earn as much as their European or Israeli counterparts. Yet, unashamed, this Government boasts that the minimum daily wage in the Region is 5s 10d per day. One may ask which.....(*cheers from Opposition*).

(*Government Benches: Where do they pay 3s 6d? How do you know labourers are not paid 5s 10d per day in the Western Region?*).

Mr Oviasu: No labourer earns 5s 10d per day in the Western Region.....(*wild interruptions from the Government Benches and loud and prolonged applause from the Opposition Benches*).

Chief Oshuntokun: Point of Order, Mr Speaker, Sir, Standing Order No. 16 (1) which reads "A substantive motion for the adjournment of the House shall not be madeunless a Member rise in his place at that time and ask for leave to move the adjournment for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance".

I wonder whether what my hon. Friend is reading is of urgent public importance?

Mr Speaker: You will then go on to move that the question be put.

Chief Oshuntokun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Qust. (that the House do now adjourn) put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 2.30 p.m. until Tuesday, 28th March, 1961, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1961

(The House met at 10.20 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS HOME AFFAIRS

Catering Rest Houses

10/56. **Mr N. A. Adibi** asked the Minister of Home Affairs how soon work would start on the Catering Rest House at Ogbomosho, approval for which, it was understood, had been granted sometime ago.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs (Mr J. G. Adeniran): Government has not yet approved the establishment of a Catering Rest House in Ogbomosho. I am, however, aware of the need for such a Rest House in Ogbomosho and the proposal to establish one is now being examined. As soon as a decision is taken by Government, the hon. Member will be informed.

JUSTICE

Customary Courts

10/62. **Mr N. A. Adibi** asked the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General how many Customary Courts (Grades A, B, C and D) had so far been established in the Region, and who was responsible for the payments of the salaries of the Courts' Presidents and Assessors.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): Since the Customary Courts Law came into operation in Western Nigeria during 1957, nine Grade A, seventy-five Grade B, two hundred and forty-four Grade C and one hundred and thirty-four Grade D Customary Courts have been established in this Region. In addition, there are one hundred and twenty-three Grade D Native Courts which were deemed to be Customary Courts on the introduction of the Customary Courts Law in 1958. Arrangements to replace the last of the deemed courts and to establish new Customary Courts in their place are nearly complete. Altogether, there are at the moment five hundred and eighty-five Customary Courts in the Region.

The salaries of Customary Court Presidents, Members and Assessors are paid by the competent councils and court joint boards.

Mr T. E. Igugu: Why does the Government deem it fit to increase the number of Customary Courts Grade A from three to nine?

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker, Sir, he must give notice to it to enable me to give a correct answer.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: By the payment of these salaries to the Customary Courts Judges, insistence is being made..... (Government Benches: Are you asking a question or making a statement).....to political system.

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker, Sir, he is not asking a question. (Loud cheers from Government Benches).

Mr Amadasun: Are you not aware that by making the councils to pay the salaries of these Customary Courts Judges the whole thing is being made a political question?

Chief Ighodaro: I am not aware of that. (Cheers from Government Benches).

Mr Amadasun: How many of these courts are being presided over by legal practitioners?

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker, Sir, to be able to give an accurate answer to that question, I would like to have notice. (Cheers from the Government Benches).

Mr Amadasun: We on this side of the House would like, and in fact, we want the minds of the Government to be as active as ever, so that they may be able to answer simple questions without requiring notice.

Difficulties of Customary Courts

10/63. **Mr N. A. Adibi** asked the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General what difficulties, if any, were generally encountered by the Customary Courts and how they were surmounted.

Chief Ighodaro: As far as I am aware, difficulties facing the Customary Courts are difficulties of language, transport and inadequate court buildings. As the hon. Member may be aware, the Customary Courts Manual is written in English and a few Presidents and Members of Grades "C" and "D" courts are not literate in English. One way in which this difficulty is being surmounted is through a series of training courses held annually throughout the Region at which Supervising Authorities and some barristers explain in the vernacular the

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provisions of the Customary Courts Law and Customary Courts Rules. Arrangements are on hand for the translation of the "Notes for Guidance" at pages 1 to 21 of the Customary Courts Manual into some of the approved vernaculars.....(*interruptions from the Opposition Benches.....what are the approved languages?*).....and a start is being made with Yoruba. A Committee to do the Yoruba translation has already been set up.

Transport difficulty is being actively tackled and many Customary Courts Presidents can now apply to their competent councils and court joint boards for, and may be granted, motor vehicle advances provided they satisfy the conditions laid down in the Customary Court Members (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 1960. (Western Region Legal Notice 239 of 1960).

With regard to inadequate court buildings, competent councils and court joint boards are putting up new court buildings within the limits of their financial resources. It is expected that most of the dilapidated native court halls in which some customary courts continue to hold their sessions would have disappeared by 1966.

Mr A. T. Rerri: Which are the approved vernaculars?

Chief Ighodaro: We have started with Yoruba and we intend to add some other languages like Benin, possibly Sobo.....(*interruptions from the Opposition Benches: we do not want Sobo.....*).

Mr T. E. Igugu: I would like to know what the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General is doing to create the impression that our Customary Courts Judges appear to do justice because, not only must justice be done but it must also appear to be done?

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker, Sir, there is nothing that shows that our Customary Courts Judges have failed to do justice. All members are doing their full best and when we consider the difficulties that these people encounter we all agree that it is only an infinitesimal part...(*shouts of "you are not correct"*).....(*cheers from Government Benches*).....That is another proof that the Customary Courts are doing justice adequately. On the question that not only must justice be done but it must appear to be done, I will simply say that it is a fact that justice has been done, is being done, and appears also to be done.....(*prolonged cheers from Government Benches.....*).

Mr Amadasun: Is the Minister not aware that there are appeals in almost all

decisions of the customary courts and that that must be sufficient proof that justice does not appear to be done?

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker Sir, I am not aware that there is always appeal from every judgment of the customary courts. That question Sir, is a deliberate attempt to mislead this House. We are however very anxious that people should be allowed to exercise their rights of appeal, if they are not satisfied with the decision of a court.

What is the Minister of Justice to be ashamed of? The man in the Magistrate Court, or in the High Court, is he not holding an office of justice and as long as justice is done, that gives satisfaction to the Government.

Mr J. O. Abioshun: As the Minister has just said that many of these customary court judges are illiterates, it appears in many customary courts that the clerks of the courts will do most of the work. I do not know whether the Minister will think it fit to make it rotational, that is, transferring one clerk from one district to another. When they are permanent, they may not dispense justice. (*Several Government Benches: That is not a question!*)

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): On point of order. Standing Order 14 (3) "A question shall not contain arguments, inferences, opinions, imputations, epithets or controversial, ironical or offensive expressions; or be based upon hypothetical cases; nor shall a Question refer to Debates or Answers to Questions in the current Session". The hon. gentleman was making a statement and not asking a question.

Mr Speaker: My ruling on that is that the hon. gentleman loses his chance of asking that supplementary question.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker Sir, I want to know from the Minister the arrangement Government has in hand to make Presidents who are about eighty years old surmount the difficulty of illiteracy.

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker Sir, I don't think there is any of our Presidents of customary courts who is over eighty. If I am aware of it, I will know how best to answer that question.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Promotion of Laboratory Staff

10/183. **Chief A. Adekeye** asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare whether it was true that there had been no

promotions made in the junior segment of the laboratory services of the Region within the last two years.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa): Mr Speaker Sir, it is not true that promotion has not been made in this section. In fact, two officers are promoted on the salary scale of B 4 on the 1st of April, 1960.

INFORMATION

Information on Current Affairs

10/193. **Mr D. A. Popoola** asked the Minister of Information through what means his Ministry hopes to impart information on current affairs to the people in the remotest parts of the Region.

The Minister of Information (Chief E. A. A. Fadayiro): It is no longer a hope, but indeed a reality, that for many years the Government of Western Nigeria has imparted information on current affairs to the people of Western Nigeria both in the urban and in the rural areas. This is done through its many information media which include film shows, weekly radio and television programmes, a weekly newspaper, a quarterly illustrated magazine and other publications on the activities of the Government of Western Nigeria.

The Ministry of Information has thirty information centres throughout the Region where various publications are made available to the general public. The Ministry also runs forty cinema vans and six cinema barges all over the Region. In addition, the Ministry has supplied television sets to most of the Secondary Grammar Schools, Secondary Modern Schools, Teacher Training Colleges and other Government Institutions in the areas at present served by W.N.T.V. Through these, films produced by the Ministry and a large stock of films produced in other parts of the world are shown regularly in all parts of the Region. Current news items are relayed on the public address equipment attached to cinema vans and barges. A weekly newspaper, the *Western News* and a quarterly magazine *Western Nigeria Illustrated* circulate in all parts of the Region.

JUSTICE

Magistrate's Courts

10/15. **Mr Popoola** asked the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General why three of the five Magistrate Courts are

situated at Onireke and what arrangements are being made to improve the condition of these courts.

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker Sir, there are now six Magistrates' Courts in Ibadan owing to increase in the volume of work. Three of these courts are at Onireke because it has not been easy to obtain more suitable accommodation elsewhere. The Magistrate's Courts formerly at Agodi and Oke-Ado have now been removed to the old Provincial Office at Akinloye Road (formerly Leaf Road) which has been converted to accommodate three Magistrate's Courts.

Adequate provision has been made by the Government to provide suitable accommodation for these Courts, and the new Magistrate's Courts building to be erected at a cost of £200,000 has been started.

EDUCATION

Employment for

Modern III School Leavers

10/18. **Mr S. A. Sanni** asked the Minister of Education in view of the fact that a large number of boys and girls who have successfully completed Modern III are yet unemployed what steps are being taken by the Ministry of Education to improve the situation.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr R. A. Olusa): Mr Speaker Sir, I am not aware that a number of boys and girls who have successfully completed the Secondary Modern III course are yet unemployed. (*Shouts of Ah! Ah!! from the Opposition Benches*).

Opportunities for employment for this class of school leavers are available in the Civil Service and in Teacher Training Colleges. Opportunities of further professional and vocational training are also available to them in Trade Centre and Schools of Nursing. In addition, it is expected that they will take full advantage of the Farm Settlement Scheme which is being vigorously pursued by my honourable Friend, the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Mr Adeoye Adisa: I will like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has made inquiries from the Employment Exchange in Ibadan as regards the number of people registered as unemployed. If not, why not?

Mr Olusa: I require notice of that question.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: That reply is not satisfactory. May I ask what arrangements are made for the employment of Secondary Modern School leavers for their absorption into the services of Western Nigeria?

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, arrangements are being made to employ Modern School leavers in the services of this Region. For that purpose, they have to take an examination, which was taken on the 4th of March. For that purpose they had to pay a fee (*Opposition Benches: £1*) earlier in the month. A large number of these school leavers have taken the examination on the 4th of March. The following appointments are awaiting them: Stenographer-in-Training for girls; Agricultural Assistants in Training, Veterinary Innoculators, Clerical Assistants, etc. I have mentioned three or four, but there are eight different vocations, waiting for the Secondary Modern School leavers who successfully pass the examination.

HOME AFFAIRS

Catering Rest Houses

10/19. **Mr S. A. Sanni** asked the Minister of Home Affairs the number and the locations of the Catering Rest Houses in the Western Region.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr S. A. Okeya): There are eight catering rest houses in the Region and these are located at Ibadan, Ijebu-Ode, Abeokuta, Oshogbo, Akure, Benin, Asaba and Warri. Work on the buildings of others is expected to be completed soon.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, Standing Order 15 (3):

"Questions shall be taken on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays provided that except as provided in paragraph (4) of this Order no Question shall be taken after 10.30 a.m."

Mr Speaker: The Standing Order raised by the Leader of the House is in order. We shall put a stop to the Questions here and now.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, Sir, there are some important questions, which the Minister might give consideration for asking. There is a political demise; death of one Member of the Opposition.

Mr Speaker: That is out of order. Political death should be announced on political soap-boxes.

Mr Fani-Kayode: I am sorry, Sir.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr S. O. Akerele: Mr Speaker, Sir, in accordance with the wishes of my constituents in Ife-Ila North, reinforced by my own personal conviction, I am today resigning from the NCNC and declaring for the Action Group.....(*cheers from the Government Benches and jeers from the Opposition Benches*).....The mandate to cross to the Government side.....(*prolonged interruptions*.....)

Mr Speaker: I am compelled to remind Members of their behaviour in this House and also to remind you of my powers that not only could I ask a stranger out of the honourable House but also Members who misbehave because all that the hon. Member has been saying I could not hear because of the noise of the other hon. Members. In any case, I can assure you that I shall use my powers, if necessary. Will the hon. Member for Ife-Ila North start again; start from the beginning.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo: Mr Speaker, Sir, point of Order, Order No. 27 (2): A member shall not read his speech.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is ignorant of the Order of this House; this comes under personal explanation. (*Laughter*).

Mr Akerele: Mr Speaker, Sir, in accordance with the wishes of my constituents in Ife-Ila North, reinforced by my own personal conviction, I am today resigning from the NCNC and declaring for the Action Group of Nigeria. In consequence, I will shortly be moving to the Government side of this honourable House. The mandate to cross to the Government side was formally given to me yesterday at a special meeting of the Ila District Council.

This change is an inevitable culmination of the series of failures of the NCNC to live up to what is expected of a national and patriotic party. These failures become even more apparent when the glowing virtues of the Action Group are set against them. Without wasting time, Sir, I will enumerate some of the NCNC shortcomings which ought to make all reasonable people denounce the Party.

Firstly, Sir, the attitude of the NCNC to tradition leaves much to be desired. The Obas and Chiefs are the fathers of the people. They constitute a great influence in the

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Western Region in particular and in the Federation of Nigeria in general. No Party which does not pay due respect to them can succeed. The NCNC has no respectable policy for these fathers and the Party continues to lose their support. Speaking for my people in Illa, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would say that we respect traditional institution a great deal. In actual fact, we cannot be otherwise disposed because we are pure and unadulterated children of Oduduwa. Any party therefore, which treats our additional fathers with disrespect and contempt cannot enjoy the support of the Illa people for long.

Mr Oviasu: Order 17 "By the indulgence of the House, and the leave of Mr Speaker a Member may make a personal explanation although there be no question before the House; but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may Debate arise upon the explanation. The terms of the proposed statement shall be submitted *in extenso* to Mr Speaker when his leave to make it is sought".

Mr Speaker, Sir, by discrediting the activities of the NCNC, he is raising a controversial issue and therefore I consider that the matters being read by the hon. Member for Illa North is out of order. (*interruptions*).

Chief Odebiyi: Apart from the fact that Standing Order 17 gave power to Mr Speaker to allow any Member to make a personal explanation, it is the practice and tradition of this House for a man to refer to the activities of the other Party when he wants to change his seat in the House and therefore he has the right to do so. (*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I agree that controversial matters must not be stated in a matter of this nature. I do believe that the hon. Gentleman has not brought up any matter that is controversial.

Mr Oviasu: Point of Order, Sir..... (*what order, sit down.....interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I have given my verdict on the controversiality or otherwise and as such will the hon. Gentleman continue?

Mr Akerele: The last straw that broke the camels back was the disrespect shown by hon. Fani-Kayode to our venerable father and Governor of this Region, Sir, Adesoji Aderemi, on Wednesday last. My people were shocked to learn that such a

contempt of the exalted office of the Governor was perpetrated by an hon. member from Ife. My people took a very great exception to this assault on the spiritual head of the Yorubas and have decided with one voice that I should resign from the NCNC forthwith. One may also recall the deplorable way in which the Ilesha Urban District Council treated His Highness the Owa of Ilesha and President of the House of Chiefs. Unless the NCNC adopts a respectable policy towards our fathers, they will continue to lose support daily.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, Sir, there is too much internal wrangling within the NCNC rank and file. Instead of the Party to face their political opponents, they continue to quarrel among themselves like mad dogs. In Oyo, for instance, you find Chief Afolabi and his faction waging war against Ashamu and his faction; in Lagos, you find honourable J. M. Johnson and his faction and the local Chairman of the Party in a bitter warfare; in Abeokuta, after Mrs Kuti and her faction had annoyingly launched another political party we again find Chief Akande and his faction and Mr Fashanu and his faction embark on inter-party skirmishes.

Here in Ibadan, the Agbaje versus Adisa episode is still green in our memory. The most shameful of all internal wranglings is that hon. Fani-Kayode as the Chairman of the Party's Western Working Committee does not see eye to eye with Barrister Shofola, the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr Fani-Kayode: On point of Order, Sir, Standing Order No. 2. "The proceedings and debates of the House shall be in the English language" (*laughter*). The hon. Gentleman is speaking in Chinese! (*laughter*).

Mr Speaker: The order cited by the Leader of Opposition is in order but does not apply to this case before the House.

(*Government benches: Shame, shame*).

Mr Akerele: Hon. Fani-Kayode being a product of the dynamic Action Group Party attempted to improve the NCNC but, alas, all his innovation fell on barren ground and today Fani himself has become adapted to the uneviable set-up in the NCNC. Indeed, to make the NCNC rule Nigeria is to make Nigeria another Congo (*shame, shame*).

Thirdly, Sir, the NCNC has no plan whatsoever. There is not one subject on which the NCNC has a clear-cut policy. Planlessness in a developing society like

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ours is dangerous and could only lead to revolution and social discontent. Take for instance the question of the growing unemployment in this country. In the labour market, Mr Speaker, Sir, the supply is increasingly becoming greater than the demand. But the Action Group Government of this Region has been facing the challenge resolutely. This dynamic Government has created many employment opportunities in all fields. There are Farm Settlements and Farm Institutes which absorb thousands of school leavers each year. Down in Ikeja is an Industrial Estate which grows daily and employs more hands thereby. Happily, Mr Speaker, this honourable House now has the opportunity of visiting some of these establishments, which are bound to disillusion those who in the past were fond of attacking the Action Group Government of this Region.

Fourthly, Sir, the NCNC is a party which, while decrying tribalism verbally, makes tribalism its rule of practice. All the important Federal offices of the Party are virtually reserved for one tribal group. When, by accident, it was the turn of Chief J. O. Fadahunsi to lead the Party, these tribalists departed from the Party's Constitution and created a new and impotent office for the poor old man. In the Federal Coalition, after the lion and most lucrative share of appointments had gone to the NPC one should have thought that the "crumbs that fell from the table" would be equitably shared by all NCNC followers no matter where they come from. But what do we find? We find the Western NCNCers totally neglected in the distribution of patronage and offices. Whereas these Western NCNCers contribute as much to the growth of the party as their Eastern counterparts.

Fifthly, Mr Speaker, Sir, the NCNC makes false propanganda the instrument of its policy. The party leaders promise total abolition of taxes which they in private admit to be impracticable. They declared that the Western Government was going to be dissolved by the Federal Government but we have heard the Federal Prime Minister himself confess that the Federal Government has no power to dissolve any Regional Government. As if the electorate have not become disgusted with the party's false propanganda, its leaders now talk of the extension of Lagos boundary. How can a party which does not settle down on any genuine and constructive policy ever rule Nigeria? I say, Mr Speaker, Sir, God

forbid (*amen*). The present set up whereby the NCNC is under the thumb of the NPC in the Federal Coalition Government is bound to be NCNC's highest achievement in the political history of this country. The next Federal Government will, by the grace of God, be formed by the dynamic Action Group Party. (*Government Benches: hear, hear, sure sure*).

Sixthly, Mr Speaker, Sir, the NCNC deceives its followers into taking irresponsible actions only to neglect those followers whenever they find themselves in the grip of the law. It is not considered the duty of the party leaders to render assistance to members in need. Many of the party followers are now in prison either because they were not given legal aid at all or because the party refused to pay fines imposed upon them as alternative to imprisonment. Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no easier road to poverty than to join the NCNC (*hear, hear, shame, shame*). Any wealthy man who joins the NCNC finds himself as poor as a church rat within twelve calendar months.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the vices of the NCNC defy exhaustion and it is better to stop enumerating them at this stage. But I must add, Sir, that, with effect from yesterday, the Illa District Council of which by the Grace of God I am the Chairman, has become an Action Group controlled council. The Illa people are unanimous on this. There is today, by the grace of God, not a single NCNCer in Illa. (*hear, hear*). The Action Group enjoys one hundred per cent support of my people with effect from yesterday. (*hear, hear*). The NCNC should take note of that.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir (*Opposition Benches: Not yet, keep reading your notes*) (*laughter*).

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to emphasise that I am merely resigning from the NCNC as a party. I am not resigning my seat in this honourable House at all. (*laughter*). As a matter of fact, I do not intend to resign my seat in this House until the life of the whole House is constitutionally brought to an end in 1965. I repeat, Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to resign my seat until the life of this honourable House constitutionally ends.

With these few remarks Mr Speaker I beg to join my colleagues opposite. It is my sincere hope that more Opposition Members of this honourable House will shortly see the light and leave the sinking ship of the NCNC for that of the pushful and dynamic Action Group of Nigeria. (*long applause*).

(Mr Akerele was escorted from the Opposition side to the Government side by the Leader of the House and the Government Chief Whip). (Long applause and long shouts of shame, shame).

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1 p.m. if necessary.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 18 (b)

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 18 (b) be suspended this day to enable Government business to take precedence over Private Members' business.

Chief Osuntokun: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Fani-Kayode: I think that the Government is putting the private Members in a very difficult position. If Government is able to bring its Bills, its Motions, everyday of the week and this day is the only day given for private Members' business, I see no reason whatsoever for Government to take upon itself again to deprive private Members the only day of the week set aside for them. But Sir, if the Government and the Members opposite and party members there are willing to assure me and assure the Opposition that later in the day they will come to the floor of this House to offer their condolence to us for the political demise of one of our members we shall have no objection to their using private Members' day for their purpose (*laughter*).

Chief Osuntokun: The Leader of the Opposition has our sympathies (*laughter*).

Mr Fani-Kayode: May his soul rest in peace (*laughter*).

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker Sir, it is our duty to sympathise with those who are bereaved and at the same time we have the right to ask them to rejoice with us when we have cause to rejoice. Our condolences go to the Leader of the Opposition and, Sir, I urge them to rejoice with me for my rank has increased by one (*hear, hear, hear*).

Chief Odebiyi: I want to assure the Leader of Opposition that I only moved it so that we may allow the Attorney-General to have time to make his speech.

Question put and agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Volume VII of the Revised Edition of the Laws of Western Nigeria

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name—
"That this House do now authorise His Excellency, the Governor, in accordance with sub-section (3) of section 10 of the Revised Edition of the Laws Law, 1959, to bring into force by Proclamation that part of the Revised Edition of the Laws of Western Nigeria as is comprised in Volume VII thereof which has now been completed and published".

Mr Speaker, Sir, as Members will remember, a resolution was passed by the House at its sitting on the 23rd November, 1960, authorising His Excellency the Governor to bring into force Volumes I-VI of the Revised Edition of the Laws of this Region which had at that time been completed and published. As a result of that resolution the first six volumes of the Revised Edition were brought into force on the 1st December, 1960, by Proclamation of His Excellency published as W.N.L.N. 400 of 1960.

The present Motion which is brought before the House in accordance with sub-section (3) of section 10 of the Revised Edition of the Laws Law, 1959, is for the purpose of authorising His Excellency to bring the seventh and last volume of the Revised Edition into force by Proclamation. It became necessary to delay the completion of Volume VII when the new Constitutions of the Federation and the Regions which came into force on the 1st October, 1960, had to be substituted for the pre-Independence Constitution of Nigeria which was originally to have appeared in that Volume. As now revised, Volume VII contains Imperial Statutes and Orders in Council which are in force in this Region and subsidiary legislation made thereunder. The volume is divided into five Parts. Part I contains the Nigeria Independence Act, 1960, and the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960; Part II contains Subsidiary legislation made under the pre-Independence Constitution and still in force; Part III contains laws relating to appeals to the

Privy Council; Part IV contains Imperial Statutes and Part V contains Imperial Orders in Council.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

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.

LEGISLATION TO REDUCE RATE OF ROAD ACCIDENTS

Alhaji B. O. Fawehimi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name—

“That in view of the increasing death rate due to motor accidents occurring almost daily in the Federation of Nigeria, a law should be passed by this hon. House approving the automatic revocation of the driving licence of an individual who has twice been convicted in a Court of Law of negligent and reckless driving”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if a Law is enacted it will certainly be a help and big advantage to us all who are forced by circumstances to be travellers from place to place in cars and lorries and I believe that it will earn the unreserved support of this Hon. House and the members of the public, white or black, rich or poor, high and low.

He who has been once unfortunate to see the ghastly scene of a motor accident or who has lost a relative through motor accident will not hesitate to give an unflinching support to this Motion. And again, it will be a creditable initiative on the part of this Regional Government and it will certainly be an assurance to the members of the public that the Government cares very much for their safety and general welfare.

If the law is effective, it will further minimise the frequency of road accidents, many of which are due to a disregard of road signs and lack of consideration for other road users because majority of the drivers in the Federation are illiterates.

Through the drivers' negligent and reckless driving, many school children going about on holidays have lost their lives to the irreparable and perpetual grief of the parents concerned. In Ibadan alone in 1959 (904) and 1960 (974).

Many men and women traders travelling about in the Federation have also been sent to the graves, without any previous sign of sickness, suddenly and untimely.

Most of the drivers have the belief that the worst that the Court could do is to impose a fine or to sentence them to a small term of imprisonment. As soon as an accident occurs and the driver is safe, you find him on the roadside smoking cigarette, no matter how serious the casualties may be.

In January 1956, during the visit of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II to Nigeria, there was a motor accident in a part of Ekiti in which about twenty-three school children lost their lives. These children might have been future Zik, or Awo, but they went to the graves.

I appeal to all Members of the House to support this Motion and when it is passed into law it will be to the benefit of us all, especially we parliamentarians who travel about. Most drivers do not care for human lives. You will remember that when we went on Parliamentary Delegation to Ikeja we saw many examples of reckless driving. Accidents will be minimised when there is legislation.

Last year when I went to Arabia I was surprised to find that throughout our travel I could not see any single motor accident on the way. There were so many cars and lorries and yet no accident. Upon enquiry I was told that if any driver kills a man he would go in for it and it was usually capital punishment. Because of that drivers were always very careful. No single accident was reported in the Arabian Papers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few reasons, I beg to move.

Mr M. A. Fetuga: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second. The Motion is non-controversial, considering the rate of road accidents in this country.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief S. O. Sogbèin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move an amendment—

“That this hon. House recommends to the appropriate Authority the proposal for the award of certificate of distinction to those careful drivers who over a given period of time have neither been involved in accidents not have been convicted of negligent and reckless driving by any court; and similarly, that this House recommends the automatic revocation of licences of such drivers who have been convicted for series of accidents involving loss of lives.”

Mr Speaker Sir, there are good as well as bad drivers. If we want to encourage them we should encourage those of them who are

good as well as bringing those of them who are bad to book. We all travel on roads. There are many lives lost. I think if we begin to give certificates of good driving, we shall have less accidents.

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

Alhaji Fawehimi: Mr Speaker Sir, I approve the amendment.

Amendment proposed.

Mr Popoola: I rise to support the amendment of the legislation to reduce the rate of accidents so ably moved by the hon. the Minister of Works and Transport. In the first place, it is quite evident that it is due, I believe, to give respect to many drivers who are conscientious and painstaking, and in the Motion the Hon. the Minister should not forget to give certificates of credits to those drivers who are conscientious in their work. Many drivers are very careful and they have a number of years of accident-free driving. Most of them have been most kind to passengers and therefore these kind drivers are worthy of commendation. There are some drivers who care little for the lives of the passengers they carry. They also care little for the property they carry whether their own or others'. Some reckless drivers would get drunk, dead drunk, before they start driving and they feel that being drunk they drive best. In addition, there are some drivers who get indulged in other traffic offences like smoking while driving. This is the sort of unscrupulous driver who gives the nation a lot of trouble with motor accidents every now and then. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the amendment.

Mr A. E. E. Atohengbe: Although the Motion is not all that controversial, I like to say that it is ambiguous and far-fetched in that the hon. the Mover has failed to stipulate whether the revocation of the licence is for life or for a period of time. I should like to ask the hon. the Mover to clear this point.

Alhaji Fawehimi: Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the nature of the amendment, I beg to withdraw the motion in favour of the amendment (*Clapping*).

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, he is very lucky to have withdrawn it before I have to make my comments because the original Motion, according to what has been said, is not very clear.

Mr Speaker Sir, I want to make a very brief reference. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: But you will not refer to it again.

Mr Amadasun: Now Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support the amendment which of course was very unintelligently made by the Minister of Works.

Mr Speaker: I beg your pardon.....

Mr Amadasun: I mean the system of it. I don't mean the Minister is unintelligent (*Interruptions*).

Government Bench: It is my opinion Sir, that the hon. Mr Amadasun has challenged the authority of the Speaker.)

Mr Speaker: My ruling is that the hon. Member has not shown any disrespect to me.

Mr Amadasun: The amendment Sir, is a good amendment in that it is confined to the Western Region. It is a fact that many illustrious sons have lost their lives through road accidents, and Mr Speaker Sir, it is not sufficient for the Government to amend the original Motion on the strength that only certificates of honour should be given to good drivers. It should be sufficient that the Government of this Region should have to make arrangements whereby drivers should be efficiently trained for driving their motor lorries. In that way it is necessary for the Government to consider the establishment of a driving school, a school for drivers where drivers will have to be taught the way of driving lorries,.....(*Interruptions*).....
Government Benches: You mean motor driving schools? Now about that Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government must consider other ways whereby the accidents on roads should be lessened. For instance if you travel along Trunk A roads you will see that many of these roads and bridges are very narrow. It is the duty of your Government to impress upon the Federal Government to see that these roads are widened. The same thing applies to Trunk B roads. The roads and the bridges should be widened.

Now in addition to this Sir, it is also the duty of the Government to see that good police officers are placed in charge of traffic control points. Many of these traffic officers are corrupt. If you check on the roads, many of the drivers are illiterates. They don't know road signs. As I was made to understand, it is a rule that

[MR AMADASUN]

before a licence is given to a driver, that driver must be literate. But it is a big shame to the Government of the Western Region.....(*Interruptions*).

(*Government Bench: Clarify your shame*).

It is a shame on the Government of the Action Group. Why is it that you are not first in this? Mr Speaker, Sir this is not a very minor Motion. It is a Motion that has got to be passed because many people in the Western Region have lost their lives. For instance, if the late Adegoke Adelabu were to remain on this side of the House.....

(*Interruptions*). But it was because of road accident. In addition Sir, Mr Asaboro has not been privileged to come to this House. Many of his drivers are reckless.

Now, finally it is true that in Arabia I read something about what the Alhaji has just said. Even in Arabia in a year it is very difficult for a driver to take the life of any pedestrian. The life of that driver must be taken by the Government. Because even the Bible said it. "Whoever shall take the life of anybody....."

(*Interruptions*). Even in Arabia, Sir, if a driver takes the life of a cock, for instance, or a goat, for instance, that driver is to pay (*Government Benches: Cock, Cock*) (*Opposition Benches: Palm Tree, Palm Tree and the Broom!*).

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): That obtains too in some parts of Nigeria.

Mr Amadasun: Just wait! Mr Speaker Sir, in Arabia if the life of any domestic animal is taken—let me omit cock, whenever I make mention of cock they are always shivering—the driver is to pay for that domestic animal. It is a very good government, so that finally the Government of this Region must have to find out how to make it possible for the traffic officers to be much more honest and not to be corrupt in the discharge of their duties.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the amendment.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Mr C. I. Akere): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the amendment. The Government of the Western Region, Mr Speaker, is alive to her responsibilities to road users. The intention of the Western Region Government is to try as much as possible to reduce ghastly accidents on the roads. This Motion sets out the means by which this Government

intends to meet this menace on the roads. One who takes a trip to Lagos finds that before he gets there he comes across a number of ghastly accidents on the roads. One could say all these spring from the recklessness and carelessness of motor drivers.

It is, therefore, the intention of this Government, as much as possible, to devise means by which these drivers should be made to be alive to their responsibilities to road users. If this Government issues certificates of competence to drivers we will find there will be a lot of drivers who would aspire to possess such a certificate. It would therefore encourage them to drive carefully, not to destroy life, and if in the opinion of the authorities responsible for issuing such certificates they consider that a driver for some years has had no ghastly accident, then he gets that certificate of competence.

There are other drivers, Sir, who to the extreme, are very reckless. They care less about other road users and if they are involved in accidents, it is just enough for them to say; "well, we are going to prison and come back to drive", and they continue to possess their licences. If a legislation, Sir, is effected which deprives such drivers the possession of such licences it will, Sir, in some measure, correct the indifferent attitudes of motor drivers to pedestrians and other road users.

The Opposition, Sir, have stated that this Government has not taken steps to combat accidents on the roads. The Opposition, Sir, have failed to tell this House what measures have been adopted in other Regions to combat this danger on the roads. It is the first Government in the Federation to be aware of this responsibility and is taking appropriate steps, therefore, to correct it and to provide some measures. The Opposition, Sir, have exhibited palpable ignorance in assuming that it is the Government of this Region that is responsible for issuing driving licences to drivers. This Government has been accused that illiterate drivers possess licences and that they are allowed to drive vehicles on the roads. That, I must say, Sir, is an exhibition of ignorance (*Opposition Benches: It is the duty of the local councils*). It is the duty of this Government in matters of this nature to take the convenience of the community into consideration, and that is why the Government is proposing ways and means of combating ghastly accidents on the roads, and Mr Speaker, Sir, this is one of the measures which Government intends to bring up.

[MR AKERE]

It is necessary, Sir, that while we would say there is the provision in the law for judges to exercise discretion in the matter of withdrawal of licences from drivers, that discretion has not been automatic and it is the intention that if the judges know, as a matter of fact, that a driver has been involved in a second accident resulting in the loss of lives, that the licence will automatically be withdrawn. That is the intention of this Motion and in the light of this, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr D. E. Okumagba: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to express appreciation of the fact that the Government has at least considered the great number of accidents on our roads with some seriousness, but I am disappointed in the legislation being introduced into this House as the means to battle with this evil.

I consider the law very ineffective. It will not be a very successful attempt to reduce the number of road accidents. I would have liked an announcement in the House that the Government of the Western Region will enter into consultation with the other Governments of the Federation to consider the effective means of reducing road accidents. Here is a law to be passed in the Western Region that will have effect in the Western Region only. If a driver has had his licence seized in the Western Region what prevents him from going to the Eastern Region, to the Northern Region and to Lagos to kill more and more Nigerians on the road?

I have heard from the floor of the House many times when the Leader of the House made reference to cases or matters in which it was necessary for this Government and the other Governments of the Federation to meet to consult so as to find a common solution. I would like a consultation of that type in a matter like this.

I have just considered one aspect why I think that the law will be very ineffective. I take the actual provision in the law as revealed by the Mover of the Amendment. Now he says that certificates should be issued to good drivers who have shown some proficiency for some time and that licences may be withdrawn from drivers who are guilty of fatal accidents. I would not like that provision very much because I know from experience that an accident must occur when it must. The driver can be very careful and he can as well do everything, the road may be very good, the accident must occur when it must. Now, driving is a profession and here is somebody who might

have caused an accident due to no fault of his. What happens? He may not be found guilty because he has not been guilty of that offence as stipulated in the law, yet the licence is to be withdrawn. Now I would like a better provision to be in this form: "If it is found that a driver has caused an accident not due to his fault, he can be warned". While the very fact that he has caused the death of somebody could be a very good deterrent for the future.

I don't like that provision in the law because some allowance should be made to those who may be responsible for the death of others due to no fault of theirs. So, Mr Speaker, I would like the Government to do more than what they have brought to us this morning by consulting the other Governments of the Federation and then think of other ways of stopping these road accidents.

In addition, I would add that in the consultation they should consider ways and means of improving tests for drivers before they are given licences because that is not completely within the competence of the Government of the Western Region.

So I expect the Minister, the hon. Mover of the Amendment, will take these points into consideration and get in touch with the other Governments of the Federation and find out a very effective method to stop these road accidents.

Mr Speaker: I think I have got to remind the Members of the context of this amendment. It is to the effect that:

"This honourable House recommends to the appropriate authority the proposal for the award of certificate of distinction to those careful drivers who, over a given period of time, have neither been involved in accidents nor have been convicted of negligent and reckless driving by any court. And similarly, that this House recommends the automatic revocation of licences of such drivers who have been convicted for serious accidents involving loss of lives"..... (interruptions). I am given to understand that the Amendment has been circulated among Members.

Opposition Benches: No! No!

Mr Speaker: This appears to be a convenient time for a short break.

Sitting suspended at 12.00 noon.

Sitting resumed at 12.50 p.m.

Mr Sogbein: Hon. Members have spoken in favour of this Amendment. Some Members said we should provide a

Driving School. I note the Motion and I would say now that there is already a Driving School in this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

COCOA PRICES

Mr R. O. Areola: I beg to move the Motion standing in my name regarding Cocoa Prices:

"That this honourable House urge the Government of this Region in view of the downward trend in cocoa prices to take immediate steps to establish markets for Nigerian cocoa in Japan, Russia and India."

Mr Speaker, Sir, in submitting this Motion for the consideration and adoption of this honourable House, it is my duty to explain what the aim behind it is.

Recently, we all heard about the fate which befell the Nigerian Cocoa market, and how the Marketing Board, unable to continue to buttress the price of cocoa, had to reduce its prices and pay exactly what the Ghana Government had been paying the Ghanaian farmers for the past five years. This onslaught on cocoa prices has saddened our farmers and created in them a great fear for the future of cocoa prices.

Sir, it is the aim of this Motion to allay the fears of the farmers, make them feel that their well-being and prosperity is the concern of this honourable House, and in place of the present fear, create in them the hope that this House is willing to, and can, by taking judicious steps, arrest the downward trend in prices, prevent a slump in the cocoa market and banish depression from among the farmers.

Sir, it is relevant to point out the *Financial Times* statement which is reproduced in the *Daily Express* of today, lest Members are misled. With your permission, I read:

"SHARP RISE IN COCOA PRICES"

The statement about the rise is as follows: "This figure is about 35,000 tons lower than the market has been expecting but in itself the shortfall will make only a limited inroad into the probable world surplus of cocoa this year, which has earlier been estimated at 207,000 tons."

This sensational topic should arrest the attention of this honourable House.

There are two ways of arresting this trend and they immediately suggest themselves. The one is to create new and more

markets for the Nigerian cocoa outside Nigeria for the consumption of cocoa. The other is to make the Nigerians consume their own cocoa. The latter suggestion is not feasible unless we can set up cocoa manufacturing industries which can adapt our cocoa beans to finished and edible products such as beverages, chocolates and sweets. But Sir, this step will take long to materialise. What the downward trend requires is the urgent and immediate attention of the Government, and Sir, the prompt and immediate action of this ever dynamic Government is to create new and larger markets for the Nigerian cocoa.

Sir, Japan, Russia and India appear to me to be the countries which can serve as the best markets for the Nigerian cocoa from the point of view of the teeming populations of the countries and our political relationship with them. Sir, we can, and should take advantage of our political independence and friendly relationship with the countries mentioned to help our farmers. Having thrown overboard the yoke of imperialism with all its concomitant evils and drawbacks, the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria can now deal directly with the countries mentioned and manipulate, for the advantage of the farmers and the masses, the cocoa trade which was previously handled in such a way as to satisfy the whims and caprices of our imperialist overlords. I believe, Sir, that this is a Motion in which opinion should not be divided if one can judge from the various steps already taken by the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria to help the farmers of the Region and the Opposition's public professions of love and friendship for the farmers of the Region. I am reassured, Sir, by the fact that the Action Group Government is known and recognised all over the Federation as the true—I am tempted to say, Sir—the only true friend of the farmers, the patron of the common man and the helper of the helpless. This contention of mine is supported by the following: The Action Group Government has always striven to make life more abundant for the farmers and the common man. For instance, it has established Regional minimum wages for the unskilled worker, and would have done so for the whole of the Federation but for the members of the Opposition—or rather their counterparts in the Eastern and Federal Legislatures. It has provided comfortable accommodations at low costs for the lower income groups of this Region and, for the sake of this group of people, reduced the burden of taxation.

[MR AREOLA]

To come to the cocoa itself, the Action Group Government has given loans to farmers to maintain their existing farms, or to plant new ones; it has given them high-yielding seeds to improve the quality and yield of their cocoa, provided them with chemicals with which to destroy the pests that are the enemy of the cocoa pods, employed a team of trained agriculturists to go round the farmers and teach them how properly to look after their farms, and above all, Government has set up a body of professional Produce Inspectors to see that the cocoa sold in Western Nigeria is of the best quality, and therefore, of the first grade. This means that the Government of the Western Region has been responsible for the tremendous increase in the output of cocoa in this Region in recent years.

Sir, Western Nigeria cocoa is increasing, and going to increase considerably both in quantity and in quality within the next few years. This increase is due, no doubt, to various steps taken, and introduced by the Action Group Government to help and encourage the farmers.

Sir, since the Government is responsible for the yield and quality of cocoa, I think, the logical corollary to these various actions are to found markets for the consumption of cocoa. In my opinion, Sir, there are no markets better or more suitable than Japan, Russia, and India.

The question may be asked, why is China not included? I do not forget that possibility, Sir, but China is so much wedded to Russia politically and economically that she has become a spoke in the wheel of Russia's political and economic vehicle, and so, Sir, what is sauce for the goose of Russia is also sauce for the gander of China.

Sir, I must not forget to mention one potential danger which now threatens, and will continue to threaten, the Nigeria cocoa from the Western Block. While the output of Nigerian cocoa is increasing by leaps and bounds, the United States of America is leaving no stones unturned to reduce the consumption of the Nigerian cocoa, by finding substitutes and near substitutes. Sir, it may not be a prophecy that takes long to come true if I say that the Americans may eventually abandon our cocoa or reduce their consumption of it to a very small percentage of the present. Sir, if other markets are not created, our friends will lose their most profitable trade and our aim and practice of keeping them prosperous, happy and contented may become a dream.

The Action Group Government is the lover and friend of the farmers, and the Opposition has always professed to be friend and champion of the masses.

But, Sir, I have my misgivings about the professions of love and friendship on the part of the Opposition. For recently, when the Government had to announce the cut in cocoa prices, as the world prices were falling fast and the Marketing Boards' reserves were being depleted, it did so painfully, sympathetically and consolingly. But, Sir, one was stung by the levity with which the Opposition responded to that heart-rending news, that sad occasion. One was astounded by the giggling, yelling and the childish glee with which the news was received by the leading members of the Opposition Benches.

Sir, it will rebound to the credit of this honourable House and to the eternal joy of farmers of this Region if this Motion, which is tabled in the interest and prosperity of the farmers, is allowed to pass and immediate steps taken to explore the possibility of creating cocoa markets in the proposed countries.

Sir, only a party which feels that by starving the farmers of this Region, it can force them to submission and make them vote for it at the next election can oppose this Motion. The farmers of this Region are wiser than that. They cannot be so easily coerced or cajoled into voting for any party which appears to them to be incapable of steering their ship through these stormy seas of economic instability.

To found new markets, Sir, will help not only the farmers to regain their prosperity, but the Government to carry on its laudable economic programmes which it has carried on with the assistance of the Cocoa Marketing Board.

The loans made to farmers cannot be refunded without untold hardships if the farms on which they spend the money cannot bring them sufficient returns to cover their running expenses on the farm. To enable the farmers to refund the loans, the Government must enable them to sell at a profit the products of their farms.

There are certain elementary principles of the price economy which would not have necessitated any explanation on the floor of this honourable House but for the palpable ignorance on economic principles recently exhibited by some leading members of a side of this House. For instance, during the last election, one said that if his party won the election, he would abolish Income Tax. With what system of taxation will he run his government? Another felt

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that if the Marketing Board had dictated the prices of cocoa in the world market, the prices of cocoa could not have been cut. Yet, another felt that this downward trend would affect Western Region alone and jubilated over the fact that his party is in power in a Region where cocoa is not the life blood of the people.

The first erroneous idea was immediately corrected during the election, and I hope, the legislator concerned is now wiser.

The second point, Sir, needs some elucidation. There is, Sir, an economic term known as sympathy of prices—for instance, if the prices of cocoa fall, the farmers of the Western Region who normally buy, say cattle of Northern Nigeria, will have less money from their cocoa, and therefore, reduced purchasing power. They will buy fewer heads of cattle, and the cattle rearer will be compelled to reduce his output of cattle—and so the vicious cycle continues until there is widespread depression and unemployment...*(cheers from Government Benches)*.

In the same way, Sir, the Marketing Board can never dictate the prices and expect the buyers to clear the market. It is the prerogative of the consumer to dictate the prices but his sovereignty becomes loosened over the producer if the latter can extend his market. Hence, Sir, this quest for more markets for our cocoa must be urgent.

This is an opportunity for both sides of this honourable House to demonstrate in clear and unequivocal terms that they are concerned with the lot of the farmers of this Region. This is an opportunity too for the Opposition to prove to the farmers that the love and friendship professed by the Opposition is genuine and real. It is an opportunity, too, to show that the jesting manner in which the Opposition received the news of the fall in cocoa prices was a mistake of the head and not of the heart.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr J. O. Awopeju: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second. And in seconding this good Motion I have to say that before the days of our political emancipation the fate of our market was a one-way traffic. The imperialists decided (i) the prices of cocoa and produce (ii) the market of sale or distribution of this produce and (iii) the prices of the same produce after it has undergone manufacturing processes or metamorphosis. Thus the interplay of the economic law of supply and demand was baulked and manoeuvred

to advance the economic interests of our political overlords. Sir, then we had to submit, though unwillingly, to ruthless machinations and punishment by these imperialists, these economic "juggernauts".

Mr Speaker, Sir, by passing this Motion, we shall be able to higggle and haggle our prices under a firm economic policy and not under a spurious one.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we know that if we were to be left with the opportunity of selling our goods in the markets of our own choice, where our old friends and overlords were able to pay us, say, £120, we might be able, on our own adventure, to get someone who would be willing to pay us about half as much again or even double that price, if not more.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. Adisa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise, not to oppose this Motion, but to point out certain things in the proposals which this Government now, having been deceiving the people of this Region for a long time, has come out with. It is our duty to try and help this House in its difficulties.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have just heard now that the Action Groupers are higgglers and haggglers of prices but I do not know, Sir, on what economic grounds we can support the reduction in cocoa prices in the Western Region. The background and the main purpose of the Marketing Board was that it should stabilise the prices of cocoa and the way it was to do this was that it would pay to farmers less than the market prices.

Mr Speaker, Sir, during the last general election, Members of the Opposition predicted that this Government would reduce the prices of cocoa owing to lack of funds. We said this during the election and now our prophecy has been fulfilled. We are not happy about it, because we are the lovers of the farmers. I hear, also, Mr Speaker, Sir, that some Members of the Government also profess that they are the lovers of the farmers...*(Government Benches: are you the lovers of the farmers?.....don't you know we are the real lovers of the farmers).....* Mr Speaker, Sir, the mere profession of love for the farmers is not enough. What we want is for the Government to pay increased prices for cocoa and we of the Opposition say that, if this Government is not able to do this, it should resign...*(interruptions from the Government Benches and applause from the*

[MR ADISA]

Opposition Benches).....you should resign...
(*laughter continues*).....you should all stand
up there and let us come over there.....
(*Government Benches: You cannot come over
here just like that.....*) (*prolonged cheers and
interruptions both from Government and
Opposition Benches*).....

These people have been making very erroneous mistakes and it is only now that the Government is considering how to find markets for cocoa in other countries. How the Government can do this they do not stop one minute to consider. It is the characteristics of the Action Group to find faults with the Opposition when they are in the wrong. We of the Opposition are not at all happy over the reduction of the prices of cocoa but we know the reason; the Action Group is not a lover of the farmers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I say this because they all know that the Opposition will table a Motion, and we are going to see that this Government institute an enquiry to investigate all those who have been enriching themselves with over £900,000 because of this reduction of cocoa prices. And we say it again that it is not true, nor is it correct, to say that the money which belongs to the farmers has been used to build roads which are not used only by the farmers.

It was said that things in the Western Region are not getting bright. (*Government Benches: Who told you so?*) That is the main implication, the main recommendation, for this Motion. If things are getting bright, then cocoa prices must be increased as the Opposition have suggested on the floor of this House. I think we may recall that in the Eastern Region, when the prices of cocoa in this Region were reduced, the Regional Government stabilised their prices.

(*Government Benches: How many tons?*) We are proud of this record of the NCNC. Although I am a member of the NPC-Mabolaje Grand Alliance. I may say that I am always very near the NCNC and I shall be far from the Action Group. I say again that what we really need is a sort of appeal from the Action Group to the NCNC-NPC to save you from this present predicament and the only way that can be done—as you can see that the question of finding market outside Nigeria is a federal matter—is to prostrate before the almighty powers in the Federal Government.

We are happy now that the leaders of the Action Group have been manifesting the proper spirit and as I said earlier, nobody needs fear that any evil is going to happen.

One thing wrong with the Action Group is this. Everyone of them keeps on shouting "we are happy in the days of independence". We may remind you.....(*Mr Speaker: I am being reminded*). Through you, Mr Speaker, the Action Group need be reminded that in 1958 they spent a colossal sum of money on the so-called Self-Government. At that time, we reminded them that it is mathematically incorrect that a part will be free while the whole is not free and now, three years later, when the whole country is free, they now realise they are breathing the air of independence and they put on the gown of freedom and they come here singing that Nigeria is now free. If it is free now and not in 1958.....(*Interruptions from Government Benches*).

In any case, on the question of cocoa prices they have always been stubborn, they have never been adaptable or amenable to reason. The best they can do is to resign *en bloc*. Give us just a year and I say again that the prices of cocoa will be increased to £142 per ton. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*). (*Government Benches: Not £1,000?*).

I can make it £1,000 because the will is there and the ability is not lacking. I am serious and I do feel that what this House should welcome is an appeal to the Federal Government to ban entirely the importation of beverages, sweets and chocolates so that we could develop straightaway our own resources. It must be done because the prosperity of the inhabitants of the Western Region concerns those of us who know our duty and those who profess to be lovers of farmers. Once this is done, we shall enter into that era which everybody in the country, under the aegis of the NPC-NCNC.....(*Several Government Benches: NPC-NCNC Mabolaje-Bakodaya.....*) has been yearning for.

The farmers must be protected, but they cannot be adequately protected by the Action Group party which is a party purely for rich men; people who are poor who want to be rich will cross carpet.....(*Opposition Members: Shame! shame!*).

Finally, on this Motion Sir, as I have said, the most important thing is to know why the Action Group reduced the prices of cocoa without having spent all the resources of the cocoa Marketing Board when actually the whole doctrine upon which the resources of the Cocoa Marketing Board was built was that the prices of cocoa would be stabilised and the farmers would not be penalised by any sharp reduction of cocoa prices.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker Sir, we have listened with attention to the prophecy "Prophet" Adeoye Adisa. Unfortunately Sir, there are true prophets and false prophets. I think Sir that the verdict of the electorates, even after the prices of cocoa were reduced, is shown at last Saturday's Federal by-election in Egba North Constituency, has indicated the stand of the Action Group Government in the reduction of cocoa prices. Mr Speaker Sir, the propaganda stunt of the NCNC at that campaign was that the Action Group Government of the West, reduced cocoa prices and that if the NCNC candidate was voted for, they would see to it that the Federal Government increased cocoa prices.

It is unfortunate Sir, that a man of the standing of the hon. Member for Ibadan Rural should exhibit such crass ignorance about the law of supply and demand. I should have thought, Sir, that having been privileged to breathe some air of academic freedom at the London School of Economics the hon. Member should have heard the time to sit down and learn some elementary law of supply and demand. (Mr Adisa: I sat over their heads). The hon. Member said he sat over their heads, no wonder he couldn't learn anything.

He had suggested that we cut the price of cocoa because of our squandermania. I think Sir that the whole thing is most logical. The prices of cocoa depend on the consumer countries and secondly on the demand as well as the supply. Efforts have been made by this Government, through the Food and Agricultural Organisation, to stabilise the prices of cocoa. He also said, Sir, that we always say that we have barred this road, that we have provided water, and electricity supply for the farmers and in effect it is not the farmers alone who use them but other members of the community as well enjoy them. I think Sir that at this juncture I should let the hon. Member know that the Western Nigeria Marketing Board shall continue to be the instrument of financial policy of this Government. We are not ashamed to borrow money from the Marketing Board. We are not ashamed to have grants from the Marketing Board. Even the Federal Government borrowed 6.9 million pounds from the Western Nigeria Marketing Board. (Opposition Members: How much did you borrow from the Federal Government?).

Now, the hon. Member asked how much we borrowed from the Federal Government. What we borrowed from them was part of the assets of the old Central Marketing Board.

When the assets of the Central Marketing Board was being distributed, the hon. Member was in the United Kingdom as a student.

He was talking Sir, about the Action Group celebrating Self-Government in 1958. When the Action Group was blazing the trail of constructive nationalism in this country where was the hon. Member? (Mr Adisa: We started it in Lagos before I left for the United Kingdom).

Now, the hon. Member spoke about some people having made money as a result of the reduction of cocoa prices. He said he would come to the House with a Motion that the Government should institute an inquiry. All I can say, Sir, is that we have nothing to hide. None of the Ministers on this side of the House knew beforehand that the price of cocoa was going down. As soon as the price went down we cut down the price to reflect the downward trend in world price of cocoa. (Interruptions from the Opposition)... That was what we have done and we are not ashamed of it. That was done as a result of information got through the Magazine which always publishes the prices of cocoa.

The hon. Member wants this Government to be so paralysed so that they can come out and say "An emergency has arisen in Western Nigeria" with its concomitant consequences. (Opposition Benches: Are you afraid?)

He should tell us how many tons of cocoa the Eastern Region Government produced yearly. The hon. Premier, Sir, did throw a challenge to the Opposition that if they were sincere in their protestation of friendship and love for the farmers what they should do is to get their Government in the Eastern Region to come and buy all the Cocoa produced in Western Nigeria, at prices prevailing elsewhere. Now, Sir we are used to this method of speaking to the gallery as demonstrated by the last speaker and even his predecessor, Alhaji the hon. Adegoke Adelabu did the same thing. May peace be unto him. (Hon. Adisa: And on you too).

The present Leader of the Opposition used the price of cocoa to campaign during the last Regional Election and despite all his campaigns, this party was returned to power with an overwhelming majority. In any event, Sir, I think Sir, that it is a waste of time to try to reply to the vituperations of the last Speaker, who claimed that he is a friend of farmers. (Members of the Opposition: He is! he is!). If it is true that Members of the Opposition including the hon. Member are friends of farmers why did the farmers reject them last Saturday and also in the 1960 Regional Elections? Only last

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

Saturday, Sir, they were rejected by a bigger majority than when they voted before. In any event, Sir, what does an NPC member know about cocoa? The hon. Mallam, Sir, does he know anything about cocoa at all?

In any event, Sir, we are grateful for the points he made that something must be done about consumption of cocoa locally and the hon. Minister of Works and Transport who will be replying on behalf of the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry will cover further grounds which I have not covered.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker: I beg to correct the last Speaker on a certain small point. As Members have got to be referred to by their constituencies, the hon. Adisa is not just "Member for Ibadan Rural", he is a "Member for Ibadan South-East Rural" (*Laughter from both sides of the House*).

Chief Sogbein: I wish to assure the Mover of this Motion and this honourable House that the Government of the Western Region fully sympathises with this Motion in its call for immediate steps to expand the consumption of cocoa products so as to arrest the present downward trend in prices.

The truth about the downward trend of cocoa price is already well known. Currently the world price is between £150 and £160 per ton. As it is already well known, the Marketing Board has to add another £45 to £50 on top of the producer price. This means in effect that with the world price ranging between £150 and £160 per ton and the producer price at £112 per ton, there is scarcely any margin of profit accruing to the Marketing Board. It is, therefore, clearly understandable that the Government of this Region cannot remain complacent in view of these low prevailing prices.

In co-operation with the Federal Government, the Western Region Government is actively negotiating on the International Forum provided by the F.A.O. Cocoa Study Group for measures to improve suitable cocoa prices. Only last February, a strong delegation of this Government joined the Federal delegation to place the facts of our position before the Working Party comprising producers, dealers and manufacturers of cocoa. A further meeting has been convened in Accra when Government representatives of all Nations interested in the cocoa industry will consider the report of the Working Party which met in Rome. It is hoped that plans which have been worked out will be favourably considered. These plans included not only measures to raise and stabilise cocoa prices but also to expand consumption.

Members will be pleased to note that quite apart from the steps which the F.A.O. Cocoa Study Group meeting in Accra next month may decide to take, this Government is giving very active consideration to the need for raising local consumption of cocoa products. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is examining proposals for establishing local processing factories which will make cocoa products available at economical rates. Large quantities of coffee and tea beverages are annually being consumed in the country. While we grow some coffee locally, it is quite true that we do not cultivate tea locally. We are, therefore, examining the possibility of expanding the local consumption of cocoa and coffee beverages and it is my earnest hope that hon. Members will support actively this plan when implemented.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the Western Region Marketing Board and the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board are working more and more closely together. It is proposed that a delegation of the two Marketing Boards should visit Japan and India at an early date in order to stimulate increased cocoa consumption (*Cheers from the Government Bench*).

This Government has fully supported the proposal. Members are probably also aware that a Nigeria-wide Economic Mission will be visiting several countries sometime in May next. Among the objectives of the Mission are the promotion of trade between Nigeria and the countries to be visited and the attraction of overseas investment for the establishment of industries. The Mission will seek to interest the various Governments of the countries to be visited in our export commodities including cocoa in exchange for the consumer goods which are exported to this country.

The above then are some of the plans which are at present in hand to expand the consumption of cocoa beans and so to arrest the downward trend in the present prices. Government has given farmers full assurance that these steps will be taken and it is the intention of the Minister of Trade and Industry as soon as possible, to advise farmers' representatives of what the Government is doing in their interest.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING UNTIL 6 P.M.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 6 p.m. this evening so as to dispose

of the remaining Motions and to allow Members who have not spoken on the Speech from the Throne to do so.

Alhaji Opaleye: I beg to second.

Mr Speaker: I accept the suggestion of the hon. the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House and I therefore rule that we would have a break longer than we had in the morning and therefore adjourn the House until 6 p.m. this evening.

Sitting suspended at 1.50 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 6.15 p.m.

ROAD ACCIDENT

Motion:

"That this honourable House calls on the Commissioner of Police, Western Region, to instruct members of the Police Force to exercise more vigilance in respect of the increasing traffic accidents", *lapsed as Mr Adibi was not in the House.*

TARRING OF THE BENIN-EKEWAN ROAD

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move a Motion standing in my name that this honourable House call upon the Western Region Government to consider urgently the advisability of tarring the Benin-Ekewan Road because of its historical and commercial importance (*hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, this very Motion, as it stands, is highly non-controversial and, consequently, it does not warrant any underhand business in order that the light of it might be taken out. Mr Speaker, Leaders on the other side, year in year out, and day in and day out, have been telling the Members of the Opposition to co-operate with them in order that the wheel in the Governmental machine might work smoothly. But, unfortunately, on sundry occasions we have found out that their promises are always trivial promises of the lip and not of the heart. Therefore, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am going to see today whether this Motion that is highly non-controversial, as I am going to prove from the debate on this very Motion, will in one way or the other, cunningly or uncunningly.....

Mr Speaker: There should be no anticipation in the debate in this honourable House (*loud cheers from the Government side*).

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am from the minority area and always live in

fear. Even the Minority Commission gave testimony to that. Now, Mr Speaker, before I go on it is necessary.....

Mr Speaker: Are you a minority group in this House or outside this House?

Government Benches: Outside and inside this House. (*Laughter*).

Mr Amadasun: This important road situates on the south-west corner of Iyekuselu District, the largest and most populous district in Benin Division (*Chief Odebiyi: Refresh your memory*). On this road are important and commercial towns of Ughoton, Ikpako, Ughineh and Iguohenwen. Benin-Ekewan road is only 23 miles off (*interruptions*). By this I mean—the English there is too difficult for the Members on the other side—what I mean there is that the road is only twenty-three miles long. On it, Sir, there are many many important towns. Because of the existence of these many towns, it is necessary that the Government should consider the advisability of tarring the road.

The town of Ekewan is on the banks of the Ovia River, a river which is as rich in fishes as the Norwegian and the Canadian Rivers.

Chief Odebiyi: Is it deep-sea fishing or shallow fishing?

Mr Amadasun: Don't worry. There is no need taking me into Geography because you are a novice in Geography.

Chief Odebiyi: I can teach you Geography.

Mr Amadasun: You cannot. Come and let us draw the map of the world in two minutes (*laughter from both sides of the House*).

Round the town of Ekewan many loads of fish are carried nearly daily to Benin City both in the dry and in the wet seasons. Many lorry loads of rice.....

Mr J. U. E. Agbaza: Point of order, Sir. The hon Member is reading his speech.

Mr Speaker: Personal statement is quite different from debate. Do continue to refresh your memory (*laughter from both sides of the House*).

Mr Amadasun: Many lorry loads of rice (*Government Member: cocks*) rubber, yams and garri are carried from important towns on the road to Benin City daily (*Government Bencher: No wonder*).

[MR AMADASUN]

In the olden days, Sir, it was along this road the Portuguese brought manufactured goods to Benin City and took away slaves to Portugal and to the tobacco and sugar plantations of America. Commercially, this road has been very important for ages. On 2nd January, 1897 when Captain James R. Philips led an expedition to Benin to discuss with Oba Ovonramwen, the question of the stoppage of slave trade and the introduction of legitimate trade to the Benins, this expedition started from Iwato or Ugboton and went through the towns of Ikpato and Ugbineh to Benin City. It consisted of many Government and commercial officers. There were 230 men in all including Itsekiri crews. At a point, sixteen miles to Benin, Captain Philips and his men were ambushed and only Boisvagon and Lock escaped the massacre, known in history as "Benin Massacre of 1897". At this ill-fated spot there is an epitaph on which the names of the Europeans who fell victims of this massacre are written, namely:

- (a) James R. Philips
- (b) Peter W. C. Copland-Crawford
- (c) Arthur I. Maling
- (d) Kennett C. Campbell
- (e) Robert H. Elliot
- (f) Harris S. Powis
- (g) Thomas Gordon.

These, Mr Speaker, were the Europeans whose names are still vividly written on the tomb sixteen miles to Benin City. If the Speaker were given the opportunity to travel as the Ministers, this road is very very important for you to visit. (*Chief Odebiyi: And then to massacre Mr Speaker*). No, Mr Speaker's life is always protected because he is a very jolly man. (*laughter from both sides of the House*).

The Speaker himself will find out that what I am saying is the truth and that the lives of seven Europeans plus many other Africans were taken on this very road.

Boisvagon and Lock found their way to Iwato after five days painful wandering in the bush. They left for England. Few months after, Oba Ovonramwen, the grandfather of Oba Akenzua II of Benin.....(*Mr Speaker: The hon. Member is refreshing his memory with history*).....was captured by the British soldiers and deported to Calabar where he died in 1914 after sixty years' stay.

During the time of colonial imperialism no attention was paid to the development of this road. The Binis thought then that it was because of the Benin Massacre incident on it that made the colonial officers not to be interested in the Benin-Ekewan Road. But

since the Action Group came to power in the Region in 1952, this road has been left unimproved.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a brief catalogue I have given this honourable House to show commercial and historical importance of the Benin-Ekewan Road. It is a road that should be given the first priority if this Action Group Government wants the blessing of the Benin people, because there is no use tarring other less historical roads and leaving the Benin-Ekewan Road behind.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is against the law of this House to anticipate, and as I have said before, this Motion is non-controversial and if the Members on the other side want us to co-operate with them, this very Motion should receive the unanimous support of the House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr D. Atohengbe: I rise to support the Motion. I have a few words to add to what the hon. the Mover has ably said. It is a fact that this Benin-Ekewan Road may appear strange to most Members of this honourable House, but it will be recalled that the punitive expedition of 1897 went through this road to Benin City. All the same, during the last quarter of the fifteenth century, about say, 1485, a Portugese man Mr Alphonsus John d'Aviero made his first journey through this road to visit the Oba of Benin. Similarly, the Dutch, the Danes, the Prussians and the English all used this road to establish trade in commercial goods with the Benin people.

This, Sir, I like to add, although they have been said by the Mover of the Motion, in order to emphasise the historical and commercial importance of this road. Were it not the punitive expedition mentioned earlier, to which this road has lost its popularity, this very road could have served as one of the Trunk "A" roads joining Oyo and Benin Provinces together via Ondo. Mr Speaker, now that the Western Region, along with the other Regions of Nigeria, has got her Independence, it will be good gesture on the part of this Region to allow this Motion to pass, because "we come to this world but once", as Shakespeare has said, "any good therefore, any kindness we can do let us do it now for we may not pass through this world again". (*Cheers from the Opposition side*).

Question proposed.

Chief Sogbein: I am proposing an amendment to the Motion in the following terms:—

"That this honourable House commends the Western Region Government for its

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enviable records in road development throughout the Region and prays the Government to consider the advisability of tarring, in due course, other roads of historical and commercial importance which have not yet been tarred". (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, throughout the length and breadth of Nigeria the enviable role that the Western Region Government plays on road development is a household talk.

In 1952, there were less than 600 miles of tarred road in the Region. Today we have more than 2,000 miles tarred. The Government came out in full force when in 1959 it embarked on a special road development programme when 700 miles of road were tarred at an average cost of £5,000 totalling £3.5 million apart from the construction of bridges on these roads at a cost of £½ million.

At that time just to mention only a few, the following roads were included in the Midwest Area of the Western Region:—

Auchi-Igarra
 Auchi-Agenebode
 Uromi-Evue
 Ubijaja-Auchi
 Ubijaja-Ughoha
 Ibusa-Asaba
 Umunede-Itolop-Ute Okpu
 Ekuku-Agbor-Owa Allidima
 Ogwashi-Uku to Main Road
 Ughelli-Eku
 Ughelli-Oleh
 Abraka-Kwale
 Kwale-Ughelli
 Agbor-Sapele
 Agbor-Uromi-Auchi
 Benin City-Iguoriakhi
 Benin-Ehor
 Benin-Ogba
 Ologbo-Koko

The total mileage is 362 at £5,000 per mile £1,810,000 equals £1.81 million.

Again Government embarked on another gigantic road-tarring programme in 1960. A glance at pages 173 and 174 of the 1961-62 Draft Estimates just given to Members will show them that another amount of £3.6 million has been earmarked. A new feature will be the construction of Shabomi-Igbotu embankment and the investigation on Sapele Bridge which is earmarked to cost more than £½ million.

As to the hon. Member's plea for tarring Benin-Ekewan Road all I can tell him is that as we have not left any part of the Region out of development, his road will be considered along with others.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Amendment.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji Adegbenro): I beg to second.

Amendment proposed.

Mr P. V. Okwesa: I rise to support the original Motion and to rule out the amendment. There is need for immediate action to be taken in the tarring of the Benin-Ekewan Road. The mover of this Motion has stated in no uncertain terms why this tarring should be immediate. He has told you of the historical and commercial importance of the road. You all know the history of Captain Philip and his men and of the punitive expedition of 1897. This historical fact is enough to make this Government think of tarring this road with the minimum delay. You have all been told of the commercial importance.....

Government Back Bencher: Who have been told?

Mr Okwesa: All of you have been told

Mr Speaker: All Members of the House have not been told. I have been told to the hearing of all.

Mr Okwesa: This is the road along which all the fish and other food-stuffs are carried to every part of the Midwest. From the point of view of commercial importance this road should have been one of the first to be tarred in the Region but the Government left that road untarred either because they don't like the Benin people or because our Chief Whip is from Benin or because they have not thought of its commercial importance before, but they have known now how very important the road is.

If you go to the Yoruba West you will find that very insignificant roads have all been tarred because they were always the first to be considered.....

(*As Mr Odigie entered the House*). Point of information. A Portuguese has just entered the House. (*loud laughter from all sides of the House*).

Chief Odebiyi: Most unparliamentary Sir.

Mr Speaker: Stand down. It shall be out of order if you use insulting language at the House. I request that you withdraw what he has said.

Mr Okwesa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I withdraw. (*Shame, shame.*)

I have pointed out the significance of this road and I have also pointed out that less important roads in the Yoruba West have all been tarred. I have also pointed out the historical and commercial importance of this road which has been left out without any consideration from the Government and the Minister of Works and Transport.

Chief Sogbein: Point of information. May I know which is the more important road; Abraka-Kwale or Benin-Ekewan Road?

Mr Okwesa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I require notice of the question but in the meantime I should say they are both important. There is no need to prolong this debate, the importance of the road is well-known and it is an error of omission on the part of the Minister of Works and Transport to have left out this road. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the original Motion.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the amendment and oppose the original Motion on the subject matter of the historical significance attached to it. The hon. Member for Benin has laid stress on the historical importance of the road but unfortunately the incident that made it historical was most unfortunate and it is not an incident that we would naturally like to remember from day to day.

Now in the year 1936 the President of France was to pay a State Visit to Great Britain but His Majesty The King arranged that the route of the Procession should not pass through Trafalgar Square so that his passage there should not revive old memories and bitterness of old. The President of France was not allowed to take the route which would take him through Trafalgar Square so that he would not see the Statue of Lord Nelson who vanquished France (*applause*).

In 1947, after India's independence, the first thing they did was to remove the statues and objects from public view that might revive the memories of bitterness and hostility between Great Britain and India.

Nobody would like to go back to things which revive bitterness and hostility. We would like to forget particularly now that we are independent all those incidents which will affect the mutual affection between us and Great Britain although we would appeal to the Government that the road be not forgotten but should take its due turn in course of development.

Mr W. E. Aghahowa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am supporting the original Motion. When the Minority Commission came to Benin it was reported that this Government should tar more roads in the Midwest than many other parts of the Region. Since that report was published I do not think this Government has tarred any road in the Midwest. (*No, no, no.*)

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member says that he does not think that it is so. He could be told.

Mr Aghahowa: All that we are asking the Government for is the tarring of only twenty-three miles of road. This has been clearly emphasised by the various speakers and we are saying that this Government has been oppressing us in the Midwest. The Government is again bringing up this sign of oppression. We have put up a claim for the tarring of this road in the interest of the people of the Midwest. It might be a forerunner of greater events. Some Members have mentioned instances that had happened in Great Britain but we are in Nigeria (*hear, hear*) because India achieved its independence with bloodshed and sweat. We got our own independence in a very amicable and constitutional way. So Mr Speaker, please help. The time has now come that this Government should change their minds about the affairs of the Midwest. You deny us all things. Our only economic crop—rubber—is today now relegated to the background while you boost your cocoa.

Mr Speaker: Rubber is not connected with this subject. If Members speak on matters which are not relevant to the subject before this House I shall not hesitate to rule them out of order.

Mr Aghahowa: I support the original motion.

Mr R. A. Lana: I rise to support the comprehensive amendment as proposed by the honourable the Minister of Works and Transport (*hear, hear*). I believe that the Mover of the original Motion had some motives in his mind when bringing that Motion before this House. It appears not only selfish but also ungrateful to the Government of this Region which has done so much on road tarring in this Region within such a short time. He has failed to see that this Government has done so much for the Midwest and the way he speaks appears ungrateful to those of us who have not been used to as many roads as are tarred in the Midwest. The amendment

R LANA]

the other hand does not only commend the efforts of the Government but also gives the indication of the intention of the Government to pursue the scheme of road improvements in more speedy and steady rate.

Some hon. Members on the opposite side are trying to refer to roads in the Yoruba area as being tarred. But may I mention that in my district we have over 70 miles of roads. Eight out of these seventy have been tarred and indication on the tarring for the next eight miles has been shown. As the Government is trying to improve the condition of our roads I am sure that within a short time the balance of 54 miles will be tarred. May I mention that these 54 miles I have just mentioned are of no less importance than those mentioned by the Mover of the original Motion (*hear, hear*). They are neither more historical than our own roads. The Members of the Opposition should remember from time to time that the Members on this side of the House are not unmindful of their requirements. It is not my intention to say that certain areas have been neglected. In the face of these few remarks Mr Speaker, I beg to support the amendment as proposed by the Minister of Works.

Mr Speaker: I will like to call the attention of the House to Order 25, rule 2. It says that if an Amendment has been proposed to a Question, the original Motion cannot be withdrawn until the Amendment has been disposed of. In any case it is the Amendment that we are dealing with now. Some Members have stood up and wound up their Debates by saying that they supported the original Motion. I think the best thing to do in that case is to oppose the Amendment. If their opposition carries through then their original Motion carries. If not the Amendment carries.

Mr M. A. Idodo: I rise to support the amendment and to ask the original Mover of the Motion to think well before bringing any Motion before this House. They should be grateful to the Government for doing all these things that have been done for the people of the Midwest. If we go through the Estimates we shall see what plans the Government have in stock in the matter of tarring of roads in the Midwest especially in Benin Division. The Benin-Ighoriakhi road is in Benin City. Benin-Ehor road is in Benin City. These roads are more historical. Agenebode road is in Benin City and it is in the Estimates for tarring this year. Another one is Igarra/Auchi road. This is in the

Midwest. Ask this man to come down and congratulate the Minister of Works for the noble deeds. No need wasting the time. Let us thank this Government for its kind deeds Mr Speaker.

Mr Utomi: I did not want to speak on the Motion (*then sit down*) but I just want to touch upon the history referred to by the ex-Professor of Zoology (*laughter*). He did not mention that at the time of Waterloo and Edward VII things happened contrary to what he said. He did not say that the statutes of past Governors were erected in India. People who have read the history of India should think that it will be good to do the same thing here. I oppose the Amendment. For a long time we have been fighting this Government to see that they improve the lot of the people of the Midwest. This very road in question is a commercial road. The Minister has explained off the matter by saying that at the time when road tarring programmes are considered this will come up. Even our ex-Professor of Zoology said that too. In view of these Sir, I oppose the Amendment.

Mr B. E. O. Osagie: I seize this opportunity to praise the West Regional Government for tarring the Benin roads. The road is so important.....

Mr Amadasun: On point of Order. The matter to be discussed should be relevant to the point under debate. His debate is not relevant to the Amendment Sir (*laughter*).

Mr Speaker: I thank the hon. Member for reminding me. What is being discussed in the debate is not relevant to the subject matter of the Motion and indeed the Amendment but I believe that what is being said is quite relevant (*hear, hear*).

Mr Osagie: These roads are commercial. The same roads connect Benin via Iforadi and this is a commercial road for rubber and cocoa transportation. African Timber and Plywood Company, the largest timber manufacturer in Benin, export their timber through Benin. Apart from this I do not think there is any other more important road in Benin Division. I praise the efforts of the Government for doing all it has done for the people of the Midwest.

Chief Sogbein: Mr Speaker, Sir, I expected the Opposition would have kept quiet and silent especially after my Amendment because as I said the Government was playing a very enviable role in road development. You will see that in the whole of

[CHIEF SOGBEIN]

Nigeria we are second to none. I do not think that the Mover of this Motion will forget that his Chief, Chief Okotie-Eboh, will be annoyed at all he has said this evening that Benin roads are more important than Sapele and Warri roads. I am satisfied with the role this Government is playing in this matter and I am sure that the Government is conversant with the whole of this Region. We need not be told these things. I hope the mover of the original Motion will praise the Government instead.

As the hon. Member for Aboh will agree, I know that the Abraka-Kwale road, which for over half of the year would be cut off from the rest of the Region, has now been improved. People from that area, who know better, should be praising the Western Region Government for tarring that road. People who know better can tell.

Regarding the commercial importance of the road in question in Aboh Division of which the hon. Member opposite spoke, I do not know of any road that is not commercially important in this Region. In fact, if a road is not used in the transportation of food crops, or cash crops, it is used in carrying cocoa, rubber, or palm oil. I think the hon. Member is only trying to be difficult.

Also, one hon. Member opposite alleged that the Amendment moved by me referred to one road as being more important historically or commercially than the other. I did not say so. In fact, the text of the Amendment says that the Government is considering the advisability of constructing and tarring of other roads of historical and commercial importance.

Finally, one Member opposite said that the minority area is neglected in road tarring programme. I am sorry to say that the hon. Member is either new in this honourable House, or that he does not travel wide in the Midwest area. In fact, I do affirm that out of a total fund of £3.5 million for road development programme for the whole of the Region, £1.8 million was spent on the Midwest area. If he wants more facts and figures on this issue, he could call at my office. I would say, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Government does not neglect that part of the Region. I rather recommend to this honourable House to commend the Western Nigeria Government for its great efforts in the road development of the Western Region.

Amendment put and agreed to.

COMMENDATION OF GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES IN WESTERN NIGERIA

Mr D. A. Popoola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name that this honourable House congratulate the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria for commendable services, particularly for the gigantic projects successfully undertaken in health, education, social and economic spheres throughout the Region since the attainment of power in 1952, and for the progressive schemes envisaged for the future welfare of this Region.

It is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to commend the selfless and unbroken services rendered by this Government to the masses of the people since it came into power in 1952. I have also to commend the electorate for placing their implicit confidence in such a Government that has so ably led it democratically to true nationhood in the foremost position among all the other Governments of the Federation of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in praising and commending the services successfully undertaken by the Government of Western Nigeria, I shall discuss them under the following headings:—

Health Services.—It is known to everyone that health is wealth. The Western Nigeria Government has established a first-class general hospital in each Division throughout the Region which caters for the health needs of the people. Not only that, in this Region, a second-class general hospital has been established. Besides, dispensaries and maternity centres have also been built throughout the Western Region in large towns as well as villages and hamlets where medical attention is adequately given to the inhabitants. Competent doctors staff these medical centres which give attention to hundreds of needy people, to say the least of efficient junior staff as well. In view of this, this honourable House will see with me the need to commend considerably the efforts of the Government in this direction.

It is also notable that free medical treatment is available to all children up to the age of fifteen. This is of great economic assistance to all parents and guardians throughout the Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the parents and guardians have been helped economically by the Western Region Government because, instead of making use of their money for the medical treatment of their children they have been able to make use of that money for other

[MR POPOOLA]

purposes. And therefore, Sir, this is a great help for the people of Western Region and for this, Sir, the Government deserves the commendation of this House.

Again, Sir, I go to educational advancement. In the first place, before the education of any country or any Region for that matter can be firmly established, teachers must be trained and such teachers must be able to handle the education of their country. I commend the efforts of the Western Region Government because so many Grades II and III Teacher Training Institutions have been established in the Western Region to see to the training of teachers.

Then comes the question of graduate teachers. They constitute the foundation of education in any country. In this Region we are lacking in the employment and training of these graduate teachers. In addition, Mr Speaker, Sir, scholarship schemes have been established throughout this Region and I dare say that men are sent either to be trained locally or overseas and when they all return, they will help this Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, I pray for more continuity of the educational system of this Region. (*cheers from Government Benches and interruptions from Members of the Opposition*).....from Primary Education with Modern School Education and Secondary Grammar School Education.

In the third place, the University of Ife will be established within a few months. Therefore, I commend the efforts of the Action Group Government of the Western Region in the field of education.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, Sir, I proceed to social development. The opening of the Liberty Stadium, Ibadan, was a big achievement for the Western Region Government in the field of sports. On the day of this opening the hon. Chief Obafemi Awolowo..... (*cheers from the Government Benches*).....said that as many other stadia as possible would be opened in the Western Region... (*cheers from Government Benches*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the W.N.B.S. is another exhibition of the Western Region Government's achievement. This is a good medium for giving information to the Region. And then comes the Western Region Radiovision Service. With this service, everybody is able to relax and watch through the medium of the Radiovision Service. Both of them are very good sources of information as well as education for all our people and as well to the children who attend our schools—either primary, secondary modern or secondary grammar schools.

Also Mr Speaker, Sir, I go to economic development. Just recently, Sir, Sir Aderemi, the Governor of Western Region, officially opened the new buildings of the School of Agriculture and the new buildings of the Research Headquarters at Moor Plantation. To further develop this Region, an agricultural farm has been opened at Oyo, the Apoje Farm Project at Ijebu-Igbo, the Agege Dairy, the various farm institutes and farm settlements and many other development projects in the Midwest areas of this Region, have been established. All these, Sir, is to stabilise the economy of the Western Region, which is mainly agricultural. There are other economic projects by way of industrialising the Region and in this group we have such projects as the Western Region Housing Corporation Estates at Bodija and Ikeja both of which will help to improve the standard of living of our people; we have the Ewekoro Cement Factory, the Aluminium industry, the industrial estates and so many others.

Mr Speaker, Sir, having mentioned these various valuable achievements of the Action Group Government of the Western Region of Nigeria, as enumerated above, I have no doubt that this House, this honourable House, will agree with me wholeheartedly that this Government is worthy of the commendation of this House. May the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria live to continue these good services, and also to see to the progressive projects envisaged for the future welfare of this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr L. A. Olukoju: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion that this hon. House congratulate the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria for commendable services, particularly for the gigantic projects successfully undertaken in health, education, social and economic spheres throughout the Region since the attainment of power in 1952, and for the progressive schemes envisaged for the future welfare of this Region. The Mover of the Motion has ably said everything but I wish to take some aspects of the Motion in detail.

To begin with, Sir, we have to commend the Government of this Region on the Free Primary Education Scheme. I know that there are some Members on the other side of this House who will say that it is a common saying to mention it. I will tell them that it is the result of careful planning which is thriving very well today. Why it is very important is that the other Government of the Eastern Region of Nigeria, controlled by the NCNC imitated this particular

[MR OLUKOJU]

scheme and failed. They tried this and failed but this Government pursued this and it is thriving well, then this Government deserves some commendation from this honourable House.

The result of the first batch of the Free Primary School leavers of last year indicate that the system has worked very well and is good enough for the whole of the Federation of Nigeria.

Another point which is a credit to the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria, Sir, is the Secondary Modern School system, which the Governments of the Northern Region and Eastern Region will soon imitate and I am sure that if they do so, they will be bringing progress to this country. The products of these schools will find jobs in the teaching fields; they are going to be trained as clerical assistants in the civil service; they will take appointments in the farm settlements and farm institutes. If this Government had not established this type of education which qualifies these young men and women for jobs in the various industrial and development projects in the Region—if they had not been given such opportunities—they should be creating unemployment in this Region, in fact, in this country. And for this Government to have had such foresight deserves the commendation of this House. In my mind, Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government deserves the commendation of this House. I recommend that the new establishment, the farm settlement, is a very important thing to be noted, because I believe that Nigeria is an agricultural country in the main, and Western Region in particular, and that this Government sees it right to introduce such a system to train our young generation to handle that heritage in improved farming and so make their life better is something for which this Government richly deserves the commendation of this House. This Government has had a very good foresight in establishing the farm settlements.

I go a little further, Sir, to say that this Action Group Government of Western Region deserves commendation in another field of importance, for creating a welfare state for Western Region in the Federation of Nigeria. Mention has already been made of the free medical treatment; it is also to be noted that in the Western Region of Nigeria, in every Division a hospital has been built. It does not mean that there is only one hospital. In some cases, there are many. In some Divisions we have some hospitals run by missionaries and yet aided by this

Government. I would say that the Government is very liberal and that they believe in the welfare of the people. Even in the creeks where land is difficult to get for the building of hospitals the Government still thinks fit to have floating hospitals and dispensaries. All this is the result of foresight.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to go still further. The Schools of this Region are in no way comparable with those of the other Regions, and this will be seen from the results of the last year's School Certificate examination. There is no doubt, therefore, Sir, that when the University of Ife starts, the Western Region will be given an opportunity of University education which will be second to none. The youths of this Region will be given opportunity to improve their education and then come back to serve this Region to greater prosperity.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if I should mention every aspect of the Welfare State, it will take us some time, but all the same, I must mention water supply, electricity, road tarring, agriculture and some other developments pursued with vigour and one can say that the people of Western Nigeria are really living in a Welfare State.

Mr Speaker, Sir, to mention one more, the television, like the radio or the dailies, as a means of information and education, is one of those things which should be commended on this Government. It is true that we often hear "Western Nigeria Television—First in Africa". I think that only is sufficient to make us happy that this Western Nigeria, under the Action Group, is always the leader for other nations or countries. It is true they say that that of the Eastern Region is "second to none". I want to make a point here that you cannot break a record if somebody does not set the pace. If the Action Group does not introduce the television, it will be impossible for the NCNC in the East to establish one, and therefore the establishment of that one in the Western Nigeria which is "First in Africa" has caused the NCNC Government to fulfil their promise and to say that of the Eastern Region is "second to none". That is not impressive because somebody who does something first should claim the credit.

I say, Sir, without any fear of contradiction, that this Government under the Action Group needs high commendation.

I beg to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Mr S. A. Layonu: Mr Speaker, Sir, rise to oppose this Motion. The government of the Action Group is just like a burgled house from where properties of the landlord were removed. (*Laughter from both sides of the House*).

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman kindly repeat that for the information of members?

Mr Layonu: Mr Speaker Sir, it is a common saying that an opportunity once lost cannot be regained. It is always very difficult to regain such an opportunity.

In 1952, we all know that the Action Group stole the Government from the NCNC. (*Several Government Benches: Where were you then?*) In 1952, the NCNC won the majority but due to the fact that some people sold their conscience and crossed over to the Action Group, the Action Group party had the opportunity at that time to steal the Government from the NCNC. Since 1952 Sir, it has been very difficult for the NCNC to win due to all sorts of practices of the Action Group. During the elections, the Action Group will adopt fraudulent means, victimisation, and so on. That is the reason why it has been difficult for the NCNC to take over the Government from the Action Group since that time so that I am always very surprised to hear Members of the other side referring to the electorates each time they speak, more especially the Leader of the House. Every time he gets up to speak, he will mention the electorates. The electorates of the Western Region have lost confidence in these people. (*Laughter from both sides of the House*).

Mr Speaker, the motive behind this Motion is to ridicule the Government. I am sure that all the people in the Action Group today are not happy. The Action Group has a tribalistic tendency. It always advocates "life more abundant" for the selected few on top. I am very much surprised that a Motion of this nature should come to this House because the Action Group is having a black record; even when a Motion was brought to this House for a Royal Commission on the activities of the Government of the Western Region by the late Alhaji Adegoke Adelabu (*laughter from both sides*). Why was the motion not passed if the Government had nothing to hide? That shows purely that the Government has something to hide and it has a black record. The Action Group can never be clear in its ways. They always win all elections, either parliamentary or local by fraud, gerrymandering and depriva-

tion. The Action Groupers today are not free. They have no free movement. (*Several Government Benches: You are misinformed*). You don't want Members of the Opposition to refer to your characteristics. Your characteristics are oppression, victimisation..... (*Several Government Benches: Suppression, repression.....*). I will say it at the time you will hear me.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Members who have deprived me of the privilege of hearing what the hon. Gentleman has said please listen when he repeats.

Mr Layonu: I said the characteristics of the Action Group which Members of the Government side don't always like us to refer to are, oppression, victimisation, suppression, intimidation and deprivation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is always very difficult to understand how such a party like the Action Group can ever be taken seriously with its inconsistencies. The Motion should be rejected on the following grounds:—

(1) The Action Group does not enjoy farmers' confidence. They have drastically reduced the price of cocoa, even this, according to Governor's Speech, have made farmers to lose their prosperity. (*Government Benches: Who told you?*) It is in page 5 of the Governor's Speech) The Governor said the prosperity of the farmers has been lost due to cocoa price changes.

(2) The Government has concentrated its development programme, and its development projects and social welfare to only limited already-developed areas.

The Mover of the Motion has indicted himself when he was referring to the development project of the Government. He referred to Ewekoro, Ikeja, Ibadan. He has forgotten to refer to Ijebu or to Oyo, his constituency, or Oshun, the Division of the Premier. The Action Group has neglected under-developed areas completely, not only areas which do not support the Government, even areas from where the back benchers of the Action Group come from. During the Action Group regime, many people have experienced hostile action through Action Group seeking to ignore the legitimate interest of the people.

Mr Speaker: I can hear somebody saying that the honourable Member is reading from his notes. I allow him to continue. (*Laughter from both sides*).

Mr Layonu: Mr Speaker Sir, when you refer to electricity and water supply at Ede, I must seize this opportunity to say that water supply and electricity in Ede are not the achievements of this Government. They are the achievement of the old Legislative Council in its Ten-Year Development Plan. It is a gross mistake to refer to that. You cannot point to any achievement of the Action Group Government in my constituency. It will be gross political dishonesty for somebody from Oshun Division to support this Motion. I would request the Mover of this Motion to withdraw it.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, having listened to the Member for Ede-Ejigbo South, one feels constrained to make a reply so that the people who do not know the facts may not go away with the impression that he has spoken the truth.

The hon. Member, Sir, started by saying that as a result of the activities of the Action Group Party members of the NCNC have been made very unhappy. Mr Speaker, Sir, I agree entirely with the hon. Member. The reason being that even here tonight when Members of the Legislature are supposed to be on their seats to make contribution to the debate for which they are adequately paid and also including the Leader of the Opposition, they are now at Illa mourning over their loss this morning (*Interruptions.....*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, Members of this House are paid £840 salary plus £140 for car maintenance as well as 1s per mile. Where are the Members of the front bench of the Opposition? Where are the 42 members on the other side? (*Government benches: Now thirty-eight or forty members*). They are not on their seats because the interest of their party outside the Legislature is more important than the job which they are paid to perform on the floor of this House.

The hon. Member also spoke about oppression and victimisation. If it is true that the Action Group Government oppresses and deprives people of their liberty and movement, the hon. Member would not continue to be in the U.A.C. where he is working at the moment. (*Interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, I am told Sir, that he is no longer there. I do not need to tell Members why he is no longer there. We can understand, Sir, that where a man gives very good service, where he gives very honest service, and is making money he will still be in that service, even his employers of course, will ask him to stay. (*Interruptions.....*).

The Member said that it was as a result of the ten-year development plan that water supply was given to Ede and Oshogbo. For all I know Sir, when Chief Obafemi Awolowo was the Premier of this Region and waterworks in Oshogbo were being constructed, it was a result of the request made to him that Ede and Oshogbo were given preferential treatment in the matter of the repayment of the loan given for water construction and the amount of money involved was half a million pounds and the money came from the purse of this Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in any event, I think that the people we ought to beg are the electorates who keep on changing Members of the other side. I think that if people discharge their duties honestly and they continue to be Members of this House for any length of time they would not have a short memory. When the hon. Member was speaking he said that there are no amenities in Oshun Division. Only recently the hon. Premier of this Region opened formally the Farm Settlement at Ogbomoso, not only that Sir, an Industrial Estate is also proposed for Oshogbo. Now at Ede, there is the only Government Girls' Secondary School in the whole Region. Not only that, Sir, all the towns and villages in Oshun Division are provided with rediffusion service and all these were due to the activities of the Action Group members in the area. I think Sir, that there is hardly any village or town which has not got some road tarred in Oshun Division.

What happens, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that some members get elected in Ede/Ejigbo and live in Lagos. They only come home on Saturdays when they hear something about the Action Group.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member ought to know that certain things are taken into consideration before the establishment of Industries. When it was learnt that the Ewekoro Cement Factory is going to be sited in Egbado Division, I was very happy. But when the experts arrived they had to choose a site very near the Railway Station where the transportation of their products would be quicker and cost less.

The hon. Member said that we bought Members after the election in 1952. Surely Sir, if that is correct there must be something wrong with the Members opposite. In 1956 when we had a direct election in this Region, the Action Group was returned to power. In 1960 we had another Regional

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ion and the Action Group was returned power with greater majority.....(*cheers the Government Benches*).

Speaker, Sir, only last Saturday, the Members of the Opposition and their campaigned about the reduction in the of cocoa to farmers in Egba Division, Action Group trounced the NCNC, as as its allies the Mabolaje/NPC Grand

nce.
that people from overseas have always about the Western Region Government at it is a Government which has put welfare of the people foremost in their s.

r Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the on.

ie Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs J. O. Omitowoju: Mr Speaker, Sir supporting this Motion, I have to state the people of Ife are particularly happy t the siting of the University to be by the Western Nigerian Government le-Ife. We thank the Government for historical gesture and the people of o Province for their magnanimity in orting this decision.

lot of gigantic projects have been carried in different parts of the Region. As Ife, the original home of the people his Region and other lands extending to s of Northern Nigeria and Ghana, it is the on Group Government of Western eria that has thought it fit to honour this orical town with a seat of learning that l be second to none in Africa and rank ng the best in the world.

n the past Ife was famous for its museum. future is now bright for her advancement it will be one of the important University ns of the world.

here is a gigantic water scheme going on in and a new hospital that befits this ancient n is under construction.

urely the Government which has done these things deserves all praise and gratulations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion.

Mr K. O. Owonikoko: Mr Speaker, I am opposing this Motion. I rise to cate that if anybody reads this Motion y carefully he will be struck by one , that is, the idea of fishing for compli- ts where compliments are not really ssary. The Mover of this Motion o hails from Oyo shamelessly moved this tion when really since 1952 the Action

Group has executed their power to exile the late Alafin (*Opposition Benches: Shame, shame*). It was in this very Division that the Action Group has caused the greatest mischiefs, by causing a great.....(*interruptions*) by causing a great disturbance whereby many souls were lost and many were hanged.

I had expected the Mover of this Motion to condemn this Action Group Government of the West particularly for discrimination in the distribution of amenities, legislation of the infamous Chiefs Law of 1957, the deposition of Chiefs and perpetration of acts of oppression.....(*Government Benches: Suppression, depression*).....against, and victimisation of the members of the NCNC in this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I come to the other point which is the most important. This point concerns the overall development of this Western Region, which is very often advertised in the papers and often in this House, that is the question of industrialisa- tion.

Most of these industrial projects were concentrated in Ikeja Division (*Government Member: And therefore what?*). These projects on this aforesaid site could have been better sited all over the Region to combat the unemployment now pressing in the Region. Regrettably, due to the Action Group shortsightedness these projects were concentrated on this very site. Really everybody is aware that this very site is on a certain land of the Western Region which will be affected because of the implementation of Federal extension which is almost ready (*Loud applause from the Opposition side*). When the Action Group Party recently expressed their grave concern about this extension they said that it may likely cause a great disunity in their Party and in the country, as a whole.

We of the NCNC believe perfectly well that the NCNC will not only make the Federal capital worthy of "One Nigeria" capital, but it will afford the Oba of Lagos the privilege of being linked with his neighbours (*hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is the characteristic of the Action Group Party to deny amenities to the towns and constituencies belonging to the NCNC. For instance, my own constitu- ency. This Government since its inception about nine years ago does not consider it fit to provide any amenities like hospital, water supply and other industrial projects, for the only reason that this town believes in the NCNC. Obviously, the Action Group minority within my constituency are the sufferers because the hon. Premier and his

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colleagues cannot afford to accommodate all these Action Group minority in my constituency to come to their own towns where these amenities have been concentrated, and therefore all those minority Action Group members in my constituency become doubly unhappy because in the lifetime of the Action Group the amenities enjoyed by the Action Group are not extended to them.

If one reads the Motion which is presented to commend this Government, one would be struck again by the infamously manufactured Chiefs Law of Western Region whereby a dog can be recognised as a Chief and becomes unchallengeable (*Opposition Benches: Shame, shame*).

For instance, Sir, on 27th February, 1961 in my constituency.....(*interruptions*) (*Chief Akintola: You call His Highness a dog?*)..... on 27th February, 1961 my constituency was nearly turned into a second Katanga when some Nigerian Police arrived in my town without any just cause. What happened? This police contingent were accompanied by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (*Opposition Benches: For what?*). All of a sudden on the 4th of this month it was announced on the Radio that one Raji Adebola was recognised as the Chief of Iseyin.

If the Government of this Region..... (*Government Benches: His Highness, the Aseyin of Iseyin*).

Chief Osuntokun: When referring to an Oba of the rank of the Aseyin of Iseyin it is only proper, in the Yoruba custom, to use the word "Kabiyesi". (*Opposition Benches: What Order?*).

Mr Owonikoko: Mr Speaker, Sir, as a Yoruba born.....

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Member refers to a Chief in Iseyin. I wonder if he means a Chief or the Aseyin of Iseyin in order to clarify the whole situation.

Mr Owonikoko: Mr Speaker, Sir, on the 4th of this month Mr Raji Adebola was recognised as His Highness, the Aseyin of Iseyin. (*Government Benches: That is right, Kabiyesi*)..... This Government when claiming perfection of good government, not only in this world even in Heaven, should advance a detachment of policemen into my constituency. If the Government knows really that they are doing the wishes of the people and the King-makers of Iseyin, why is it necessary to instal the Chief in my town with police support?

I want this Government, Sir, to indicate any such or similar incident in Eastern Region where the NCNC is in power.

(*Government Benches: There are no Chiefs*)... (*interruptions*). Mr Speaker, these are the characteristics of the Action Group in the Western Region yet they claim to be perfect.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that I am here today. I can remember about a week or two ago the hon. Premier from the same Oyo Province, came to my town and informed my people that they have voted for an NCNC who is not acceptable to the House of Assembly when, in fact, I have been allowed today to speak in this House.

Chief Akintola: Certain statements were attributed to me, but the hon. Member did not speak in a way that I understood. Otherwise I have reason to contradict what he had said. He said the Member for Iseyin was not acceptable to the House of Assembly. My grammar is too comprehensive for him to understand (*loud applause from Government Benches*).

Mr Owonikoko: Mr Speaker, Sir, I observe that the Members on the other side would not let me speak as they often interrupt me.

Mr Speaker, as often said by the Minister of Finance, I have a certain friend. He is nick-named Ojo. Whenever we call him Ojo he declined to bear the name, and I told him that, unless he refrained from his waywardness, we shall continue to call him Ojo. Until the Action Group Government of the West and their people on the local level.....

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, Ojo is a sacred name in this part of the world. Apart from anything else, Ojo is one of the sacred names in Ibadan, and apart from that, it is the name of the Chairman of the Public Service Commission of Western Nigeria. I think you had better realise that and don't drag that sacred name into the mud.

Mr Speaker: I hope the hon. Member has not imputed that the name refers to the Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

Mr Owonikoko: I am not referring to a member of a certain board mentioned by the Premier.

If the Government of this Region should refrain from oppression, suppression, victimisation (*Government Benches: All the "sions"*)... ..(*interruptions*)..... it will have the support of all the people we represent in this House. It is always very interesting to hear the speech of the hon. Premier in which he promised to do all

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that was necessary to Members of the Opposition in here and out but the local Members of the District Councils regard Action Group as god and NCNC as felony.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the perfection the Action Group claims I suggest that Local Government Police should be handed over to the Inspector-General of Police because the local government police are being used by some Councils as the local army of the Action Group, and use them as tools of oppression and victimisation. If Action Group Government want to claim perfection they should get proper uniform for the local government police so that they could be like their counterparts in the Nigeria Police Force, and by so doing they will not be used by local councils and secret societies to oppress the people as they are now doing. I think this is the proper time for this Action Group Government to show that the local government police belong to everybody irrespective of whether he is Action Group or NCNC.

I do not consider that this Action Group Government of this Region deserves any commendation in this House. Therefore I beg to oppose.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I have only a short remark to make. I want to warn the hon. Member against the criticism of the appointment and the recognition of the Aseyin of Iseyin and that the Chiefs Law exposes such a person to serious punishment without any option of fine. Now this is Parliamentary debate and the hon. Member is absolutely entitled under privileges of this House to say what he likes. As a new Member of this House, I will warn that he refrains from mentioning anything like it at home otherwise he will find himself in the warm embrace of the law and I will not be of any assistance.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is with these few words I want to warn him seriously to refrain from referring to the appointment and recognition of the Aseyin of Iseyin.....

Mr Adisa: In rising to oppose this Motion, I must say that I am not very much impressed with the level of debate here tonight, and to the level to which the hon. Leader of the House has descended. I must say that yesterday the hon. Leader of the House said that in debates speakers should confine themselves to the expression of their opinions and not with personalities. He has not observed this rule in his speech. He has gone only to delve into the personality

of the hon. Member for Ede-Ejigbo. He went even as far as to say why the hon. Member should be kicked out of his job.

Mr Osuntokun: What the hon. Leader of the House said was that if Members are not free to move about in the Region as a result of victimisation and other "sions" it could not have been possible for the man to be here.

Mr Adisa: I will take the assurance from the colleague of the Leader of the House that it will never be repeated again on the floor of this House. I will say that the whole Motion should be thrown out and the Action Group Government of Western Region.....

Chief Akintola: Government of Western Nigeria.

A Government Back Bencher: You are out of date. You are behind time.

Mr Adisa: The aspect in which the Action Group of this Region have totally failed is in the field of human relations. It is true that since the Action Group came into power it has been trying to do its best but this best has been very poor. That is why we say that it is not entitled to any encomium. When a business man starts a business it is not for him to seek for praises, it is when he succeeds that he praises himself. I have this to say of the five-year development Plan.

Last year you swindled this House..... (*interruptions*). I said you swindled the undue praise of this House but I do not know what your other abilities might be in other spheres.

A Government Bencher: So you swindled the NCNC and NPC. (*interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: I did not hear the hon. Gentleman saying somebody swindled the NCNC and NPC at the same time (*laughter*). (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Adisa: I am not saying anything about this statement whether responsible or irresponsible but I want it to be repeated outside this House. I believe what is wrong with people in this planet is that people think they can deceive others and switch the blame to people who are not blamable. Everybody knows that the NCNC and NPC are in alliance in the Federal Government so that the question of fish and fin, does not arise.

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Premier is satisfied that the question of the £7,000 from the NPC and £5,000 from the NCNC was due to the fact that they are in alliance. (*prolonged laughter*).

Mr Adisa: I think I have already thrown my challenge in respect of this matter to say it outside. When I say this Mr Speaker, it is not because I have anything to fear from the establishment of so many customary courts in which the Action Group Government has indulged. We heard that 585 customary courts have been established in this Region and we are just wondering whether this Government is not deliberately pursuing a policy where everybody will land himself in jail. If they succeed it will be the most creditable achievement.

Mr Speaker: All swindlers will find themselves behind the iron bars. (*Laughter*).

Mr Adisa: I say it is wrong policy to be establishing so many industries at Ikeja, even though we all know of the power of the Federal Government to extend the Federal territory to cover Agege.....

An Opposition Member: And Ogbomosho.

Mr Adisa: If there will be any extension to Ogbomosho it will be through Ilorin: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it is absolutely wrong to be establishing industries where we know that sooner or later the Federal Government may extend its boundaries.

I think it is absolutely wrong for the Western Region Government to establish customary courts in those places where, one day, the Federal Government will extend its jurisdiction.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not believe in the philosophy of the Western Region Government building stadia at fabulous amounts when all these school leavers go about jobless. The best way to improve them is by endeavouring to teach lessons to children in school over and over again until they understand the lessons.

I do not believe that the hon. Minister of Local Government was correct on this question of challenging the recognition of the appointment of chiefs. I believe that if he wishes to issue threats as he is a "Minister of Terror", the best place for him to do so is outside this House. Here, we are fully covered, I say it is a matter of comprehensive insurance to say that the recognition of the Aseyin of Iseyin is challenged in this House. I challenge it, I say, because it is not in accordance with native law and customs

and it is not in accordance with natural justice, irrespective of any threats from the hon. Minister.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will again catalogue what the members of the Action Group Government have always been afraid of whenever we begin to tell them that they have always been guilty of oppression, depression, digression, and retrogression.

With these, Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Speaker, Sir, starting from the last speech, I think, Sir, one thing that is apparently clear is that no amount of effort on the part of this hon. House by way of explanations, and information to points raised by the Opposition makes any impression on them. Despite the fact that the Leader of the House has covered this aspect of the siting of industry, the hon. Member for Ibadan continues to hammer on this point.

There are certain pamphlets which give necessary information sought on the question of the location of industries in Ikeja. In fact, many obvious factors combine together to determine where it is wise or not to go on this matter of location of industries, some of them being, cheap labour, transportation, entrepreneurship, etc. Continuing my explanations on this question of location of industries in Ikeja area, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would be very much happy if, for their own benefits, the Members opposite would listen patiently once more. The Ikeja area is very near the ports, as well as the available facility of partnership with the Federal Government through the Western Nigeria Development Corporation.....(*interruptions*).

The hon. Member for Ibadan Mr Adisa Adeoye said something about the extension of the Lagos boundary to the West. May I ask with seriousness whether these hon. Members are citizens of Western Nigeria?

Western Nigeria is the smallest of all the three Regions in the Federation, and yet, it is being contemplated by the NCNC or the NPC to extend the boundary of Lagos. If I may ask, what will be the feeling of the Members opposite to this matter, for they hope one day to be in control of the Government of this Region, if they happen to find themselves in a plight whereby this Region which is the smallest Region in the whole being reduced further than it is at present? I think this is a matter which requires serious attention.....(*interruption*) and I am quite sure too that the Prime Minister of the Federation himself is aware of the dangers entailed.

[CHIEF OSUNTOKUN]

I am surprised, Mr Speaker, Sir, that a man like the hon. Member for Ibadan, has come to the floor of this House to argue that the building of the Liberty Stadium was not worthwhile. I am sure that he aptly deserves to be known by the name "Omobolaje" for this. In fact, £½ million was spent on this project, and already, Sir, there have been requests from other West African Governments, asking to send their staff to study the construction of this great achievement, the Liberty Stadium. I am very certain that very soon, the Eastern Region, the Northern Region as well as the Federal Government will emulate this very modern monument.

The hon. Member for Ede also raised a question about Ede. On this I would make very brief comments and enumerate what amenities and facilities do exist in Ede.

First, there are farm settlements for which an acreage of land has already been acquired in Ede and Oshogbo. There is electricity in Ede as well as water supply costing about £½ million. Roads in Ede are tarred. The whole place is dotted with maternity centres and dispensaries while also the whole place is full of primary schools, secondary schools, secondary modern schools and a Baptist Teacher Training College. Lastly, there is an industry of Yam Processing to which the Finance Corporation has contributed considerably, yet as a Member for Ede, he has come to the floor of this House to challenge the Government on the amenities provided for Ede.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief S. L. Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not my intention to elaborate further on the Motion itself. I think it is advisable of course to make a statement on one rather explosive and controversial issue to which the Opposition has made reference. I do not quite understand the relationship between the Members opposite and Western Nigeria. Whether they regard themselves as birds of passage in this Region or whether they regard themselves as indigenes of Western Nigeria. I raise this point because whenever matters affecting the welfare of this Region are raised the Members opposite always oppose them. They always seek to throw away their own possessions even against the wishes of their people. This point is not explicable at all. Do they regard themselves as sons of this Region? Do they regard themselves as being at home in this Region? I wonder if they

will ever rejoice at the prospect of making it possible to cut a part of their own property and giving that part to other people to enjoy, I doubt if any of the Members opposite has a root in the Western Region.

My father's house, for example, is my property and I will do anything on earth to keep it. I will fight to the last anybody who wishes to take it from me because I regard myself as a legitimate son of my father (*hear, hear*). I will enjoy ownership of my father's house with my brothers. But for the Members opposite this is not the case. I do not question their morality and I am not against them but I wonder if they are legitimate sons of their fathers, if they are true sons of this Region, the time has come for them to change their attitude as far as this question is concerned (*hear, hear*).

Millions of people listen to what we are saying here and to them it would appear that this Region does not belong to them. I would not say anything more and I only advise them to continue along that line all the time because by doing so they make things comparatively easy for us on this side. You will all remember that when we met here last year we on this side of the House were not as many as we are today. Then it was a question of dissolving the Regional Government. That started well in advance. But with all their cries what do you see this year? By the grace of God, we have returned to power with even a greater majority (*hear, hear*). I would not say anything more. Most of you who are here now are comparatively new. Even my learned friend from Ibadan.....my friend from Ibadan Rural. He is comparatively new in this House. I made a statement before and I wish to repeat the statement.

By the grace of God and the will of the people of Nigeria, we on this side of the House are the authors of the Constitution governing the Country of Nigeria today (*hear, hear*). If the Constitution is unknown to you then it will never be known to you (*hear, hear*). I am sure the meaning of the Constitution is not known to many of them opposite. We on this side of the House and many of our comrades in the whole of the Federation know the meaning of the Constitution and even we directed many others when the Constitution was being formulated and we all agreed on what we thought might be the best thing for us.

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

Last year, during the last election campaign, when the Prime Minister came down to Ibadan he and the hon. Member from Ibadan Rural promised to dissolve the Regional Government. But when we won the election what did he say? He said that they had no power to do so. When the Constitution was made he knew that they could not dissolve the Government of any Region. Even my learned Friend from Ibadan knows, but he chooses to deceive the people. My Friend from Ibadan has now shifted the argument from the dissolution of the Government to the extension of Lagos boundary, that is, cutting away a portion of this Region. He has now embarked on the extension of Lagos boundary (*shame, shame, shame*). He was alive when the Prime Minister stated that no Government had the power to remove another Government. I would advise them that to do that is not easy at all. It is not easy to extend the boundary of Lagos at all. To do that, there are so many steps to be taken. Among the things to take into consideration is the will of the people of this Region because they will be mostly affected.

The will of the people of Western Nigeria will take precedence over other points. I want to assure Members opposite that we on this side of the House cannot be threatened at all. On the other hand we are fully prepared. We are fully prepared to stand by the issue at any time. If the Members opposite cannot understand the Constitution I advise them to get interpreters to do the job for them. We have many of such men in this House and they will gladly help them.

(*Opposition Benches: Are most of your men on the other side interpreters who sit by the Post Offices?*).

Hon. Members of this House should be good sons of their fathers but I doubt if we have such sons on the other side of the House. In other countries, the sons of those countries fight for their fatherland. I hope that the sons and the grandsons of the Members opposite will be able to read these efforts of ours in the hope that their fathers fought for their fatherland. If we continue to struggle for the fragmentation of this land to return some part of our land to other people, our sons may wake up one day to question the legitimacy of their fathers and in order to avoid that I have to appeal to you that the less you speak of fragmentation of this Region the better it will be for us all. In particular I will appeal to the hon. Member from Ibadan. In any part of the world, it is a son's right to fight, not only to retain the property of his own father, but to win more. I appeal to the Member for Ibadan very strongly to think over again.

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Question be now put.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Original question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed,
That the House do now adjourn (Alhaji
D. S. Adegbenro).*

Question put and agreed to.

*Adjourned accordingly at 9.10 p.m. until
tomorrow, Wednesday, 29th March, 1961, at
10.00 a.m.*

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1961
(The House met at 10.15 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS LANDS AND HOUSING

Notice to Illiterate Farmers about Compulsory Land Acquisition

10/13. Mr S. A. Layonu asked the Minister of Lands and Housing whether he was aware of the fact that the majority of the farmers in the Western Region are illiterates who do not read the Gazette or other reports of our parliamentary debates and if so, to know whether the Minister would devise better means (such as radio, television, etc.) of giving such notices when such compulsory land acquisitions are to be made by Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lands and Housing (Mr C. A. Williams): The Public Lands Acquisition Law, Cap. 105 of Western Nigeria provides that a Notice of Government's intention to acquire any land under that Law shall be published once at least in the Regional Gazette. Despite this provision, such notices are sometimes announced on the Radio in addition to the Gazette publication.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Grant to Ibadan District Council to improve Oje Market

10/23. Mr S. A. Sanni asked the Minister of Local Government whether the Regional Government would consider the advisability of granting substantial financial aid to the Ibadan District Council to improve the Oje Market in view of the fact that a large number of traders from all over the Region come there to buy and sell.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Local Government (Mr A. Atie): The Regional Government considers each year a number of applications from Local Government Councils for loans to build new markets or to expand old ones. Ibadan District Council has not, as far as I know, applied for a loan to expand the Oje Market. When an application is received it will be given such consideration as it merits.

Mr Ajimobi: I just want to know from the Minister if he has checked from the Ibadan District Council whether Oja-Oba Market has been demolished and that this market requires attention from the Government.

Mr Speaker: This is no supplementary question. It is a new question entirely. (Government Benches: Shame!)

LANDS AND HOUSING

Limitations of Local Government Councils over Crown Lands

10/40. Mr Ajimobi asked the Minister of Lands and Housing what are the limitations of Local Government Councils throughout the Region over Crown Lands within their area of authority.

Mr C. A. Williams: Regional Crown Lands in Western Nigeria are under the exclusive control of the Regional Government. No Local Government Council has any jurisdiction over such lands even if they lie in the area of the Council's authority. If the Council requires any Crown land it has to submit an application to the Ministry of Lands and Housing. No council may sell, lease, or in any way dispose of any Crown Lands in its area.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Increase in the number of Maternity Centres in Ibadan Rural Areas

10/41. Mr Ajimobi asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare whether Government intends to increase the number of Maternity Centres in Ibadan Rural Areas owing to the increase in population and in view of the fact that the majority of the people are unable to avail themselves of the use of the existing Hospitals at Ibadan.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): Under the Special Health Development Programme, the Government has undertaken to build five new maternity centres in rural areas under the Ibadan District Council, and one new centre in an area under the Ibarapa District Council.

These new maternity centres are sited at Iddo, Iroko, Aremo/Agugu, Lalupon/Erunmu, Akanran, and Lanlete (Ibarapa District Council). Some are nearing completion.

Mr S. A. Layonu: I beg to ask the Minister whether the Government will consider the advisability of providing more

hospitals and maternity centres in Oshun Division in view of the fact that it is the largest Division in Western Nigeria.

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Speaker, Sir, that is not a supplementary question. A supplementary question is supposed to arise from the main question.

10/50. **Alhaji B. O. Fawehinmi** asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare what efforts are being made by the Government to prevent the spread of Tuberculosis in the Western Region.

Chief Osuntokun: The hon. Member is referred to my answer to question No. 10/74.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Transfer of Local Government Staff

10/61. **Mr N. A. Adibi** asked the Minister of Local Government how many inter-divisional or provincial transfers were made in the last year in the Local Government Service and what are the reasons for the transfers.

Mr Atie: The administrative and professional employees of the Local Authorities in this Region are members of the Unified Local Government Service and they are centrally deployed and subject to transfer by the Local Government Service Board from one Council to another. There is therefore no inter-divisional or inter-provincial transfer as such. However, a total of sixty-five transfers of the members of the Unified Service were made during the year 1960 as exigencies of the Service demand, for example transfers caused by acting appointments, promotions and leave reliefs.

Other Council employees who are members of the Local Government Service can only be transferred from one Council to another if both Councils and the employee concerned mutually agree to the transfer. In the year 1960 only one inter-Council transfer of this nature was reported to my Ministry.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Government sponsored Maternity clinics

10/73. **Mr Adibi** asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare to state the number of Government sponsored maternity clinics and also dispensaries now operating in the Region.

Chief Osuntokun:

Total No. of Government dispensa-					
ries	...	...	...	...	5

Total No. of Local Government					
dispensaries	...	...	...	...	388

Total No. of Government Maternity					
Centres	...	...	...	...	1.

(There are maternity wings in almost all the Hospitals and also there are four Government Rural Health Centres).

Total No. of Local Government					
Maternity Centres	...	...	...	...	221

INFORMATION

Publicity of Government Activities in Schools

10/77. **Mr Adibi** asked the Minister of Information whether and how the pupils of Primary, Secondary Modern Schools and Secondary Grammar Schools were kept informed of the Government activities in the various fields and to indicate what steps were being taken to expand the means of communicating information to the people of this Region.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr S. A. Okeya): School children throughout Western Nigeria share with all people of the Region the services provided by the Ministry of Information. These services include film shows, weekly radio and television programmes, a weekly newspaper, a quarterly illustrated magazine and other publications on the activities of the Government of Western Nigeria.

The Ministry runs forty cinema vans and six cinema barges located throughout the Region. These vans show regularly films produced by the Ministry. These films are also shown on the Western Nigeria Television Service and in this connection, over 200 television sets have been distributed to most of the Secondary Grammar Schools, Secondary Modern Schools and Teacher Training Colleges in the areas at present served by the W.N.T.V. My Ministry also arranges a weekly Public Service Programme on W.N.T.V. which is devoted to the activities of Government departments and which can be watched by all children in schools and homes having television sets. A weekly newspaper *Western News* carrying a special Children's Page is very popular amongst school-children. Every week, the Ministry produces a half-hour radio programme on the Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation system projecting the activities of the Government. The cinema vans and barges also relay news items on the activities of the Government throughout the Region. In thirty Information Centres throughout

the Region, various publications are made available to the general public and from records, school-children patronise these centres very well.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): 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 Trade and Industry (Chief A. O. Adeyi): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjournment until Wednesday 5th April, 1961

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that at its rising this day, the House shall adjourn until Wednesday, 5th April, 1961.

Chief Adeyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Sitting arrangements

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members have had the chart showing sitting arrangements distributed to them. I would like to point out that it is subject to amendment and the amendment will be forthcoming so that by the time we come back here on the 5th of next month, probably you will find your name attached to a seat quite different from where you are sitting now, and that will be the arrangement for the time being. This is subject to amendment.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, Sir, we on this side feel that when the Leader of the House makes any change in the sitting arrangements, as proposed, he should consult the Opposition.

Mr Speaker: The reason why the sitting arrangements have not been finalised is due to the fact that I have not had the opportunity of contacting the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition for my final arrangements on the matter; and I can assure the hon. Gentleman that the Leader of the House, on behalf of the Government Benches, and the Leader of the Opposition, even the hon. Member, Mr Adisa, will be consulted.(laughter from both sides of the House)..... We have to go back to Questions for Oral Answers.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Functions of a District Council

10/88. **Mr Y. L. Ogunleye** asked the Minister of Local Government if he would make a definite statement in regard to the main functions of a District Council in view of the fact that there are occasional frictions between certain Town Planning Authorities and District Councils.

Mr Atie: The short answer to my hon. Friend's question is that the functions of each Local Government Council are prescribed in the Instrument establishing that Council under the Local Government Law, Cap. 68. The functions of a Town Planning Authority are laid down in the Town and Country Planning Law, Cap. 123.

There are, however, certain functions which may appear to be common to both Local Government Councils and Town Planning Authorities where the latter have been established, and I imagine it is this aspect upon which my hon. Friend seeks information. This is a matter of common interest to my colleague, the Minister of Lands and Housing and myself, and before answering this question I have consulted my colleague who has agreed with the terms of this reply.

My hon. Friend will be familiar with the Instruments by which Local Government Councils are established and by which functions are conferred upon them. I need not, therefore, elaborate upon them.

Where a Town Planning Authority is established under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Law, Cap. 123 it has a statutory responsibility to frame a scheme to be submitted to the Governor for approval. The scheme may provide for any or all the services set out in the First Schedule to the Law, that is, the roads, amenities, public utility services, sanitary arrangements, etc. And thus it will be seen that a Town Planning Authority can exercise within its declared area functions which have also been conferred upon Local Government Councils.

In practice what happens is that the Authority prepares a master plan for its area of jurisdiction, and it is not, in practice, responsible for executing this master plan in detail, but must ensure that the development is in conformity with the master plan. Within the area of the master plan the Authority may prepare a scheme and execute the same. Throughout the area of the master plan, Local Government bodies continue to exercise their normal statutory functions.

[MR ATIE]

It is possible, however, in certain circumstances, for a Town Planning Authority to be directly responsible for the execution of a scheme. But should this be the case, the authority would assume responsibility legally for exercising those functions conferred upon the Local Government Council in question, which are set out in the First Schedule of the Town and Country Planning Law.

My colleague and I encourage the closest liaison over the matter of the relationship between Local Government Councils and Town Planning Authorities, and we are engaged at present in an examination of certain practical difficulties which have arisen, so that these might be resolved to the mutual advantage of the two bodies.

HOME AFFAIRS

Accommodation for Members during Sessions of Parliament

10/100. Mr J. O. Kehinde asked the Minister of Home Affairs what steps were being taken by the Government to provide accommodation at Ibadan for the Members of the House of Assembly, during the Sessions of Parliament.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs (Mr J. G. Adeniran): Government has always been anxious to provide accommodation for as many Members of the Regional Legislature as possible during the Sessions of both Houses. In this regard, the Ibadan Catering Rest House chalets have always been closed to the public during the sittings of the two Houses of the Regional Legislature so that as many Members as possible may be accommodated therein. But I think I ought to say that the likelihood of being able to provide accommodation for all the Members of the Legislature—over 200 of them—during the sittings of both Houses, is remote as demand for accommodation at other times is nowhere near that figure. In the circumstances, hon. Members will be best advised to get accustomed to seeking private or hotel accommodation in Ibadan township during the sittings of the Regional Legislature.

Mr A. Onasanya: Mr Speaker Sir, in view of the fact that Members who are fortunate to get Catering Rest House accommodation in Ibadan are subsidised on the fees paid in Rest Houses, what arrangements are being made about Members who arrange private accommodation.

Mr Adeniran: I require notice of that question.

Mr C. O. Olamigoke: Is it being contemplated to build flats, such as the one in Lagos for the Members of the House of Representatives, for the use of Members of this House when they are attending meetings in Ibadan?

The Minister of State (Justice) (Mr J. E. Babatola): Mr Speaker Sir, Government is not at present contemplating building such flats.

Mr A. Atohengbe: Does the Minister not consider it socially humiliating to lodge two male adults in the same chalet?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Mr Duro Ogundiran): The question of two men lodging together is one of agreement. If two men can live together, it is good for them.

(Mr Speaker: Even if they bring their wives). (Laughter).

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Free Medical Treatment for Teachers of Voluntary Agency Schools

10/121. Mr R. O. Areola asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare why the teachers from Voluntary Agency Schools pay for treatment received at General Hospitals while Government teachers are treated free of charge.

Chief Osuntokun: Payments for treatment received at General Hospitals are made under the Hospital Fees Regulations. Under these Regulations only employees in the service of Government are exempted from the payment of fees. Teachers from Voluntary Agency Schools are not exempted from payment under these rules. Similarly, staff of Public Corporations sponsored by Government are not exempted.

Separate Wards for Tubercular Patients in the Epe General Hospital

10/128. Mr J. A. Odutuga asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare whether the Government would consider the advisability of building separate wards for Tubercular patients in the Epe General Hospital rather than continue to keep these patients on the verandah as at present.

Chief Osuntokun: Tuberculosis patients are kept on the verandah as part of their treatment. An abundance of fresh air is known to be highly beneficial to these patients. The new policy of the Government as regards the treatment of Tuberculosis is to rely increasingly on the domiciliary and outpatient treatment of cases. This accords

[CHIEF OSUNTOKUN]

with modern trends in many tropical and sub-tropical countries and is recommended by the World Health Organisation. Certain types of cases will require admission into hospital. Such cases will continue to be accommodated on the verandah of general hospital wards or in Special Chest Clinics. The Government will take steps to increase the available bed accommodation for these special cases as the need arises.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Is the Minister aware that air is made up of oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide? Which of these is beneficial to a tubercular patient? (*laughter*).

Chief Osuntokun: What I have said is that fresh air is beneficial to these patients. The hon. Member has analysed the components of "air". What further answer does he want? If the Member has tuberculosis, he should confess.

Mr Amadasun: If the Minister does not know anything about it, he should confess to this House.

Mr F. Osuhor: I wish to know why the Minister of Health found it necessary to keep together people suffering from tuberculosis and people suffering from other diseases.

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Speaker Sir, the hon. Member is getting things mixed up. What I did say is that it has been confirmed by modern methods that fresh air is beneficial to these patients and it has been recommended that patients should be kept in the verandah of hospitals. They are not kept in the general wards and so are not mixed up with patients suffering from other diseases.

LANDS AND HOUSING

Appointment of a Boundary Commissioner

10/135. **Mr E. O. Oke** asked the Minister of Lands and Housing what efforts have been or are being made to recruit a Boundary Commissioner for the settlement of the various boundary disputes occurring in different parts of the Region.

Mr Williams: The post of Commissioner for Boundary Settlement in the Ministry of Lands and Labour (now Housing) was first advertised as Western Regional Notice No. 144 of 21st February, 1957 in *Western Region of Nigeria Gazette* No. 9 of the same date. The Public Service Commission was unable to find an applicant with the qualifications prescribed in the advertisement,

the main reason being that those who were otherwise qualified lacked legal qualification. Further consideration is being given to re-advertising the post.

Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees

10/147. **Mr D. E. Okumagba** asked the Minister of Lands and Housing to state whether the Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees have negotiated fresh deeds with the former Warri Crown Lessees and if so to request the Minister to furnish the honourable House with a copy of such deeds.

Mr Williams: The Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees have made offers of new leases to the former Warri Crown Lessees. About fifty of these lessees have accepted the offers and executed Deeds of leases which are in process of Stamping and Registration. Copies of the Deeds are available for inspection in the Ministry of Lands and Housing on payment of 5s for every half an hour or part thereof spent on every search.

Mr Okumagba: Is the Minister aware that the Warri people petitioned Government about the new lease to be negotiated between them and the Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees. Why did the Minister not instruct the Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees to hold on till the petition is considered?

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Chief J. O. Adigun): I am aware that some of the lessees petitioned the Government and the matter is being handled at present. I am not convinced that a good case is being made until I have listened to them.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode: How can the Minister be convinced whether a good case has been made or not without listening to the case?

Chief Adigun: So far, papers submitted to me have not convinced me that a good case is being made.

Mr Okumagba: The Minister has announced that he would still look into the case and in fact is making some attempt to hold some interview with people who have petitioned. I will like to know whether he would consider the terms of the leases so far signed if he is satisfied that a good case is made?

Chief Adigun: I would like to consider it if a case has been made, but a case has not been made.

Ukpe Communal Land Trustees

10/148. **Mr Okumagba:** asked the Minister of Lands and Housing to state whether the Ukpe Communal Land Trustees had negotiated fresh deeds with the former Sapele Crown Lessees and if so, to request the Minister to furnish the honourable House with a copy of the conditions of such deeds.

Mr Williams: The Okpe Communal Land Trustees have made offers of new leases to the former Sapele Crown Lessees. From records in the Ministry of Lands and Housing, no deeds have so far been executed. Copies of the forms of the two types of deed containing the standard conditions are available for inspection in the Ministry of Lands and Housing.

Stamp Duties and Registration Fees on the Itsekiri and Ukpe Communal Land Trustees

10/150. **Mr Okumagba** asked the Minister of Lands and Housing whether the Government charges Stamping and Registration Fees in respect of Deeds submitted for Stamping and Registration by the Itsekiri Communal Lands Trustees, Warri, and by the Ukpe Communal Lands Trustees, Sapele.

Mr Williams: It was a condition of the hand-over of the Crown Land both at Warri and at Sapele, that the former Crown Lessees should be relieved of all statutory expenses in obtaining the title deeds of their fresh leases. Accordingly, Government does not collect Stamp Duties and Registration Fees on those deeds.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Selection of Members of Area Assessment Committees

10/159. **Mr Amadasun** asked the Minister of Local Government why party politics is being made the dominant point in the selection of Members of Area Assessment Committees.

Mr Atie: I disagree with the suggestion contained in the question by the hon. Member that party politics is made the dominant factor in the selection of members of Area Assessment Committees. The men appointed have been selected because of what they can contribute to the work of tax assessment and not because of their party leaning.

Mr Amadasun: If it is not associated with party politics why is it that after the nullification of the Assessment Committee at Akure the Minister of Local Government

emphatically stated that NCNC members should be appointed to all Assessment Committees in that area?

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, when Members of the Opposition stand up to ask questions about the Local Government.....(interruptions).....and in the Income Tax Law, it is stated that Area Assessment Committees are not and should not be Committees of Council.

In my reply to the supplementary question, by hon. Amadasun, Mr Speaker, Sir, the assessment itself is not wrong but the method of computation was wrong in all Akure Districts. Mr Speaker, Sir, in the interest of the community as a whole I enquired into it and it is not only the members of the NCNC who were wrongly over-assessed but also members of the other parties including the Action Group.

Mr F. H. Utomi: When a similar request was made to the Minister of Local Government from people in Aniocha District, what was the reply?

Alhaji Adegbenro: There is a difference between the case in Akure District and the case in Aniocha. The case in Aniocha came up as a result of an attempt of the leaders of the NCNC in that Council area to incite people not to accept their demand notices, as a result assessments were stopped and the collection of taxes considerably impeded. I shall soon take steps against this.

Mr Amadasun: I want to know from the Minister of Local Government why in Ikah Area where NCNC is in power only the list of Action Group members in the various Assessment Committees were approved by the Minister?

Alhaji Adegbenro: As I have said earlier, the Tax Assessment Committees or the Rate Assessment Committees were not Committees of the Council and the selection of Members of the Assessment Committee was made because of what they can contribute to the work and I can only appoint members who satisfy me and so far assessments have been fair (*cheers from the Government Benches*).

Chief F. Oputa-Otutu: In the past NCNC members who are included in Tax Assessment Committees were rejected and Action Group members put in their places.

Is that not sufficient evidence that party politics was being introduced in Tax Assessment Committees? (*Opposition Members: You are not going home today*) (*laughter*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: Party politics has no place in my mind whatever either in Ikah area or anywhere in the Region. It is in that part of the Region that we find this trouble about people not willing to pay taxes and people incite others not to accept demand notices. I should appeal to my hon. Friends on the opposite side that they should go home and co-operate and let the machinery of Local Government run smoothly. Up till now certain councils have not been able to collect their taxes and as a result of that certain functions are being neglected. The allegation of arbitrary tax assessment, etc., has always been coming to this House all along and I think it is time this should stop.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: I want to know, Sir, that by appointing only Action Groupers to Assessment Committees in Benin..... (*interruptions*).....

Alhaji Adegbenro: On the other hand, Sir, I have been regarded as a saviour of Benin people from the hands of the hon. Member.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Order 15 (3). Questions shall be taken on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays provided that except as provided in paragraph (4) of this Order no Question shall be taken after 10.30 a.m.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman is quite in order as regards the authority just cited but in view of the fact that so many Members would like their questions to be answered, I felt it my duty to give that latitude and I hope it is going to be the wish of this House but if it is not the wish of this House I shall withdraw that privilege of latitude (*interruptions*).

Mr Oviasu: Sir, the Speaker has no authority to go against the Standing Order (*interruptions*).....

Mr Speaker: The Standing Order cited by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is in order and as such I rule that the Questions should now stop.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

The following Bills were presented and read the First time; they were ordered to be read a Second time immediately:—

1. The Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 1961 (*The Minister of Local Government*).
2. The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 1961 (*The Minister of Works and Transport*).

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961 SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Local Government Law, 1957.

As hon. Members will see from the objects and reasons of the Bill, the purpose of this Bill is to amend the Local Government Law, 1957 in order to confer on the Governor in Council the power to nominate women as members of Local Government Councils.

The members so nominated, female members, however, shall be in the ratio of one nominated female member to every ten elected members subject to a minimum of two and a maximum of six female members for each local council (*hear, hear*).

This, Mr Speaker, Sir, is the principal provision of this Bill in Clause 4. All other Clauses are consequential amendments resulting from the insertion of a new section 15 (a) immediately after section 15 of the principal Law.

Mr Speaker, hon. Members on both sides of the House no doubt, will agree that women are already playing a role, a very big role at that, in all spheres of public life of this Region and deserve every encouragement we can give so that they, as time goes on, may be able to play their full part in the smooth running of the Government machinery in this Region. This is to be done if we mean to be realistic in encouraging our women folk.

It is obvious, Sir, that at present owing to many dangers and hazards attendant to either parliamentary or local elections, women cannot engage in muscular encounters with men. It will be too great and too rapid a social change to expect women to pass through the turbulent and hazardous way of elections in the local government councils.

I would like to assure hon. Members that the nomination of women members in the councils will be made by the Governor in Council after due consideration is given to the standing in public life of those to be nominated.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, we on this side of the House, with all seriousness, oppose this Bill, and I am hoping, Sir, that after I might have spoken the Government will have the guts to withdraw this Bill for its deeper consideration.

I am not at all surprised to see this Bill when I know very well its source of origin. Day after day, Sir, this Government in general, and this Minister in particular, has done nothing but to go out of his way deliberately to tear up into little bits the very fabric of democracy in this Region. (*Opposition Benches: Shame, shame.*)

It is clear, Sir, that this Government is quite determined to destroy the sanctity of freely elected Local Government Councils.

By the Chiefs Law, 1957 and the recent amendment to that Law made only a few days ago, Sir, the Government has already attained a menagerie of Chiefs in its Local Government Councils. And as if the species, Sir, of Chiefs, tamed men, Sir, to Government breeding is not sufficient, the female species must be created again by the same person, by the same Government for the same purpose. I must say, Sir, Mr Speaker, that the creation or the nomination of women for the purposes of flooding Local Government Councils is a set-back, it is a retardation and is contrary to all rules of progress.

The Minister talked about women in muscular strife with men. That need not be so, Sir. There are women in local government councils in Great Britain and in other countries. There are women in local government councils in the Eastern Region. Women who were duly elected, women who went through the polls, Sir. If Government Benchers would read their newspapers, only this morning, Sir, a woman went through the election in the Eastern Region and became a member of a local government council in her area. I am certain that responsible and reasonable Members on that side of this House, if they have read it, will surely agree with me that in 1961, at this state of our development, this is a wrong time to put the hands of the clock back.

They all know, Sir, that there is no one, however good that person is, who is nominated by any party into any Assembly, that will speak out his mind, but his conscience is robbed, his strength of character is robbed of anything that is just. And I hope the Leader of the House will not at this stage depart.

(*Chief Odebiyi: I am coming back*)..... I am happy that many Members of Government might be able to reason with the Government as a collective body and the Opposition and be collectively responsible in passing the Bill.

I must say, Sir, that although the Premier of this Government was one of the architects (*cheers from Government Benches*). I am happy, Sir, that the hon. Premier has come in at a very good time. I said although the Premier was one of the architects of our Independence from British oppression and was at that time a great advocate of democracy and rule by publicly elected persons, but since the hon. Gentleman, Sir, has come into power in the Western Region, it seems as if he is out for his Government to tear to bits the very foundation upon which democracy rests in the Western Region of Nigeria. This Government, Sir, on the Regional basis does not touch the day-to-day life of the people directly. But Government, Sir, on the local government council level, touches the very day-to-day life of everyday life of the individuals living in that community. (*Interruptions*).....

This Government claims having respect for democracy, having respect for the very principle it shouts about loudest than any other Government in the Federation, yet by the back door, Sir, they come down here to destroy the principles of parliamentary democracy.

We have had enough of parliamentary Government, enough of these fascists, of undemocratic rule of this Government in Western Region of Nigeria. We have heard enough of the false Independence that all of us have got today in this Western Region of Nigeria. Let this Government, Sir, come out in the clean open and release its manifesto instead of subjugating..... (*interruptions*) under the disguise of false democracy.

I must say, Sir, that whatever appeal I may make to this Government, I have a feeling that this Government is impervious to reason. If, I believe, Sir, that this Government is capable of being reasonable I would appeal to their leaders, as I have said before, that there is no Government in this our Federation more hard-headed than this Government of the Western Region.

The Premier of the Region, a few weeks ago, Sir, made a statement that opportunities will be given to women to take part in Local Government matters but the whole country

[MR FANI-KAYODE]

hailed the suggestion as most progressive and revolutionary. We knew, Sir, we had our misgivings, we held our peace, we waited for the Government proposals in vain. We waited for consultations with the Opposition, none came, and Mr Speaker, Sir, you will agree with me that an issue such as this one presented before this honourable House is one of the greatest importance. I agree that women should and must be given opportunities to take part but as I shall show later I shall give reasons to show that this is not the best method of affording women that opportunity.

If the Premier, as he has always promised on such innovations which will enhance the prestige of this Region, had enabled us to have private debate on this proposal, surely we should have been able to give out something which should have been more acceptable to the whole country than this nomination of individuals to the popularly elected local government councils.

A cursory glance at the Bill shows evidence why this Bill was not discussed with us at all and it is quite clear, reading between the lines of the Bill, the reasons why Government should not allow the proposals to see the light of day by way of publication in the Gazette or in the press, because Government is aware of its innate wickedness and because it wants to push the Bill into law.

I must say, Sir, that if Government desires to give women opportunities to take part in local council politics, and if Government wants the democratic introduction of women into local councils, I am certain that it would have been the ingenuity of the Premier to make a law which will afford men and women the same opportunity without allowing them to go into competition with men. I must say, Sir, that I am in a position to say that this Government is bereft of sufficient ingenuity. Mr Speaker, is it impossible to divide council areas into wards in the proportion of one to ten and set aside a day only for women to contest as candidates for positions in the councils? If there is going to be the proportion of one to ten the Government could set aside a day for the women to vote for the eligible candidates and another day for the election of the men. Will that not bring some sort of democracy for persons to choose those who will look after their own affairs? This Government is pernicious, this Government is wicked and it does not want to create a democratic institution but deliberately wishes to supplant and destroy the very basis of local government elections—The Premier knows

that whenever the Action Group loses election in local government councils in any area, within six or nine months, Mrs Ogunlesi, Mrs Akintoye, Mrs So and So will be nominated and injected into the local council and thereby make democracy a sham.

Mr Speaker: On point of information, Mrs Ogunlesi is my cousin-in-law. I protest against the mentioning of her name. *(laughter)*.

Mr Fani-Kayode: I chose that name at random. I have great respect for Mrs Ogunlesi. I say, Sir, that if Government is prepared to consider the suggestion I have made about creating democratic machinery for making women take part in local government matters, those women nominated by the Government in power must not be allowed to vote in these councils and should not have right to be chairmen of the councils. Also on the alternative that you run the government council, if you choose one woman, Her Majesty's Opposition should be allowed to choose one woman in which case there will be a balance and there will be true democracy.

The Premier: A balance between forty and eighty?

Mr Fani-Kayode: It is not necessarily the proportion here that it should be in local government councils. There will be cases in which the NCNC will have the majority. Of course the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs will create more chiefs to inject into the councils. I say, sir, that the Minister at that end, Minister for Chieftaincy Affairs *(loud laughter)*,.....I know Sir, that he came from Ife, will be creating more chiefs and injecting them into local councils to have Action Group majority.

I think, Sir, I have said my mind about this Bill and I suggest that the Minister sits down again and looks at the Bill and I should like to appeal to the Government to reconsider their stand on this issue and they should appear to be fair and democratic and the Western Region should not be a place to set such an example that the Government is bringing to us now. I think the West should always be in the leadership to protest where democracy is at stake and it will be a great pity that the West will suggest a step which will be retrogressive and which may be adopted by the other Regions.

In the Northern Region, women are not allowed to vote although in this Region women are allowed to vote but I know that if the Government feels that women's vote will throw them out of power, we will not be surprised that this Government will bring a Bill to prevent women from voting.

[MR FANI-KAYODE]

I hope the Premier will listen to the criticisms of the Opposition and I advise a delay in the passing of this Bill into Law for further consideration and discussion on the suggestions we have made which we believe will ensure that true democracy is brought into this Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose this Bill.

The Government Chief Whip (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill ably presented to this House by the hon. Minister of Local Government. The points which the hon. Leader of the Opposition had raised to oppose this Bill are clear but unfortunately he has drawn wrong conclusions from them. One reason why the Action Group continues to be in power in this Region is that we understand the people of this Region, their aspirations and yearnings, and I believe that the day will come when the Opposition Members will realise their mistakes in this respect. If they appreciate the feelings and yearnings of the people of this Region they will go a long way to making progress and their allies in the Eastern and Northern Regions will come to copy from them.

It is not in dispute, and I am happy that the Leader of the Opposition has rightly conceded that, at this stage of development in this country women and men cannot compete in the hustle and bustle of elections. There is no doubt that everybody must agree that a sort of machinery must be devised.

I have no doubt in my mind that as women themselves get accustomed to politics through election to local government councils, a day will come in this Region, and I hope in Nigeria, when men and women could compete together at elections. A lot has been said by the Leader of the Opposition about this Government having no respect for democracy. I want to say that there is no Government in the whole of the Federation which has done anything to enhance and demonstrate belief in democratic society in this country than the Action Group Government. We have nothing to be ashamed of in this Bill. I would say that it is only men who are weak in themselves who should be ashamed; and unless the members of the local government councils themselves so desire, there will be no reason to suggest that by this Bill a woman could become a Chairman of a local government council. (*Interruptions*).

Women are going to be nominated, one woman to ten men, how then can a woman, by virtue of this Law, become a Chairman of

a local government council? Perhaps the hon. Members on the opposite side are not aware that a measure similar to this has been introduced in Ghana to enable women to enter the National Assembly in Ghana, and I do know that the Ghana Government, which is regarded by Members of the Opposition as a progressive Government, has nothing to be ashamed of in what it has done.

Now, the Leader of the Opposition is criticising this Bill because the Government at the top level is not in close connection with the ordinary citizens of this Region. That might be true. It is because the local government councils themselves are closely concerned and connected with the day-to-day lives of the people of this Region that we are arranging that women should be able to participate in local government councils. And I would say, Sir, that some of the things that have been said by the Leader of the Opposition are clearly in defence of women's rights in this country.

There is one other interesting point I should mention. The decision to introduce this Bill is not a hurried one. Public statements have been made congratulating the Government for introducing this Bill, and I want to place it on record that up till the moment there has been no counter-motion on it. Even Mrs Kuti, the greatest woman that has been produced in the NCNC camp, has commended the Government for introducing this measure. With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye): Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support this Bill and in doing so I would like to make the following observations. The Leader of Opposition made reference to a woman being elected to a local council, I would like him to mention a woman elected in the Western Region.

The Opposition Leader is a Yoruba man, He knows it as a custom of the Yoruba and of the Midwest that women do give priority to their husbands and male sections in all respects. The customary tradition of the East could not be the same as that of the West. Why did you not allow a woman to contest in your place in your constituency? Why is there no female member in this honourable House? Why do you fail to bring a rider to this suggestion or a better plan? The NCNC is noted for criticising others' originality. This Bill receives the support of the entire female section of this Region including the NCNC female section.

[ALHAJI OPALEYE]

The Action Group is the only party that has given women the chance to have a say in the Government. Action Group has the credit of appointing a woman, hon. Mrs Wura Esan, to the Senate. Your suggestion will be against the Constitution—"one man one vote". So your suggestion will make women vote twice in a local election.

I challenge the Leader of Opposition to summon a meeting of women outside the House and oppose this move that women should not be allowed to get into local councils. Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker: I would like to make this announcement that I have been trying my best to see that speakers, not Mr Speaker, are allowed to speak in the ratio of two on the Government bench to one on the Opposition side. (*Interruptions*). The Government Bench—80, the Opposition—40.

Sitting suspended at 11.55 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.

Mr Speaker: There is going to be a Ministerial Statement made by the honourable the Premier and I am allowing him that opportunity in pursuance of Order 9.

Ministerial Statement

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to refer to an institution which since its inception in the 1930s has played a vital role in the struggle for the economic development of this country. I mean the National Bank of Nigeria. (*Opposition Members: What about it? You want to nationalise it?*) Hon. Members will recall the history of this Bank which was the first to demonstrate the capability of the West African to enter successfully into the banking field which had previously been the exclusive preserve of expatriate organisations. With meagre resources, the Bank was able to establish a bridge-head in the economic battle-field and with perseverance and careful management it extended credit facilities to small business men who had hitherto received little or no encouragement from the expatriate financial houses. As everyone knows, the conditions which expatriate banks used to lay down before credit was granted were well-nigh impossible to fulfil by small businessmen. With the emergence of the National Bank, however, the private sector of the Nigerian economy has derived enormous benefits.

In recognition of the important role of the Bank and in keeping with the policy of this Government we took steps to strengthen its

hands as soon as possible after we took office. One of our agents, the Marketing Board, invested £1 million in 4 per cent Preference Shares in the Bank and with this substantial injection of finance the Bank has been able to carry on its noble work of liberalising credit. (*Hear, hear*). Hon. Members are aware, however, that competition is the order of the day in the business world. Other indigenous Banks have come and gone and new expatriate ones have been established. The opportunities for business have increased many-fold since the attainment of Independence. If the National Bank is to continue to hold its own it is necessary that it should receive further assistance. (*Opposition Members: You want to dump more funds into the Bank? Government Benches: What of your Continental Bank? (Laughter)*). In order to meet the challenge of the times the Bank needs to be reorganised. Its capital structure must be improved and the banking experts available to it must be increased. We have thought it wise and in the best interest of the Bank that the existing 4 per cent Preference Shares held by the Marketing Board should be converted into Ordinary Shares. (*hear, hear*). To meet the growing competition in banking business and to be able to maintain its own in the expanding economy of independent Nigeria it will be necessary to inject fresh capital into the Bank (*hear, hear*).

In pursuance of this policy my Government has authorised the Marketing Board to convert its £1 million Preference Shares in the National Bank into Equity Shares. By this arrangement the Marketing Board becomes the majority shareholder in the Bank. It is our intention to so adequately equip the Bank as to be able to play its part in assisting indigenous business men in their efforts to establish small industries in Western Nigeria. For this reason if all arrangements are completed and expert advice obtained a substantial additional capital will be injected into the Bank. The effect of all these is that the ownership of the National Bank will pass from private hands to the Regional Marketing Board. In other words, the National Bank has now become the Bank of the people of Western Nigeria (*hear, hear*). In taking over the Bank my Government through its agency, has done no more than the Government of Eastern Nigeria which now own the African Continental Bank and the Northern Nigeria Government which has established the Bank of the North. We now have our own Bank which will continue to be dedicated to the service of the farmers and small business men throughout Nigeria (*hear, hear*).

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

With the take-over of the Bank, all necessary reorganisation and expansion will be pursued with vigour. But in saying this I would like to pay tribute to the courage and enterprise of the founders of the Bank. They have played the role of pioneers in an important economic field and their names will always be remembered for the great services which they have rendered to this country. From small beginnings the National Bank has grown into a first-class indigenous banking institution and the credit belongs to those men of great foresight and tremendous energy who have nursed the Bank through these years. In the present state of economic affairs in this country it is inevitable if their aims for the bank should be realised that its control should pass into the hands of a public agency. Indeed, it is the fulfilment of their ideal that the Bank which they have built up should, by a change of ownership, now become truly national.

Hon. Members will be pleased to hear that the Board of Directors of the Bank have, as it is their prerogative to do, elected Mr S. L. Durosaro as the Managing Director of the Bank as a first step towards the re-organisation about which I have spoken. The services of Mr Durosaro to this Region are well known. He was until recently the Chairman of the Regional Marketing Board and I am happy that the great experience which he had gained in marketing our produce abroad, especially cocoa, and the financial probity which he had displayed during the years in which he was connected with the Marketing Board will now be at the disposal of the National Bank. I am sure the House will wish Mr Durosaro well in his new assignment. As a second step in the reorganisation my Government in consultation with the Central Bank will shortly appoint banking experts to advise the new Board of Directors.

In conclusion I wish to assure the House that although the old order changeth yielding place to new, the National Bank under its new management will maintain the ideals of its old founders and pursue the policy of my Government that it should offer credit to all genuine enterprises in the private sector and play a leading role in the economic emancipation of Nigeria (*hear, hear*).

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961**

Adjourned Debate on the Question "*That the Bill be now read a Second time*".

Mr T. E. Elusade: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill entitled the Bill for a Law to amend the Local Government Law.

This Bill, Mr Speaker, should be strongly opposed by Her Majesty's Opposition not only for its objectionable sections but for what it cleverly conceals. Every section of this Bill seeks to amend the Local Government Law by substituting the word "nominated" everywhere the word "elected" appears. This, Mr Speaker, Sir, is a retrograde step.

(*Chief Osuntokun: What is your name?*)

This Bill is a reversion to the Nigeria Constitution Order in Council, 1922 which provided, Mr Speaker, Sir, for the nomination of Members into the Legislative Council whether the nominee is popular or not.

The Minister of Local Government is now tired of dissolving Councils for unjustifiable reasons and, I am afraid, that in a democratic election, the Government supporters will not be returned. He has cruelly brought up this amendment, not only to delude the unwary but also to cover up the Government's past iniquities, future wickedness, and as a subtle attempt to make every Council in the Region Action Group dominated. This is wicked. Moreover, this Bill mixes up the amendment with the sitting of women in the Local, District or Divisional Councils. This must be clearly analysed in order to expose the Governments concealed objective. Mr Speaker, Sir, I must make it clear that we on this side of the House are not opposed to women sitting in the Councils, *per se* but to the obnoxious word "nomination".....(*interruption*). Women in the Western Region have votes and can be voted for. In this respect, hon. Members on the Government Bench have emphasised the difficulty of women contesting elections with men. May I say, Sir, that in the past, able and capable women have held their own in contesting popular elections with men. Examples in this Region are Mrs Ogunlesi, Miss Wuraola Alade and Princess, Mrs Adebisi, the sister to the hon. Speaker of this honourable House (*applause*).

The last two, Sir, fought their way to their respective Divisional Councils.

The Government of Western Nigeria has always acclaimed itself as the most progressive Government in the Federation of Nigeria.....(*interruption*). If this is in fact so, why then does it now try to imitate the Eastern Region, and the Northern Region Governments in the proposed nationalisation of the National Bank?

Recently, a woman became the Prime Minister of Ceylon by contesting election. I think this is a good example for the Western Region to look up to for emulation. Now, Mr Speaker, if this Bill has been devised as

[MR ELUSADE]

a way by which women can be democratically elected as Councillors that would have been a different matter. But as it is now, we Members on this side of the House are opposed to the "nomination" by one man of from two to six women into Local Government Councils. This type of Bill has no precedent in the whole free world and with the permission of Mr Speaker, I challenge this Government to mention any one country in the free world where councillors are thus nominated.

This is a retrograde step and reversion to the 1922 Nigerian Constitution Order in Council, which provided for the nomination of members into Councils. This is Action Group democracy in the year of our Lord, 1961! This is objectionable, wicked and undemocratic. This is meant to deprive people of their right to vote for women councillors in their constituencies. If this Government is to be democratic, let the electorate elect proper candidates by popular vote. Of course, the Government knows that their supporters will not be returned to power in most of the Councils formerly controlled by the Action Group. Mr Speaker, Sir, I challenge the Government with your permission, to test its popularity on Local Government level in the Region by delaying the passing into law of this Bill if the Government feels it has been governing well and let us see the result.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Action Group Government believes that by mass oppression, wickedness, cruelty, and this type of obnoxious Bill, creating chiefs where they never existed before to make up for the deficiencies of its Local Divisional Councils, it can rule for ever; it is only building castles on dynamite which will sooner or later detonate.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the Bill.

Mr F. H. Utomi: I beg to oppose, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Do not oppose me.....
(laughter).

Mr Utomi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the Bill in view of the fact that we are fully aware of the subtleness of this Government. This Government has always presented to us Bills with subtleness of objective. In 1957, it introduced the Chieftaincy Law which at last was manipulated to their own advantage to inject Chiefs into the Local Councils which normally ought to be run by the NCNC party. Because election into Local Councils is not

near, this Government has again come with this plan to inject women through nomination into Councils which, by the Grace of God, will still be controlled by the NCNC despite its subtleness. We know what it means to have nominations. As was said by my hon. Friend, in 1922 the Government in power nominated men of their own choice who naturally must incline to the Government. And there on the opposite bench are hon. Members, including the hon. Premier, who agitated against the then imperial Government and fought that such practices should cease, a measure which resulted in many upheavals in this country; but today it is amazing that they now choose to revert to that same practice of the Constitution of 1922.

Women in the East and in the West here have entered into local councils by means of elections. There is no doubt, Sir, that this Government has created this Bill for a particular purpose and I still say, Mr Speaker, Sir, that if there is any wing of Government which has exposed itself to public ridicule it is the Ministry of Local Government. The Bill is woven, so couched, that the aim is to ruin and destroy. This Minister has got Aniocha Council in view. He knows his party is not going to win elections to the Council and that is why he has brought this Bill. I challenge this Government to allow women both in the NCNC section and Action Group section to contest election into councils and our women will defeat their women. With all these subtle activities and plans and with all the flimsy excuses the Action Group will be defeated in the local elections. Already we are aware of their plans. The aim is to inject women to add to the elected members. Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir, I oppose this Bill. *(Cheers from the Opposition Benches).*

Chief Akintola: *(Loud and prolonged cheers from Government Benches).* It is a pity that the Leader of Opposition is not here. *(Opposition Benches: Wait for him. We are here).* They say we are here. I mention only one person. How many of you lead the Opposition? All of you? Good luck to you! I am surprised about the interest which the Opposition takes in this Bill which deals with women. It is an eloquent testimony of how much they are interested in their better halves. And if some of them are not careful they are not going to be well received by their wives. This Bill is intended to give a say to the women of the Region in the local government of their various areas. Already, under the Constitution and under the law of the Region, the women have as much right to

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

contest election as any of us (*Hear! hear!*) It is not necessary to provide another ballot for women. Our complaint is simply this: because of the prejudice of the Opposition members and of men generally, women have not been accorded the full rights due to them. Men have appeared to be more selfish and as far as I know even in the NCNC hierarchy women hardly exist at all. (*Loud interruptions*). In many of the local councils, I can almost mention almost all the hon. Members' constituencies one by one, women are not represented. I start from Ede. I am not a stranger to the council of Ede nor am I a stranger to Oshun Division. There is not one single woman in the local council at Ede. In Ife by the grace of God, out of the whole lot of seventy councillors, the women of Ife are represented by one solitary woman. And in the whole of the Region you can count the whole of the women in councils on the fingers of one hand. It is true they can contest elections but not all of them are prepared to wage war with some of the masculine Members opposite me. None of them is prepared to allow his wife to take part in the bitter scuffles of local elections. The question I have to put to the Opposition is: Do you agree that women should be nominated to the local councils or not? (*Loud interruptions*). The case of the election appears to be too narrow for women. (*Opposition Benches: Shame!*)

Opposition Back Bencher: Point of explanation.

Mr Speaker: A point of explanation only arises when a Member did speak and has either been misquoted or quoted in a way that does not agree at all with his own interpretation. Then he can stand up and explain what he said. It is not for a Member to stand and explain off what another Member has said.

Opposition Back Bencher: I would like to know.....(*Government Benches: Sit down!*)

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member continue.

Opposition Back Bencher: I would like to know when it would be possible to legislate prohibiting women from taking part in timber trade?

Chief Akintola: The hon. Member opposite is asking when it would be possible to prohibit women from trading in timber. This Government, by the grace of God, will never pass such a legislation. (*Hear,*

hear). Women are going to compete with you and if you are not careful they are going to oust you. The women of this Region are entitled to be represented fully in the government of their area. And it is the purpose of this Bill to give them the opportunity to be interested.

The hon. Leader of Opposition made a suggestion which appears very reasonable indeed and that is that we should move forward together. That we should create constituencies for women. Any time an Opposition comes forward with a constructive suggestion that Opposition deserves the respect of the Government. May I say that it is a cause worth pursuing but in view of the urgency.....(*loud interruptions*). (*Opposition Benches: No urgency*). There are some people who are not qualified to speak for women. (*Laughter*) (*Opposition Benches: We are qualified*). In the Federal Elections women take part. That is election No. 1. Regional Elections women take part. That is No. 2. In Local Elections women take part. That is No. 3. And you want us to make a different election for them! Won't there be many battles for women to fight? We shall first try the experiment of nomination. (*Mr Adisa: That is poison. We don't want it*). I understand that the nomination of women into councils according to hon. Adisa is poison. That means that to the people on that side of the House women constitute poison. On this side of the House women constitute honey. To this side of the House women are sweeter than honey.

.....I repeat again, that I am very happy about the proposal made by the Leader of the Opposition. We are going to give thought to it although we are starting with the experiment of nomination. (*No..... No... from Opposition Benches...withdraw that*) And in the light of the experience we gain, the question of nomination will be relegated to the background. Today, all those who are in this House are here by election and I want hon. Members opposite me to be sincere to the women of this Region. (*..... cheers from Government Benches.....and prolonged interruptions from the Opposition*). Nomination is not altogether ended in our Constitution. In Lagos, even in Lagos, some members there enjoy the privilege of nomination, even members of the Civil Service are nominated to the cabinet. Why do you not then want women to be nominated into the Local Councils here? (*Cheers from the Government Benches*). In the Upper House here we still have some members nominated.

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

In any case, I will say that this suggestion will be considered and, in the light of the experience gained during the process of nomination, I assure you that this nomination will not be made by the Governor in Council without any consideration at all of the position in each Council, and I assure you that in the nomination the position of the Council will be reflected.... This is to say that every leader in the local government councils will be consulted before women are nominated into the councils. If that is accepted, I would like to assure you once again, that justice is going to be done. I know the whole process is going to be a little complicated.

And finally, may I end by appealing to all those who are opposite me, in the names of your beloved wives (*cheers.....*) in the names of even mothers who begat you, will you please give these women a trial..... (*continued cheers from Government Benches and interruption from the Opposition Benches*)..... May I repeat, in the names of your wives, to those who are married, to those who are not married, I would say, in the interests of your girl-friends; and for those who have neither wife nor girl-friend, in the names of your mothers..... (*prolonged laughter from both sides of the House*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Premier has given a reply to the various points made by the speakers from the other side of the House. (*Interruptions from the Opposition Benches*).

The sum total of the points made by the Leader of Opposition is that the Opposition accepts the Bill in principle or, in other words, the principles of the Bill are acceptable to the Opposition. (*Shouts of No!.....No!! from the Opposition*).

I would like to add that it is very strange for the Opposition to claim to champion the cause of the liberty or the welfare of the people of this Region. After all we on this side of the House constitute 80 per cent of the total membership of this House and we therefore represent 80 per cent of the entire population of Western Nigeria. (*Cheers from the Government Benches and interruption from the Opposition Benches*)..... And we can therefore consider ourselves rightly protecting the interest and liberty of the welfare of the people of this Region... (*continued interruptions from the Opposition*).

In fact, nomination by the Governor in Council is the appropriate course at this

moment and if, by experience, a better method can be found, by all means we will adopt it.

Another point I like to make there, Sir, is that the Leader of the Opposition was very bitter that the Government was not consulting him. That is very strange, indeed. I do not know anywhere in the democratic world where legislation proposed by the Administration has to be taken to the Leader of the Opposition for acceptance and so on. All I know is that the proposed legislation is brought to the floor of Parliament for debate and then the Opposition takes the opportunity to debate any act of the Government on the floor of the House. (*Cheers from the Government Benches...*).

I do not know whether the Leader of the Opposition has taken care to check up from his Members from the Midwest. That law, Mr Speaker, was designed to protect the interest of our friends from certain parts of the Midwest where custom and tradition are not clear..... (*wild interruption from the Opposition Benches*) and Government has to come to their aid to prepare a declaration of custom and tradition concerning certain chieftaincies in certain areas of the Midwest. And may I say that the law, which has just been passed, will empower the competent council—and as a matter of fact a majority of the councils in that area having been controlled by the NCNC they will be able to regulate the methods of appointment of certain classes of chiefs in the Midwest. (*Shouts of where? where?.....from the Opposition Benches*).....

In order to bring it home to the Members of the Opposition, Sir, of the total number of Local Authorities in this Region, the NCNC today controls only about five, only five..... (*interruptions from the Opposition*)..... (*Opposition Benches: where and where, name them*).

The hon. Member for Asaba South, Mr Utomi, again criticised the Action Group Government of this Region for dissolving councils without reason. I would like to say, Sir, that this is grossly unfair to the Government because, before the Council in question was dissolved, public enquiry was conducted and the result of the enquiry was that the Council ought to be divided into two, Aniocha South and Aniocha West, and the Council was dissolved and a Caretaker Committee set up. And it is proposed to conduct elections into the two Councils when elections are being conducted into Local Councils. I would like Members to note that in no case have Councils been dissolved, either controlled by the NCNC or the Action Group, without reason.

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

(*Opposition Benches: What reasons? what reasons?*). The enquiry was held in public, and members of the NCNC were represented, even they were represented by a legal practitioner. (*Interruptions from the Opposition*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition spoke of the Ife Council. He is treading on dangerous grounds for if I have to mention all that happened in Ife before the Council was dissolved the Leader of the Opposition will be greatly embarrassed, and I do not want to embarrass him. (*Opposition Benches: reveal, institute a public enquiry.....*).

May I say, Sir, that the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition and other Members on the other side of the House have been amply covered by the hon. Premier and I do not intend to speak longer.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Question again proposed.

The House divided.

Ayes, 55; Noes, 25.

DIVISION LIST

AYES 55

1. Prince A. Adedoyin
2. Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro
3. Mr Y. Adekunle
4. Mr S. T. Adelegan
5. Mr I. A. Adelodun
6. Mr J. O. Adeniran
7. Mr J. O. Adeyemo
8. Hon. A. O. Adeyi
9. Mr N. A. Adibi
10. Hon. J. O. Adigun
11. Mr E. Aina
12. Mr A. Ajibola
13. Mr L. A. Ajimobi
14. Mr S. A. Akerele
15. Mr S. O. Akerele
16. Mr A. O. Akingboye
17. Chief S. L. Akintola
18. Hon. E. Anuku
19. Mr R. O. Areola
20. Mr S. B. Aruwajoye
21. Mr A. Atie
22. Mr D. Atolagbe
23. Mr A. A. Babayemi
24. Mr I. Edeki
25. Chief E. A. A. Fadayiro
26. Alhaji B. O. Fawehinmi
27. Mr M. A. Fetuga
28. Mr O. O. Gbolahan
29. Mr J. O. Kehinde
30. Mr R. A. Lana
31. Mr B. O. Obisesan
32. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi
33. Mr J. O. Odigie
34. Hon. D. Ogundiran
35. Mr Y. Ogunyele
36. Mr B. Ojeniran

37. Mr E. O. Oke
38. Mr S. A. Okeya
39. Mr B. Olaniyan
40. Mr I. A. Olukoju
41. Mr D. K. Olumofin
42. Mr R. A. Olusa
43. Dr J. O. Omitowoju
44. Dr S. D. Onabamiro
45. Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye
46. Mr B. E. O. Osagie
47. Chief J. O. Osuntokun
48. Mr I. A. Ositelu
49. Mr S. A. Otubanjo
50. Mr D. A. Popoola
51. Hon. S. O. Sogbein
52. Chief S. A. Tinubu
53. Mr C. A. Williams

Tellers

54. Chief A. Adekeye
55. Mr N. A. B. Kotoye

NOES 25

1. Mr K. S. Adebesein
2. Mr M. A. Adedigba
3. Mr M. A. Adewumi
4. Mr A. Adisa
5. Mr J. A. Ajuwon
6. Mr E. B. Arowojolu
7. Mr A. B. Bello
8. Mr F. Ebubedike
9. Mr T. E. Elushade
10. Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode
11. Mr O. Ishola
12. Mr T. E. Igugu
13. Mr S. A. Layonu
14. Mr A. O. Obadara
15. Mr D. E. Okumagba
16. Mr P. V. Okwesa
17. Mr C. O. Olamigoke
18. Mr J. O. Omokowajo
19. Mr F. Osuhor
20. Mr G. I. Oviasu
21. Mr S. O. Oyewole
22. Mr K. O. Owonikoko
23. Mr F. H. Utomi

Tellers

24. Mr O. Olaitan
25. Chief F. Oputa-Otutu

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee.

Clauses 1 to 16 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed: That the House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 5th of April, 1961. (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.50 p.m. until Wednesday, 5th April, 1961, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 5TH APRIL, 1961

(The House met at 10.05 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS EDUCATION

Secondary Modern III Final Examination

10/2. Mr D. A. Atolagbe asked the Minister of Education whether he could consider granting Modern School Students who fail in one or two subjects the privilege of repeating only those subjects in any subsequent Modern.III final examination.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr R. A. Olusa): No Sir, it is not proposed to change the present system of conducting the Secondary Modern School Leaving Certificate Examination and the standard is such that pupils with average ability who have completed the three-year course should be able to pass.

Employment for School Leavers

10/9. Mr Atolagbe asked the Minister of Education whether, in view of the increasing rate of unemployment among School Leavers, Government would consider it advisable to expand the scope of the curriculum of the Oshogbo Trade Centre where "Mechanics" is the only subject taught at the present time.

Mr Olusa: It is true that at the end of last year we had the "bulge" in our primary school system so that there were more primary school leavers than there were suitable employment opportunities. I am sure, however, that this is a temporary phase. As far as Trade Centres are concerned, the number and types of courses offered there are now under review with a view to the provision of more adequate training facilities for these young people.

Mr A. E. Atohegbe: I beg to ask a Supplementary question. Whether as contained in this question that the rate of unemployment is increasing, the Regional Government would consider the immediate establishment of Trade Centres in such areas of the Region where hitherto none is in existence?

Mr Olusa: This is no supplementary question, I should be given notice of that question.

Mr Speaker: I do not agree that it is no supplementary question but if you require notice of that question you could have it from him.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Expansion of Co-operative Thrift Societies

10/36. Mr Y. Adekunle asked the Minister of Trade and Industry what efforts Government is making to encourage the expansion of Thrift Societies in the Region.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Mr G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie): It is part of the policy of the Co-operative Societies Division of my Ministry to encourage formation of Co-operative Thrift and Savings Societies among the salary earners in Government Departments, mercantile houses and among teaching staff in Government and Mission Schools. In addition to Co-operative Thrift and Savings Societies, there are also Thrift and Credit Societies amongst the peasants, such as carpenters, tailors, men and women petty traders, bicycle repairers, etc., in order to enable the Society to raise funds to be lent to its members for necessary and productive purposes. The formation of this type of Society provides facilities for regular Thrift savings by members without such being removed from their control.

Thrift Saving Schemes have also been introduced amongst members of the Co-operative Fishermen Association of the Region in order to enable them to raise capital for the purchase of fishing materials and fishing boats.

As part of the effort to encourage thrift savings, the Co-operative Union of Western Nigeria has issued propaganda brochures on thrift savings which are being distributed by Field Secretaries of the Union. Arrangement has already been made in such a way that every Legislator has got a copy of these brochures and I understand that as a result, many of my colleagues here present have made contacts with the Co-operative Union of Western Nigeria Limited for assistance in forming Co-operative Thrift and Credit Societies.

Under similar arrangements, the Co-operative Bank of Western Nigeria Limited undertakes propaganda effort to encourage thrift savings by members of Co-operative Societies by means of Newspaper publications, placards in the streets, cinemas and television. It also makes use of book matches as one of its propaganda methods.

[CHIEF EKWEJUNOR-ETCHIE]

Samples of these brochures and book matches are available for distribution, in the pigeon holes.

Plans are, however, under active consideration for intensive membership drive in the Co-operative Movement which will include increased drive for thrift saving schemes.

Hereunder are comparative statistics showing the development of thrift saving schemes among salary-earners and peasants of the Region—

(a) *Co-operative Thrift and Loan Societies (salary-earners type)*

	No. of Societies	No. of Members	Balance of Savings £
31-3-57 ...	54	1,846	62,403
31-3-58 ...	59	1,386	49,325
31-3-59 ...	74	2,036	62,974
31-3-60 ...	67	2,320	72,653

(b) *Co-operative Thrift and Credit Societies (Non salary-earners-type).*

	No. of Societies	No. of Members	Balance of Savings £
31-3-57 ...	73	2,097	12,514
31-3-58 ...	92	2,100	15,740
31-3-59 ...	115	2,558	22,764
31-3-60 ...	136	3,614	27,708

EDUCATION

Increase in number of Secondary Modern Schools

10/43. Mr L. A. Ajimobi asked the Minister of Education whether the Government would consider the advisability of increasing the number of Secondary Modern Schools particularly in the rural areas.

Mr Olusa: The whole question of the future of the Secondary Modern Schools in the Western Region is under review. The Banjo Commission, set up by the Government towards the close of last year, has submitted its Report to the Government and this Report contains some far-reaching recommendations on possible ways of reshaping the existing Secondary Modern Schools.

Until Government has taken a final decision on the above-mentioned recommendations, it would not be prudent to allow an unrestricted increase in the number of these schools though Divisions poorly served with post-primary educational institutions are being allowed to open new Secondary Modern Schools for the time being.

Number of Secondary Modern Schools in Ibadan and District

10/44. Mr Ajimobi asked the Minister of Education the number of Secondary Grammar Schools that there are both at Ibadan and the outlying districts and how many of these are assisted by Government.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education (Mr J. O. Oye): Mr Speaker, Sir, there are at present sixteen Secondary Grammar Schools in Ibadan township and one Secondary Grammar School in its outlying districts. Of the sixteen schools within the township, twelve are grant-aided, three are not grant-aided, and one is a Government Institution. The only Grammar School in the outlying districts of Ibadan is grant-aided.

Chief F. Oputa-Otutu: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to ask the Minister when the Government of this Region will consider secondary education as a necessity and not a luxury and accept as a national duty the establishment of secondary grammar schools in all Divisions as has been done in the Eastern Region?

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I will like to have notice of that question.

Amount of money spent on Schools in the Region

10/78. Mr N. A. Adibi asked the Minister of Education if he would indicate the number of and the total amount spent on each of the various types of schools (including Technical or vocational schools) in the Region.

(For answer see columns 217 and 218)

Mr Oputa-Otutu: I wish to ask the Minister of Education whether it is not wise to scrap Modern Schools and utilise the hundreds of thousands of pounds for other important and better amenities in view of the constant criticism of this Government regarding the establishment of Modern Schools.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Speaker, Sir, the answer to that question is already contained in a previous answer that the future of Modern Schools is under review.

LANDS AND HOUSING

Housing Scheme in Oshun Division

10/81. Mr Adibi asked the Minister of Lands and Housing whether the Housing Scheme built at the Bodija Estate could also be introduced at some Oshun Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lands and Housing (Mr C. A. Williams): The Western Region Housing

Mr Oye: Mr Speaker, Sir, the number of Institutions and its expenditure for the period April 1954 to March 1961 are as follows:

No. of Institutions	Type	1954-55 £	1955-56 £	1956-57 £	1957-58 £	1958-59 £	1959-60 £	1960-61 £
6,540	Primary Schools	2,784,184	3,636,805	3,363,460	4,293,855	4,293,855	5,333,978	6,267,037*
6,540	Primary Schools	2,784,184	3,759,805	3,636,460	4,135,881	4,293,855	5,333,978	6,267,037*
90	Teacher Training Colleges	308,520	579,930	621,035	702,332	630,960	694,000	873,710*
167	Secondary Grammar Schools	376,986	371,693	380,228	461,293	498,712	591,624	959,600*
533	Secondary Modern Schools	115,758	93,415	156,370	93,467	13,008	—	20,400*
12	Technical Colleges and Trade Centres	47,359	85,426	88,290	883,290	143,856	130,373	542,445*
	<i>Grand Total</i>							
	1954-55	3,632,717						
	1955-56	4,890,269						
	1956-57	4,882,383						
	1957-58	5,496,192						
	1958-59	5,580,394						
	1959-60	6,749,975						
	1960-61	8,663,192*						

*Figures for 1960-61 are estimates.

[MR WILLIAMS]

Corporation has so far established Housing Schemes at Bodija, Ikeja, Benin and Sapele. For financial reasons, it has not been able to extend these schemes to other places. However, it is hoped that similar schemes will be introduced at Ogbomosho and Oshogbo soon.

The hon. Member may like to know that the Corporation's mortgage service operates throughout the Region and several loans have been made to people to build their houses on their own land in all parts of the Region, Oshun Division not excluded. Individuals can deposit their savings with the Corporation and apply for financial assistance to build their houses on land with good title.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: I rise to ask the Minister of Lands and Housing to briefly explain the activities of the Housing Corporation in Benin.

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Chief J. O. Adigun): The Ministry has recently allocated all the Crown Lands in Benin and it is on this very land that the

houses will be built. I am afraid my hon. Friend from Benin is not unaware of it because he is one of those applying for Crown Land and he knows we have recently allocated a portion of the Crown Lands.

Mr P. V. Okwesa: I wish to ask the Minister of Lands and Housing when the Government will consider it advisable to establish a Housing Corporation at Ashaka in the Midwest.

Chief Adigun: I wonder if this is really a supplementary question, but I would like to assure the hon. Member that as soon as we find it practicable, we would do so.

EDUCATION

Amount Spent on Education in 1959-60

10/93. **Mr J. O. Adeyemo** asked the Minister of Education the total amount spent on Education in this Region during the period 1959-60.

Mr Oye: The total expenditure on Education during the 1959-60 financial year was £7,731,924, the breakdown of which is as follows:

EXPENDITURE, 1959-60						Capital	Recurrent	Total	
Type						£	£	£	
Primary Education ...	...	...	...	...	...	420,904	4,913,074	5,333,978
Secondary Grammar ...	...	...	...	...	...	170,711	420,913	591,624
Teacher Training ...	...	...	...	...	...	104,675	589,325	694,000
Technical Education ...	...	...	...	...	...	85,434	44,939	130,373
Scholarships ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	193,191	193,191
Educational Administration and Other Expenses ...	...	...	...	...	...	12,418	77,6340	788,758
TOTAL ...						£	794,142	6,937,782	7,731,924

ECONOMIC PLANNING

Census in the Western Region

10/99. **Mr J. O. Kehinde** asked the Minister of Economic Planning when census will be taken in the Western Region.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Planning (Mr B. O. Obisesan): As the Federal Government with the concurrence of the Regional Governments has decided that a census of population in the Federation be conducted by the middle of next year, the system will be by individual enumeration. Therefore, that in the Western Region will be at the same time.

JUSTICE

Eradication of Bribery and Corruption

10/118. **Mr M. A. Fetuga** asked the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General

what efforts are being made by the Regional Government to eradicate bribery and corruption within its sphere of influence.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Chief Ighodaro): Mr Speaker, Sir, as far as the Public Service is concerned, the Government of Western Region has made it a matter of policy to combat actively bribery and corruption. A committee was set up in 1952, discussing the problem and as a result of that committee's recommendations, the post of an Anti-Corruption Officer was created. The duties of the Anti-Corruption Officer includes—

(a) investigating complaints of bribery and corruption in the Public Service and where it is considered that a *prima facie* case has been established, submitting the report to the Permanent Secretary concerned for any action deemed to be necessary;

[CHIEF IGHODARO]

(b) educating and informing the general public by lecture and propaganda against the evils of bribery and corruption;

Several cases of bribery and corruption within the Public Service have already been investigated and while some allegations have been found groundless, others have been proved and severe punishments meted to the offenders.

Mr Oputa-Otutu: I wish to ask the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General whether he can now consider instituting a Commission of Inquiry into the activities of Customary Courts and Customary Courts' Judges in view of increasing allegations of corruption, bribery and victimisation levelled against them.

Mr Speaker: The conduct of Customary Courts Judges in the discharge of their duties will not be questioned in this honourable House.....(*Government Benches: Shame, shame*) except on a substantive Motion.

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Under Standing Order 15 (3) we should now proceed to Business Motion.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

Chief Odebiyi: 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. May I say, Sir, that it will be necessary in order to continue with the Debate on the Governor's Address for the House to sit today in the evening.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICES OF BILLS

Notices of the following Bills were given:—

1. The Education (Amendment) Law, 1961 (*The Minister of Education*).

2. The Stamp Duties Law, 1961 (*The Minister of Finance*).

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, I am Sir, afraid we are not aware of the Notice being given by the Minister of Education. In respect of what Bill? (*Government Benches: Education (Amendment) Bill*). Most wonderful. He told us what the Bill is to be and didn't tell us the title is to be. We want adequate notice of the Bill.

Mr Speaker: I have been told.

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

The following Bills were presented and read the First time, they were ordered to be read a Second time immediately:—

1. The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 1961 (*The Minister of Works and Transport*).

2. The Land Instruments Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1961 (*The Minister of Lands and Housing*).

3. The Moneylenders (Amendment) Bill, 1961 (*The Minister of Home Affairs*).

ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief S. O. Sogbein): I rise to move the Second Reading of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill. The Bill is not a controversial one and should receive the support of all sections of the House.

At present, there are many delays in dealing with traffic offences mainly because of the difficulties experienced by the police in serving summons. Offenders on being asked to state their address usually give one which is either false or misleading. The object of this Bill before the House is to retain the driving licence of an offender where it is considered that any difficulty is likely to arise in the service of a summons until the offender reports at a police station to collect his licence or a summons is in fact served on him.

I would like to mention that a Bill on the same lines as this before the House was introduced in the Eastern House of Assembly at its last meeting. The Federal Government also proposes to introduce a similar Bill at the next sitting of the Federal Legislature.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, according to the expression of the Mover of this Bill, this very Bill is acceptable to Her Majesty's Opposition and is not controversial in that the light in respect of this very Bill, according to the Mover, has been given by the Eastern House of Assembly where the NCNC is in power (*laughter*). Now this is a vindication that the Action Group Government is not first in everything; in the saving

[MR AMADASUN]

of life, in the detection of crime, the NCNC Government in the land of the rising sun, is giving the leadership to this Action Group Government of the West.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let us call a spade a spade. This Bill is non-controversial in that from my knowledge of road crimes and from my knowledge of many Action Group members driving cars without licences and who pose to be almighty gods, it is necessary to check these evils. This Bill will eradicate those rascals in or outside this House.....

Mr Speaker: Rascals! In this House? I do not have rascals but hon. Gentlemen.

Mr Amadasun: I mean the back-benchers.....

Mr Speaker: This is unparliamentary. You must withdraw.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I withdraw.....(*Shame, shame*). Now Sir, we on this side of the House have been saying that majority of the Bills presented to this House are not prepared by the Ministers presenting them because in such Bills it would have been advisable to know the number of summonses not yet served on the offenders. We want to know whether they are 100 or 200 or 1,000 that have not been served.

In the first paragraph the very spirit of this amendment is stated—

“The number of traffic offenders on whom summonses have not yet been served is high throughout the Region, due mainly to the fact that many offenders on being asked, give false or misleading addresses”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think Her Majesty's Opposition will not oppose this good Bill.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr D. K. Olumofin): I was shocked to hear the Member mentioning that certain people were rascals. I want to show that this Law will affect NCNC members and not Action Group Members. Even the leader of the NCNC once said that the NCNC was a party of crooks. All I want to say now is that this Bill is meant to check irresponsible members of the NCNC and I want to give you one instance in my own division Owo. A high ranking member of the NCNC, who was a signatory to Nigerian Currency notes, was arrested for driving with an expired driving licence. When we talk of people we should know who should be in the NCNC and who

should be in the Action Group. We on this side of the House are never afraid of this Bill. There is a parlance to the effect that the law is meant for evil-doers. I am afraid that the Member for Benin has demonstrated his fears about this law and if you go to the road now and check on Members opposite you find that most of them have no driving licences.

Mr R. A. Akinyemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to make an observation. We have agreed that this Bill is not controversial and in doing so the Chief Whip of the Opposition made a statement and he was asked to withdraw and he did it. I wonder why this carpet crosser was not asked to do the same.

Mr Speaker, as it stands the object of the Bill is for the benefit of the whole Region irrespective of party but in presenting this Bill to this House the Minister said that there were many summonses that have not yet been served. I will at this stage implore the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General working in collaboration with the Minister of Works to produce this Bill to check whether summonses evaded drivers or drivers evaded these summonses. You should check whether these summonses which were meant to be served were actually served on the road by the police and whether they made every attempt to serve them. Apart from that if these summonses, as this Bill states, are not served I would say that that Minister of Justice and Attorney-General should make it a point of duty to investigate, and make sure that the police officer who will be on the road for this work will do so honestly and not for personal reward.

Many of my learned Friends who are here know what they are facing in the courts in respect of this matter. I say with the greatest respect that there must be a check on bribery and corruption from checking police officers on the road to prevent them from satisfying their own private ends.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Mr Duro Ogundiran): We have heard so much about this corruption that I can assure my hon. Friend that any case brought to my notice will be thoroughly investigated and dealt with.

Chief Sogbein: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Member for Benin said that the Western Region is copying from the Eastern Region. I am very sorry that he is most ignorant of the working of the Road Traffic Ordinance. This Ordinance is for the whole of the

[CHIEF SOGBEIN]

Federation and he should have known that all of us have to meet and agree before each Region enacts his own in Parliament. For him to say that we are copying somebody in this respect shows sheer ignorance. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think he should be better educated in this matter.

The Member for Ikeja spoke of the police and whether they served summonses or not. I have to say that they served them. If you go to the roads you will see police with volumes of summonses and if they had succeeded in tracking and bringing offenders to law it would not have been necessary to stop every driver on the road.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

THE LAND INSTRUMENTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961—SECOND READING

Order for the Second Reading read.

Chief Adigun: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my privilege and pleasure to move the Second Reading of, and commend to the favourable consideration and acceptance of this House, this Bill for a Law to amend the Land Instruments Registration Law. The Bill is very simple, straightforward and I am sure, non-contentious.

Under the Land Instruments Registration Law, Chapter 56, any instrument executed by an illiterate person or jointly by a literate and one or more illiterate persons cannot be registered unless it is executed before and attested to by a Magistrate or a Justice of the Peace.

It is felt that since a Justice of the Peace, who may or may not be a layman, is considered qualified to handle and attest to such documents it is desirable that Presidents of Grade A and Grade B Customary Courts should also be given such powers.

This amending Bill, Mr Speaker, has been brought up to redress what could be described as an unfortunate experience of some lawyers who have sent many a conveyance to lawyer/Presidents of Customary Courts for attestation on the assumption that as Commissioners for Oaths, they become *ipso facto* Justice of the

Peace. All the documents thus witnessed by the lawyer/Presidents have been rightly rejected for registration at the Lands Office.

Mr Speaker, Sir, where honour is due I am one of those who believe it should be given. My attention has been called to this unfortunate situation by one of our young, intelligent and hard-working lawyers in the person of Mr Moronfolu Adedapo Aderemi and the fact that Government is taking this step to improve the provisions of the law is an evidence of this Government's readiness always to listen to constructive criticisms and take good advice when honestly given.

I like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Aderemi and to appeal to other citizens, be they lawyers, doctors, farmers, teachers or what not, to come forward and let the nation benefit from their learning, resourcefulness and industry.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Akinyemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy you are not (*interruptions*). For once the Minister of Lands and Housing has presented a good Bill. I am not saying he has assisted the lawyers. I am saying that the job of the lawyers has been made very very easy. But nevertheless, Mr Speaker, he made a comment that this has been done by a resourceful personality and he named a particular person. I don't think this is necessary. I have to say that the Government of this Region should be prepared to listen to criticisms. There have been several times people who are not members of the Action Group Government have brought criticisms, but because they have been brought by a member of the NCNC these criticisms have not been examined..... (*interruptions*).

Mr A. T. Rerri: Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not think it is safe to pass a Bill such as this into law without going into some of the grounds. It will be quite fair and in order that such a lawyer/President will be able to protect the interests of both parties. But where, as in some cases, the President has no legal education, I think it would be a dangerous thing to both parties for such a person to be given such a post. My submission, Mr Speaker, is that the idea behind the law is quite good. But we must be sure that when we try to protect one person we must not destroy another. In an attempt to facilitate the work of lawyers and perhaps to facilitate the ideal, directions should be given.

Chief Adigun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am really grateful to the Members of the Opposition for seeing good sense in this Bill. My Friend from Ikeja South argued that I shouldn't have mentioned names. When I said that I belong to one of those who believe that honour should be given to whom it is due, and when somebody has done something worthwhile, I think it is proper that he is named. And I appeal to my Friends in the Opposition to study some of these laws and if they have something constructive to present to Government we would not mind. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

THE MONEYLENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961—SECOND READING

Order for Second reading read.

Mr Ogundiran: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill to amend Moneylenders Bill. This is a very simple Bill Sir. The objects and reasons have been clearly stated. There are at present practices of some moneylenders who induce persons to borrow money on the security of their farmlands or of crops growing thereon and then try to avoid repayment of the loan whilst refusing to give up possession of the property pledged.

The purpose of this Bill is therefore to amend the Moneylenders Law, Cap. 78, so as to prohibit the creating, by any money-lending contract, of any charge on, or the giving as security of, any land being used for agricultural purposes or any growing crops on such land. Under the provisions of the Bill any moneylending contract purporting to create any charge on, or give as security, any agricultural land or growing crops thereon will be null and void.

I say with pride that we on this side of the House with the National Banks which has just been nationalised (*hear, hear*) will keep looking adequately after the interest of the farmers when it comes to borrowing to finance agricultural or other purposes. We are trying to avoid Shylocks in this Region and I hope that everybody in this House will support this Bill. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye): Mr

Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, sometimes I appreciate the difficulties of any person who goes out seeking or trying to make impressions especially when these are overdue but I can assure the Minister of Home Affairs that bills or legislations such as this have caused more harm than the very evils they try to remove and I can warn the Minister of Home Affairs now that the likelihood is that this particular Bill, whatever its intentions might be, is going to bring much more difficulties than he might possibly have envisaged. First and foremost the Bill is an amendment to the Moneylenders Law. In other words, it can only affect people who come within the class of the moneylenders as defined by the law. We know that it is the Government that formulates policies but in this respect it is very easy, there is nothing as easy as that, for persons, I mean for any person or persons to pretend under the moneylenders ordinance by not getting licences at all and by so doing they cannot be caught by the claws of the Bill. With all sense of responsibility I do not mind sitting down and seeing this Bill getting through but it is my duty to sound some notes of warning to the Minister of Home Affairs. It is for him to listen or refuse to listen and if he listens, to try and find ways and means of bringing further safeguards. I have sympathy for people who are deprived of their lands. Sometimes, Sir, I have to deviate a bit and talk to this Government in the language it understands. The Government should realise that whenever an important issue as this is being discussed, when important issues are at stake, they should have the patience to listen. They should listen especially on issues where we are coming forward with concrete proposals (*interruptions from the Government Benches*). When concrete proposals are being discussed in this House it is impudent of some Members to interrupt especially when constructive work is being done. It is impudence for any person to interrupt and I say this with all sense of responsibility and with all seriousness Sir. (*Opposition Benches: Q.C., Q.C.*) I say that that is one aspect of the matter that the Minister of Home Affairs should look into. Not only should Government make it illegal but should prohibit this type of loans. They should prohibit and make illegal pledging of crops in this manner. Not only should the moneylenders be prohibited but the method of trying to steal land from the farmers under the pretence of using them for the native law and custom should also be prohibited (*hear, hear*).

[MR FANI-KAYODE]

It is important to remember the difficulties encountered by these poor farmers when even they get loans for small sums such as £15 or £20. The conditions of obtaining loans of up to £2,000 or £3,000 are that lands being used for the loan must be for agricultural purposes which would include the plantation with the result that if the plantation owner wants to borrow some money or wants small loans he will find some difficulty in receiving this loan because he cannot use the only security he has, *i.e.*, land. That must be looked into by the Government because in such case that particular owner of land will find that he will be deprived of opportunities for getting more funds for his work and by trying to assist him indirectly the Minister might be harming him directly.

Another point that must not be overlooked is that not all these moneylenders are crooks. Sometimes borrowers are not fools as well. You find that at times when a person borrows money from a moneylender, the borrower gets his money and leaves as security ordinary uncultivated land and then overnight he plants cassava all over the place before the time is due for repayment. What happens? You hear that this land is for agricultural purposes and therefore the security is null and void. All these things affect the community. You cannot come before this House without giving considerable thought to the repercussions and these are what the Minister should do. The Minister can do another thing. He can make an order that such people who have borrowed money on security of their crops under certain circumstances; that the circumstances become null and void when the lenders cannot be found.

With that I support the Bill but I hope the Minister will give more consideration to it.

Mr A. Adisa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the most able speech by the Leader of Opposition. It is the best speech I have ever heard in this House. I believe Sir, that the Leader of Opposition was most constructive and I am sure that the front benchers from the Government side will listen, appreciate, evaluate and then abide by what the Leader of Opposition has said. I can say right away that the whole purpose or the whole intent of this Bill is to enable the Action Group members to clear wholesale the land of the farmers.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. We should not impute motives. I cannot see how this Bill can mean what the hon. Member is trying to suggest. No motives, please.

Mr Adisa: As the Speaker has said, then I will repeat what I have said outside the House.

Mr Speaker: Or you will withdraw it here and now (*hear, hear*).

Mr Adisa: I say that the whole effect of the whole Bill is to enable the Action Group to clear wholesale the lands of the farmers throughout the Western Region. That is why.....

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member be assured once more that I give my ruling on that? I agree with you when you say that you will repeat it outside this House but for goodness sake withdraw it here. (*withdraw, withdraw*).

Mr Adisa: As Mr Speaker has alleged that this Bill is not for obtaining the farmers' lands.....

Mr Speaker: All I say is that it is a contravention of the Standing Orders and advise you to withdraw for the third time

Mr Adisa: In compliance with the ruling of the Speaker, the words are withdrawn..... (*interruptions, Shame! shame! shame!*). I do contend, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Bill will not achieve the object for which it was brought to this House, which is to help farmers who are in genuine or dire need of loans and whose miseries have been used by money lenders to make them poorer. That, so far, is the purported object. This Bill, it is contended, will not achieve that purpose because any of the Government Departments which loan out money could equally loan money out and then make a security for the farmers. In consequence, the same predicament will be encountered, and that is why, as the Leader of the Opposition has suggested, the best thing is to amend this Bill in a manner which will forbid absolutely, in its entirety, the lending of money upon a charge of security on an agricultural land. This is the contention, and if the hon. Members opposite have the interest of the farmers at heart, there is no reason which will prevent them from doing it. But if the Action Group Government wants to give all its money out as loans to the farmers, well good luck to them and in fact they will be most appreciative of this kind of help to the farmers, but not in a way which will forbid moneylenders from loaning money out to farmers and then allow members of the Action Group outside this House, I know there are no moneylenders in this House (*laughter*).....but one thing I know is that moneylenders of the Action Group will fail to renew their licences

[MR ADISA]

and continue to lend out money as before and make the farmers poorer and poorer.....

The best thing that this Government can do is to make the farmers who have no need for funds to be more prosperous. It is not enough for Government only to continue to say from place to place that they are friends of farmers, rather they should increase the price of cocoa so that the farmers will not stand in need of any loans. We do not want this half-hearted policy in this Government.

Again, Sir, this money is needed in order to improve the lot of the farmers, but they fail to get these loans from any agency of Government unless they can show Action Group membership cards. I am telling you that the past policy of this Government was that when loans were being given to these people, they must be members of the Action Group, and if they were not, they were to obtain the membership cards before the loans were given to them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Akinyemi: I do appreciate the good intentions of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs in presenting the Bill for a Law entitled "The Moneylenders (Amendment) Law, 1961", but I am sorry to say that this intention is defeated because the amendment is badly worded. It has been honestly clear from best experience that it is not only moneylenders that give this money out. People who have no licence as moneylenders even do give out more money than such licensed moneylenders who give out loans.

The second point is that this Bill should be so worded that anybody not necessarily moneylenders, anybody, should be liable under the law if caught. This should be so because under this Bill as it now stands, many persons could go behind and surrender their licences and begin to operate as moneylenders in order to get material benefit without the licence and if they are caught, they cannot be prosecuted under the Ordinance.

I do actually appreciate the good intentions of the hon. Minister but as I have said earlier it has not got the proper drafting necessary to reflect the exact intentions. He does not know how to draft it.....(laughter)..... he should have given it to the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General who is a competent lawyer and who happened to be my tutor at Igbobi College.

If indeed we wish to really protect the interest of the farmers we must be prepared to adopt the same method adopted by the Eastern Region Government. Many of these

moneylenders being so parsimonious, and avaricious, they could lend out £10 and make you sign for £100. In the Eastern Region, in order to avoid this kind of practice, it is a law that when a moneylender is loaning out money to a borrower, he should do it by cheque so that he takes it to the bank and signs for it and once this is done, he cannot ask you for any extra amount again. It is quite possible for a moneylender to ask you to sign for £200 where in fact he loaned out only £100. It is therefore prudent that if we want to protect the moneylenders, we should also protect the interest of the public in general.

Therefore, not to defeat this good intention on the part of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, it will be prudent either to withdraw this Bill now, or amend it to reflect fully the intention.

I fully support the intentions of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs on this Bill Mr Speaker, Sir, and advise that it should be properly drafted.

Mr N. A. B. Kotoye: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Nobody who is familiar with the problems of money lending in courts will fail to sympathise with the constructive suggestion which has been put forward by the hon. Leader of the Opposition but I would say that the essential part of this Bill has been overlooked by Members of the Opposition who have contributed to the debate on the Bill. One point is that it is in the interest of the Government and of the community that people should be allowed genuine means of getting money from some source and that is why this Bill is not prohibiting money lending absolutely. It is prohibiting the creation by any moneylending contract, of any charge on, or the giving as security of, any land being used for agricultural purposes or any growing crops on such land. It is also true that people can get outside this Bill. One thing the Leader of Opposition would agree with is that people would still find the means of getting outside it. Otherwise there would be no lawyers. I believe that the hon. Member for Ikeja South would concede this: that even the Bill which was passed in the East providing for the issue of cheques for moneylending is being abused and it will not be surprising if in future they turn to our method here. The purpose of this Bill is to protect the land of this Region from getting into the hands of unscrupulous moneylenders. The Bill will not stop friendly loans. We have the Finance Corporation or the Co-operative Societies, who are not affected by the Moneylenders Bill, to whom

KOTOYE]

farmers could turn. The Government in this Region is not making it impossible for farmers to get money. We have spent a lot of money providing loans to farmers and it would be logical that we should protect farmers from avaricious moneylenders. I would like to say that, in fairness to this Government, we should be progressive and that at all times we should respect public opinion and that if in future it is found that the provision of this amendment is not adequate we shall do all that lies within our powers to protect farmers from unscrupulous moneylenders.

The Minister of Midwest Affairs (Mr E. Otobo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I will not venture to answer that part of the speech of the hon. Leader of Opposition which is characteristic and usual among members of the Opposition. I do appreciate the sense of frustration which frequently motivated such speeches.

May I say at the outset, Sir, that the application of this Bill will be a welcome assurance in the development of rubber plantations in the Midwest as a whole. Many Members seem to think that the application of this Bill is limited to the Oyo and Ogun States. There is a growing practice in the Midwest whereby non-natives of the Midwest very frequently take up most of the rubber plantations belonging to the natives. As soon as this Bill comes into effect most of these unscrupulous moneylenders making it impossible for the farmers in the Midwest to go and tap their rubber will be prevented.

I wish hon. Members to note, Sir, that it is very interesting for the Leader of Opposition to attempt here to show genuine concern for the cause of farmers. He was in a position to do so as far back as two months ago. It is a matter for regret that the only activity of his in connection with this Bill is negative. Negative in the sense that rather than help us to solve the problem, he claims the affection of the farmers from the area he comes. Happily, the farmers there are wise to know who their friends are. I will not take up the time of the House by making reference to venues which are provided by the Government for assistance to farmers. References have been made to the Finance Corporation and also to various Co-operative Societies and it would be in the interest of farmers themselves to form themselves into co-operative societies to enable them to obtain assistance from their superior counterparts.

The Leader of Opposition made another point about the operation of the law. If he had taken pains to go through the Bill as I used to do when I was on that side he would have thought differently. Section 2 (1) of the Bill reads—

“No contract by a borrower or his agent for the repayment or securing of money lent to the borrower or to any agent on his behalf by a moneylender, or for the payment by the borrower or by any agent on his behalf of interest on money so lent, and no security by the borrower or by any such agent as aforesaid in respect of any such contract, shall create, give or include as security for the money lent or for interest thereon any charge of any kind whatsoever on land being used for any agricultural purpose or any growing crops on such land.”

In other words, if at some future date the land is not going to be used as given then it comes under this clause.

The hon. Member for Ibadan South-East would like Members to carry away with them his wild allegation. All I would say is that far from being another design to appropriate the farms of cocoa owners in the Western Region, it is to stop unscrupulous demands of those moneylenders operating in the areas concerned. On this issue I speak with special knowledge because I have been very much concerned with the activities of our own people in the Midwest in regard to farm crops. I should say at this stage that what Government has done so far is highly commendable and that is of course in contradistinction to the activities of certain NCNC leaders in the areas—I am not referring to NCNC members in this House. I wish to say also that there is no reason whatsoever to suppose that the granting of loans by the Finance Corporation and other Government financial agencies has been done in any arbitrary manner. I do know in this particular respect that the Finance Corporation loans given to the Aiyedade District Council go to NCNC and Action Group members and I do know under the scheme people from the Midwest who have benefited who are NCNC and Action Group members.

The hon. Member for Ikeja South made the point that this Bill was badly worded. I would not dispute that. I am not a lawyer but one would have thought that since there is a Q.C. on the other side his opinion should override that of ordinary lawyers. His opinion should prevail. I would be most hesitant to accept the view of the hon. Member in preference to the refined

[MR OTOBO]

wording of this Bill. The point was also made by him that the House should make an amendment right on the Table of this House. I would advise him that should he come to power he should not carry out hasty amendments.

Mr Speaker, Sir, some reference has been made to some cheque signing stunts in the Eastern Region. I do not know about that. All we know here is that we are not concerning ourselves with the various and multifarious activities of moneylenders. We are concerned here with that aspect of the function of moneylenders which relates to farm crops, No more, no less. (*Hear, hear, from Opposition Benches*). And if it is said that the Eastern Region people are protected by the cheque signing business, and so on, all well and good. All we think is that that cheque signing business will not be of use to us here unless it relates to money lending pertaining to cocoa farms. It may be that the hon. Member does not understand what this Bill provides for. (*Shouts of shame, shame, from Government Benches*). The question is not whether existing moneylender is.....(*continued interruptions from Opposition Benches*).....unscrupulous in the sense that if the farmer borrowed £10 he writes £20 or £50 in the agreement. That is not the point, Sir, the point is the perpetual holding of farmland or crops for it.

One of the duties of the Opposition is to be very painstaking. Well, those of you who are used to the tradition of this House will know that in those days, when I was on the other side of this House, I was very painstaking. Where I did not understand a Bill I went to a lawyer; if it concerned agriculture, I went to an Agricultural Officer, and if it concerned engineering, I went to an Engineer, in an attempt to understand. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). (*Opposition Benches: We are always painstaking*).....but they will not do this but will continue to be hopeless Members of the Opposition.

The point was made, Sir, about the definition of Moneylender. I am not a lawyer but I am sure that the hon. the Minister of Home Affairs will say something about the definition of Moneylender in the original law.

With these comments, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Ogundiran: (*cheers from the Government Benches*). Mr Speaker, Sir, I am really happy this morning just because the Opposition has been constructive in commenting on this Bill and the points made by the Leader of the Opposition will be considered where

they are appropriate. But, as far as this Bill is concerned, I assure this honourable House that it has covered the grounds intended. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). The Leader of the Opposition wanted us to make an all-purposes law to include people who are not covered by the Moneylenders Bill. The original law states "moneylender includes every person whose business is that of moneylending or who carries on or advertises or announces himself or holds himself out in any way as carrying on that business, whether or not he also possesses or owns property or money derived from sources other than the lending of money and whether or not he carries on the business as a principal or as an agent....." (*interruptions from the Opposition Benches*).....I take it that his point is that where the man is unlicensed he cannot be said to be a moneylender, the court will uphold, with due deference to Mr Speaker, Sir, and the court will deal with him under the law. (*Continued interruptions from the Opposition Benches*).

The hon. Member for Ikeja will have to consider that I am his senior at the Bar. I have to say this, that Western Nigeria is one of the best in the Federation, not only in the number of lawyers, but also in the number of persons available in the Attorney-General's office; I mean men who are known to be scholars of law.....(*interruptions from the Opposition*).....The fact is that moneylenders are wise in their own way and we on this side of the House do not say that we cannot be caught by the people's tricks especially when they live everyday by tricks and they all know tricks and planning. I can assure this honourable House that when any circumstance arises my Government will take appropriate measure. We are not unaware of the fact that some men.....(*Opposition Benches: Who are they? no point, no point*).....are saved by moneylenders, but if a man should bring himself to calamity .. (*continued interruptions from the Opposition*).

The Bill is intended to protect agricultural lands. As the Leader of the Opposition has suggested, I have taken notice of his points and the Government will consider them but this Bill is the best we can have under the present set-up.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, point of explanation, it is a pity that Mr Isoko, has left the House.

Government Benches: Mr What?

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Isobo.....(*prolonged laughter from both sides of the House*)I am sorry, Sir, I think I missed his name, Mr Itobo.....(*laughter from both sides of the House*).

Mr Speaker: The people whom the hon. Member is trying to refer to as Isobos are no more called Isobos but Urhobos. (*prolonged laughter from both sides of the House*).

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Otobo.

Mr Speaker: I think that the Minister should be referred to by his portfolio. He is the Minister of Midwest Affairs.

Mr Fani-Kayode: I refer to Mr Otobo, the Minister of West,.....of Midwest Affairs.(*laughter from both sides of the House*). The hon. Minister said that I had to be personal in this assumption that relates to this Bill. It is quite true, Sir. But I did my duty to report allegations, made to me as counsel to the Police and to the authorities, of a sum of £600 having been taken from a moneylender by somebody very healthy in the Government, and I am saying that, Sir, without any ill-feelings against the person. Whether he took the money or not, I do not know. I was not there but if an allegation like that is made to me as counsel, it is my duty to report it and I am asking, Sir, that the Minister of Home Affairs should look into the matter because the allegation is very strong that somebody used the name of the Premier to collect that money.....(*cries of shame.....shame.....from the Opposition Benches*).....and I am saying this with all sense of responsibility. I am asking the Minister of Home Affairs to look into it and I shall be there to give him a written letter and affidavits.....(*cheers from Opposition Benches*).

Mr Speaker: The Minister of Home Affairs. You will look into that.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumes the Chair.

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

Sitting suspended at 12.05 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 1.05 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Debate on the Address

Adjourned Debate on the question (22nd 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.

Mr F. H. Utomi: I rise to congratulate His Excellency for his personal achievement and at the same time I rise to oppose the Speech from the Throne as His Master's voice. In opposing this Speech from the Throne I have got to make my observations under many headings. The first is Income Tax. The time is overdue for the introduction of Pay As You Earn system which is a decade old in the Eastern Region. Here in the Western Region, those on regular service with ascertainable income groan under the bulk payment of heavy income tax, payable as a whole or under two or three instalmental policy. It is only this year that an attempt is being made to lighten the burden. Last year, two years ago, people paid tax in two places. They paid to the Regional Inland Revenue Department and also to the local councils which is double tax unheard of anywhere in any part of the world.

Under Agricultural development, I must emphasise, Sir, that nepotism and parochialism are two factors against the Western Region Government. We in the Midwest, since 1952, have been clamouring for a Marketing Board for our rubber. If one per cent of Government expenditure is spent on rubber, we should not have suffered by the reduction in the price of cocoa. We have always been clamouring for rubber rehabilitation and Rubber Marketing Board. We have fought for some time through various means for loans and I am going to comment on Government loans, which are given with bias only to party members of the Action Group.

Government Loans: Because Government Loans have party bias, majority of the farmers pledge their farms to what the Government now call “exploitation by unscrupu-

[Mr Utomi]

lous moneylenders". Under the Government Loan policy, there is more exploitation by the Action Group Loan Board members, who besides lending public money only to their party members, demand exorbitant commissions before approving the loans. This has been pointed out to the Government yearly, through the medium of criticisms of the Speech from the Throne. No attempt has been made by the Government to remedy the situation in democratising the membership of the Loans Board.

Mr Speaker: It is unfortunate I cannot recognise the person who said that it is a lie. It is unparliamentary, but I don't know from which quarters. *(Laughter from both sides)*.

Mr Utomi: I remember, Mr Speaker, Sir, that in 1954, in Asaba Division, when the members of the Loans Board and the Loan Secretary were one day mobbed in an open place in Issele-Uku because very high commissions were demanded and because commissions were given and when NCNC members were not given loans. I remember also, Sir, the Asaba Urban District Council elections, when the Action Group party, in order to get votes, brought loans on the eve of the elections, with the result that the NCNC lost the Asaba District Council elections.

We come to education. It is a regret, Sir, that this Government has not been able to see the flaws in her educational policy, which policy is for mass production of School Leavers, who have no hope of employment both in the West and Federal Services owing to reduced standard, which makes our children vagrants, bandits, sorrows of our urban towns today. The standard is miserably reduced to the extent that our children cannot compete with children from the Eastern Region, Northern Region or the Federal territory. At least, I am an authority on educational matters. It is time Primary School syllabus is reorientated to 1926 Education Code to make allowance for longer period in primary schools and improved academic standard to equate them with children from other parts of the Federation. It is time too, Modern School Leavers those of them, as in England, who have academic aptitude, should be allowed into our Grammar Schools. The ban obstructing their entry into Grammar Schools should be lifted. The Secondary Modern School syllabus and the standard attained before entry is poor with the result that at the end you find them failing to pass the examination; and they do nothing at all but to become riff-raffs, too lazy to work.

I come now to Teacher Training Colleges. I make bold to say, Sir, that Elementary Teacher Training Colleges are an apology. Academically, graduates of these colleges are not sufficiently equipped through no fault of theirs. As the teachers, so are the boys. The academic standard is so reduced that the boys graduating from Elementary Training Colleges are not better than Modern School boys. I remember bringing a Motion to this effect and I was begged to withdraw it because Government was prepared to improve the standard. Their syllabus should be academically improved and integrated with the syllabus of Grade II Teacher Training Colleges to reduce the fatigue and drudgery now experienced in the extensionist course of Grade III. The Government's policy in establishing Grade III Colleges, for the mass production of teachers is regrettable and disastrous to real educational growth of this country. Their syllabus should be enlarged and the period extended to three years.

I now come to the position of teachers. The mad rush to Europe and America for teachers is the fault of our Government. *(Government Members: Have you been there?)* I have not been there but I know that we have been running to Europe and America for teachers. Teachers are slighted; teachers are neglected and their lot is not improved. Mr Speaker, Sir, even graduate teachers are not satisfied. If you need to know the lot of teachers in this country I would like you to keep a statistics of the exodus of teachers from the teaching profession. Why do they resign? It is because they are not satisfied*(interruptions)*. Most graduate teachers wish to join the Federal Service or to join the mercantile houses because the lot of teachers is one which is highly miserable.

Chief Odebiyi: You are not looking miserable.....*(laughter)*.

Mr Speaker: From the way the hon. Gentleman is looking he does not look miserable.

Mr Utomi: Teachers are deliberately neglected yet hundreds are turned out yearly from colleges and the country is in dire need of them. Due to the plight of teachers the graph of exodus grows high yearly. The service conditions are slavish. Teachers realise they have no future and that is why young teachers resign daily for more progressive and lucrative adventures.

Nobody would like to be chained with his generation to endless poverty and miseries. One has to adventure and that is why young

[MR UTOMI]

lous moneylenders". Under the Government Loan policy, there is more exploitation by the Action Group Loan Board members, who besides lending public money only to their party members, demand exorbitant commissions before approving the loans. This has been pointed out to the Government yearly, through the medium of criticisms of the Speech from the Throne. No attempt has been made by the Government to remedy the situation in democratising the membership of the Loans Board.

Mr Speaker: It is unfortunate I cannot recognise the person who said that it is a lie. It is unparliamentary, but I don't know from which quarters. *(Laughter from both sides)*.

Mr Utomi: I remember, Mr Speaker, Sir, that in 1954, in Asaba Division, when the members of the Loans Board and the Loan Secretary were one day mobbed in an open place in Issele-Uku because very high commissions were demanded and because commissions were given and when NCNC members were not given loans. I remember also, Sir, the Asaba Urban District Council elections, when the Action Group party, in order to get votes, brought loans on the eve of the elections, with the result that the NCNC lost the Asaba District Council elections.

We come to education. It is a regret, Sir, that this Government has not been able to see the flaws in her educational policy, which policy is for mass production of School Leavers who have no hope of employment both in the West and Federal Services owing to reduced standard, which makes our children vagrants, bandits, sorrows of our urban towns today. The standard is miserably reduced to the extent that our children cannot compete with children from the Eastern Region, Northern Region or the Federal territory. At least, I am an authority on educational matters. It is time Primary School syllabus is reorientated to 1926 Education Code to make allowance for longer period in primary schools and improved academic standard to equate them with children from other parts of the Federation. It is time too, Modern School Leavers those of them, as in England, who have academic aptitude, should be allowed into our Grammar Schools. The ban obstructing their entry into Grammar Schools should be lifted. The Secondary Modern School syllabus and the standard attained before entry is poor with the result that at the end you find them failing to pass the examination; and they do nothing at all but to become riff-raffs, too lazy to work.

I come now to Teacher Training Colleges. I make bold to say, Sir, that Elementary Teacher Training Colleges are an apology. Academically, graduates of these colleges are not sufficiently equipped through no fault of theirs. As the teachers, so are the boys. The academic standard is so reduced that the boys graduating from Elementary Training Colleges are not better than Modern School boys. I remember bringing a Motion to this effect and I was begged to withdraw it because Government was prepared to improve the standard. Their syllabus should be academically improved and integrated with the syllabus of Grade II Teacher Training Colleges to reduce the fatigue and drudgery now experienced in the extensionist course of Grade III. The Government's policy in establishing Grade III Colleges, for the mass production of teachers is regrettable and disastrous to real educational growth of this country. Their syllabus should be enlarged and the period extended to three years.

I now come to the position of teachers. The mad rush to Europe and America for teachers is the fault of our Government. *(Government Members: Have you been there?)* I have not been there but I know that we have been running to Europe and America for teachers. Teachers are slighted; teachers are neglected and their lot is not improved. Mr Speaker, Sir, even graduate teachers are not satisfied. If you need to know the lot of teachers in this country I would like you to keep a statistics of the exodus of teachers from the teaching profession. Why do they resign? It is because they are not satisfied*(interruptions)*. Most graduate teachers wish to join the Federal Service or to join the mercantile houses because the lot of teachers is one which is highly miserable.

Chief Odebiyi: You are not looking miserable.....*(laughter)*.

Mr Speaker: From the way the hon. Gentleman is looking he does not look miserable.

Mr Utomi: Teachers are deliberately neglected yet hundreds are turned out yearly from colleges and the country is in dire need of them. Due to the plight of teachers the graph of exodus grows high yearly. The service conditions are slavish. Teachers realise they have no future and that is why young teachers resign daily for more progressive and lucrative adventures.

Nobody would like to be chained with his generation to endless poverty and miseries. One has to adventure and that is why young

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teachers with foresight drop the cloak for better attractive fields. Voluntary Agency teachers are in social fetters. Their service has no promotional ladder as in the Civil Service and hence depending on long incremental range, initials and maxima of their salaries should be given catapulting consideration.

Now to the Ife University. Most of us, even though not professors in the University College, Ibadan, are not new in the history of origin and location of ancient universities. In the Middle Ages Universities were sited in focal points and centres for their accessibility. In this way the Universities of Pissa, Padus, Paris, Milan, Havard, Cologne and Cambridge originated. Scholars migrated to these great centres of learning to listen to master teachers, the professors, each in his own field of speciality. It is unfortunate that we in the Midwest are not given an opportunity to give our opinion about the siting of the Ife University. And here we bring in the parochial nature of our Government. You all know that Ife is only fifty-two miles from Ibadan where there is a University and about 268 miles from Asaba. We appreciate the historic nature of Ife but we know very well the siting of the University constitutes an injustice to the people of the Midwest. Ondo, for the sake of proximity and equi-distance, is the place where this University ought to have been sited. It is due to parochialism on the part of the Government that made it to site the University in Ife. The Salvation Army, the Baptist Mission and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission all in no distant future, wish to establish their Universities. They are all collecting funds now. Assuming they are all sited around Yoruba West, where is the Midwest? Then we have cluster of Universities only in the Yoruba West.

Industries.—We appreciate the Western Government is doing a lot towards industries, but here again parochialism and nepotism are two important factors against this Government. Whoever goes to Ikeja will appreciate that the Western Government is doing something for the Western West..... (interruptions). I still say that the Western Government is doing something for the Yoruba West. We want decentralisation of industries. (*Chief Odebiyi: One Nigeria*). I am for one Nigeria but you don't expect the people of the Midwest to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. It may mean that our school leavers will have to migrate, as in the early days of Industrial England, to Yoruba West to look for employment.

The Government lacks any vestige of equity in distribution of amenities as in the wise Eastern Region. (*Government Whip: But they migrate to Lagos for employment*).

We come now to Medical Services. I am going to capitalise on the tribalistic outlook of this Government.....(interruptions). In 1952 the Federal Government gave an initial grant to cover the capital cost of Ogwashi-Uku and Owo hospitals with the sole aim of making them subsequently combined hospitals. The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, then the Minister of Health, was the Minister in charge. The two hospitals are Catholic Mission hospitals, but Owo hospital, because it is in the Yoruba West, has since been combined in partnership with the Government (*Government Member: Who told you that?*) I know that. Since 1952 I have pleaded the cause of Ogwashi-Uku Hospital in this House requesting that Government should make it a combined Hospital, but it has been neglected. I have been pleading that the staff of the hospital should not be allowed to suffer unduly. I have asked this Government to give some assistance to this hospital so that it will be combined instead of expecting the Mission to run to America and Europe for aids.

The original intention of the Government is to get it combined and I am happy that hon. Ighodaro, now the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General but then the Minister of Health can tell the help he gave to this hospital. The initial grant made by the Government cannot efficiently and adequately maintain a Rural Health centre a lot of which are found in the Yoruba West. Imagine the amount you spend in starting a new hospital. The initial amount is from £75,000, for instance, the Abeokuta Mental Hospital. Here again, I pray the Government for a change of heart to see that this hospital is combined at no distant future. You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. (*Government Member: With apologies to Aggrey*).

Roads.—Here again we have no roads. (*Government Members: How did you come?*) Roads which we have there are those constructed and maintained by the Councils. As far back as 1953 I brought a Motion on it on the floor of this House. Then this Government was given £4½ million for road development. We were asked to recommend which important roads will be tarred for us. I am happy again that the Speaker was the Chairman of that Road Planning Committee. Asaba Divisional Council recommended

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Asaba and Ogwashi-Uku. We also recommended Ibusa-Ogwashi-Ubulu-Umunede, 34-mile Road and Ogwashi-Uku-Nsukwa Utagba Road to link the two sister Divisions to facilitate trade and communication. Only a quarter of this 34-mile road Asaba-Ibusa-Ogwashi-Umunede road has been tarred. We pray for its completion in the current year and a start on Ogwashi-Uku-Usukwa-Utagba road, on priority recommendation of the Action Group Midwest Advisory Council.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now come to Water. To think of Anjocha area is to think of a desert with no oases. Since 1952, Ogwashi-Uku, Asaba, and Issele-Uku were earmarked for water. All preliminary surveys have been made at Ogwashi-Uku by the Government Water Engineer. From the onset Ogwashi-Uku was in the list of Urban Water areas.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! the hon. Gentleman's time is up. The hon. gentleman may be given an extension of time by the House. (*No, no from the Government Benches*).

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I will beg that the hon. Member be given a minute to wind up.

Mr Utomi: Mr Speaker, Sir, attempts to stir up our nerves have been made only on election periods, when pretences for bore holes were made by Israeli Water Engineers at Ogwashi-Uku, Asaba and Issele-Uku. If we are considered part of Western Region and if the Government feels it owes us an obligation, the water scheme in this area is overdue for implementation and should no longer be an election propaganda.

Customary Courts.—As to customary courts they only stand as inhuman exhibits of injustice and victimisation to condemn the Western Government on the great day of reckoning. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Mr S. A. Otubanjo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion on the Speech from the Throne. In doing so, I will not like to deal with the merits of the programmes contained in the Speech because they can speak for themselves and because I am sure that those programmes will gladden the hearts of all true sons of this Region. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

Nevertheless, before I continue I should say that I will like to reiterate what the Leader of the House said on the incident which happened at the State Opening of Parliament; that incident has been properly thrashed on the Floor of this House but to me that incident made one revelation. It has proved that that brilliant lawyer can also become a blatant lawyer.

An Opposition Member: The hon. Member should not refer to a particular person in his speech.

Chief Odebiyi: The hon. Member is not referring to anybody.

Mr Amadasun: He is referring to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Akinyemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member should not speak to only one person in the House as he is now speaking about the Leader of the Opposition. (*Interruptions*).....

Mr Otubanjo: Mr Speaker, Sir, this is another act in the already black record of Members of the Opposition. I would now like to mention some specific matters mentioned by some Members of the Opposition. Just a few minutes ago, the hon. the Member for Asaba, I am referring to my Friend, the naked school master from Asaba Training College.

Mr Speaker: The word "naked" in this context is unparliamentary, being unparliamentary as far as climate of Nigeria is concerned. Moreover, the Member is wearing his traditional dress.

Mr Otubanjo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I take your correction. (*Opposition Members: Withdraw, withdraw,.....long interruptions*.....).

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman withdraw?

Mr Otubanjo: Mr Speaker, I beg to withdraw.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I now come to Customary Courts. What Members of the Opposition do not do and which they ought to do is to make a comparative study of Customary Courts system in the whole of the Federation of Nigeria. Earlier on today, the hon. the Minister for Midwest Affairs gave an advice to Members of the Opposition that before they make any criticisms on the Floor of this House they should study the facts and get

[MR OTUBANJO]

all the figures at their finger tips. They should try and tell us what is happening in other parts of the Federation about Customary Courts.

In the Eastern Region, Mr Speaker, Sir, the appointment of Customary Court Judges is solely in the hands of the Minister concerned and perhaps Members of the Opposition will like to know that the number of professional lawyers appointed as Customary Court Judges in the Eastern Region is negligible compared with the number in the Western Region.

In the Northern Region you know what the Alkali Courts are like. What we are asking the Opposition to tell us is whether we should adopt the Customary Court System in the East or the Alkali System in the North. In which case many of them who dare to criticise the Government on the floor of this House will just go out and find themselves arrested, tried and imprisoned within an hour. In the Western Region, Customary Court Judges, as you all know, are appointed by an Independent Body. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: May I refer Members to Order 29 (5) which says that Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking, you all have the opportunity of replying when it is your time.

Mr Otubanjo: As I was saying, we all have some professional men who are designated Customary Court Supervisors, who go about supervising the work of these Customary Courts in an attempt to see that Justice is done. People always say, the Members of the Opposition, that there are many appeals against judgments of Customary Court Judges. What they have not told us is that they have *(interruptions)*.....In accordance to an answer to a question given by the hon. the Minister of Justice, the point about these things is that justice should be done and as far as justice is done in the end there is no fear for anybody.

Mr Speaker, Sir, another important point and criticism of the Opposition to which I would like to make a reply is this question of factories at Ikeja. Many Members could stand up and criticise the Government about so many factories in Ikeja. Any secondary school-boy would understand that there are certain conditions conducive to the establishment of industries and Ikeja appears to satisfy these conditions. Just as Government did not contemplate the establishment of rubber in Ikeja or Abeokuta in the scale in which it

was established in the Midwest, it is the same that the Government cannot contemplate factories at Benin. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Mr Ajimobi take his seat.

Mr Otubanjo I would like to reiterate the solemn appeal which the hon. Premier made to Members of the Opposition last week and that concerns the alleged attempt and threat by Members of the Opposition about the extension of the Lagos Boundary. Most Members of the Opposition I can say are short-sighted. They do not remember that history will record most of their acts.

At this particular time an important problem which is facing all Governments of the Federation is the question of unemployment. In the Western Region the Government is tackling this problem by the establishment of Farm Settlements where hundreds of our school leavers can gain productive employment and be of very good use to their community. Even in the Eastern Region, where the NCNC is in power, the establishment of Farm Settlements is still in the planning stage. It is not unlikely that so many delegations will be sent to the Western Region to study the Farm Settlement Scheme before the Eastern Region establish their own. Members of the Opposition will come here and talk about unemployment. I should have thought that if the NCNC is one and indivisible, that is the NCNC is not different in the West from what it is in the East, there should have been a common policy by which criticisms of the Opposition would be constructive. Why criticise what is already in operation in the West when you know quite well that there is going to be such thing in the East, where members of your party are in power? *(Opposition Benches: We don't know)*.

If you would listen I have a diagnosis for the ailments of the Members of the Opposition. I have been studying Members of the Opposition for the past six months and I notice that what they are suffering from is not only frustration, as the hon. Minister of Midwest Affairs pointed out this morning; Members of the Opposition are not only in a position of hopelessness, that is talking about the present, they are also in a position of unhelpfulness. What I mean by that is this. If you always regard yourselves as an alternative Government, that is, if you don't lose hope for the present, if you take your position for the present, you will be prepared to give suggestions to the Government which will be carried out when you form a Government.

[MR OTUBANJO]

But because you have no hope, that is, in a state of unhopefulness, you begin to come forward with plans which cannot materialise.

I would like to remind you to study politicians in other parts of the world. The Conservative Party when they became wise adopted the Social Welfare Scheme of the Labour Party because they knew that was what the people wanted. (*Opposition Benches: They didn't. Government Benches: They did.*)

Members of the Opposition would just like to come here and criticise everything the Government does. My advice to you is in order that the pages of history may not condemn you as was the appeal of the hon. Premier last time that before you come to this House.....

Opposition Member: Order No. 30—Relevancy in debate. Well he is addressing the Speaker, but is it in order to say that he condemns the Speaker? (*Laughter from both sides of the House.*)

Mr Otubanjo: I am telling Members of the Opposition through Mr Speaker that you should behave in a way.....

Mr Amadasun: Point of Order Mr Speaker. He has no right to continue his debate. We want the ruling of the Speaker.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman is referring to relevancy in debate. I have not seen any irrelevance in the speech of the hon. Gentleman but he should direct his speech through me to the House.

Mr Otubanjo: Finally, Mr Speaker, this is a piece of advice through you to Members of the Opposition. Let them remember the words of that wise man:

"Hope rises eternally in human breath". Don't lose hope, try to examine Government measures, see the goodness in them, criticise as constructively as possible and then people will like to regard you as a very able Opposition." (*Loud Applause from the Government side.*)

Mr A. A. Babayemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency, the Governor for his excellent Speech, please permit me, Sir, to express my gratitude to the electorates of Egba North-West Constituency for electing me to this honourable House. And again, Sir, please permit me also to congratulate the electorates of Egba North-West for their recent success in the last by-election into the Federal House (*hear, hear.*)

Mr Speaker, it is a fact that with the crushing defeat of the NCNC candidate, Mr Sorunke, the pillar of NCNC at Abeokuta. (*Opposition Benches: No point*) We are succeeding.....(*interruptions.*)

Chief Odebiyi: Point of Information, Sir. The hon. Gentleman is making his maiden speech and it is good for all Members to listen in silence to what he wants to say.

Mr Babayemi: And again, Sir, please permit me also to congratulate.....(*interruptions.*) (*Opposition Benches: This is no place to congratulate him.*)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! There are many things you don't think are so and yet they are so.

Mr Babayemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, with the crushing defeat of Mr Sorunke, NCNC pillar in Abeokuta, we have succeeded in seeing the end and the complete annihilation of NCNC in Egba (*hear, hear.*)

Mr Speaker, words are definitely inadequate for me to express the appreciable functions of this Government being manned by the Action Group and, by the grace of God, the conscious people of the Western Region shall always rightly choose good from bad, and we shall continue to rule.

There is no doubt, Sir, that the Action Group Party of the Western Region to which I am proud to belong, is the only liberal, democratic, responsible and the most progressive Government in the Federation of Nigeria (*hear, hear*). Liberal, I say, because all essential services are distributed without discrimination (*Opposition Members: Ah*). Democratic, because the elements of democracy are unpolluted in this Region. Responsible, because this Government is always conscious of its responsibilities as the guardian of the people's welfare. And above all, most progressive, because our opponents, despite their stark blindness, have admitted seeing the streaks of progress that have taken place in every nook and corner in the Western Region. (*Opposition Member: You will be looking to nooks and corners in this Region.*) (*Government Benches: Tell them.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, what is more, is the position of our natural rulers. The Government does not only recognise them but has also elevated their status, improved their welfare which act of benevolence has enabled every Oba and Chief not only to be secure in this Region, breathing free air and also having their fair shares of the life more abundant programme of the Action Group (*hear, hear.*)

Mr Riemu: The hon. Member is reading his welcome address.

Mr Speaker: Thank you. Will the hon. Gentleman continue.

Mr Babayemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is already committed to making this Region a true Welfare State. It has not shown any sign of reluctance in pushing this plan through. It is therefore, Mr Speaker, politically insane for anybody to criticise the Action Group Government adversely. For example, Sir, the Free Primary Education Scheme in this Region is a bold challenge to other Governments in the country. In the East, where the NCNC has been in power, it is only being pursued by instalments. In the Federal Government, where the NCNC is a wife to the NPC, the Free Primary Education was only a story of yesterday, and in the North.....(shouts of "read on", "read on" from Opposition Benches).

Mr Speaker, I will be grateful if all these Standard Six hon. Members right from the second bench on the other side of the House can keep quiet and listen to constructive debate (hear, hear). (Opposition Benches: Are you not a Standard Six? That is why we call you rascals).

Mr Speaker, in the North where the NPC, of which the Prime Minister is the Deputy Leader, is in power, the Free Primary Education has not been dreamt of.

Sir, I will continue to refresh the memories of the Members of the Opposition of the achievements of the Western Region government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Action Group Government provides jobs for all irrespective of tribe (Opposition Benches: No, no). (Government Member: Come to Ewekoro). In fact, Sir, it is only in the West that the population of unemployment is the least despite the fact that many Easterners and Northerners come to the Western Region in order to breathe free air. Take, for example, the palm wine trade which is being dominated by people from the Eastern Region (Opposition Benches: Where?) (Government Benches: By the Ibos).

Come to the University site you have a legion of them there, and many of you have been going to drink palm wine (Government Benches: Ibo labourers).

Mr Speaker: When you make such noise it appears that the noise makers don't like what is being said to be heard. I am of the opinion that everybody wants to hear what hon. Members have to say. Will the hon. Gentleman continue.

Mr Babayemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, in order to facilitate the amelioration of the state created by unemployment, an Industrial Promotions Commission was established to be responsible for industrial development. The main task of this Commission is to arrange for the survey of industrial and processing possibilities with the aid of industrial consultants, and to take effective actions by the Government agencies and Ministers responsible for providing the service is connected with the industrial development. This is indeed an achievement.

Sir, Nigeria's demand for imported goods is soaring high daily and in order to arrest the doleful situation the Government of Western Region, through its agents, the Western Nigeria Development Corporation, has embarked on the establishment of various industries like the Canning Factory at Ibadan, the Cement Factory at Abeokuta and Ekpoma Rubber Factory and several others.

The Government Sir, with its bouyant economy, coupled with its foresight, is satisfactorily meeting the different basic requirements for industry.

For example Sir, there are about 234 factory units operating in this Region and again Sir, as a practical demonstration of goodwill on the part of Government, the Ministry of Trade and Industry encourages small businessmen. The Government has been pursuing this policy vigorously. The Minister of Trade and Industry visited Iwo to put before them plans of the Government to help small businessmen.

The Government has tarred about 1,390 miles of road carrying traffic of about 300 motor vehicles daily. To increase its laudable scheme, an increase of between £400,000 and £650,000 is being made available annually for road maintenance.

Furthermore a major programme of electricity development was to make interest free loan of £1.6 million to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria to finance new projects in Nigeria and for purpose of information, the West Regional Government was the first to perform this magnanimous act and many towns have been supplied with electricity.

Finally, going *pari passu* with electricity expansion is the provision of water supply and this is being carried out on a large scale. It is my candid view that anybody criticising this Government has nothing to say.

With these, Sir, I beg to support.

Sitting suspended at 2.08 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.00 p.m.

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair.

Mr I. Edeki: Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion on the Speech from the Throne, I would like to make some comments on the proposals of the Government as contained in that Speech.

What is said about cocoa reflects the true position of that commodity in the world market. I mean to say that the Government does not attempt to throw dust in our eyes by toning the picture and giving it a false colour as other Governments do. Rather the truth has been spoken and the challenge accepted. The Government is to be congratulated on the relentless efforts being made to diversify the economy of the Region and in this connection, the visits Members paid to some development projects in Ikeja, Agege and Ewékoro last Friday must have been an eye-opener. As there will be less money for development if the unfavourable price fluctuations in which our agricultural products are involved in the world market should continue, one might suggest that while all essential services are maintained in the relatively advanced sections of the Region, a big fraction of the available fund should be devoted to improving the lot of the less favoured areas wherever they may be.

As agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of Nigeria, the Farm Settlement Scheme will for ever be acclaimed as a worthwhile contribution by the Western Region to the economic advancement of the Federation. Posterity is going to cherish the memory of the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources who conceived the idea which is now being vigorously studied by the East Regional Government. When the settlements are well under way, or reach maturity, they will surely revolutionise agriculture on the West Coast of Africa.

But the benefits accruable from the scheme must not be confined to specific areas. In the very near future, every Division ought to have one Farm Settlement, but the ultimate aim of the Government should be to establish one in every administrative district.

The proposal of the Government to develop the educational services of the Region is very encouraging. The far-sightedness of the Government and the efficiency with which it clothes its measures with reality once it is convinced of their practicability and usefulness, are now proverbial in this country. The Banjo Commission and the proposed University of Ife are cases in point.

At one time there was hue and cry about falling standards of primary education in the Region. The Opposition nearly cried themselves hoarse over the issue. But it is now known that the apparently falling standards were due not to bad teaching as such, but to difficulties inherent in an expanding system. Comparative statistics have also proved that the performances of our children, the products of our primary schools, in competitive entrance examinations and in the West African School Certificate examinations, are not worse than those of candidates from other Regions.

A solid foundation has been laid for the University of Ife; which is going to be, as in other places, the apex of our educational pyramid. Just as a Member said here last week, the question of the site of the University must not be dragged into the realm of controversy. Ife affords ample opportunities for Agricultural research and since it is as far from Ibadan as Oxford is from Cambridge, it will enable the two Universities to engage in joint cultural pursuits. However, I agree with the Member who said that when the University is thoroughly established a College of it should be in the Midwest.

Many areas in the Region are under-schooled in so far as Secondary Grammar Schools are concerned. The proposed expansion of educational facilities in the Region must therefore include the opening of more secondary schools, grant-aided from the time of their inception, in Afenmai Division and Ilaro, etc. One such grammar school is needed in my own town, Otuo, and I hope the Government will encourage us in all respects.

In my own constituency, our forest resources are being crudely exploited. Forests, as we all know, maintain the stability of climatic conditions and prevent soil erosion. Anything done by the Government to encourage afforestation anywhere in the Region will therefore redound to the welfare of the people. I would hence tell the Government—"That which thou wish to do, do it quickly".

If the health of the people is poor and the expectation of life short, all we say about economic development will be a farce. The desire of the Government to extend medical and health facilities is therefore most welcome. In Etsakor District there is already one General Hospital. It is only Ivbiosakon District, my constituency, that has nothing to boast of. In this Five

[MR EDEKI]

Year Development Plan I hope the Government will meet our request as well as that of Agenebode for a cottage hospital at least.

The wealth of a nation is more spiritual than material and her strength stems from its democratic heritage which is inculcated in the lives of its citizens in their youth and their homes. Families are nations in miniature and it is within the countless homes of decent hard-working families that one must look for the glory of a nation. Within our homes one must find at work the forces of deep religious principle, the spirit of thrift and enterprise, respect for opportunity and for individual accomplishment. Our homes should be the repositories of those noble customs and traditions we have inherited from our ancestors and those qualities of the mind—perseverance, humility, honesty, respect for constituted authority, charity and consideration for others—which make a nation great. But our homes cannot perform these functions creditably if they are not stable and if the atmosphere surrounding them is always disturbed by family bickerings and divorce. Young men and young women must therefore not be allowed to rush headlong into holy matrimony without the necessary guidance and education. The wish of the Government to extend the Family Guidance Councils which have been successfully tried in Ibadan to other urban centres is most commendable. In due course, I hope they will be organised in some Divisional Headquarters all over the Region. The efficiency of these Councils will be ensured if the collaboration of the Church and other religious bodies is secured.

The Government of the Western Region could with justifiable pride pat itself on the back for being the first in the whole of Africa to introduce Television to its area of jurisdiction. But I would like the amenity to be extended to Ondo, Benin and Warri Provinces.

These are many other towns in the Region which have industrial and commercial potentialities. The earlier such towns are planned the better would it be for us. I would hereby urge the Housing Corporation to extend its services to the Midwest at no distant date so that towns like Benin City or Sapele may have Housing Estates sited in them.

I have no doubt in my mind that the NPC does not support the creation of more Regions around ethnic groups in this country. There is also no doubt that the NCNC, its junior partner, the most clamorous in advocating the creation of the Midwest State,

while not favouring the application of the principle it propounds to the Eastern Region, bows to the will of its senior partner behind the screen. Thus in a shameful manner it plays politics with the destiny of the Mid-westerners whose erstwhile confidence in that Party has turned out to be Dead Sea apples in their mouths. Herein is the major cause of the reversal of feelings in favour of the Action Group in the Midwest.

The scales have fallen from their eyes. They now know those who are their friends and those who deceive them for unworthy political ends.

The Action Group is the only Party that believes in the creation of more states in Nigeria and consistently advocates it in word as well as action. The fact that the Midwest Minority Council will soon be launched with certain executive powers delegated to its Chairman is an earnest vindication of the West Regional Government's determination to bring the proposed Midwest State or Region to life at the earliest possible time. For this reason if for nothing else, all Mid-westerners in this House must rally round the Action Group.

To be in the Company of the NCNC
Is frustration and death

And to be in the Company of the Action
Group

Is life more abundant.

We all are aware of the great part roads play in the economic development of a nation being, as they are, the arteries of trade, commerce, culture and civilisation and the road programme of the Government is very commendable. In Ivbiosakon District, lack of roads is our bane. There are no easy means of communications between villages and towns and our bridges are death traps. The exploitation of our agricultural resources for the benefit of the Region is made difficult by lack of all-season roads and what is more, there is not an inch of tarred road in the District. On the floor of this House I, on behalf of my people, cry to the West Regional Government, through its Minister of Works and Transport, for help so that the following roads may be tarred within the period of the present development plan:—

(1) Ifon-Uzebba-Sabongidda-Afuzé-Auchi.

(2) Sabongidda-Ekpoma.

(3) Sebe Ogbe-Otwa-Ikhin-Uzebba.

To check the incidence of water-borne diseases in Ivbiosakon District, the Government is urged to extend to the area its scheme for Rural Water Supply. Work on the Bore-Hole at Sabongidda should be resumed

and completed without further delay. I would like work to start on the water scheme for Uzebba, Afuze and Otwa at no distant date and Sebe to be given the amenity. I beg to support.

Chief F. Oputa-Otutu: Mr Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I was present in the House of Representatives when that House was debating the Motion for the creation of the Midwest Region, which Region, Sir, will include Akoko-Edo District and Warri Division.

Mr Speaker: May I refer the hon. Member to Order No. 30. I rule that the creation of the Midwest State is not relevant to.....(*Interruption from the Opposition*).

Chief Odebiyi: On point of explanation, Sir. The hon. the Speaker made a ruling and a member of the Opposition said "No". That I think.....(*interruptions*).

Mr Akinyemi: Mr Speaker was presiding in this House when the hon. Minister of Midwest Affairs discussed the question. I would like you to listen. (*Interruptions from Government Bench*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am on my legs and the hon. the Leader of the House has no right to get up when I am on my legs. The hon. the Minister of Midwest Affairs made a statement about the Midwest and it was relayed over the radio today.....(*interruptions*).

Chief Odebiyi: Order 37.

Mr Speaker: Order 37. Furthermore, I have to quote for the attention of members Order 34. "It shall be out of order to make a motion or move an amendment dealing with the subject matter of a Bill or other Order of the Day appointed for consideration". I have notices here with me on the Midwest State on the Motion for Adjournment.

Chief Oputa-Otutu: At the joint session of the House of Chiefs and House of Assembly His Excellency said:

"My Ministers will soon launch the Midwest Minority Council with the Minister for Midwest Affairs as its Chairman. In the course of this Session, you will be asked to amend the relevant Laws so as to permit the delegation of certain executive powers to the Minister in regard to certain aspects of matters closely related to local usages and custom in the Midwest Area".

Mr Speaker: The Governor's Speech refers to the Midwest Minority Council and did not anticipate the Motion for the creation of the Midwest State which has been carried. (*hear, hear, hear*).

Chief Oputa-Otutu: His Excellency's Speech on the so-called Midwest Minority Council.....Mr Speaker, Sir, I do hope that now that the Motion for the creation of the Midwest State has been unanimously passed in the House of Representatives (*long silence.....Government Benches: what next? the next thing is for you to sit down*). The Minority Council is out-dated and will not serve any useful purpose. I hope Sir that this Government should be courageous enough to table a similar Motion in this House.

Mr N. A. B. Kotoye: Mr Speaker, Sir, a Standing Order says that the decision of the Chair shall be final. I will say, with respect, that to make more comments on a topic after the Speaker has ruled is an infringement of the ruling of the Chair.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member stop referring to the creation of the Midwest State? (*shame, shame*).

Chief Oputa-Otutu: I shall defer these points till the time comes. Meanwhile, before I forget, I would like, Sir, to sound a note of warning to the Minister of Finance. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like in the interest of the teeming 7,000,000 people of Western Nigeria to ask the following questions:—

Is it a fact that about a sum of £190 is received by the Ministers in this Region who own houses as travelling and housing allowances? That is question No. 1. No. 2, is it a fact that there is a circular...

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, Standing Order No. 34. The hon. Member Sir, is anticipating the debate on the Budget itself. He will have ample chance to do this when we are considering the Estimates and to ask any questions having to do with the finances of this Region.

Mr Speaker: May I remind the hon. Member that he should not anticipate the Budget debate (*hear, hear*).

Chief Oputa-Otutu: I will come back to this matter later again. About a week ago, Sir, the Premier of this Region announced the nationalisation of the National Bank of Nigeria. Mr Speaker, Sir, in the past the Opposition had reasons to attack this Government for its financial and banking policies. Sir, it is a fact that this Government has been accused of investing some millions

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of pounds in the National Bank without the direction of this House as done by the Eastern counterpart for the African Continental Bank. I will repeat, Mr Speaker, Sir, that in the past the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria which will soon be the Action Group Government of what is the remaining portion of this Region after the Midwest has been cut of.....(the central Yoruba Region). Yes, the Government of the Central Yoruba State (laughter) or Yoruba West, has been in the past accused of this policy. This Government, Sir, has always been accused of investing a sum of one million pounds in the National Bank of Nigeria without the direction as done in the case of the African Continental Bank. It is quite natural Sir that when the time came for the Government of Western Nigeria to nationalise the National Bank it would have cleared its name of this allegation by appointing a Commission of Enquiry into the activities of this Bank from 1952 to 31st March, 1961. If it had done this it would have been easier for the Opposition to recommend to the Central Bank to grant a licence to this Bank. (Opposition Benches: liquidation!) I do hope, Sir, that the Minister of Finance will be able to explain himself on these lines as I have put them up. It is in your own interest that the several allegations Mr J. E. Otobo had at one time.....

Chief Odebiyi: On point of order Sir, Ministers shall be called by their portfolios.

Chief Oputa-Otutu: We on this side of the House do not understand what the Minister of Finance is talking.

Government Benches: After ten years in this House you have not yet understood! (shame, shame).

Chief Oputa-Otutu: In 1958 when the Customary Courts Law was being enacted the then Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Rotimi Williams, made some impressions on the Opposition by using the good name of the then Speaker of this House who himself is a lawyer, but now a judge, to pass that law. The impression then was made on the Opposition that the Speaker of the House was going to be a permanent Chairman of the Local Government Service Board and so the Opposition accepted the law because we thought that the Chairman was going to be a responsible person as the Speaker of the House and we expected that he would be fair in dealing with the members of the public. Mr Speaker, Sir, no soon.....

(Government Benches: Grammar! no soon! You are butchering grammar. No soon! (laughter)).

No sooner than we had passed the law than another person in the name of Ogunnaike was appointed to the post. I leave this House to judge the activities of the Local Government Service Board. As soon as the former Speaker ceased to be the Speaker of this House, what did you do for him? Mr Speaker, Sir these allegations of presidents of Customary Courts especially Grades "B" and "C" in this Region who have since been appointed and have been taking side with a political party in this Region should be investigated. We are living witnesses of the activities of these Customary Courts. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would appeal to this Government to transfer the administration of Customary Courts now under the jurisdiction of the Local Government Service Board to the Chief Justice of Western Nigeria. This desire, Sir, was expressed by the Nigerian members of the famous Lagos Conference of World Jurists.

The Opposition is known to be very fair in its statements on the Government of Western Nigeria, and for this reason I must call the attention of the Ministry of Works and Transport to the need for the completion of the roads between Ubiaruku and Utalogbe to Kwale and also call the attention of the Minister of Works and Transport to other important commercial roads linking Ubiaruku to Abraka.

In his speech on this Motion, the hon. Member for Ilesha North made reference to the Local Government Police and its functions in the maintenance of law and order during future elections, both Regional and local elections. I would like to say that this House should not act in a way to precipitate troubles in this Region, but should do everything possible to prevent it.

Mr Akinyemi: We of the Opposition are not opposing the Motion of Thanks but we are making observations on some of the things we expected the Governor to touch upon in his Speech from the Throne.

Looking at the Speech from the Throne, it seems that no reference is made to the Judiciary and the Customary Courts and are therefore entirely eliminated from the Speech. Although the Western Region Government may be trying to do all that lie in their power, I must say this that the employees in the Judiciary of this Region, especially the clerks, have little prospects of promotion. Mr Speaker, Sir, there are only two posts which

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any person who is not a lawyer can attain. I have had five years' experience at the Bar, and I can assure you, Mr Speaker, Sir, that there are many people who have worked under the Judiciary for upwards of twenty-four and twenty-five years and are still there without hope of promotion. There is in fact no prospect unless these two posts are vacant by any means, and without which these unfortunate employees remain stagnant (*interruptions*).

I am making my speech in due contribution of my quota to the task of working in the interest of the people without any play of party politics and it is imperative that the Government of this Region should look into the set-up of this Department and see whether anything can be done in order to help the unfortunate clerks who are working there.

I would also touch on the question of the Police. This is a Federal subject. The Government of the Western Region cannot of its own volition discipline any Police Officer who offends without first of all contacting the Federal Government on the matter. Through the hon. Premier and the Governor of the Western Region, I would like to say that the time has come when there should be a Commission of Inquiry into the administration of the Police, both the Local Government Police and the Nigeria Police, as I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that there are thousands of people in the forces who are suffering and who cannot get any promotion unless their brothers are Assistant Commissioners of Police or Deputy Commissioners. I think the time has now come when it should be made clear that tribalism does not pay in the Police Force.

Also the Governor in his Speech from the Throne made reference to the question of Nigerian troops in the Congo. I would say this, Mr Speaker, that although this question of external affairs is a matter for the Federal Government, yet it is within the competence of the Premier of this Region as well as the Governor to communicate with the Federal Government on the subject. As far as I am concerned, I am not in the Federal Parliament and I am not privileged to make this statement in the Federal Legislature, but I can through the hon. Premier of this Region, say further that the Federal Government should be made to understand that this question of the Congo is agitating the minds of indigenous Nigerians. The hon. Premier made the statement which is very commendable after the murder of Patrice Lumumba.

Forgetting party politics, I, as a Nigerian, had great interest in reading it.

I would submit further too that the hon. Premier of Western Region should intensify his effort in consultation with his colleagues of the Northern, and Eastern Regions and the Federal Government to recognise that the question of getting South Africa out of the Commonwealth is the beginning of things to come. He should see to it and make it crystal clear to the Federal Government that they must direct their initiative to getting rid of the unhappy state of affairs in South Africa where ten million Africans are being dominated by only three million whites, Dutch settlers, who are even trying to exterminate the indigenous Africans. It is the duty of the Federal Government to take more positive action on this vital matter. You should make it clear to the Federal Government that we of the Opposition in the West as well as the Western Regional Government will be prepared to wage war in order to liberate our fellow men in South Africa.

Statements have been made about the customary courts. I have always said one thing. It may not be true and it may be true—that it is the policy of the top notchers of the Action Group to nurture victimisation (*Government Benches: Oppression! suppression!*) I say it may be so, it may not be so. It is the top notchers that I am referring to. I am not talking of the mobs. I would like the Government of the Western Region to make it clear to those in authority in the local councils that they should not continue to use the name of this Government as a springboard for oppression, suppression and victimisation. When I say so I mean it and I am not prepared to offer any apology because by reason of collective responsibility when anything is done it is deemed to have been done by you as the Government.

The time has come, if indeed it has not already arrived, when the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General should consider the possibility of making it possible for legal practitioners to appear in customary courts Grade "B". When I say this I am not saying it because I am a lawyer. They should make it possible because if in Lagos we could appear before Magistrate Dickson who is not a lawyer, it should therefore be possible for us to appear before these customary court judges in Grade "B" courts. Justice must not only be done, it must appear to have been done.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, in the interest of the hon. Member Order 29 (4). All Members should be silent or talk in under-tone.

Mr Akinyemi: I am so grateful to you. The Governor's Speech from the Throne made an elaborate point on the aspect of the Western Regional Development Corporation but I would say this, Mr Speaker, Sir, that in order not to destroy what the Western Regional Government purported to be a good programme, the local leaders should do all that lie in their power not to introduce party politics into the appointment of staff.

For instance, at the Asbestos Factory, it is almost impossible to get a job there unless you are a member of the Action Group. I am saying this not to blacken the Government but I am saying it as an hon. Member of the House. I had to interview the General Manager. The man on the spot said he had instruction from the Premier. I told him right there that the Premier will never make such statement. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). But the General Manager had been influenced by some of the organising secretaries of the Action Group and they say they got this instruction from the Premier. Mr Speaker, Sir, if the Government wants us to support its development programme the question of employment in any of these factories should not be on party basis whether you are Action Group, NPC or NCNC and I am happy that the Premier is here to take note of that.

The last point I like to make; where do we go from here? Are we going to Ido-Ani or going to Ikeja or going to Benin? The Governor's Speech from the Throne made mention of the minority area and the Midwest Council. It was a Ministerial Statement, made first of all by the Premier when the House resumed, I think it was in September, but I can at this stage say that whatever may be the intention of the Government, this question of the Midwest has been overtaken by the present event—the creation of the Midwest State by the constituted authority which is the Federal Government. It has been created because they are the constituted authority and if we fail to approve of it, the Government here will be dissolved.

In conclusion I would like to know what factors the Minister of Education considered in regard to the "situation" of the University at Ife? (*Government Benches: Situation!*) The University was sited without consultation with the Opposition. It is one of the bad things you do. You take decisions without consulting us and I would like to know

on what principle and on what formula that University was sited in Ife. Was it sited there in order to please a particular individual?

My final point is that when I was not in this honourable House there had been so many things said about the Leader of Opposition. (*Loud interruptions*). It is the absolute discretion of the Leader of the Opposition to do certain things to remain alive or not.

Mr Olumofin: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his Speech from the Throne.

The Western Nigeria Government, more than any in the Federation of Nigeria, merits the widespread commendations now being showered on it for its progressive dynamism in all spheres of human and governmental activities.

The well-known policy of the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria is to cater for the general welfare of the people in such a way that no person of whatever class or creed, politics or profession, shall fail to bask gleefully in the sunshine of Government's all-embracing benevolence.

The financial commitments of the Government of Western Nigeria are phenomenal, and only enemies of progress and stability would wish to see that these essential commitments are not carried out.

The unequalled, unprecedented achievements of Western Nigeria Government are not only a blessing to the inhabitants of the Western territory and a source of justifiable jubilation for the Government itself, but a veritable challenge to the other Governments of the Federation of Nigeria to emulate the Government of Western Nigeria in raising the standard of living of the people. If the other Governments in the Federation have done just half of the good performances of the Government of Western Nigeria, the deadly unemployment that now rears its ugly head in the Federation would by now have been effectively arrested and, or, drastically checked if not entirely eliminated.

By means of its more than seventeen industrial establishments, not to mention local industries dotting the towns and villages of Western Nigeria, hundreds of thousands of persons, that would otherwise have been unemployed, are today comfortably and gainfully employed on productive jobs all over Western Nigeria.

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Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a word on fundamental human rights. I consider that the most outstanding achievements of this Government is its respect for the sanctity and dignity of the individual. The fundamental human rights already entrenched in our new Constitution are not as vast as the liberties, rights and freedoms which the citizens of this Region have been enjoying since the Action Group came to power in this Region. These liberties, rights and freedoms which the average Westerner has come to regard as the normal way of living, are to his counter-parts in other parts of Nigeria privileged, not for the masses, but for the few on top and the privileged class.

Bearing in mind the terrible victimisation and oppression which obtain in the Northern and Eastern Nigeria, I can safely claim that it is a great privilege for any one to live in Western Nigeria.

In further support of my claim this Government faithfully follows practically the functional definition of democracy as the basic policy of this Government which runs thus. It is a political regime in which all classes of the population without exception of colour, race or creed enjoy at all times not only guarantees of personal securities but also a series of civil rights the most important of which are association, assembly, expression, and information so that the population can with the greatest independence, take a maximum part in all important forms of political activities while the actual Government is carried on by genuine representatives and is subject in the last resort to the consent of the governed. (*Opposition Members: Who wrote it for you?*)

Here we pursue the policy of Nigerianisation and not Westernisation of the Public Service of the Region. As a matter of fact the door to our Civil Service is wide open to any African with the necessary qualification. Already there are many non-Westerners and non-Nigerian Africans who hold key posts in our Civil Service. They will ever be welcomed in our midst. Here in the West political meetings can be held by anybody anywhere. Permission to hold public meetings is granted or withheld by the Federal Police. Neither the Regional nor Local Government bodies interfere in the matter.

Ours is the only Regional Government that has demonstrated the unity and oneness of Nigeria in our policy and actions. Non-Westerners have equal opportunities with Westerners in this Region for education, to

acquire land and own properties, to obtain employment in the Civil Service or Statutory Corporations, to register as contractors, to tender and receive award of contracts. This Government has not at any time employed our tax or rating system in a discriminatory manner against non-Westerners or political opponents in order to undermine them economically and thus force them out of the Region.

In the East, Customary Court Presidents are appointed by an NCNC Minister, who is a politician, whereas, Mr Speaker, Sir, Members of the Opposition will come here to criticise our Customary Court system. Surely, Sir, in the Eastern and Northern Regions, the Opposition live under constant fear of the parties in power. It is therefore most hypocritical, unfaithful and dishonest for the NCNC/NPC Mabolaje Opposition of this House to criticise destructively this dynamic Action Group Government.

Finally Sir, the large army of visitors who came into this Region from the last financial year till now is evidence of the growing importance of this country and this Region in international circles. This is a pure proof of the effective advertisement of this Region to the outside world. The attraction of many foreign business concerns to invest in this Region is the immediate result of this advertisement and also demonstrates the faith and confidence which the outside world has in the ability of this present Government to maintain law and order.

We will never leave this Government and the Region a helpless victim in the throes of foul propaganda and organised shameless blackmail lacking in good manners and respect for constituted authority—this unstable, planless Opposition.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to make reference to NCNC criticisms of the NCNC Government in the East by Mr Umoh, an NCNCer. May I read Mr Speaker, Sir,

“Last February it happened that I was present at an opening ceremony of a hospital, during the ceremony, Sir, I was ashamed as Members of this House heard that only £1,000 was contributed by Government towards this magnificent building which cost the authority £13,000”.

In the Western Region, Sir, a hospital at least is provided in each Division.

A Government Member: Mr Speaker, Sir, Order 29 (3), the Leader of the Opposition is reading Newspaper. (*Shame, shame, from the Government Benches*).

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Local industries, Co-operative Unions, indigenous businessmen and individuals have benefited immensely from the ramifying effect of the abundant benevolence of Western Nigeria's Statutory Corporations.

As a result of Western Nigeria Government's free universal primary education the percentage of literacy in the West is the highest in the Federation; this accounts for the fear and trepidation of idle, gossiping politicians whose lies and deceits are being ever more effectively combated by the enlightened people of the West who now-a-days take time to check the veracity of statements from street liars.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, point of order, Sir.....(*what order?..... what order?.....from Government Benches*). It is one of the Standing Orders of this honourable House that abusive words should not be used in debates. But, Sir, if the Speaker will rule that it is in order—the hon. Member was referring to Members of the Opposition as street liars—we are prepared to accept it, because we can use it too from this side of the House.

Mr Speaker: I cannot say that motive has been imputed in the hon. Member's speech.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: Mr Speaker, Sir, Standing Order 27 (5). "It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House".

Mr Speaker: I was not aware that the hon. Member used the word "liars" but I would only say that he should not repeat the word in his speech. (*Opposition Benches: Ask him to withdraw.....shame*).

Mr Olumofin: What I did say was..... I was referring to street liars; I wonder whether the hon. Members opposite me are street liars.

Having regard to the enviably superb medical and health services of the Western Nigeria Government, child mortality and death rates have become substantially reduced and the inhabitants of Western Nigeria are now the healthiest and the fittest in the Federation of Nigeria.

The road development programmes of the Government have beaten the cynics hollow, and the extent of the completion of the schemes according to plan dazzles fault-finders, and, today, the Government of Western Nigeria can honestly and indis-

putably lay claim to having carried out the modernisation of the longest mile-roads in the Federation.

But, one notes with a tinge of distress and regret that among those plotting to retard the advancement and progress of Western Nigeria are those who, all things being equal, should be foremost in encouraging the forward march to glory of the territory!

With £1,365,212, the dynamic Action Group Government of Western Nigeria, through its agency, the Western Nigeria Development Corporation, finances wholly and independently four major industrial projects—Ekpoba Rubber Factory at Benin City (£345,000); the Lafia Resthouse at Ibadan (£89,562); the Lafia Canning Factory at Ibadan (£530,650), and the Bottling Plants at Ibadan and Mushin (£400,000).

There are over thirteen other major industrial establishments scattered all over the territory in which the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria owns, through its ever-expanding agencies, share capitals to the tune of over £7,400,000.

The vigilant Government of the Western Region of Nigeria has granted £2,051,700 to three Corporations whose successful operational activities have become proverbial in the Federation, namely:

- (1) Finance Corporation—£941,700
- (2) Housing Corporation—£920,000
- (3) Printing Corporation—£190,000.

And more so, Sir, Government subsidises the Local Authorities to the extent of 100 per cent for salaries of teachers.

If progress must be made, if amenities must be provided, if our national wants and needs must be supplied, the only "open sesame" known to modern man is taxation. And I therefore commend to the chronic evaders of taxes and rates on the other side the Governor's injunction that everybody should pay his or her tax willingly and expeditiously. No Government anywhere in the world (not to say in the Federation of Nigeria) has ever been so bold as to reduce tax instead of increasing it. This rare magnanimity of Western Nigeria Government arising from its noble gesture of love and care for the people is certainly deserving not only of praise and commendation from friends and foes, but of emulation from the other Governments of the Federation.

In bye-gone days, the tax paid by our grandsires was utilised in enriching a few, because the then powers-that-be failed, through deliberate design or wilful neglect or

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both, to cater for the progress and welfare of the generality of the people. Now-a-days, the position of things has changed for the better; the Government of Western Nigeria has set the pace for other Governments of the Federation to follow, by diversifying progressive measures in such a satisfying manner that even the remotest parts of Western Nigeria have their fair shares of all welfare schemes. But, the irony of it is that the areas to whom the Government has been particularly over generous have always invariably proved to be the dens of evaders of taxes and rates, and conspiracy resorts of no-payment-of-taxes agitators.

Instead of joining hands with the Government to make better the lot of the people, certain persons who must cut their noses to spite their faces, find it safest for them to engage in "taxation politics" and "cocoa politics".

It is a palpable display of political cowardice and social degeneracy to make payment of taxes and rates and cocoa price fluctuations a political weapon for invidious and denigrating campaigns; in other words, it is the political party that has no programmes which appeal to the electorate that often times inflict the gullible and unsuspecting masses with this form of sinister and nasty political jugglery. A Yoruba aphorism has it that: "Obe t'o dun, owo l' o pa a", meaning, literally, "A sumptuously delicious soup involves an expenditure of a sizable sum of money".

The fact that of all territories in the Federation of Nigeria, the West is the most advanced, the most enlightened, the most industrialised and therefore the most prosperous, goes to prove, among other things, that the vigilant and dynamic Government of Western Nigeria has been utilising its resources in the most beneficial way and handling its finances in the most judicious manner. (*Applause from Government Benches*).

Let chronic fault-finders being now bitten by the bug of envy "learn to labour and to wait."

The influence of the modern Nigerian womenfolk and the rapidity with which they assimilate modern ideas in the complicated socio-political fabrics of today is becoming increasingly felt even at quarters that still hold on to anachronistic methods of denying women their rights. No nation can survive without its womanhood.

It is the realisation of this fact that has motivated the Western Nigeria Government to demonstrate an outstanding recognition for the women of its territory in many tangible ways, namely: one of their number, Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan, has been nominated as a representative of the West in the Federal Legislature as the only woman Senator of Nigeria; the superb business acumen and enterprising doggedness of Western Nigeria women has activated the Government to help them with their trade by initiating the policy (now in its embryonic stage) by means of which all major firms operating in Western Nigeria would be urged to refrain from engaging in retail trades, in their entirety, in competition with women petty traders; all women through out Western Nigeria have been exempted from payment of rates; through pooling their resources by forming co-operative unions, more and more women obtain loans of all descriptions from appropriate corporations, thus freeing them from the financial miseries and stranglehold of moneylenders who had in the past dispossessed them of their valuable properties by means of extortionate interest, ranging between 2s and 5s in the pound.

It is a universally admitted fact that the salt of any decent society is women. Our local government councils at present need salt for the deliberations of the various councils. The intuition of women, the initiative of women, the sweet golden voices of women, and the gentleness of women are a salt to the activities of local government councils. The councils dominated by the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC for short) are generally woefully inefficient and corrupt. Women have always complained about NCNC councillors taking bribes from their sons and daughters before giving them council jobs. With the women—the mothers of these employment seekers that suffer such damnable extortions from the unscrupulous NCNC councillors—there in the councils to look askance on these heartless councillors, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to continue to subject these helpless job seekers to merciless and inhuman treatments they now suffer. Hence, Government has taken action to see that women are represented in councils to the chagrin of the NCNC Opposition.

Talking of extension of Lagos Boundary, one fact suggests itself to all right-thinking people in the Federation, namely, the NCNC, having had no iota of hope of ever ruling Western Nigeria, wish to slice it into bits with the only negative desire that since

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they cannot have it they must destroy it. Otherwise how can a full-blooded Westerner always gleefully wish to exterminate his fatherland so that he may for ever live as a slave of his neighbour?

For these degenerate sons of Western Nigeria, the information hereby provided should serve as food for thought to help those who do not know what they are about; and so I give below the comparative population figures of the three Regions and Lagos Federal Territory: Northern Nigeria; 18,810,000; Eastern Nigeria, 7,218,000; Western Nigeria, 6,067,000; Lagos Federal Territory, 272,000. For the sake of argument, let us assume that only the Midwest State is created at the same time the Federal Boundary of Lagos is extended thirty miles from Lagos as jocularly indicated by certain political clowns, the result of the readjustments would be as follows. The population of Northern Nigeria would remain as 18,810,000; the population of Eastern Nigeria would stand at 7,218,000; the population of Western Nigeria would become reduced to 4,090,250; the population of Midwest Region would stand at 1,491,000 and the population of Lagos Federal Territory would rise to 777,000. There is no doubt that the Yoruba NCNC would find these figures a useful food for thought when talking politics of a spiteful nature, directed against cutting his nose to spite his face.

Mr E. O. Imafidon: Mr Speaker, Sir, when a Member was speaking on the creation of the Midwest State, the Speaker ruled him out of order. Now, the Member is speaking on the Midwest State and extension of Lagos Boundary.

Mr Olumofin: I beg to repeat, Sir, there is no doubt therefore that Yoruba NCNC will find these figures a useful food for thought when talking about the creation of states and of the extension of Lagos boundary.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman has only two minutes more.

Mr Olumofin: I congratulate the Governor of Western Nigeria who is incidentally the first African Governor in the Federation, for delivering such a brilliant Speech from the Throne which the Opposition NCNC, notorious for their characteristic fault-finding, have found it difficult to assail.

I support the Motion whole heartedly.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion for a humble address of Thanks to His Excellency, Kabiyesi the Governor, for His Excellency's most gracious Speech from the Throne. It is a matter for joy that the 1961-62 Speech from the Throne is the most comprehensive we have had here for many years and it is my earnest hope that both sides of the House will appreciate and accept it as such. The document detailed out not only the activities of this Government in the past years but also its proposals for the ensuing financial year. In addition the Speech went further to detail Government's development plans up to 1965. We should pay great tribute to the Government for her courage and foresight in putting up the grand plans envisaged in the Speech.

Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me to pay tribute to His Excellency, Kabiyesi the Governor, for the very able way in which he delivered his Speech. It was evidence of self discipline and worthy symbol of efficiency, intelligence and dignified tradition, and honourably acceptable nobility in action. I cannot pass this section without authoritatively saying that the entire people of this Region are satisfied with his appointment as the first African Governor in Nigeria.

I welcome Government's plan to establish a University of Ife in Western Nigeria. I have no doubt that members of the Provisional Council to be appointed by this Government will acquaint themselves with the problems of higher education in this Region and prove themselves worthy of the great task and responsibility by seeing to it that this proposed University is worthy of her name as the best in the Federation. In the realm of Agriculture, I am more than pleased that this stable Government has established thirteen Farm Settlements and five Farm Institutes in this Region in order to train young educated farmers capable of absorbing modern methods and techniques of farming. More farm settlements will be opened all over the Region on divisional basis. The NCNC Government of Eastern Nigeria is now making a carbon copy of our agricultural Farm Settlement Schemes. I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to landowners, Obas, Chiefs and the entire people of this Region, for the offer of their lands for this progressive farming project. This offer is an obvious good symbol of the confidence of the people of this Region in the activities of the Action Group Government. The Forest Division of the Ministry of

[ALHAJI OPALEYE]

Agriculture has made, and is making, a tremendous progress. This section will continue to protect the Forest Estate of this Region and control its exploitation. It will also secure the future by restocking exploited areas.

In the field of education let us congratulate this Government as foremost in the provision of all stages of educational opportunities to all children of school age in this Region. I wish to congratulate the Minister of Education for the colleges and secondary schools all over the Region. The number of Teacher Training Colleges and Secondary Schools is increasing rapidly and some Divisions have three to four colleges. May I join the Government to express my gratitude to all Voluntary Agencies, Muslims inclusive, for the part they are playing in the education of our children in this Region.

Furthermore, Sir, this Government should be praised for her existing policy of attracting overseas industrialists and capital and her entering into profitable partnerships with these overseas interests with a view to developing the resources of this Region. This policy is carried out through Boards and Corporations.

Mr Speaker Sir, this Government must be congratulated by all for its progressive plans already efficiently distributed to the people of this Region. The general well being and progress of about seven million people of this Region are a common bond that binds us and a sacred responsibility of both sides of this honourable House. It is however unfortunate that my hon. Friends opposite cannot appreciate this cardinal principle nor be guided by it in their approach to the business of this meeting and in the behaviour outside the House.

Imbued with much self-confidence and faith in the masses of this Region, undeterred by false alarms of oppression, victimisation and all "tions" annually sounded by this pessimistic and mischievous, planless Opposition, we on this side have now more than consolidated the finances and economy of this Region to a state of bouyancy.

There is not a single nook and corner of this Region where the impact of our revolutionary educational, health, road and bridges and community developments have not been felt. Every Division in this Region has now at least a Secondary School, a Teacher Training College, a hospital, about 7,500 free primary schools and plenty of dispensaries and Maternity Centres. Our

University of Ife scheme is no longer a contemplated affair, but is in an advanced stage of implementation. Cocoa, cashew, rice, cotton, palm produce and other economic crops now flourish in this Region on a large and steadily increasing scale.

New industries have been established. You have gone on excursion to see these industries yourselves, and more will be established in the very immediate future by foreign business bodies in partnership with the Government and others.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it has become the habit of Members of the Opposition to refer to our educational system as not good. May I refer to a speech from the Hansard of the Eastern Region, by Mr Akilo, NCNC Member for Udi Division. This is what he said, and with your permission Mr Speaker, I read:

".....In our primary schools the standard of efficiency, of educational advancement, is deteriorating, and I am of the opinion, in my own experience, that the reason is that our Government has laid more emphasis and more importance on certificates, paper, without considering experience, meritorious services, results of the class work. All these are thrown overboard.....This is very bad".

Opposition Members: What is bad in that speech?

Alhaji Opaleye: That was what the NCNC Member in the Eastern Region had to say about primary education in the Eastern Region, whereas Mr Speaker, Sir, these ungrateful NCNC Members will come to the floor of this House to criticise the progressive educational scheme of this Government. *(Cheers)*.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have some other quotations. These people will come here and criticise our Customary Courts. In the Hansard of the Eastern Region you will find what an NCNC member had to say—Mr Oko of Udi Division said:

".....yet there is a big doubt, Sir, as to whether the activities of the Court established really reflect the good intentions of the Government when people should be sent straight to prison without chances for defence even with minor offences like sweeping and clearing their surroundings".

You come here to criticise our Customary Courts set-up whereas members of the NCNC in the East make a lot of criticisms against the Customary Courts set-up in the Eastern Region.

Alhaji Opaleye: The statement thus quoted is made by an NCNC member in the Eastern Region.

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

Mr S. A. Layonu: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is certainly a very honourable, memorable and pleasurable opportunity for one to be able to associate himself with the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor. The Speech from the Throne was ably and eloquently delivered (*cheers from the Government Benches*). This is also a memorable occasion in that, as has been said by previous speakers, His Excellency is the first African Governor, not only in Western Nigeria but also in West Africa. He has not only excelled himself compared with his past performances in the struggle for independence but has excelled his predecessors in this Region. He has also set a record for his offsprings in the office. Sir, the Speech is one which every intelligent, honest and reasonable person ought to accept and acknowledge as a masterpiece.

In his Speech, His Excellency revealed in very precise and brilliant language the past achievements of his Ministers, where they are heading to, what they have started and what the people of Western Nigeria should rightly expect from the measures they have taken. I would like to congratulate the Government for the forward-looking progressive plan for economic extension. (*Cheers from the Government Benches*).

Sir, though the present Session is historic, being the first of its kind since we have achieved Independence, the significance of Independence is yet to be seen in this Region and I am sure we are going to judge this significance from its relationship to the events taking place in Western Nigeria. Action Group Government in Western Nigeria is seeking through their acts of oppression, victimisation, depression and privations, to create conditions under which people would live in constant fear and Opposition could be destroyed, otherwise they would stop introducing obnoxious bills which will always prevent people from controlling their local affairs. Our people are at present confronted with a calculated policy of the Government which seeks to replace democracy by autocracy and I think every sober-minded person will realise that this plan of the Government will bring no pleasant cargo to us.

Frankly speaking, Mr Speaker, Sir, I cannot join anybody to congratulate our Ministers for the amount of achievements

they have been able to make since they have been in office. When we were under colonial regime, imperialists concentrated only on the development of Ibadan, Lagos, Abeokuta, as big commercial and industrial centres in the West. When Chief Obafemi Awolowo took over control from the colonialists, he devoted 60 per cent of his development programmes on Ijebu. He also did his best to develop Ikeja Ife, Ibadan, Abeokuta and Egbado. He was unable to prove the theory of equilibrium in his development projects. And since Chief Akintola has taken over the control of the Government from Chief Awolowo he has not deviated from the lines of the colonialists and those of Chief Awolowo which are not on the basis of equilibrium. He even has no pity for the deplorable backwardness of Oshun Division which is his fatherland. (*Shame, shame, from the Opposition Benches*).

Sir, I think that if we are to prove that we are not only able to do without the control and guidance of imperialism, that if we are not only able to administer ourselves, but that we are also active builders of a new life, and if the present Government prove to be incomparably more rational administrators and frugal masters of our wealth, of the riches of this Region, they should endeavour to establish industrial and development projects in Oshun Division which has been neglected since the reign of our imperial over lords. Since we have become independent we have got the chance of making wide use of our rich natural resources for industry. This would have a favourable effect on the economic development of under-developed areas such as Oshun, Ondo and some parts of the Midwest. Establish industry in these places and then transfer their materials to your already developed commercial places for sale and do not neglect these places indefinitely. Sir, as representatives of our constituencies, we are charged with responsibility to protect their interest fearlessly and logically. After Independence, our people expect that their economic position and that of the ordinary man in the Region would be improved. The Government has not presented methods by which they intend to ameliorate the deplorable economic position of the masses of the people in Oshun Division and I can never be a party to any legislator or even the Premier to deceive the masses when there is no plan for them. When we talk of Oshun I would not like the Premier to refer to Oshogbo and Ogbomosho, his constituency, but to keep in mind other places. There is no point developing only two towns with minor unimportant projects and then claiming deceitful achievements. I hope that when

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implementing Oshun development programme, Government would not concentrate on Ogbomoshó, the Premier's constituency.

The Government cannot make life fit simple geometrical formulas, because life itself relies on the real strength of the peace loving people upon the warm sympathy and support of the vast majority of mankind. It is for the triumph of good government to serve peace and the security of the people that we assemble here and would like to hope that whilst Government deliberations bring the goal of mankind they would be devoid of political considerations. Sir, it will not do this Region any good if the Government should be hiding its inefficiency. The Government consists of human beings and they are not infallible but they should not hide whatever mistakes they make so that they can learn through these mistakes. That is why it is necessary for hon. Members on the Government side, most especially our Ministers, not to heckle but to be attentive whenever any hon. Member on this side gets up to speak. We will always teach you good lessons.

The next aspect of my speech which the Governor mentioned is the prosperity of our farmers. It is a pity that the Speech did not contain a far-sighted marketing scheme for farmers in this Region. Sir, I seek your indulgence to read page 5, paragraph 4, last sentence from the Governor's Speech. The Governor said—

“Although the circumstances leading to the present plight are beyond our exclusive control and measures are being taken in co-operation with others equally concerned to ensure a speedy return of prosperity to cocoa producers in Western Region.

This is a conclusive evidence that the prosperity of cocoa producers had been lost. Let the farmers know this so that they may know on what island they are. Mr Speaker, Sir, I must confess that hon. Members on this side of the House feel genuinely worried over the situation which now confronts farmers in the Western Region. Farmers in the Region are disturbed in mind and worried, and are anxious about their future. They know very well that they are not given reasonable security. The recent drastic reduction of cocoa producer prices was very much an unexpected alarm to the farmers. The confirmation of this alarm in the Governor's Speech was very killing to the farmers. Farmers in the West depend mainly on cocoa product. I feel that instead of reducing the price, Government could easily sell this

product directly to other countries which buy from Great Britain rather than depending on Great Britain alone as the only consumer. The Government soft-pedalled and played down the idea of this alarm among the agricultural community and pointed to certain increases in world production.

To the farmers, everything is a long-term question. You cannot judge tomorrow, next week, next month, or next year, the results of what you do today; but sure enough the results will come in the long run. We are genuinely frightened that if this uncertainty continues, if this doubt and anxiety among farmers goes on ultimately we shall see the results in a very big decrease in the production of cocoa.

What are the reasons for this anxiety? It is lack of policy. Why has the Government not produced a policy to encourage home-grown food which is now absolutely necessary and secure farmer's confidence by giving them reasonable security? Why has Government not created agricultural industry to produce cocoa beverages, chocolate, etc? Why does the Government depend only on Great Britain as the only consumer of cocoa? Why cannot the Government find markets for this valuable product in America, USSR, Japan and India? (*Shame!*) We should be greatly relieved if the Government would come out with proper policy on agriculture and not give us as is usual with them, an experiment in the form of a White Paper on Agriculture.

Therefore, I should like the Government to think the matter over and see whether they cannot produce some more far-sighted marketing scheme. I wonder what are the views of the Government on the Marketing Board? All its members should be sacked for placing our farmers in uncertainty. It is no use to be farmers' friends by word of mouth, but by giving them reasonable security. It is for that reason that we on this side of the House are criticising and asking questions and hoping to spur the Government to produce a policy which will satisfy and restore confidence to the farming community. Uncertainty is the most deadly of all the enemies of farming. Our farmers are uncertain of the future. Afterwards, the Eastern Government of the NCNC does not reduce cocoa price.

Lastly, the farmers are not greatly convinced by the argument of world statistics on cocoa production just as the Premier had put before the Conference of their so-called representatives because they are inclined to say that world planners are people who offer them statistics which

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often do not seem to come out right. It does not always quite work out when it comes down to the individual, and therefore, it does not give them reassurance. The Government should not make a mistake that they enjoy farmers' confidence. The so-called farmers' representatives who attended the Conference where the Premier announced changes in cocoa prices are not farmers in the real sense of it. The true farmers are in the bush and they are unhappy to hear the Premier's announcement on cocoa price changes, unlike their so-called representatives who are not representing farmers in this Region but are seeking financial advantage.

Finally Sir, we are sons of farmers, the Premier and his Ministers included, and we should not forget that we are in this honourable House by virtue of their votes. Our Ministers should not bite the fingers that fed them. They should therefore give reasonable security to farmers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in seconding this Motion, my hon. Oshun brother from Ogbomosho North-East showered praises on the Action Group and blames on the NCNC. It is a great pity that the hon. Gentleman is from my Division. He knows fully well that despite the fact that the Premier, the Minister of Lands and Housing, the Regional Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and other ten Back Benchers of the Action Group are from Oshun, this Government of the Action Group is a sorry contrast to our Division in development, progressive and social welfare.

Sir I now turn to some references that have been made by this hon. Member for Ogbomosho North-East and some of his big masters to the affairs of the NCNC. I feel that some Members on the other side have been thirsting to deliver blows on the NCNC. I do assure them that we accept with cheerful hearts any challenge that anybody is prepared to offer us in this hon. House.

The NCNC has always stood and will ever stand for a definite principle. The Premier, the hon. the Leader of the House joined by the hon. Member for Ogbomosho North-East and my hon. Friend Awopeju have a long time been thirsting for their pound of flesh. They will have it without a drop of blood.

In the Action Group, you have a group of men who have no ideals, men who cannot be classified as socialists, or liberals, or even Conservatives. The only thing for which they are known is their common agreement

to exploit the masses in the Western Region in order to make life more abundant a reality for themselves alone.

Even the money seeking deserters of the NCNC who have sold their conscience to become Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, and even to meet their financial difficulties, have mouths to speak. In spite of your insinuations here, in spite of your bitter attacks, in spite of your unfounded accusations, in spite of tribal discriminations and in spite of your oppression, depression victimisation and privations the NCNC is ours today and it must come to stay.

Afterwards, Sir, Anukus, Otobos, Etchies Ekwejunors.....

Chief Odebiyi: The hon. Member must not refer to Ministers by their names but he must refer to them by their portfolios.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Mr I. A. Adelodun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate His Excellency, the Governor of the Western Region for his splendid and thought-provoking Speech from the Throne. The Speech undoubtedly contains all facts and figures about the achievements of the Action Group Government of this Region. The Speech reminds us of the expensive but successful Free Primary Education Scheme of this Region, higher wages to labourers, bridge building, hospitals in all Divisions in the Region, so many roads tarred and being tarred, improved agricultural schemes, dispensaries, maternity centres, water supplies, the proposed University of Ife and so on and so forth (*hear, hear*).

We the people of Oyo Division very much appreciate the good deeds and unbeatable records of this Action Group Government. We have even proved our implicit confidence in the party controlling the Government of this Region under the Premiership of our energetic Chief S. L. Akintola and leadership of our ex-Premier, now Leader of Opposition in the Federal Parliament, Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

In the last general election to this honourable House we sent in our Minister, Chief A. O. Adeyi unopposed. Mr Speaker, Sir, you could also remember the woeful defeat of two staunch members of the Opposition in Oyo Division—Chief Afolabi defeated by hon. Adeniya, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and that of Mr Olopoenia from my constituency, Oyo North-West II. (*An Opposition Member: But you were defeated in 1956*). In the dissolved

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House only two out of five Members representing Oyo Division came in on Action Group platform, but this time five out of eight Members belong to the Action Group. For sending in our Minister unopposed, I would without any fear of contradiction, say that Action Group victory started from Oyo Division. This Region, Mr Speaker, must thank God that she did not fall into the hands of these unscrupulous NCNCers. We are quite aware of how unprogressive the Eastern Region they govern is.

With due regard to the Minister of Finance and Leader of this House, I say in his own words, "As for me and my House we will serve the Action Group".

Our Division has started to enjoy the fruit of our loyalty to the Action Group immediately after the general election. One big Trade Centre is being built at Oyo. The road from Iseyin-Okeho-Ilero-Otu-Okaka is being tarred. The road from Ago Are to Kishi is being tarred and according to the 1961-62 Estimates there are provisions for urban water supplies at Okeho and Shaki.

It was recently that His Highness Chief Raji Adebawale was installed as the Aseyin of Iseyin. At this juncture I refer to the statements made about this Chieftaincy by the hon. Member for Oyo Central I the other day. He exhibited his ignorance and newness in this hon. House in his ungrammatical and unparliamentary language. And of course we cannot expect anything better from a person who had lost his job as a policeman and had consequently found Oyo Central I a fertile ground for daily bread. By the grace of God and purification of the Action Group Government His Highness Chief Raji Adebawale is now the Aseyin of Iseyin. He is the choice of all reasonable beings in Iseyin and district and he enjoys their confidence.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I was an eye witness when in the town hall at Iseyin our hon. Premier, Chief S. L. Akintola delivered a speech in his usual eloquent manner in connection with the installation of the Aseyin of Iseyin. This hon. Member for Oyo Central I was also there. Perfect tranquility prevailed throughout with the exception of shouts of "Awo" and "S.L.A." when occasion warranted them. This Iseyin man was there that day, he could not utter a word. Then he came here with all his blunders to address this honourable House. Mr Speaker, Sir, we must also thank the Government for the installations of the Bashorun of Oyo and the

Alado of Ado Awaye. In connection with the installations of these chiefs I pray that the Government may soon instal a Shabiganna of Iganna in Okeho/Iganna council area.

Before closing, Mr Speaker, Sir, I pray that Government may consider our dire need of one hospital to be built in Okeho/Iganna Council area as my people are very far from any hospital and that the tarring of roads in our area be extended to Iganna a place which is just nine miles from Okeho.

With these few remarks, Sir, I repeat my hearty congratulations to the first African Governor of this Region, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, for his excellent Speech from the Throne.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is conventional to support the Governor's Speech from the Throne. To support is to have a Hobson's choice. The Speech was verbose, childish, incoherent and full of self-praises. It was in fact a message of woe and despair to people who have been suffering politically or economically under this Government. The greatest defect in the Speech is the error of omission. The Speech on the whole is a fly in an ointment.

To the suffering cocoa farmers, the Governor promised no real help. All he has for them is his Government's reduction of dependence on the major cash crop. In other words, his Government is to seek avenues of diversifying her economy by growing other types of cash crops. Is that the type of message that the Governor of the Region should send to his cocoa farmers who are groaning under economic distress? Why did the Governor fail to tell the world how and why his Government plundered the cocoa farmers by surreptitiously diverting over £3 million of their money without adequate security into a company owned by top-notchers of the Action Group? But for that I am sure the farmers could have been subsidised for at least two seasons when the so-called world market price fell. What has the Government up in her sleeves to ensure a return to normality? On this point the Governor was silent. Were I the Governor I would have expatiated on this subject which touches my Government and people so deeply.

To those suffering politically under the Western Regional Government the Speech was a message of woe. The Speech constitutes a threat to the existence of Her Majesty's Opposition in this Region. I will substantiate these two points. First the people of the Midwest have rejected the establishment of the Midwest Minority Council. What the Midwesterners want is nothing short of a separate new Region carved out from the

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Western Region. This is the aspiration of the Midwesterners which is very well known to the Governor of this Region. Thank goodness, the Federal Government has thought it fit and the Motion has been passed in the Federal Legislature. It is always the characteristic of this Government of the Action Group to steal from opponents. The Government of this Region claim that the Motion which has been passed was due to their efforts. It is just like two or more people tying a rope to goats and making sacrifice to the gods but the gods know who are truly making the sacrifice. The Midwesterners know who have helped in the passing of the Motion.

That is not the end of the struggle yet. We know that after the passing of the Motion for the creation of the Midwest State there are other things to be fulfilled. This is the time to test the sincerity of the Action Group. We do hope when that Motion comes to this House they will do as their counterparts in the Federal Legislature to support the Motion and they should send their men to ensure that the two-thirds majority required in the plebiscite would be achieved.

The Government also hinted that legislation would be introduced whereby women would be nominated into local government councils in the Western Region. That Bill has been passed which constituted a rape on democracy, and shamelessly the Governor felt no compunction in giving his blessing to the passage of the Bill.

Under the cloak of giving women their proper places in local councils the Government knew it was a clever way to make it impossible for the Opposition to control any council in the Region. Does the Government think that it is helping the cause of the women by this diabolical legislation? No, she is only fostering her selfish political aspirations. In fact by this legislation the intelligence of the women is insulted.

Here is a short list of women who have contested local or parliamentary elections in Nigeria not to talk of England and Ceylon—

(i) Mrs Ransome Kuti—Abeokuta Urban District Council—now leader of Opposition there and she was NCNC.

(ii) Mrs Fashina into Lagos Town Council and she is NCNC.

(iii) Mrs Lawson into Lagos Town Council and she is NCNC.

(iv) Mrs Sofola into Ikenne Local Council though she failed.

(v) Mrs Wura Esan—Ibadan District Council and failed though she is now a Senator.

(vi) Felicia Obua—Oguta Urban District Council (*returned unopposed*).

Chief Odebiyi: Point of order. Order 27 (4). "It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current Session except upon a Substantive Motion for recession". As the hon. Member said earlier, the Bill has been passed to Law in this House and every opportunity has been given for debate he is out of order.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member stop flogging a dead horse? (*laughter*).

Mr Oviasu: Mr Speaker Sir I have no whip. What I was saying was that women far and near have refused to accept inferior positions and have passed through the crucible like their male counterparts to get to local councils or legislative houses.

About the siting of the University of Ife, this Government has read the Ashby Report on Higher Education. The Nigerian College of Arts Science and Technology was to be upgraded to the status of a University. (*Government Bench: No that is not correct*). Already, Sir, the Nigerian College of Arts and Technology is already receiving tuition at the.....(*interruptions*).....it stands to reason that the College is going to be a full fledged University. From Ibadan to Ife is only fifty miles and if this Government is not paying lip service to the uniform and equitable distribution of amenities, it would have been better for this Government to site this University in another place.

If we are to talk of history, Ife is not the most historical city in the Western Region.

If you are looking for the cradle of Nigeria civilisation, if you are thinking of historical events, all eyes must look to Benin. If you are looking for a place where history is written, you look to Benin. Even before the arrival of the Europeans there was an organised society in Benin. The first monastery in Benin was built in the 15th century.

The estimates seem to reveal Government amenities. We did not know Sir, we find projects here and projects there. For instance.....

Chief Odebiyi: He should not refer to the Estimates at this stage.

Mr Oviasu: I am not discussing the estimates of this year. All that I am saying is that Government had an intention and so it provided substantial amount for the estimates of last year for Edo College.

Chief Osuntokun: Order 28 (2).

Mr Speaker: Reference should not be made to estimates of this year.

Mr Oviasu: It is £250,000 for the building of Edo College, not a penny of it was used. £115,000 was provided for the Technical School in Benin, not a penny of it was used. The Government has done nothing about it. This amount was frozen and pushed forward to this financial year and quoted as savings.

Chief Odebiyi: Order 27 (4).

Mr Speaker: Unless the hon. Member for Benin can produce grounds for this argument he should.....(*interruptions*)...not continue.

Mr Oviasu: I am mature enough. I do not really come to this honourable House to prevaricate.

Mr Speaker: I have ruled that the question of estimates of this year should not be mentioned.

Mr Oviasu: Financial Institutions—Well there are financial institutions in this Region. First, the Insurance Companies. Second the Banks. We are not in the Federal Parliament, but we have a representative who is a member of the Economic Council and that is the Minister of Finance. (*Interruptions*). Insurance Companies as we know them operating are actually plundering the citizens. Recently a Commission of Enquiry was set up to probe the activities of these Companies. For some time now, we have heard nothing about the recommendations of this Commission.

Mr Speaker: Order! Will the hon. Member stop comment on the Budget speech.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Is the Speaker saying that we cannot in this House discuss any topic affecting the Government under the Speech from the Throne. If that is the ruling, the Speaker must make his own ruling.

Chief Odebiyi: Order 36. The Speaker's ruling is not open to question.

Mr Fani-Kayode: There is nobody making appeal. I am asking you for a ruling. I am saying Sir,.....

Mr Speaker: Order. I have ruled.

Opposition Bench: What is the ruling?

Mr Speaker: The ruling is that the discussion of fiscal matters should be left over until we come to the Budget.

Mr Oviasu: I think something should be done through the Minister of Finance who is a member of the Finance Council to ensure that all Insurance Companies in this country stop plundering us. In fact I also passed that message to him Sir, that the bank rates in Nigeria are too high. Bankers are also plundering the citizens and they are hardly detected.

If you issue a cheque of £100 at Benin City when you go to Lagos your £100 becomes £99 10s whereas in England, issue a cheque for £100 in Edinburgh it is only six pence less, £100 in London. I assure you that the bank rate in West Africa is the highest in the whole of the world. I think something must be done about it.

Government Benches: Tell that to your Chief, Okotie-Eboh.

Mr Oviasu: All these plunderings must be stopped.

Recently, Sir, the National Bank of Nigeria was nationalised or rather the Premier of the Region told this House that the Government had the intention of nationalising the National Bank. But great events have led to the nationalisation of the National Bank but I do not want to go into detail about it. It would have been sufficient to say that that bank was on the verge of collapse and it would have been a national catastrophe if that bank had been allowed to fall. We want institutions that will portray Africans in proper light. Institutions that will show us that we are having a monument of integrity. It was not the intention of the Government to nationalise the Bank but events really led to its being nationalised but I would not go into details. As a Nigerian I would not pray for any institution started by Nigerians to crumble into ashes. One of the difficulties of the National Bank is inefficiency and the plunderings by politicians, through the so-called Mutual Aid Society. A bank with a capital of £1.2 million pounds which gives out a loan of £7 million. How can it live? We know that there are now many banks in the country competing with our own banks in the purchase of treasury bills. But it is not the treasury bills that caused this drastic fall of the National Bank. It is inefficiency. However, I would like to quote the report signed by Akinola Maja:

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"We have therefore come to the conclusion that we must have more capital otherwise we shall have a poor chance of competing against the odds and I think the only people who can help us is the Western Region Marketing Board."

and so the Premier got up to announce the nationalisation of the National Bank. As I have said, Sir, I am not here to rejoice at any failure of any African institution rather it is my prayer that it should continue to grow from strength to strength but any act which will bring the name of Africans into disrepute should be condemned and the leaders of Government should join in such condemnation and it is the hope of the people of the Western Région that the affairs of the National Bank will be well run.

Mr Speaker: I would like to remind the hon. Member that he has just two minutes more to speak.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Speaker, you are very generous. I beg to support. (*Laughter.*)

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (Mr S. A. Adeniya): I rise to support the Motion for an honourable Address to His Excellency for the Speech from the Throne. Mr Speaker Sir, this present Session is very momentous. It is momentous because it is the first Budget Session after Nigeria had attained independence. It is the first time that an African Governor throughout the Federation of Nigeria had delivered a Speech from the Throne. It is momentous because it is the first time all posts of Permanent Secretaries and heads of professional divisions in all our Ministries are held by Nigerians (*hear, hear*). These are signs that this is the Government of the people, for the people by the people. It is good therefore to address ourselves to the task of governing with more vigour, more responsibility and more honesty (*hear, hear*). We on this side of the House are prepared to shoulder the responsibility which the new status gave us. It is however sad to know that our Friends on the other side of the House treat with levity these important developments. They even treat with levity their responsibility as the Opposition of Her Majesty the Queen. A case in question is that of the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition during the official Opening of the Session last week on the floor of this House treated

our Governor with contempt. The Leader of the House gave us reasons to show that the action of the man was just to bring disrepute to our Governor. I wonder what might have been the fate of the people of this Region if the Government had been in the hands of such rascals as these? (*Opposition Benches: You wait and see.*) I do perfectly hope that it will never come to pass (*hear, hear*). The Leader of Opposition styled himself as a son of Ife, the Oduduwa land. But he failed to treat the Oni with courtesy. I regard the Leader of Opposition as a settler in Ife (*hear, hear*). It will not be long when you will be taken out of that place or you may go on voluntary exile (*Government Bench: He will be deported*). If you can read the signs on the wall it will be seen by you that you have started to be deserted by your supporters gradually.

Our customary courts have been criticised by our ex-Minister from Ondo. He can only be replied that he is saying these things because he has been kicked out of the Government party and now the grapes are sour. Even the Attorney-General of the Federation, Dr Elias, came down and poured praises on the Customary Courts. Who are you then to talk of the Courts? This small man (*laughter*). Much has been said by the Opposition about nepotism but what happens in the Eastern Region where their party is in power?

(*Opposition Benches: Do you know the Eastern Region, have you been there in your life?*)

(*Mr Adeniya: I have been there several times.*)

(*Opposition Benches: What part of Eastern Region?*)

Many parts (*laughter*). In the Eastern Region you have discrimination at the worst. Sometime ago the licence for buying produce of Obioha was seized because he wore a different political toga from that of the political party in power in that Region—The NCNC party. We on this side of the House are proud of the achievements of the Action Group Government. Honest critics will agree with me that the Government is second to none in the whole Federation (*hear, hear*) Westerners are enjoying democracy. The form of dictatorship obtaining in the other parts of the Federation will never survive here for a minute.

Sunday before the last was Palm Sunday. Not only a Palm Sunday, it was a Palmtree Sunday for the people of this Region. It was that Sunday that a member of the Action Group entered triumphantly into the House of Representatives and took the seat of the NCNC member from Abeokuta (*hear, hear*).

Mr Olumofin: On point of information. In addition to that Sir, it was also on that day that Mr A. A. Abiodun, a strong NCNC man in Ado-Ekiti joined the Action Group (*hear, hear*).

Mr Adeniya: You will all remember Dr Mbadiwe when he was talking of the NCNC during the "Zik must go" episode. He said among other things that the NCNC has been in power in the Eastern Region and the percentage given to the NCNC was zero. It operated the Printing Corporation which manufactured not a single sheet of exercise book. What was the result?

Government Benches: Zero!

The Eastern Regional Government established a Tourist Corporation which not one tourist enjoyed. What was the result?

Government Benches: Zero!

The Eastern Regional Government started the Free Primary Education. But it ended in failure and bloodshed. What was the result?

Government Benches: Zero!

The Government operated the Finance Corporation with failure. What was the result?

Government Benches: Zero!

That Government established a Pharmaceutical Corporation and failed. What was the result?

Government Benches: Zero!

Mr Adeniya: And so the catalogue of failures and zeros continues. (*Laughter*). Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Fani-Kayode: I must thank the Speaker for catching my eyes. I must say that this Government has given His Excellency the Governor the task of making the Speech from the Throne. A Speech which is the most watery in the history of Nigerian political history.

The most important issues raised by the Speech are as follows:

In paragraph 3 of the Speech the following statement was made:—

"Our revenue prospects have altered with the present uncertainty in the price which cocoa commands in the world market. As far as the Recurrent Budget is concerned the situation is by no means desperate, although if the present trends in the world market for our agricultural commodities continue it may mean that there would be fewer surpluses for transfer to the Development Fund during the planning period which ends on 31st of March, 1965. As you are already aware, my Government is doing everything possible to broaden the base of the Region's economy in order to reduce our dependence on one major cash crop".

This statement clearly indicates that the Regional Government is dependent mainly on the Marketing Board not only for its development projects but also for subsidising its recurrent expenditure in order to show or accumulate a surplus at the end of any financial year, and this is the more reason why profits from the Marketing Boards which are accumulated into reserves must be jealously guarded and invested in the money market of the world on short term loans which are easily realisable and not tied down on projects for long periods. But more anon on the finances of the marketing boards.

The position is desperate for it is clear from the Budget presented to this House and the Estimates that the Government is finding very great difficulty in balancing its finances.

Further it is strange that Government has no proposals for amelioration of the present situation of the sale of our agricultural commodities on the world market.

We are treated to pious hopes of "doing everything possible to broaden the base of the Region's economy.

This solution is obviously one that must of necessity involve a long-term planning and execution, and on what financial resources will this long-term policy be based if the world price continues to be less favourable?

From where will Government hope to get the money if prices continue to fall to "broaden the base of the Region's economy?"

I should have thought a Government with any sense of responsibility would have come before this House with some plans for immediate steps to be taken to create a sellers' market instead of a buyers' market which is now in operation. We have been

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told of meetings with other cocoa producing countries, the Government should have taken this House into confidence as to what progress, if any, it has been able to make in this essential field of international trade.

What efforts have been made to extend the present market to stimulate competition? Government's silence on its endeavours on this line is a tacit admission of failure. If this Government is so incompetent as not to obtain any successful result in this sphere of negotiation which will surely bring immediate rise in the price of cocoa and, therefore save the cocoa farmers from starvation then it has no right to continue in office. It must abdicate. If it had failed in its major election issue that it will see that not one penny (1d) is reduced in the producer's price of cocoa it has no right to rule.

The Premier gave this assurance, he failed. The Government has again failed to give the faintest suggestion of any plan to enhance the position of the cocoa farmers. If this Government has any sense of decency it must resign. For it is clear it is not worthy of the trust of the electorate. A trust obtained by false election promises.

Again Government was pleased to announce with pride that it will introduce legislation for the collection of Income Tax from non-Africans resident in the Region.

What benefit do we get from this that the Government is so proud of? Is this not purely a matter of constitutional routine? At present, the tax is collected by the Federal Government and paid over to the Western Regional Government. All we get is the additional trouble in collecting the tax. Of course by Government standards this is an achievement!

Another important issue raised in the Speech from the Throne is the appointment of a Commissioner for Customary Courts. Why is the Government fighting shy of taking the obviously right step? The only sensible step is to put the administration of these courts under the normal judicial system of the Region and then a continuity of administrative supervision will flow from the Chief Justice right down to the smallest Customary Courts. The appointment and removal of these judges can only be non-political in its nature if it is placed under the Judicial Service Commission and not under a bogus Local Government Service Board made up of political appointees of the Action Group.

On the issue of Midwest Minority Council, I assured this Government at the last Session that it should desist from its plan for establishing the Council. I assured the Government that this institution will be overtaken by the passing of the Motion for the creation of the Midwest State by the Federal Parliament. I was greeted as usual by obstinacy, and derisive laughter and shouts of "That is untrue" by this Government. Now I have again been proved right. Government must scrap this most inadequate and unsatisfactory Midwest Minority Council scheme. And I sincerely hope Government—like the Action Group Opposition in the Federal Parliament—will give its support to the creation of the Midwest State when the Federal Parliament's proposals are forwarded to this honourable Assembly to be debated.

On Income Tax issues, the Government has made appeals against tax evasion. But let Government take warning that so long as tax assessment is made a political weapon by the Action Group, so long as there are sole nominees of the Minister of Local Government, who owe no allegiance whatever to the democratically appointed local government councils and to the masses of this country, so long will this Government fail in its archaic system of direct taxation.

Finally Government made the following very serious statements:—

"My Government has striven to utilise our resources for the benefit of all our people."

Can this Government honestly and sincerely say this? As for utilisation of funds, adequate time for discussion on this topic will arise at the proper time.

But I am compelled at this stage to make a statement on the National Bank. I ask whether the nationalisation of the National Bank was given serious consideration before the step to nationalise it was taken.

Why did Government not think it fit to debate such an important issue on the floor of this House before taking such a great decision? The transaction involves millions of pounds of public funds. Are the people and their representatives not entitled to have full discussion of the expenditure of public funds? I say, Mr Speaker, Sir, with all sense of responsibility, and challenge Government to deny this, that the Bank was in a state of bankruptcy at the time of the nationalisation.

This Government is guilty of the greatest mal-administration when instead of realising its preference shares it converted them into

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equity shares at the last stage of the fall of the Bank. The Government has no right to invest public funds in an institution which is on the verge of liquidation.

If the Government denies this state of affairs, I demand a statement to that effect from the Premier and I challenge him to:

(1) call for a public inquiry into the Government administration of public funds as regards the National Bank.

(2) set into motion the machinery for a public inquiry into the state of the Bank at the time of nationalisation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I issue this challenge to the Premier and await his answer without further comments at this stage of the present Session of the House of Assembly of the Western Region of Nigeria.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Local Government (Chief S. A. Tinubu): Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member for Ede-Ejigbo said that Oshun Division is left behind in the scheme of development in this Region. As a Regional Government we are trying to develop the whole Region. Oshun Division is not behind. I have to inform the hon. Member of certain vital things which have taken place within the past nine years. Before the advent of this Government of Western Nigeria there was a Government hospital only in Oshogbo, but now we have three first class hospitals, so many dispensaries and many maternity centres in Oshun Division. We have also some Mission hospitals which are working in conjunction with the Government hospital in the Division.

When we speak of road development, before the Government of this Region came into power we had under forty miles of tarred road but now we have well over 200 miles tarred road. When we come to consider the present Budget a lot of revelations will be made.

Leaving road development apart I just wish to remind the hon. Member that in Ede there are two bridges which have just been reconstructed.

Educationally, in the Division we are not behind. Before 1952 there was only one secondary grammar school and that single grammar school was not grant-aided but today we have not less than twenty-two secondary schools. Then we had one teacher training college which was not grant-aided but now we have so many. When we talk of electricity today you can

count on Oshogbo, Ede, Ejigbo, Ogbomosho and others. Before the Government of this Region came to power Ede was drinking river water but today it is enjoying pipe-borne water and over £250,000 was used to construct the Ede-Oshogbo water works. I need not count Trade Centres and Farm Institutes which have been established by the Action Group Government. The freedom which Oshun Division enjoys today is due to the efforts of the Action Group. At a time Oshun was administered by Ibadan without representation (*Opposition Benches: Where were you then?*) All the councils in Oshun Division are Action Group controlled. Out of the eighteen seats for Oshun Division we have almost all on this side of the House.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

The Minister of Local Government, (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, the point made by the hon. Member for Aboh West and the hon. Leader of Opposition that the Members and Chairman of the Local Government Service Board were members of the Action Group calls for comments from me. Hon. Members, particularly those who were members of the old House, would remember that shortly before the former Leader of Opposition, Mr Dennis Osadebay, resigned from the House he paid glowing tributes to the Chairman of the Local Government Service Board, Mr J. S. Ogunnaike, for his impartiality and integrity. Another Member from Urhobo Division also paid warm tribute to the impartiality of Mr Ogunnaike. I personally am satisfied that the Chairman and Members of the Local Government Service Board are impartial in the discharge of their duties.

The point made by the Leader of Opposition about assessment committees—He made the point that until assessment committee members are free from nomination by the Ministry of Local Government or by myself this Region will know no freedom. I like to say quite frankly that that cannot be true as judged by the evidence at our disposal. Before the dissolution of the last House of Assembly the Government had about fifty-two Members. After the dissolution, the House was enlarged to 124 and the Action Group came in with flying colours and won eighty seats (*Hear! Hear!*) (*Opposition Benches: Fraudulent election*). Now, not only that, the recent Federal election in Egba North where Action Group scored a majority vote of 6,629 is a further proof of the acceptance of the tax policy of this

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Speaker, Sir, do not indicate that our tax policy is acceptable to the majority of the people of this Region, I do not know what is acceptable to them and I do not know what other means can justify the opinion that the people have implicit confidence in us because they continue to return us to power, either at parliamentary or local government levels, because our progress has been on the increase and, judged by our votes from elections both local and parliamentary, we have scored higher figures and I think the position, at least for once, is that they can no longer make taxation a political propaganda and the electorate no longer wish to entrust their fortunes to the hands of the Opposition.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Speaker, Sir, my task is very easy in that Members of the Opposition happen to have said little about my Ministry, but one or two Members raised a point in connection with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

The hon. Member for Asaba did complain about the state and condition of Ogwashi-Uku Roman Catholic Mission Hospital. The Government policy on the provision of hospitals and other health centres in the Region is well-known to all sides of this House. It is that Government will provide one General Hospital for each Administrative Division in the Region; and that has been well maintained because each Division now has been provided with a well-equipped general hospital and, in some cases, cottage hospitals have been provided.

We have the Agbor General Hospital and this cost the Government more than £130,000. In addition to that, Sir, we have one General Hospital at Asaba, which has just been completed. That hospital cost Government £80,000 to build. And in addition to these two hospitals in that small Division, Asaba Division has many dispensaries and other medical centres. For the information of Members, Asaba Division is not half as big as Ekiti Division, which has only one hospital, and not as big as Benin Division, which has just one hospital.

Furthermore, Sir, the Ogwashi-Uku Roman Catholic Hospital, which the hon. Member referred to, is also aided by the Government. The Owo Roman Catholic Hospital at Owo is a combined one and what I mean by that is that the Government contribute to the building and staffing of the Hospital while the day-to-day administration of the Hospital

is in the hands of the Mission. In the whole of Owo which comprise Owo section and Akoko section, there is just one hospital, so that the situation there is not like the one in Asaba.

Another point which was made by another Member—and unfortunately, Sir, the Members are not here and I know that Members of the Opposition do not bother themselves to look into the Hansard, and I wonder what they are being paid for.....(*interruptions from the Opposition Benches and cheers from the Government Benches*).....The hon. Member for Akure did make a point that the Akure Hospital is not as well staffed as any other hospital in the Region and he said that he would like to see a "special surgeon". I do not know what he meant by that; if he meant a person who specialised in surgery, I know there is one at Akure. He also went further to say that he was speaking as an authority. But this man was a Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Social Welfare when he was on this side of the House and now that he has crossed over (*cheers from the Government Benches*) he is no more a practising authority. If it were the hon. Member for Benin City I would have taken him seriously. And if I may say, Sir, the policy is that each Divisional Headquarters must be provided with first-class hospital in addition to the dispensaries and maternity centres provided, and there is no Province, Sir, in the whole Region which has not got one. And, apart from Adeoyo Hospital which has got no less than twenty doctors.....(*interruptions from the Opposition*).....Mr Speaker, Sir, I would very much appreciate it if the hon. Members on the other side would stop laughing.....(*laughter from the Government Benches*) For the information of Ibadan Members Jericho Hospital also has around eight or ten doctors. Then Ijebu-Ode Hospital and Abeokuta Hospital.....(*shouts of Ogbomosho, Ogbomosho, from the Opposition*) For information of the Member for Ibadan, (of course he has forgotten much of his elementary geography) will he learn that Ogbomosho is not a Provincial Headquarters, and as such Government does not provide a general hospital there.

And the last point, Sir, which I want to make is about pharmacists, chemists and druggists in the Region. It has come to my knowledge that people of this Region are becoming very much (*interruptions from the Opposition Benches*)..... impoverished by the very high prices which the hon. Member on the other side of the House charges.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Speaker Sir, I take objection to such imputation of motive.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member stop imputing motives.

Chief Osuntokun: What I did say was that information has come to me that there are some pharmacists and chemists and druggists who are charging very high prices for their various articles, such as Aspro, A.P.C. and Phensic, and so forth and in the shops of some of these chemists all sorts of things which have no relation with medicine are being sold.....(*interruption from the Opposition Benches*)..... In any case, I must tell the House what I have heard and I will further tell the House what I intend to do to stop this. I have already taken action and in some cases people have been prosecuted and convicted and I will look into the possibility of making it possible.....(*laughter from both sides of the House*.....). I will set up a Commission of Inquiry and action will be taken accordingly on the recommendation of the Commission of Inquiry. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon Member for Aboh, when he was speaking on the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his Speech from the Throne—he is no longer here Sir—made some points which I would like to take one by one. One of the points he made was about Government's intention to take over the National Bank.

I think Sir, that it will be nice at this stage to explain very briefly the difference between Preference Share and Equity Shares. Preference shares, Sir, are like loans which are secured on the assets of a particular company and whether the company pays or not they are lent to it on the normal rate of interest which are agreed on the Memorandum of Agreement. In regard to equity shares, what really happens is that it is the prevailing value of the shares at the particular value which will be the value of the shares at the particular time and they can only be paid dividend as ordinary shares. That is, Sir, the interpretation which I would have liked to pass on to the honourable Member for Aboh.

There is a point, Sir, which has been made by the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition said that before the nationalisation of the National Bank was carried out, there ought to be full-dress debate on the floor of this House. I must say, Sir, that until the National Bank was nationalised it was a private company, a

public company *per se*, that means the dealing which existed between the Marketing Board and the National Bank was the question of somebody giving loans to another person and therefore has no authority over him.

However that may be, in view of the fact that the Marketing Board has now changed the preference shares to equity shares, the Government through the Marketing Board will now have the largest number of Directors on the Board of Directors and therefore will be able to influence the policy of that bank.

The Leader of the Opposition also made a point, Sir, that the Regional Government was making use of Marketing Board funds during the past years to finance its recurrent expenditure. If the Leader of the Opposition had read all that had been put down in the Western Region Estimates which will be considered in less than twenty-four hours from now, he would have seen that at no time has this Government used Marketing Board funds to cushion its recurrent expenditure. If the hon. Member is in any doubt, I challenge him that he should produce evidence of that within twenty-four hours.

The Leader of the Opposition also made a speech about Marketing Board surpluses. Mr Speaker Sir, speaking on behalf of the Government I am not ashamed to say that like other Regions of the Federation, the Marketing Board will continue to be an instrument of financial policy. We are not ashamed, Sir, to use Marketing Board surpluses for carrying out development projects in the Region. As a matter of fact, Sir, what has been done so far is not only in the interest of those of us who happen to be, perhaps, in the middle class of society, but also the teeming millions of people who would not have had the opportunity of free education, free medical services, walking or riding or driving on tarred roads. We are not ashamed, Sir, that we have used the Marketing Board funds for achieving these objectives.

I was hoping, Sir that the Leader of the Opposition, after having made all such remarks about Government, will come out with some concrete proposals as to how we can raise revenue. (*Mr Fani-Kayode—in the future!*) The Leader of the Opposition said that he will do something about it in future. I will be prepared to listen and Government will consider any reasonable proposal which he makes. (*Mr Adisa: What is your salary?*) Mr Speaker, Sir, this Region is the richest per head of the population of the Federation and, Sir, if in the Federal Government, the party to which

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the Member belongs is the senior partner in the Coalition—I have always been told that charity begins at home—and if he is serious about the suggestion made to us here, they should first cut salaries down in the Federal Government. Rather than the Federal House cutting down salaries, what did they do? They intend to raise salaries of Members. Judging from the grimaces which the hon. Member for Ibadan has made, he will very much welcome any increase in the salary of Members of this House. (*Government Benches: and pay less tax on it!*) If the hon. Member is serious, he can start by refusing anything above £600 from his £840.

The Leader of the Opposition made reference to a point that instead of Government organising a sellers' market, what we are really doing was organising a buyers' market. There are distinguished economists, and when the Leader of the Opposition was a student in London, if he took part in all the activities of that University, legitimate and not so legitimate..... (*Leader of the Opposition: I must protest, Sir.*)

In all seriousness, everybody knows the price of cocoa was reduced. There is practically nothing we can do to influence world prices unless the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting to me that he himself is a financial genius like Metcalfe in the French Revolution. What happened to Metcalfe in all his proposals? The French Government had to cut his head and the Budget he wanted to balance was never balanced. The Government is trying whatever it can to broaden the base of the Region's economy. I do believe, Sir, that it is in the interest of this country, in the interest of our children, in the interest of the teeming population of the country that more external loans should be injected into our industrial policy so that we will be able to reach a stage where we will be on our own. Without this, it will be difficult for our people to raise the necessary capital to participate in most of these industrial projects.

Honourable Utomi did make some remarks about the educational policy of this Government. He wanted Government to establish secondary grammar schools in all Divisions. I think, Sir, that it is true to say that Government gives grants to boys and girls secondary grammar schools. It is the principle of self help which has helped people in Yoruba West to get the number of grammar schools they have today. If he is serious, in helping his people, he should go home and preach the doctrine of self-help. If

he does this and they apply to Government for grants, they will receive sympathetic consideration.

I think, Sir, that time is far spent and members are anxious to go home in order to be able to come early at 10 a.m. tomorrow. I leave the other points to the Honourable the Premier to reply to. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): May I start by saying that I am indeed grateful to all sides of the House for the manner in which they all took part in debating the Speech from the Throne.

While the Speech gave a picture of past achievements of this Government, it also portrays a reasonable forecast of what is to be expected in the future and, apart from that, it dealt with main activities of the Government of this Region in cultural, social, literal and educational fields. May I say that I feel disappointed at some of the conclusions made by Members of this House. I feel that one thing Members of this Legislature have is that at times they will listen to the unexpected—there will be no monotony, but the Opposition has treated us to so much monotonous speeches (*Opposition Members: No*). All that you will always hear is oppression, persecution, victimisation from Opposition Members. I hope the Leader of the Opposition will learn to teach his Members to change their tactics. I have always said that the hon. Member for Ibadan or Member for Benin or even our good Friend from Ife are not specimens of oppressed people.....(*laughter*)...They grow fatter than the oppressor! They look more charming than the Minister of Health and most of them are much more affluent than the Minister of Finance. When they come here and talk of oppression, persecution, victimisation the hon. the Leader of Opposition will join them. Who is oppressing them? You find some of them in large limousines; some of them live in luxurious buildings; some of them are building three to four houses at the same time.....(*interruption*) (*Government Members: Fire on*).....What is the symbol of oppression? Some of them are lawyers, some of them are economists (*Government Members: Some of them are chemists*). Are all these evidence of oppression? (*Opposition Members: By the Grace of God*). By the Grace of God and the tender mercies of the Government of this Region.

I do hope these stories of oppression and persecution should now be forgotten. Nigeria has already won a great name and a very high reputation. If all that you have

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to talk of this Region is persecution and oppression, you are not giving this country a good name and that ought not to be quality or attribute one should expect from the Government of this Region. *(Applause)*.

These people keep on talking of oppression and persecution yet in the last election where we hardly won a seat before, for example, in Egba land, we have won more seats. Last year we had a fairly narrow margin of majority, but now the increasing proportion of this majority and the dwindling proportion of the Opposition speak for itself..... *(interruptions)*.

By this time last year how many Members had you from the Midwest? *(Opposition Members: Fraudulent Election)*. What is the present number now? Nor are we only winning the seats, they are still crossing from that side of the House to this side. What does that show? *(Cheers)*. If you continue to accuse this Government unjustly and you continue to lie against this Government and the people of this country who are no fools are able to check up on the practical achievements of this Government, certainly in the end they are going to desert you.

Now about the Customary Courts. May I say Sir, that no right thinking person in this country will hesitate to condemn any injustice in any form whatsoever. No true nationalist will like to encourage or condone any form of injustice. Anyone who is making the Customary Courts an instrument of oppression will find in the end that he is backing a wrong horse..... *(interruptions)*. We are winning not by wickedness but by extending to the people the right hand of fellowship. I do not say that all our supporters are angels; we are no paragons of perfection on this side of this House. It is true people may make mistakes, but it is also true of NCNC members..... *(Interruptions)*.

To say that the Action Group, as a national party, will support oppression is absolutely unfair. Why must any right thinking person employ oppression as an instrument of Government? We are holding positions of responsibility today and the position we hold is a sacred trust given to us by the people and given to us by God. In so doing we must remember that the position we occupy today may be open to our children of tomorrow. I like to assure you once more that if you have any positive case of oppression, if you bring it forward—for goodness sake do not hesitate to report it to the proper quarters—I assure you that every step will be taken to ensure that justice will be done.

I do not like this matter to be used as a political weapon. A number of people, Judges and other people are being dealt with by appropriate bodies if matters are properly brought up against them in the proper quarter. After all who are members of these Courts? An Ogbomosho man is not appointed a Customary Court Judge for Benin. After all it will be sons of the indigenous natives of the people who are appointed as Judges..... *(Interruptions)*. Is it oppression to allow a Benin man to adjudicate on the affairs of his own people?

Now the same thing is true of Assessment Committees. The members of Assessment Committees are appointed locally on the recommendation of the local people and those who are appointed by your own people. *(Opposition Members: No Sir. Recommendations are always turned down.)* I understand that recommendations are always turned down, but I give you the assurance that in pursuance of this Government's policy of consultation, the Opposition will be consulted when these appointments are being made.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one point I like to mention, the hon. Members from the Opposition often accused this Government of squandermania. The hon. Member for Ibadan Rural particularly referred to the salary of Ministers. The pity of it is that Members opposite have not the opportunity of visiting other Regions and of seeing for themselves how Ministers in other Regions act, the type of houses they live in and the type of privileges given to them; whether the salaries received by Ministers in other Regions are in excess of, or are the same as what is received here. They ought to go and see how the Government of other Regions are administered, before they can be able to judge whether this Government is guilty of squandermania. If the hon. Member is serious why did he not agree to a cut in his salary? Why did he not instruct the Minister of Education to use his salary for educational purposes, both secondary and technical, for the children of his area. I will be prepared to see the hon. Member about this tomorrow if he is sincere.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in this Region a Minister will not receive a penny above his salary.

Mr Adisa: Some of them have hundreds of pounds in the Bank.

Chief Akintola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I will deny that, not when they are members of my Government..... *(cheers from the Government Benches)*.

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The hon. Leader of the Opposition made certain accusations which the hon. the Minister of Finance has adequately dealt with. I only have to endorse what the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House has said.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to repeat again that the money of the Marketing Board is not used to finance the recurrent expenditure of the Government of this Region. If the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues have proofs that they can produce to the contrary, they are welcome, because we ourselves agree that it would be wrong to make use of the money of the Marketing Board, the surpluses of the Marketing Board, for the day to day affairs of this Region. But it is not wrong to use the money of the Marketing Board to finance capital projects of this Region. The money is spent partly on Education, and who are being educated there? Their sons and daughters, the sons and daughters of the farmers and workers of this Region. Part of the money is used to construct good roads and tar the existing untarred roads. Who travel along these roads?

(Mr Adisa: Your Ministers.)

The people of this Region travel on these roads and they add to the economic development of this Region. Part of the money was used for the provision of good pipe-borne water, although it is expensive, it is used by both the upper, middle and lower class people of this Region.

With regard to the cut in the price of cocoa the hon. the Leader of the Opposition ought to know that the price of cocoa cannot be controlled by any particular nation. We want our farmers to have more money and we want them to receive more money on the price of their cocoa. We have to accept what other people in other countries are bound to accept because of circumstances beyond our control. Since the drop in the price of cocoa, representatives of all the major producing countries have been holding consultations among themselves and a Conference had been held at which all cocoa producing countries of the world and all important cocoa consuming countries were represented and the outcome of the Conference is now receiving the attention of all concerned.

A meeting is proposed to be held in Ghana to discuss the cocoa prices and we will be represented at this Conference by the hon. the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and I hope the outcome will

yield good fruits for the farmers of this Region (*cheers.....*). We are going to do all we can in co-operation with other cocoa producing countries to see that the present trend is reversed.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition made a proposal, he was asking why we did not create the sellers' market. If I have foodstuffs which I want to sell, I shall take them to Dugbe or to Ojaba where the buyers are. My hon. Friend wants to create the sellers' market by taking all the cocoa to the Sahara desert and asking the buyers to come there. Unfortunately, that is not possible.

(An Opposition Member: Finally, finally).

(Chief Akintola: Finally, my Friend may go to the grave!)

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned what we were doing to improve the economy of the Region. As mentioned already, what we are doing in co-operation with other countries is to ensure a rise in the price of cocoa, but, apart from that, contacts are being made to important manufacturers both in America and Europe to effect the processing of our cocoa here in this country. Although the position is a little complicated we are leaving no stone unturned to achieve this objective, so that chocolate, coffee, toffee, etc., and a number of other products made from cocoa can easily be produced in this country. It will not be possible or easy for us to create a sellers' market until we are able to reduce the products considerably; in other words, when any commodity is in abundance the commodities will have to be taken to the consumers but if it is very scarce, and we are unable to get it, it is the consumer who will have to come to buy it. If you want to create sellers' market then you will make a sale which will not be in the best interest of the farmers. It is only by reducing the products that you can introduce the sellers, market.....(*interruptions*).....

May I say again that I am really happy on this occasion that we do not intend any longer to take the issue of cocoa weapon to further our own political end. During the last election one of my Friends opposite said that he would pay £300 for a ton of cocoa.

Mr Adisa: If you resign tomorrow, I will do that.

Chief Akintola: May I extend my sympathy to my friend opposite that I will not resign. (*Laughter and prolonged interruptions*).

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

Allegation was also made about the £1 million in the National Bank, that it was put there without the approval of this House. My predecessor, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, gave all the facts to this hon. House that the National Bank needs encouragement and it is in order to meet the challenge of the time by the expatriate banks. You know this, that the expatriate banks were very difficult as far as the Nigerian businessmen were concerned; there were no overdrafts facilities and loans were not given to farmers or Nigerian businessmen and for that reason, we, as a Government, were determined to assist the National Bank in order that the Bank might give money advances to indigenous businessmen. That was exactly what happened here and at that time, may I say, that my Friend the hon. Leader of the Opposition was not a small rat in the Action Group.

The hon. Member for Ibadan said "no". The Leader of the Opposition was then in Lagos. Even when he was in Lagos he enjoyed my confidence more than he will ever enjoy yours (*Opposition Member: He didn't enjoy the confidence of your Leader*). There is no difference between me and the Leader of the Party. This secret can never be known to him. May I also say that the same policy which motivated our actions towards the National Bank in the good old days still applies today. And when he said he got it on good report that the National Bank was on the verge of bankruptcy, may I say that I received no report of that kind (*hear, hear*), and all the people who advised us did not give any indication of bankruptcy. May I also say that if you keep your money in the bank, when you go there you can take your money at any time and... (*interruptions*). I have never received any report to the contrary. What was said in the annual report of the National Bank is that they feel that competition has been extremely keen and because of that they feel that the time has come that the Government should come to their aid. In doing that we merely converted the preference shares into equity shares in the National Bank. And, as I said on the floor of this House, a measure of re-organisation will be effected and it may be necessary to get your money..... (*interruptions*), but before that is done we are going to ask experts, experts from the Central Bank, and experts also to be appointed by us, to go fully into the Bank so that we may be able to know in what direction we are going to head and also to ensure that it will be to the best interest of the people of this Region.

May I also say too that nationalists are very much appreciated in spirit. The hon. Member for Benin spoke here. He said, far be it from him to do any thing that will be embarrassing to any national institution like the National Bank. If we continue here on the floor of this House to talk about bankruptcy to cause an embarrassment to the bank, we may not be assisting a national organisation such as the National Bank. If the hon. Member wants to know the truth about it we are prepared to give to him whatever facts are within our power. But if you have the truth nobody is afraid. But if you choose the forum of this House to attack the bank, to impugn the integrity of those who are connected with it, to suggest that it is on the brink of liquidation, we are not assisting that bank. We are assisting an indigenous organisation like the National Bank. After all, the National Bank is not the only bank in that category. Are references not often made on the floor of this House to an institution of that kind, in order to embarrass those who are in control? Our mere task is to assist this important national organisation to be able to play its own part in the progressive revolution of the economy of this Region. Our policy is that it ought to be an institution of non-discrimination. If we don't discriminate and we want to use every opportunity perhaps to embarrass some people we don't like, or to embarrass the Government, we may be doing more harm even against ourselves than we imagined. Thus it is said that a wise man does not set his house on fire simply because a mouse is hiding in a corner of it. If you set your house on fire in order to destroy the mouse you may destroy what is more than the mouse.

So I would appeal to hon. Members to get all the facts you like about the National Bank, about any activities of this Government, but I appeal to you to get it in a patriotic and nationalistic manner.

Question put and agreed to.

(Prolonged cheers from Government Benches).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed "That the House do now adjourn until 10.00 a.m. this morning". (*Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi*)

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.55 a.m. on Thursday, 6th April, 1961, until 10.00 a.m. the same day.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 6TH APRIL, 1961

(The House met at 10.05 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EDUCATION

Re-introduction of Compulsory Clause in Education Law

10/1. Mr D. Atolagbe asked the Minister of Education whether he agreed with the view that the time was now ripe for the compulsory clause to be re-introduced in our Education Law.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education (Mr J. O. Oye): The hon. Member may recall that the idea of compulsory primary education was never formally incorporated in the Education Law itself for a variety of reasons, the principal one being the lack of an acceptable and practicable means of enforcing such a clause. These considerations are equally true today and I do not consider that any change is indicated.

At the same time, I should, I think, point out that the Law does stress the moral obligation that exists on the part of a parent to secure the education of his children. Government has provided the facilities and it is the duty of every parent to ensure that these facilities are utilised to the maximum extent possible.

Recruitment of Teachers from Overseas

10/46. Mr B. O. Fawehinmi asked the Minister of Education what arrangements, if any, were being made by the Regional Government to recruit Teachers from Overseas to enable the existing Secondary Schools in the Region have as many Higher School Certificate Courses as possible.

Mr Oye: Government is doing everything possible to recruit suitably qualified overseas teachers for our secondary grammar schools. In this connection, the fullest advantage is being taken of offers of help under the United Kingdom and the Canadian Technical Assistance Schemes.

In addition, the hon. Member will be interested to know that a Recruitment Mission, under the leadership of Mr J. J. Marinho, M.B.E., Commissioner in the Public Service Commission, is going to the United States of America shortly to try and engage

staff for both Government and Voluntary Agency institutions. The other members of the Mission are Reverend Canon E. O. Alayande, Principal of Ibadan Grammar School, and Mr H. M. B. Somade, Chief Inspector of Education in my Ministry (hear, hear).

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Number of Specialist Doctors

Serving in the Region

10/52. Mr B. O. Fawehinmi asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare to state the number of Specialists (Doctors) now serving at the various hospitals in the Western Region.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa): Mr Speaker, Sir, there are thirteen Specialists (Doctors) now serving at various hospital centres in the Region as follows:

General Hospital, Benin	1
General Hospital, Adeoyo, Ibadan ...	7
General Hospital, Abeokuta	1
Aro Hospital, Abeokuta	1
General Hospital, Ijebu-Ode	1
Health Auxiliary Training School, and	
School of Hygiene, Eleiyele, Ibadan ...	1
Chest Clinic	1
Total	13

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Establishment of Leather Industry

10/70. Mr N. A. Adibi asked the Minister of Trade and Industry whether Government would consider the advisability of establishing leather industry in the Region as soon as practicable.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie): As Members are aware cattle husbandry is not a major industry of the Western Region by reason of the prevalence of tsetse flies in the area. In consequence the raw materials, i.e., hide and skin, which are the basic requirement for a leather industry, are not plentiful.

In order to make the most of the limited supplies available my Ministry in co-operation with the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry sponsored the visit of a Hide and Skin Expert of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations. He has advised on methods to improve small-scale tanning factories as basis for the production of improved leather goods.

While this report is being considered every possible assistance is being given in the meantime to assist leather workers and where possible, they are organised into co-operative societies like the Oyo Co-operative Leather Workers Society.

EDUCATION

Promotion for Voluntary Agency and Private Teachers

10/98. Mr I. A. Olukoju asked the Minister of Education whether Government would consider the advisability of granting promotions to teachers of Voluntary Agency and Private Schools not only on the basis of examinations passed but also on efficiency and good reports as is done in the case of teachers in Government educational institutions and of Civil Servants.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr R. A. Olusa): Teachers in voluntary agency/private schools are not employees of Government but the employees of the proprietors of the schools in which they teach. The rules governing promotions in the Civil Service cannot therefore be applied to them.

The Banjo Report contains observations on advancement prospects for teachers in voluntary agency schools which are under consideration by the Government.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

X-ray Apparatus

10/142. Mr A. E. E. Atohengbe asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare to state why, in view of the huge sum of money provided under Head 7272 sub-head (4) of the Region's Current Year's Estimates for Hospital Equipment, the X-ray Department of the General Hospital in Benin City and Warri respectively were not adequately provided with appropriate X-ray apparatus in order to cope with the volume of work brought to bear upon them and why Warri and Agbor Stations respectively were left in the hands of unqualified staff despite the effect of X-ray radiation on human body.

Mr Ogunmuyiwa: The X-ray apparatus in Benin City and Warri are quite adequate for the hospitals although a bigger and more expensive machine would naturally be of some advantage. There is no evidence that the staff in Warri and Agbor hospitals are being unduly exposed to radiation.

There are two Radiographers in Benin City and one X-ray technician in-training. X-ray workers are provided with films which

they wear and from which the amount of radiation they receive can be measured and so far there is no evidence that any X-ray worker in this or any Region in Nigeria has been exposed unduly to radiation.

Mr Atohengbe: May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary to give the size of the drying cabinet of the X-ray Machine.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): You want to know the size of the X-ray cabinet? Then give a notice of the question or how do you think the size can be known orally like that? *(laughter)*.

Mr Speaker: Please give notice of that question.

EDUCATION

Teachers' Registration Cards

10/155. Mr V. I. Amadasun asked the Minister of Education why so many teachers' Registration Cards are not claimed and are still lying in the Education Office at Benin City and also why there are no columns provided for addresses on these cards.

Mr Olusa: A total of about 508 teachers' Registration Cards belonging to uncertificated teachers still lie unclaimed at the Education Office, Benin, because the teachers concerned have most probably left Benin Province and no information is available about their present whereabouts. Many of them may have left the teaching profession.

Some space is provided at the back of the Registration Cards for addresses to be written thereon but it was the policy in the early days of educational expansion in the Region (1955-56) that applications for registration by newly employed teachers should be forwarded to my Ministry through the Provincial Education Offices, and that registration cards should also be forwarded to the latter offices for distribution to the teachers. This method of distribution has since been abandoned and registration cards are now forwarded direct to teachers.

Mr J. O. Kehinde: Is the Minister of Education aware that so many teachers in the Western Region have been registered and their registration numbers are not given to them?

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): I am not aware.

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): 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 Trade and Industry (Chief A. O. Adeyi): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICE OF BILL

Notice of the following Bill was given:—

1. Local Government (Amendment) Law, No. 2 of 1961 (*The Minister of Local Government*).

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS

The following Bills were presented and read the First time: they were ordered to be read a Second time later:—

1. The Stamp Duties Bill, 1961 (*The Minister of Finance*).
2. The Education Law (Amendment) Bill 1961 (*The Minister of Education*).

**THE STAMP DUTIES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961
SECOND READING**

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for a Law to amend the Stamp Duties Law be read a Second time. 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.

As explained in the foot-note to the Bill, copies of which have already been circulated to hon. Members, the main purpose of this Bill is to amend the Stamp Duties Law, Chapter 118, by providing in clauses 3 and the Schedule in Clause 4 for a fifty per cent increase in the amount of duties chargeable upon the several documents specified in the Schedule to that Law. The only documents which are not affected by this proposal are Receipts given for the payment of money amounting to two pounds or more, the duty payable in this respect remaining at the existing rate of two pence.

The increase proposed has been agreed by the other Governments of the Federation and it is the intention that it should take effect from 1st April, 1961, simultaneously throughout the Federation.

Hon. Members may wish to know that the question of reviewing the existing rates was initiated by this Government as far back as 1957 for revenue reasons.

In view of the criticisms which have been made from time to time that Government revenue is heavily dependable on export duties from our agricultural products, I am sure that both sides of the House will gladly welcome this bold step which is now being taken to step up the amount of revenue derivable from other sources apart from agricultural products.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Adeyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: We are not opposing this Bill but there is something strange about it which I want to mention. The introduction of this Bill seems to make a mockery of parliamentary democracy because before any law is applied the provisions of the Law ought to be debated in this House. I tell you, Sir, that with effect from 1st April the Commissioner for Stamp Duties has been charging the 50 per cent before the Bill was passed. It is said that in a democracy no Law comes into effect without Parliament approving it. The Commissioner for Stamp Duties has been collecting the increase which has not been approved by this House. It is wrong for the Government in anticipation to come here and stream-roll any Bill.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not true that because this Bill is deemed to have been effective from 1st April the Commissioner for Stamp Duties has started to collect the increase. If the hon. Member is serious he should produce evidence. (*Mr Oviasu produced evidence*). (*Loud cheers from Opposition Benches*).

Chief Odebiyi: The hon. Member is busy collecting documents. Mr Speaker, Sir, the documents are dated 6th April. (*Loud laughter from both sides*).

Mr Oviasu: The law has not been passed. That is why I say that it is in anticipation. The man told me that he received authority to collect the duties.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I do know of chemists selling their drugs but I cannot understand the enthusiasm with which the hon. Member is speaking about this law. The Commissioner must have acted in accordance with the notice in the Federal Government Gazette. It was agreement reached by all Governments of the Federation. In any event, Sir, what I can tell the hon. Member is that as a result of the postponement of the House for the Easter recess this had to take place later but if the hon. Member felt very strongly about it he could go back to the Commissioner for Stamp Duties. (*Mr R. A. Akinyemi rose*).

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I have already wound up.

Mr Akinyemi: When he was winding up he could have told the Speaker that he was doing so.

Chief N. A. B. Kotoye: I move that the question be now put.

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, pursuant to Standing Order 32 (5).

Original Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee.

Clauses 1-4 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment read the Third time and passed.

THE 1958-59 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL

SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Odebiyi: I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to make Supplementary provision for the services of the Western Region for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1959 additionally to that made under the 1958-59 Appropriation (Nos 1 and 2) Laws. 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.

As hon. Members may have observed from the explanatory notes at the bottom of the Bill, the intention is to obtain covering approval for excess expenditure under the non-statutory sub-heads of the Pensions and Gratuities Heads of the Estimates for 1958-59. When the need for additional expenditure under the non-statutory sub-heads arose I exercised my powers of "virement" to transfer anticipated savings from the Statutory sub-heads instead of seeking (unnecessarily, as it was then thought) the Legislature's approval for additional provision under the Head. The Director of Audit, has however, observed in his report on the accounts of the Government for 1958-59 that it is not proper to transfer funds from Statutory sub-heads which as hon. Members know are a direct charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund to meet unforeseen expenditure under the non-statutory sub-heads which were subject to the vote of the Legislature. A Supplementary Appropriation is, therefore, necessary to cover the excess expenditure in question.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Alhaji Opaleye: I beg to second.

Further Debate on the Bill adjourned till tomorrow Friday, 7th April, 1961, pursuant to Standing Order 70.

THE 1959-60 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Odebiyi: I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a law to make Supplementary provision for the services of the Western Region for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1960 additionally to that made under the 1959-60 Appropriation Law and the 1959-60 Supplementary Appropriation (Nos. 1, 2 and 3) Laws. 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.

When the accounts for 1959-60 were closed, it was found that expenditure had been incurred under the Heads of the 1959-60 Estimates shown in the Schedule to the Bill in excess of the sums approved by the Legislature. The over-expenditure arose from the fact that the requirements under various sub-heads were under-estimated in

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

the first instance. Unfortunately, the Accounting Officers responsible for the Heads of expenditure did not realise that their votes were overspent until the accounts for the year were made up. As the over-expenditure under individual sub-heads will be examined in detail by the Public Accounts Committee, I do not wish to trouble the House with explanations for the items which have caused the excesses to which this Bill relates.

This Bill is necessary because the Legislature approves not only the proposed total expenditure but also the provision for each Head of the Estimates. I would like to emphasise, therefore, that the presentation of this Bill does not mean that the total sums appropriated in 1959-60 were exceeded. In actual fact, there was a total under-expenditure of £8 million approximately, made up as follows:

Recurrent Budget	...	679,766
Capital Budget	... ..	7,466,161

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Adeyi: I beg to second.

Further Debate on the Bill adjourned till tomorrow, Friday, 7th April, 1961, pursuant to Standing Order 70.

THE 1960-61 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION 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 make Supplementary provision for the services of the Western Region, for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1961 additionally to that made under the 1960-61 Appropriation Law, 1960 and the 1960-61 Supplementary Appropriation (Nos 1 and 2) Laws.

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 introduction of this Bill.

Of the total supplementary expenditure of £3,490,035 which is covered by the Bill, £2,442,290 is in respect of the recurrent Budget and £1,047,745 is for capital expenditure. As Members will see from Schedule I to the Bill only £1,192,930 represents true additional expenditure. The sum of £1,250,000, shown under Head 327 is for

the transfers which it is proposed to make from the Consolidated Revenue Fund as follows:

	£
(1) To Capital Expenditure and Development Fund	1,000,000
(2) Personal Advances Fund	250,000

I should explain that approval of the Legislature for most of the additional provision sought under the bill has been anticipated in accordance with section 56 (3) of the Constitution. A few items, however, are in respect of known liabilities which still have to be cleared before the accounts for the year are closed. Although on the face of it, it would appear that expenditure for 1960-61 would exceed the provision so far authorised by the Legislature, the fact is that the final accounts will show total actual expenditure to be much less than the total provision authorised. These supplementary appropriations are necessary because the vote for each service has to be approved separately by the Legislature. Even if a saving of £1 million is expected under one Head of the Estimates, it is still necessary to obtain the approval of the Legislature for an additional expenditure of only £1,000 under another Head. I have already stated in my Budget Speech that actual recurrent expenditure for 1960-61 is likely to reach £19,288,240 only, whereas the total approved provision after the passing of this Bill will amount to £22,781,656.

On the capital side, over £700,000 of the additional provision for which approval is sought is made up of revotes of unspent balances in previous year's votes.

There are only two items in the Supplementary Estimates which I think need any special mention by me. Under Head 324, sub-head 18, provision is made to meet interests payable in respect of overdraft facilities afforded by the Crown Agents' Joint Consolidated Fund. These overdrafts are raised from time to time when there is a lag between current receipts and expenditure, and the sale of securities at a much greater loss is thereby avoided.

The additional provision of £500,000 under Head 330, sub-head 42 for Primary Education grants-in-aid is a result of the introduction of new arrangements for the payment of grants to Voluntary Agencies, etc. The new system is designed to eliminate the causes of delay in the payment of teachers' salaries. Payments which, under the old

[CHIEF ODEBIYI] arrangements would not have been made before the first quarter of 1961-62 had had to be made during the last quarter of the current financial year.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Adeyi: I beg to second.

Further Debate on the Bill adjourned till tomorrow, Friday, 7th April, 1961, pursuant to Standing Order 70.

THE 1961-62 APPROPRIATION BILL SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (27th March).—“That the Bill be read a Second time”.

Question proposed.

Mr Oviasu: The attitude of the Opposition to this Appropriation Bill is not to be a party to any plan which deceives the public and so the Opposition oppose this Bill.

The Government has voted £39 million for the services of this Region. If you look carefully into the estimates and to the speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Finance, Mr Speaker, Sir, you will find that it will be practically impossible to get that amount. Apart from the already £11 million which is being voted, the hon. Minister of Finance has told us that the possibility of getting money to finance the various projects enumerated in the estimates will depend upon the availability of the money to be got as a result of loans from the Marketing Board, and we know, Sir, that the Marketing Board is already in a chronic financial contingency.

Although the Estimates appear to reflect good distribution of amenities, we are very sure, Sir, that in the end most of these projects will fail as before because this Government is very clever in deceiving the masses. Yesterday I cited this instance of its cleverness in deceiving the masses when I referred to the sum of £115,000 which, in the 1960-61 estimates, was earmarked for the construction of Technical Institute, Benin, which sum, up till now, has not been expended on that project but which now has been quoted as savings. Then the Minister of Finance had the effrontery to challenge me. I can prove that this sum has not been spent. So is the case with the fund for Edo College. Besides, the sum of £130,000 also in respect of Midwest Secretariat also was not expended. All these sums were consequently quoted as savings by the hon. Minister of Finance and yet will anybody say that this amounts to

fair distribution of amenities throughout the Region.

In another way, this Government misuses funds. We know certain parts of this Region where particular crops thrive better than others but which crops do not thrive very well in other localities. Some areas are best suited for cocoa, others for rubber, and so on. As for rubber, we know that the Midwest is the natural home for it. Yet the Western Region Government has spent about £900,000 on the introduction of rubber into Ijebu area, an area not naturally suited to rubber. This is a question of the Government's squandermania and selfishness, and an evidence of the fact that amenities are not evenly distributed in the Region.....
(*Interruption*). Even so, the rubber trees planted in that area are not growing.....
(*Interruption*).....(*laughter!*).

Mr Speaker: The rubber trees planted there are growing.....(*laughter*).

Mr Oviasu: They may be growing but not well.

Another question of the Government's squandermania lies in the appointment of twenty-six Ministers here in this Region with Ministers within the Ministries, each of them drawing allowances, while they do not know how to present Bills; yet they are paid fantastic amounts of money. Yesterday, in this hon. House, a Minister showed his incompetence by his inability to reply to Governor's Speech from the Throne. In fact, many Members of the Opposition raised many points to which they did not reply. The hon. Minister of Health made a foolery of himself, also did the Minister of Finance(*jeers*).....as well as the hon. Premier too.....(*jeers*) (*laughter*).

The industrial projects in Western Region are many. We went to visit many of them and saw a diversity of projects into which investment had been made. We often hear this Government claiming to champion the course of the masses and that it is endeavouring to raise the standard of living of the people. We visited Ewekoro Cement Factory and learnt of the enormous size of its weekly output which are marketed by foreign firms like the G. B. Ollivant, U.A.C., Gottschalk, Leventis, and so on to the negligence of many Nigerian businessmen who would like to be distributors of this cement output but are denied the opportunity. Well, is this the way to raise the standard of living of these people?

Cocoa is the main economic stay of this Region. The Western Region Marketing Board was not able to finance cocoa farmers. As nothing can be done regarding the fallen

[MR OVIASU]

price of cocoa in the world market, why can the Government not subsidise the cocoa farmers for at least two years? If, in fact, there has been no squandermania on the part of this Government, it would have been possible to do so. The sum of £3 million was secretly diverted from the Marketing Board into the Nigerian Investment Properties Co. Ltd. whose members are the top notchers of the Action Group. Because of this plunder, they were not able to subsidise the cocoa farmers.

I am sure that if this side of the House were in power, this fate would not have befallen the cocoa farmers. This in fact is a conspiracy by the Government for they play on the ignorance of the people by continuing to deceive the masses of the people.

“O conspiracy,

Sham'st thou to show thy dangerous brow
by night,

When evils are most free?

Then, by day, where will thou find a
cavern dark enough,

To muffle thine monstrous visage.

Seek none, conspiracy, hide it in smiles and
affability;

For if thou puts thy native emblance on,
Not, Erebus itself were dark enough to
hide thee from detection.”

That day will surely come when Erebus itself will not be dark enough to prevent them from being caught and that will mean the exit of the Action Group Government. That day is not far.....*(Cheers and applause from Opposition Benches.)*

Mr Speaker: May I call the attention of hon. Members to Standing Order No. 69, rule 2:

“After the Motion for the Second Reading of the 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 the Western Region of Nigeria and the Western Region Government's financial policy; and the influence on them of the economic and financial state of the Federation of Nigeria and the Federal Government's financial policy. Detailed items in the Estimates may not be debated on Second Reading. Two days shall be allotted for the Second Reading of the Bill and at the hour appointed for the interruption of business on the last of such allotted days Mr Speaker shall put the questions necessary to bring the proceedings on the Second Reading to a conclusion. Provided that if the question

on Second Reading be agreed to on a day earlier than the last day so allotted any day or days thus saved may be added to those allotted under paragraph (5) of this Order”.

This is for the benefit of new Members and I shall see to it that it is adhered to as strictly as possible.

Mr R. A. Akinyemi: The Opposition is active. We must first of all change the financial policy of this Action Group Government. What is their financial policy? On what is the economy of this Region dependent? From what source does the Region derive its wealth? It is cocoa. For five years the Action Group Government has told the cocoa farmers in the bushes that they would offer higher prices for their cocoa knowing well what will obtain on the world cocoa market. And instead of the Government to do something in order to help the cocoa farmers all they do is to be giving loans to the top notchers of the Action Group at the expense of the people of Western Nigeria. I will not go into details. *(Interruptions.)*

I shall not heckle the Members of the Government Front Bench but if they insist on heckling me thus I shall not hesitate to retaliate.

I say this that there are some of these people who instead of using the money in a way to bring more and more money to the coffers of the Western Region Government, squander what is left. *(Government Benches: That is not correct. Sit down.)* I would not heckle the front benchers on the other side of the House but as for the back benchers of the Action Group I know what to do. Now, the Government of the Western Region is trying, I appreciate the point, to establish industries in order to raise the standard of living of the people and get more money to the coffers of the Government but I would make it clear that in doing so although the Government appear to the public as protecting their interest, I say on the floor of this House that all these things are being done at the expense of the public in order to satisfy some of the top notchers of the Action Group who lost elections. For instance when the Action Group was contesting the last election there was a top notcher who gave them £21,000 and I knew that from the land acquisition they gave that particular individual £600 per acre and the Minister of Lands and Housing has in his Ministry an agent: *(Government Benches: Bring a substantive motion.)* I am not bringing a motion.

Chief Odebiyi: Standing Order 27 (6). "No Member shall impute improper motive to any other Member." The hon. Member is suggesting that the Minister of Lands and Housing has an agent. To do what Sir? I think that is improper motive. If the hon. Member is sure he should come to the House with a substantive motion or go outside the House to repeat this.

Mr Akinyemi: I said, Mr Speaker, Sir, that there are agents in the Ministry for this particular man. This your man had £600 per acre on land acquired at Ikeja. Every time the Minister of Finance jumps up to interrupt. He does not want us to talk and the truth will come. All their people are directors in the business—all of them Action Group members.

Mr Speaker: Oh yes, I agree with you, the Chairman of the Housing Corporation is a member of the Action Group.

Mr Akinyemi: They pay them fabulous money, some £3,000, and I have to say that as far as I am concerned from my experience of the Action Group for the past ten years (*Government Benches: where were you then?*) they use the money of the Western Region people to organise the Action Group Party in order to return to power. There is nothing they do not do. If you want to get loan from them if you are not a member of the Action Group you won't get it. There is even an allegation that Government contracts are awarded to Action Group contractors and why do they do that? All these members will be made to pay money back to the coffers of the Action Group. If you are awarded a contract and that contract is to cost the Government £20,000, the Minister who will award the contract will award it for about £50,000. (*Government Benches: Minister, awarding contract?*)

Chief Odebiyi: Standing Order 26. I have never heard of a Minister awarding contract at all much less talk of a contract or £20,000 given out for £50,000. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think your ruling ought to prevail on this particular case.

Mr Speaker: Apart from my knowledge of the fact that Ministers don't award contracts in this Region I deem it an infringement of the Standing Orders to impute an improper motive about any Minister that he gives out contract of £20,000 for £50,000.

Mr Akinyemi: I withdraw that (*Government Benches: Shame!*) Mr Speaker, Sir, I say this, the Action Group Government are so clever in deceit. They are so clever in

making money available for themselves from the limited resources of this Region. They have a Minister of Education and a Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education. They both earn £3,000 each.

Mr Speaker: That shows that one is not superior to the other.

Mr Akinyemi: You keep two Ministers in a Ministry. In the Federal territory there is a Minister (*Government Benches: without cabinet rank*) who earns less than £3,000. (*Chief Odebiyi: What about the Provincial Commissioners in the East? NCNC organising secretaries*). I have always told the Leader of the House that he is expected to lay good example and when a Front Bencher like myself is talking he has no right to heckle. When he does it I will not hesitate to retort. (*Leader of the House: I am praising you.*) We passed a Motion here the other time empowering this Government to make an application to the Federal Government for a loan of £30 million. Now the estimate as it stands is about £52 million.

You don't know whether the Federal Government will help you or not. The Government, as I have said have good intention on paper but when it comes to the practical side of implementing any particular thing they do not do it. The Action Group Government only enrich the pockets of their puppets and organising secretaries.

Mr J. A. Awopeju: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am really very sorry that the hon. Gentleman from Ikeja South has indulged in his usual pranks by saying that the Action Group Government of this Region is finding job for the good boys. The allegation of finding job for good boys and chairmanship for top notching Groupers is so monotonous that it sounds discordant and gives staccato sounds in every honest man's ears. The accusation is rank irresponsibility and flippant levity on the part of the hon. Member for Ikeja South. Now, it was asked whether the leopard can change its spots or the Ethiopian his skin. I would have thought that if my good Friend cannot change his spots he should change his sports. This melodramatic performance is trite, hackneyed and oft repeated.

For the information, edification and correction of the hon. Gentleman the Budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance is not unbalanced as alleged by my hon. Friend. I advert my hon. and learned Friend to the definition of a balanced Budget by referring him to Hugh Dalton's "Public

[MR AWOPEJU]

Finance" at page 301. There it is said "A budget is balanced when expenditure does not exceed revenue."

Now you always talk of a bank being on the brink of bankruptcy and Government being on the brink of bankruptcy whereas the Leader of the Opposition is riding a big car costing over £3,000 when the others are languishing in abject poverty and you come to this House to say what is not acceptable to the people of Western Region. I think it is high time that the melodramatic performance of my Friend must be stopped. I assure him that this is not an election platform; we come here for serious business and I do think that my hon. and learned Friend will now learn that all these motives are uncalled for. And I do think that the hon. Member for Ikeja South will be warned not to repeat them again.

The Government Chief Whip (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would not like to deal with the childish.....(*shouts of sit down, sit down, sit down from the Opposition Benches*).....I would not like to deal with the childish display of ignorance by my hon. Friend, the Member for Ikeja South, but I would like to inform him, through Mr Speaker and some other Members from the other side of the House and others outside this House who would think that there is some truth in what he has said.

It was said yesterday by the Minister of Finance and that statement has not been challenged by the Leader of the Opposition. He also mentioned the Marketing Board money being used by the Government. We are proud that we are doing this and the Ghana Government, I mean the Ghana Republican Government, which Government is held in very high esteem by members of the Opposition, finances itself with funds belonging to the farmers and from funds provided by the Marketing Board in Ghana. Nobody has said that this policy is unwise or destructive. After all said and done, the majority of the people of this Region are farmers and their children are farmers, the amenities provided by this money are to be enjoyed by the farmers and their children.

The hon. Member also made mention of the loan made to the National Investment Property Company Limited. The hon. Premier said during the last meeting that the arrangement between the Marketing Board and this organisation is not one which is a secret. Everybody knows that the surplus funds of the Marketing Board are

intended to be invested in order to realise interest, and this has something to do with the economic progress of this Region and those who are interested in the economic progress of this Region should not have something to say against this move by the Government. Surely, if we are going to achieve that economic progress we should go ahead to invest the funds of the Marketing Board, but not in the United Kingdom or in the United States of America. What this Government has done through the Marketing Board in providing substantial loan to the National Investment Property Company Limited is to invest funds of the Marketing Board in Nigeria for the purpose of providing economic progress, employment and avenues for development for the people of this country in general, and the people of this Region in particular; and I believe that if the Leader of the Opposition is in this House, because he lives in Lagos and sees how from day to day sky-scrapers are springing up and if one of these sky-scrapers is being put up by an organisation fully backed by investment from local source to compete with these expatriate firms, and indeed this is in active competition, he would be proud of such an organisation and its sky-scrapers.

My hon. colleague, the Member for Ikeja South, made another irresponsible attack on the Minister of Lands and Housing with regard to the acquisition of land at Ikeja. Luckily, my hon. Friend is a lawyer and he knows that the proper place to make such a complaint is not this House. I would say this, Sir, that the same amount of £600 per acre which this Government is paying for the very valuable land at Ikeja is the same amount which the Federal Government is also paying for the same type of land located in this same area. If the hon. Member is not aware of this he can investigate the acquisition of the parcel of land from the Military Depot along the road leading to Ikeja and he will find that the Federal Government is paying the same amount. And, though not necessarily infringing the jurisdiction of the Court in dealing with the matter, I would say that the Government would be quite prepared to pay the amount, with evidence of local estate by any person owning any land there.

There is also another point which has been made, and this is the criticism of the chairmen of public corporations in which this Government has invested money. I am sure, speaking too for Members from this side of the House, that we are very proud of the activities of the people, I mean the young men who are manning the various posts. (*Cheers from Government Benches.*)

[MR KOTOYE]

As a matter of fact, from day to day when I make the comparison of the Government of this Region and that of the Eastern Region I continue to feel deeply right to continue to support the Action Group. We have, since the inception of the W.N.D.C. under the new dispensation, always had one single chairman, in the person of Mr Alfred Rewane. In the Eastern Region during the same period the chairmanship of the E.N.D.C. has been changed on not less than two occasions because of the incompetence of the people. We established the Printing Corporation in the Western Region and the NCNC Government of Eastern Region are attempting to copy the Printing Corporation, and not a single paper has been printed. And the same thing can be said of the Pharmaceutical Corporation, the Tourist Corporation and others. Since the inception of these Corporations in the Western Region, there has not been a single cause for regret.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if anybody should complain of members of political parties being appointed to the public corporations, surely the hon. Member for Ikeja will be the last person to do so, because when he failed the last Federal election, he was in the wilderness for six months begging the Federal Prime Minister for appointment to one of the public bodies controlled by the Federal Government. I am personally happy that at last he has succeeded.

There has been another allegation made against this Government in regard to the award of contracts. And if I may say this, Sir, the cost of contracts awarded in the Western Region by the Action Group Government of the Western Region is the lowest in the whole of the Federation of Nigeria and I hope Members of the Opposition will agree with me that where it costs any of the other Governments in the Federation £7,000 to construct a mile of road, it costs us only £5,000 and we do know why the contracts awarded by the Federal Government are always so costly. I would like the hon. Member for Ikeja South to know that our Ministers in the Western Region have integrity and have reputation. Here in the Western Region, there are no Ministers who put their wives' names on the directorship of private companies. Here in the Western Region there is no Minister who would put the name of a fictitious woman, care a Post Office Box in Sapele, in order to be able to earn dividends from private companies. If this is your experience of us, we do sympathise with you but this is not our experience.

I am really very happy that we have all these responsible persons manning the Government of this Region and this is why, from time to time, the Government of this Region will continue to rule—I mean the Action Group party will continue to rule—this Region.

I am happy that my hon. and learned Friend, the Member for Remo North, has been able to educate the Member for Ikeja South on the meaning of a balanced budget. I can only endorse what he has said, by directing the attention of the Members on the other side, through Mr Speaker, to the Budgets of the Eastern Region and the Northern Region.

Only less than a year ago the Government of this Region surrendered the sum of £1½ million in respect of tax to the people by reducing the minimum tax payable by any person to £1 17s 6d. It is also known that during this period of twelve months the Government has had short-fall in its estimated revenue on export duty and we do know that this unfortunate aspect had befallen the Eastern Government and the Northern Government. But what do we find? The Eastern Government which only a little while ago was boasting that it could continue to buy cocoa at £160 per ton could only budget for £70,000 net surplus. Surely, we now know that all the time when the Premier of the Eastern Region was boasting to the people of this country that they can purchase cocoa at £160 per ton he was talking, like the hon. Member for Ikeja South, to the gallery and not the people of this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr P. V. Okwesa: Mr Speaker Sir, the attitude of Her Majesty's Opposition to this Budget has been clearly stated: that we cannot subscribe to the policy of deceiving the masses. If we look at this Estimate on paper we may think that all is well with the Action Group Government of the Western Region. We are called upon to vote £19,132,510 for Recurrent Expenditure. I read it again, £19,132,510 for Recurrent Expenditure and £19,144,570 for Capital Expenditure.

Why do we say that we cannot subscribe to the policy of deceiving the masses? We know that these sums of money are not going to be judiciously used. We know that the money is bound to go the way it had always gone in the past. We know that a good deal of the money is going to be transferred, no doubt into the coffers of the Action Group as a party. We must keep on saying these things because, from our past experience this has continued to be what it has always been with the Action Group Government.

[MR. OKWESA]

Now one thing that strikes me is this attitude of self-approbation. It is always present in the speeches of hon. Members on the Action Group side, right from the Governor down to the dullest back-bencher on that side. (*Opposition Members: Fire them.*)

Mr Speaker: Did you speak about the Governor?

Mr Okwesa: No. (*Government Benches: You swallow it.*) Mr Speaker Sir, I noticed one fact in the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance this year; that is to say, he has failed to christen his Budget. In the past we have heard him christen his Budget as "Prosperity Budget". But whether he names it or not the Budget has taken a name on its own accord—it is "Adversity Budget." Why do I say this? I heard that there was difficulty in balancing this Budget. It took the Government a good deal of time to get this Budget balanced, and the fact is testified to by the retrenchment which I understand is going on among the workers of the Government particularly in the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Mr Speaker Sir, last year we heard the Minister of Finance talking about prudent administration in the management of the affairs of this Region. I don't think that the Minister of Finance really meant what he said or said what he meant, because if this Government had been prudent in the administration and management of the affairs of this Region cocoa prices would not have been reduced. (*Opposition Members: Good talk.*) It is lack of foresight on the part of the Government and therefore lack of prudence in the management and control of the affairs of this Region.

Now, why do I say that this Budget appears very good on paper? Because in the actual working of the Government and in trying to implement the proposals shown to us here on paper the Government is bound to fail woefully.

It is my experience that Government is making attempt to go into the field of industry, to industrialise not the whole of the Region but a section of it. Mr Speaker, Sir, if this Government had in the past taken care to distribute industrial projects evenly throughout the Region, I would not quarrel, but I can assure you that during our Parliamentary Delegation to Ikeja and Agege on the 24th of last month, hon. Members, particularly those from the Midwest were forced to shed tears. Why did they shed

tears? It is the thought of seeing only a section of the Region being transformed rapidly into an industrial region while another section has been left uncared for and undeveloped. I, however, take consolation in the fact that the Midwest Region is soon to be created and we are going to teach the Action Group of the Western Region how to manage the affairs of a Government to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this discriminatory attitude of this Western Region Government has been agitating the minds of a good many people in the Region. Now let me cite one example.

Mr Speaker: I like you to relate it to the financial policy.

Mr Okwesa: Yes, I am relating it to the financial policy of Government of the Region. Here, for example, I see a sum of £5,464,410 being voted for Roads and Bridges. You may not believe me, but the fact is there located beyond the reach of argument, that not one mile of road has yet been tarred in the Ndosimili District of Aboh Division and yet we talk of prudent administration and management of the affairs of this Region. If there is any district in this Region that needs very many bridges to be constructed and needs roads to be tarred, it is the Ndosimili District. (*Government Members: How many miles of land have you?*) You don't talk of land in terms of miles, you talk of land in square miles. You can say how many square miles you have in your area. Unless you are talking of miles of land along a straight road!

I am telling you that your Development Policy has been one-sided. It is discriminatory in outlook. I will again prove this attitude of discrimination in the Action Group Government of the Western Region. Let me go to Agricultural Development. Here we have a sum of £175,760 being devoted for the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Well, that is a huge sum, but is that Ministry worth its name? (*Opposition Members: No.*) (*Government Members: Yes.*) I say "No" because while we were on parliamentary delegation to Agege we saw, as we saw last year at Fashola, poultry farm project and dairy farm project in progress. How many of such projects can we see in the Midwest area? Is the Midwest not a part and parcel of this Region? Is the Minister of Midwest Affairs not aware that an area which comes under his portfolio is being discriminated against?

[MR OKWESA]

Now then have we any Farm Institute in the Midwest? Have we any Dairy Farm project in the Midwest? Then again, the gigantic aluminium factory and the gigantic asbestos factory at Ikeja: at first sight, it appears to prove this Government being sincere in its determination to industrialise the Region, but these industries are being sited only in one section of the Region and that is the Yoruba West. We have no such thing in the Midwest.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Leader of the House said that there are certain factors that lead to the localisation of industries. I wish to tell you that these factors are present in the Midwest.

Why is it Sir, that we did not go to Benin, Ughelli, Asaba, Ashaka, Ishan, etc., and so forth in the Midwest to see projects sited there, we cannot go there because nothing is sited there. The Action Group has made up its mind to site all industries in the Yoruba West because they were afraid of the creation of the Midwest State. The fact remains that up till now the public fund is for the Region as a whole and we in the Midwest are part of the owners of this sum, that shows that the Government has not been very prudent. If the Minister for Midwest Affairs calls himself a real Midwesterner he should resign from the Ministry.

Now, Sir, the Aluminium Factory. If I did not go to Ikeja to see this Aluminium Factory I might think that the kettle, the tea pots and casseroles and all things made of aluminium were made in England or in other parts of Europe but my visit to Ikeja.....

Mr Anuku: Mr Speaker, Sir, point of Order. Order 33; "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: It seems as if the hon. Gentleman's time is faster than mine.....
(loud cheers from Opposition Benches).

Mr Okwesa: Mr Speaker, Sir, if I was not a member of this delegation to the Industrial Projects at Ikeja I would think that these things were made in some other parts of the world and not in Nigeria and even one member of the Action Group from the Midwest bought a set of aluminium wares to show to his children in Benin Division what the Action Group is doing in the Yoruba West. Little would he think what the result of that showing would be

and I am sure that his children would curse him for belonging to the Action Group that discriminate against the development of his own area in preference to the development of the Yoruba West.

Mr Speaker, Sir, continuing my attempt to portray this Government as the Government full of discrimination would take up all our time.

Mr Speaker: It appears this will be a convenient time for a short break.

Sitting suspended at 12.00 noon.

Sitting resumed at 12.45 p.m.

Mr Okwesa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I have brought up many points to show why we of the Opposition refuse to subscribe to the policy of discrimination and the policy of squandermania.....(interruptions). I can give a catalogue of facts to prove this attitude of the Government. Now one thing is clear, very clear in the policy of the Action Group. The Government always wants benefits for Action Group members and supporters. (Government Benches: What about your Provincial Commissioners?) at the expense of the ordinary man or non-members of the Action Group Party.

For instance, Sir, look at the proposal to appoint a Commissioner for Customary Courts. This is not going to be what we think, we may think that Government has good intentions in trying to make this appointment but I can assure you Mr Speaker, Sir, that it is going to be merely window dressing. Government has no good intentions in the appointment of Commissioner for Customary Courts. It is going to be like the appointment of the Anti-Bribery Officer, during his tenure of office bribery has increased by leaps and bounds. It is going to be done in order to compensate Action Group Organising Secretaries. The Judges and Assessors of these Customary Courts will no doubt, in spite of the appointment of such a Commissioner, continue to illtreat or maltreat people who are not Action Group supporters.

Alhaji Opaleye: Point of order Sir. Order 27 (8) The conduct of Her Majesty..... Members of the House and Judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a Substantive Motion..... Mr Speaker, Sir, he made mention of the conduct of Customary Court Judges.

Mr Speaker: The conduct of Judges either of Customary or High Court will not be brought up here unless under a substantive

otion, and as such I would like you to withdraw that part of the speech that referred to the Customary Court Judge.

Mr Okwesa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to withdraw. (*Shame, shame, shame, from the Government Benches*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the fact still remains that a Commissioner for Customary Courts is not going to serve any useful purpose. These things will continue to happen inspite of the appointment as in the case of the Anti-bribery Officer. That appointment has served no useful purpose, bribery and corruption continue to increase.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if I should indulge in giving them out to you I may use more time than is necessary. These facts are enough to convince any doubting Thomas on that side of the House that the policy of the Action Group of Nigeria who forms the Government is just made to benefit party supporters, party organising secretaries and party members.

Mr Speaker, Sir, these are my observations.

Mr M. A. Idodo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to make my Friend from Benin, Mr Oviasu, and others in the opposite camp, know of this brief statement which they often accuse this Government.....(*interruptions*)

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, the honourable Member's speech is a maiden speech and there should be no interruptions.

Mr Idodo: They accused this Government of oppression, victimisation and may let them know that my Friends from the Midwest area always accuse this Government to be a discriminatory one in the supply of amenities in this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to the minds of my hon. Friends on the other side and to ask them a question—the question will not be involving. If they remember the history of Benin and the Edo speaking people, that led to the evacuation of these.....

Mr Oviasu: Point of order Sir, Order (2)—".....shall be confined to the financial and economic state of the Western Region of Nigeria and the Western Region Government's financial policy....." If the hon. Member does not know how to speak on the debate he should sit down because what he is saying is not relevant to the financial policy of the Government of the Western Region.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman objection is upheld. Will the hon. Member for Afenmai refer only to the financial policy of the Government (*shouts of shame, shame, from the Opposition Benches*).

Mr Idodo: Let me refresh the minds of the Members from Benin that the people of Afenmai and the Urhobos left Benin because of oppression, victimisation and the autocratic government of the Benin people over these people.

I wish to remind hon. Members from Benin that in their criticisms they have never made any constructive suggestion about the method by which the revenue of this Region could be raised, nor had they made any suggestion by which our revenue could be used to the satisfaction of the people of this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, now that the Midwest is to be created according to the recent Motion passed in the Federal Parliament.....(*interruptions*).

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I request that both sides of this House should listen attentively to the speaker. I did mention, Sir, that the hon. Member is making his maiden speech and it is only courteous that hon. Members should listen to him attentively.

Mr Akinyemi: When the Speaker was not here last night an Opposition Member made a statement about the Midwest, the Deputy Speaker ruled that that matter should not be mentioned again. I am giving this information to the Speaker as an instance.

Mr Idodo: Now that the Motion for the creation of the Midwest State has been passed, it will receive its full support from the Action Group Government of this Region financially, and now that there is every assurance of its immediate implementation, Mr Speaker, I put it to the Members of the other side that the time has come when we members of the Action Group, with the co-operation of the Yorubas, Urhobos, Itsekiris and the Ibos in the Midwest will like to join forces in order to deal with you people, you Binis.....(*interruptions*).

It appears that Opposition Members from Benin are not aware that there is a proposal by this Government for the building of a Technical Institute in the Midwest area; there is another proposal made for the supply of electricity to some towns in the Midwest area.

[MR IDODO]

Look up page 173 of the Estimates, Head 702, Sub-head 16—Roads and Bridges. You have been complaining that the Midwest is neglected. When you come to the Midwest you will see a number of roads tarred during the last financial year. (*Mr Speaker: You can read it*). The tarring of Ughelli-Eku road; Ughelli-Oleh road; Abraka-Kwale-Ilu road; Obiaruku-Amari road. Under Sub-head 20, all these roads are in the Midwest area. (*Opposition Benches: Where are they? Read them*) You have Auchi-Igarra; Auchi-Agenebode; Uromi-Evue; Ubiaja-Ilushi; Ibusa-Asaba Rural Training College, Asaba; Umunedé-Otolopo-Ute-Okpu; Ekuku-Agbor-Owa Alimodina; Ogwashi-Uku Main Road; Ubiaja-Ugboha. These are all amenities to be supplied to the Midwest contained in this current Estimates for your approval in this honourable House, yet you complain of victimisation, oppression and.....

Mr A. T. Rerri: Point of order, Sir, Order 69 (2). I am greatly surprised that the hon. Member is referring to provisions under the Western Region Estimates of 1961-62 when in actual fact he is reading from 1959-60 Estimates.

Mr Speaker: Members could refer not only to their notes but to books which include these Estimates. It has been said that certain parts of the Region have been neglected and somebody has said that that statement is not true. As such I will allow him and will continue to allow him (*cheers from Government Benches*).

Mr Idodo: All these are roads in the Midwest area. I would remind the hon. Members from Benin that as far as the Estimates are concerned, the amenities are adequately distributed without the least discrimination. I often praise and congratulate the Western Region Government for these reasonable deeds.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Local Government (Mr A. Atie): Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that all of us who are Members of this House are all hon. Members and have been elected into this House. You must realise that these are men of indisputable character. What we see in this House, Sir, from recent events, is that Members of the Opposition always accuse the Government of this Region of deceiving the masses and that it is the Eastern Region which is doing the best; they said that they are not going to

contribute to the debate of our Estimates. If this is so, let them allow the Government to pass these Estimates.

Some people have said that the Government appointed only Action Group members to various Assessment Committees. I am sorry to say, Sir, that the Government of this Region appointed Assessment Committees at Sapele and all are members of the NCNC. And you know what? They went to assess women. Women are exempted from tax.....

During the last electioneering campaign, the Leader of the Opposition made a statement that if they were voted to power they are going to see that no tax is paid.

Mr Akinyemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, on point of order. Order 69. The hon. Member, being a Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of "Dissolution and Terrorism", should know better and confine himself to the debate. When a Parliamentary Secretary, a junior Minister, earning £1,500 with so many allowances does not know his job he should resign.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman is speaking on taxation which is the financial policy of Government.

Mr Atie: Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition in this House, sometime ago, during a campaign, made a statement that if they were voted into power they would abolish taxes. They are in power in the Eastern Region and in that Region, they did not abolish tax and there women have been paying tax and I think you can remember that the greatest number of the harlots in this Region are from the East. They pay taxes in the East.

Mr Speaker: I am not aware of any harlots in this Region.

Mr Atie: On the distribution of amenities, if you take Brass Division where the Eastern Government is receiving 50 per cent of the oil gains, you will see that there is no single amenity given to those people compared with the money received from them.

The Member for Ikeja South is the most ungrateful hon. Member in this House. The Government has invested more than eight million pounds on special industries and housing estates in Ikeja and instead of him congratulating the Government for what it has done for his constituency, he comes here to complain, and he will say he comes from the "Bar", nobody knows from which "bar".

[MR ATIE]

I heard the Member from Aboh saying something about roads in Aboh Division. It has been a parable in our native language that those who have buttocks cannot sit down. (*Opposition Members: Say it in your language!*) The road from Amai to Sorun is the best road in the whole of the Midwest, being tarred by the Regional Government. You should praise the Government for doing all these things in your area. We don't want them to come and tell us that Government is not doing anything for us. Some of the Members don't realise that before Government establish any industry they must ask for raw materials. It must be considered where to get the raw materials and the possibility of transporting the finished products to the market. That is the reason why many people say cement factory is established at Abeokuta forgetting that raw material could be got easily there and it is very easy for them to sell their finished products than in the Midwest.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Member for Ikeja is trying to tell this House that Government.....

Mr Speaker: I beg your pardon, the hon. Gentleman you are referring to is not a native of Ikeja.

Mr Akinyemi: I defeated the Action Group at Ikeja on my popularity.

Mr Atie: On the question of contracts, Ministers can't award contracts. The Government will never award any contract without a survey of the cost of that contract and when that survey is done and the amount ascertained, it is only on that condition that contracts can be awarded. It has been a saying from among the NCNC that the Western Region Government diverted the Government money into their pockets, and they said also that the Action Group campaigned with Government money. We cannot blame them for this since they failed the last election they can say anything, any amount of nonsense, in this House. It is nonsense for somebody in this House to say that Government divert money into the pockets of Members. That might have been done in the Federal Government or the Eastern Government.

For the benefit of everybody in this Region, we have got a television that is first in Africa and I think the Federal Government are viewing our television. It is a credit to this Government that the Federal Government is viewing our television.

Mr S. A. Layonu: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is always very difficult to understand how the Action Group can ever be taken seriously in all its catalogue of inconsistencies. Before I make my observation, I will first of all refer to references made by hon. Kotoye, Chief Whip, when he was making his speech. He said "flat rate in Western Nigeria is £1 17s 6d". This is deliberately a great lie.

Chief Odebiyi: That is most unparliamentary. He should withdraw it.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman can continue when he has withdrawn that.

Mr Layonu: Mr Speaker Sir, I have done so. I don't understand why many honest politicians take the floor of this hon. House to deceive the masses. In my own town, Ede, the flat rate there this year is £3. I will challenge the Minister of Local Government to send somebody now to verify. (*Interruptions from Government Benches.*)

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman will please clarify the difference between rate and tax.

Mr Layonu: The least tax paid in Ede is £3. Nobody paid less than that.

Another pitiable mistake is that after paying normal tax people are even given additional taxes when the Area Assessment Committee found out that they are supporters of the NCNC. A petition to that effect is in the hands of Minister of Local Government but up till now nothing has been done.

I come to the hon. Gentleman who spoke about the criticisms levied on the Government of the Eastern Region. He forgot to refer to the statement of hon. Ewah who was so courageous to criticise the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria and I am sure that he should have been disciplined in your parliamentary meetings. I wonder why some people in this honourable House after getting elected come here and forget the masses who voted for them.

Some hon. Member from the Midwest say that the University of Nigeria at Ife.

Mr Speaker: To the best of my knowledge the University of Nigeria is situated at Nsukka.

Mr Layonu: I want the hon. Members to state that they do not want the University in the Midwest. After they have visited the Ewekoro Cement Factory, and projects at Ikeja and other industrial projects in the Yoruba West, they will say that they do not want such projects in the Midwest.

[MR LAYONU]

I want them to say that they do not want amenities; if not why should they criticise their hon. Members from the Midwest who fight for industrial and social development of the Midwest.

The most devastating mistake that the Government has made is (*interruptions*), of development projects. Government is not giving sufficient funds for the development of rural areas whereas they have multiplied it in other places. I give you an instance. I notice that our Ministers concentrated all amenities in their constituencies. I know Egbado as far back as 1952 and I know the deplorable conditions. I assure you, Sir, that Egbado can be compared with Lagos today simply because the Minister of Finance comes from there. Some hamlets in and around Shagamu have also improved simply because some Members of the Cabinet come from Shagamu.

Furthermore, let us go back to the most backward areas or Divisions in Western Nigeria, *e.g.*, Oshun. I want you to go to Ogbomosho and announce over press and radio and say that you are satisfied with the present condition of Oshun and that Government should not do anything more for the area. This is a challenge you should accept.

When the hon. Minister of Health was answering a question he stated that Government proposes to build a big hospital at Ogbomosho.

A Government back bencher: A general hospital in every Division.

Mr Layonu: I will teach you. He knew quite all right there is a big missionary hospital at Ogbomosho. He could not find any other place, in Oshun like Ede, Ejigbo which have no hospital. These people should not concentrate all the amenities in their own constituencies.

Yesterday when the Minister of Lands and Housing was answering a question he stated that Government is making a plan to build Housing Estates at Ogbomosho. Why Ogbomosho why not Ede and Ejigbo?

Mr Speaker: I want to call the attention of the hon. Gentleman to the effect that he should speak only on the financial policy of the Government.

Mr Layonu: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was just speaking on how Government is spending money on hospitals.

My observation again is that it is perfectly possible for the Government to give more attention to backward areas in their five-year development programme and concentrate on backwardness, disease and ignorance. I want the Parliamentary Secretary to tour the rural areas with their big cars and then come back and tell this House how their cars have fallen to ditches, etc. This is one of the simple reasons why it is necessary for Government to concentrate on rural areas. The Government is not fair in its economic and social projects. You will notice that places where there are no hospitals have been neglected and those with hospitals given additional ones. For instance, I will refer to Ife. I notice that Government is proposing to build a new hospital at Ife again whereas there is already a big Seventh Day Adventist Mission Hospital there. You are building a University there.....

Mr Speaker: I am afraid this has nothing to do with financial policy of the Government. New Members may not be aware that they will get another opportunity in this House when they get to the Committee of Supply. In this debate you are limited to the financial policy of the Government in general.

Mr Layonu: I say Government should try and learn lessons from constructive criticism. They come here daily to slash us. I notice that what the hon. Leader of the House says today will be repeated tomorrow by hon. Awopeju.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I seek your indulgence to read from Edmund Burke because I feel it will give lessons to our Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. He said:

"Parliament is not a congress of ambassadors with different and hostile interests which interests each must maintain as an agent and advocate against other agents and advocates; but Parliament is a deliberative assembly of one nation with one interest—that of the whole—where no local purposes, no local prejudices ought to guide, but the general good resulting from the general reasoning of the whole".

(*J. O. Odigie rose*).

Mr J. O. Omokowajo: Point of information I just want to remind the hon. Gentleman that he should use his glasses because.....

Government Front Bencher: Is that the information? That is an insult.....

Mr Speaker: May I say that the hon. Gentleman is wrong under the parliamentary procedure in this honourable House. That is an insult to the hon. Gentleman and I would like you to withdraw the statement with an apology.

Mr Omokowajo: If it is the wish of the Speaker that I should withdraw, I withdraw. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Odigie: It will be remembered that this country has remained for over fifty years under Imperial rule of Britain. Compare the Nine-year Development programme of Eastern Nigeria with the Five-year Development Programme of the Western Region. It is not near what that Action Group Government of the Western Region has achieved. When we were first elected to this House in 1952, the Imperial Government only tarred from Ibadan to Igbara-Oke.

Immediately the Action Group Government took over the reins of Government in this Region, the programme was expeditious and within nine months in office they tarred from Igbara-Oke to Benin. The Action Group Government of this Region have men of plan, men of business acumen, men who having undertaken anything must finally do it to the best of their knowledge. Let us contrast. The Federal Government has undertaken the bridging of the river between Benin and Ijebu-Ode on the new route. What has happened to nearly over two or three million pounds of money voted for that road? Can you Members of the Opposition cite an instance where this Government has undertaken a venture and has failed? (*Opposition Benches: What of the Midwest Secretariat?*) I was a member of the Midwest Advisory Council. You advised the then Council not to proceed with the building of that secretariat. You said you were not going to have the headquarters in Benin. Wait until when the Midwest is created, you will choose the site and it will be proceeded with (*Cheers from Government Benches*). A foundation of the House has been laid. You sent a deputation to the then Minister of Midwest Affairs asking him to suspend operation over the building of the Secretariat, that you have never decided on the Headquarters.

Members of the Opposition are ignorant of Government policy of this Region; abject ignorance, lack of co-ordination of the existing amenities of this Government. They do not know anything that is why they criticise this Government. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). I am sorry that lawyers, doctors, of the Opposition cannot

make a statement in this House without referring to their prepared speeches. Mr Speaker, Sir, a contrast has just been drawn between the financial policy of this Government and that of the other Regions. After having provided for the complete services of this Region for the ensuing financial year, we still have a net surplus of £400,000, compared with that of the Eastern Region which only stood at £70,000. And yet you come here to criticise the Government, the richest in the Federation of Nigeria. (*Cheers from Government Benches*.) Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish the Members of the Opposition to think twice about the way they criticise this Government. When you criticise the act of your neighbour, then you must bring out a counter plan. You never have a plan. You continue to criticise.

You always get up to say this Government oppresses the people about tax, you say they shouldn't pay tax. The next thing you say is that Government does not provide anything. You know that Government always provide amenities from the revenue. When you do not put in, how do you expect to take out? You don't contribute anything, your supporters will not pay tax, you don't encourage them to pay tax, and yet you expect Government to do something for you. Tax defaulting has been prevalent in areas controlled by the NCNC in this Region. (*Prolonged interruptions and laughter from both sides of the House*.)

For example, Mr Speaker, I happen to come from the Midwest. In the dissolved Benin City Council, Mr Speaker, an extraordinary thing happened. It was an NCNC-controlled Council. The Chairman of the Council, knowing fully well the interpretations of the Standing Orders, awarded contracts to himself, thereby cheating the then Benin City Council. For every Vono bed that cost £3 he debited the Council £7 10s (*Shouts of shame, shame, from Government Benches*) and yet such a Member has the effrontery to stand up in this House and criticise the Government (*Shouts of shame, shame from Government Benches*). The NCNC Members on the other side of the House ought to be ashamed of themselves. They have nothing against this Government other than repeating the same words day in day out. You can never compare this Government with other Governments of the Federation in financial matters.

Mr Speaker, they complain that the roads are not good. It was said on the floor of this House by the hon. the Premier that the expenditure on roads per mile being given by

[MR ODIGIE]

the Federal Government is £7,000 per mile whereas we undertake a higher mileage at £5,000 per mile.

Well, Mr Speaker, let us call a spade a spade and let us give praise to whom praise is due. Let us congratulate the Action Group Government of this Region. Without this Government there would be no progress in the whole of the Nigerian Federation. You see other Governments sending deputations to the West to copy but this Government has never sent any delegation to any other Government to copy. Well, you need no further evidence. You see what is right and you say it is wrong.

I want to assure you that the people of the Midwest have never complained about the Action Group Government. The NCNC is no longer in existence. We haven't the Cameroons any more so you better change your name, change you name! The Cameroons is no longer with us. (*Laughter from all sides of the House*). You are now committing impersonation so, in order to reflect the true position of things in this country, you better go first and change your name. With this, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to congratulate the Government. (*Applause from Government Benches*).

Mr D. Atolagbe: Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion. The Members of the Opposition have tried in vain to show that the financial position of the Government of this Region is shaky. This is far from the truth, Sir. The truth is that the financial position of our Government is much better than those of the other Regional Governments. In support of this statement, Sir, I have some comparative figures with me here which I will like to be in the records of this honourable House for the information of the Members of the Opposition.

And with your permission, Sir, I beg to read.

"Compared with the other two Regions the budget presented to the Western House of Assembly on Monday by Chief Odebiyi was a much healthier one. The financial position of the Region at the end of the current financial year is better. Whereas the Northern Region ends this year with a deficit of £480,350, in its recurrent budget and had to draw on its consolidated Revenue Fund to the extent of £1,500,000 for the amounts that should have been transferred from the revenue surplus to capital development fund; and whereas the Eastern Region expects a

small surplus of £70,000 against an estimated surplus of £615,000 the Western Region ends this financial year with a comparatively handsome surplus of £400,000. A rosier picture is painted for the next financial year: Chief Odebiyi budgets for a gross surplus (excluding transfer payments) of £1,957,270....."

Mr Speaker: Chief Odebiyi, in this House, should be referred to by his portfolio as a Minister and he is the Minister of Finance.

Mr Atolagbe: Mr Speaker, Sir, I was quoting. I asked the permission of the Speaker.

"A rosier picture is painted for the next financial year: Chief Odebiyi budgets for a gross surplus (excluding transfer payments) of £1,957,270 of which £1,530,020 will be transferred to the Capital Development Fund. Northern Nigerian's estimates is £218,685. Eastern Nigeria's is £103,000".

"The Minister of Finance also presented a capital budget which appears more confident and less shaky than those of his counterparts in the other two Regions. He expects total receipts of £22,768,000 of which £19,344,570 will be spent. And when it is remembered that this includes a provision of £1 million for the University of Ife, one can congratulate the Western Region Government on the prudence of its financial policy. For the Northern Region has a deficit of £4,773,633 in its capital budget (1961-62) while the Eastern Region had to transfer £2 million from its Consolidated Revenue Fund (apart from £4 million from the Marketing Board) in order to meet the gap of £5.5 million in its budget."

Mr Speaker, Sir, these are facts at my disposal and I think they will be very useful to Members of the Opposition who often discredit my Government without facts.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Members are aware that at the beginning I had made a determination not to speak in this House.....(*interruptions*) (*Why?*) The reason is that this is the last budget Session in this hon. House in which I have to take part with hon. Members. Secondly, Mr Speaker, Sir, I had been very good and complacent because after the passing of the Motion in the Federal House on the creation of the Midwest State, a few of us have enjoyed life more abundant and because of that, my temperature had risen. (*interruption*) (*What has been responsible for the rise in your temperature?*)

[MR AMADASUN]

It is a shame to know, Sir, that many back benchers on the other side have fallen short of expectation in that it is not their duty to reply to speeches from the Members of the Opposition but they do. This in fact is the duty of the Ministers. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs can bear me out!

It was during the recess I had to prepare the speech I am going to read about this budget speech made by the hon. Minister of Finance. I was previously not prepared to say anything because I am at the pinnacle of my political career because of the passing of a Motion in the Federal Parliament.

When the only "European" in this hon. House was making his speech on the Midwest(interruptions).

Mr Speaker: I am not aware of any "European" in this honourable House. This personal reference is not in conformity with Standing Orders and reference to Members of this House in an insulting way is too bad. And not only that, I would not say you should withdraw the statement alone. I shall request the hon. Member, the Opposition Chief Whip, by virtue of his position, not only to withdraw but also to apologise.

Mr Amadasun: If it is to the whole House, I do apologise, but if it is to an individual, I do refuse. (interruptions). Well I apologise.....(shame!).

When the individual was speaking in this hon. House, he said the Midwest Affairs was not instituted, until there was a delegation from the Midwest. I can say, Sir, that there was no delegation from this side of the House. It is the Minister of Home Affairs who contested an election into Federal House, he is not a Member of the NCNC but Action Group and consequently, the delegation originated from the Action Group Midwest Affairs Committee, and probably this delegation was led by a top notcher of the Action Group.....(interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. I think this appears to be a convenient time for a long break and the House will resume at 8 o'clock tonight.

Sitting suspended at 2.10 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.10 p.m.

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair.

Mr Speaker: May I remind hon. Members that the question before the House is that the 1961-62 Appropriation Bill be read the Second time.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I was debating in the morning when I made it clear that the duty of every Member in debating this Budget, this 1961-62 Budget, was to see that something was said about the economic and financial policy of the Regional Government. I said that it was not the duty of the Back Benchers on that side to reply to all that is being said on this side. It is therefore not their duty to defend the Government, in respect of this financial and economic policy pertaining to this Budget. Mr Speaker, Sir, I said before that I was not prepared to say anything because of certain reasons (*give the reasons*) but because some Members on the other side have been making a lot of noise about the budget which has been ably described by Members of this side, that is why I have to say something though small about this woeful Budget. When the Minister of Finance was moving or making his Budget Speech it took him many hours to refresh his memory in respect of the estimate. And when the hon. the Seconder was doing the same thing it took him several hours too. We had to respect him because he is one of the natural rulers of the Region. I am saying this Sir, because the Back Benchers of the Action Group are not like the Back Benchers of the Action Group of the old Government.

These Back Benchers of the present are always delighted in citing irrelevant Standing Orders. For instance some of them would stand up to say "on point of order" because Amadasun is speaking and they don't know that they cannot embarrass me though they do these things in order to embarrass me. You know that I cannot be embarrassed with twelve years experience in this House. You know that to win an election, Mr Speaker, Sir, is no joke (*laughter*).

Government Benches: This is irrelevant!

Mr Amadasun: What I am going to say is that if hon. Odebiyi took many hours in reading his speech.....

Mr Speaker: I think that the hon. Member should remember that Ministers are to be called by their portfolios. Chief Odebiyi is the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Finance, when he was reading his speech, took many hours to come to a conclusion and therefore Mr Speaker, I think I have to be permitted to go through my speech. My own speech was prepared in less than twenty minutes.

[MR. AMADASUN]

I rise to oppose the Second Reading of the 1961-62 Appropriation Bill, which was moved below expectation by the hon. the Minister of Finance on 27th March, 1961. Anything Sir.....

Mr Kotoye: On point of Order Sir, Order 27 (1). Even though it is a privilege for Ministers of the Crown to read their speech that privilege is not extended to hon. Members.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member not read his speech (*hear, hear*).

Mr Amadasun: I am not reading my speech I am only refreshing my memory (*laughter*) because after jubilating over the announcement of the creation of the Midwest State one can be pardoned for refreshing his memories. Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact Sir, this is the first time the hon. the Minister of Finance had the opportunity in this House in moving such an Appropriation Bill. The speech, Sir, is in imagination; in initiative and precisely in everything lacking. This year's Budget should rightly be cited the "Unprogressive and Poor Budget". Mr Speaker, Sir, in 1959-60 the Western Regional Government balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund was £12,614,248, in 1960-61, £7,000,000 whereas in 1961-62 the estimated surplus in the said fund is £4,000,000. This fall in the balance in the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Western Regional Government could be attributable to two factors—

(a) Poor economic policy of the Government.

(b) Squandermania of the Government of the Action Group.

The economic policy of the Government of this Region is poor and unprogressive in that there is discrimination in the standard on which the Government of the Region depends.

Mr A. A. Babayemi: On point of Order. "Members shall not read their speech" and after ten years in this House it is a shame that the hon. Member is still reading his speech. Standing Order 27 (1). He should not read his speech but can only refer to notes but he has since been reading his speech.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member will not read his speech but only refer to his notes (*shame, shame*).

Mr Amadasun: That is exactly what I am doing Mr Speaker. I am referring to my notes. Statistically this could be proved

Mr Olumofin: Order 36. Will the Speaker please decide whether the Chief Whip of the Opposition has contravened the Speaker's order.

Mr Speaker: I can see that the hon. Member is referring to his notes.

(*Opposition Benches: Shame, shame*).

Mr Amadasun: This could be proved as follows: 1961-62 Estimates page 61 sub-heads 25, 26, and 27. Encouragement of Cocoa. 1959-60 £165,000. What I am trying to say or explain is that the Government of this Region pays greater attention to the development of one economic crop, cocoa, at the expense of others. That is why I am quoting from this Estimates prepared by you. When I say "you" I do not mean the Speaker, I mean the Ministers on the other side of the House. In 1959-60 £165,000 was spent for the encouragement of cocoa. In 1960-61 £190,000 was spent for the encouragement of cocoa. For 1961-62 if you read your Estimates you will see also that a sum of £160,000 was also inserted. Totally a sum of £515,000. That is, more than half a million pounds has to be spent on cocoa as from 1959 to 1962. Now if you turn to rubber you will find that for 1959-60 there is no provision in the Estimates given in respect of the development of rubber which is the essential economic crop in the Midwest. For 1960-61 if you study the Estimates of the Regional Government there is nothing inserted in respect of the encouragement of rubber plantation. In 1961-62 there is in the Estimates a sum of £198,000. This has been inserted for the encouragement of rubber planting. Meaning therefore that as from 1959 to 1962 this Action Group Government has been able to vote only this small sum for the encouragement of rubber which is the life-blood of the economy of the Midwest. Turning again to palm oil planting in the Region, we can safely come to a conclusion that this Government which has got statutory grants from the Federal Government gets a lot of our revenue from three principal economic crops—cocoa, rubber and palm oil. Now what did this Government do from 1959 to 1962 in respect of palm oil plantation? In 1959-60 nothing was inserted in the Estimates of the Western Regional Government in respect of the development of oil palm plantation. In 1960-61 nothing inserted in the Regional Estimates and in 1961-62 £20,000 is found. Meaning therefore Mr Speaker, Sir, that since 1959 to this present day this so-called Government, the Government that knows everything; the Government that provides everything; the

[MR AMADASUN]

Government that can win all elections; the Government that can introduce everything in the Federation, did not think that even cocoa which is the life-blood of this Region should not be cut down in price. But the Government has cut the price of cocoa down. From the above illustrations it will be seen that of these three items of expenditure on cocoa, rubber and oil palm, the sum of £515,000 or more than half a million pounds has been spent on cocoa as against only £198,000 and £20,000 spent on rubber and oil palm respectively. The prices of rubber and palm oil are more immuned to fluctuation in the world market than those for cocoa. Instead of the Government to spend more on the rubber and palm oil industries, it embarks on spending more than a quarter of a million pounds annually on the encouragement of cocoa planting; rehabilitation of cocoa cut-out farms, spraying materials, swollen shoot compensation payment. I can say with emphasis that not even a single farmer got any amount in the Midwest. (*Government Benches: Is there cocoa in the Midwest?*) Yes. There are very many.

Mr J. O. Odigie: On point of information. Farmers in the Midwest are not left behind. Every possible assistance is given to them. Spraying materials have been made available to them. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member from Ishan may be correct. We have been criticising the Government in this House for discrimination. The spraying materials might have been sent to the Action Group farmers in the Midwest not the NCNC. The Government must be like nature. When rain is falling on the farm of the righteous man, it also falls on the land of the wicked man. (*Government Benches: are you a wicked man?*) From this discriminatory and blatantly culpable reckless spending on cocoa, the gods of other economic crops of the Region, such as rubber of the Midwest Region, constitutionally the would be fourth Region of the Federation, must always see that the cocoa trade must be annually unstable. This position of things therefore reflects the poor and unprogressive economic policy of the Action Group Government of Western Nigeria. See Estimates page 17, Head 302 sub-heads 1, 2, 3.

Mr Speaker: It was ruled this morning that the debate on details of the estimates should be left until the Committee of Supply.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I don't want to be anticipated. I am craving your indulgence. I simply want to refresh my memory. Mr Speaker, Sir, to support my argument I am drawing the attention of the hon. Members especially the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of.....Hon. Olumofin what is your Ministry? (*laughter*) Mr Speaker, Sir, if you look at sub-heads 1, 2, 3 carefully you will see that the export duty on cocoa has fallen considerably. At page 13, 1960-61 approved Estimates £5,499,000 and 1961-62 £3,942,120. In other words the export duty derivable from cocoa has fallen. Now you go to rubber, in 1960-61 £1,250,295, in 1961-62, £1,366,000 meaning therefore that the amount to be derived from the rubber industry is not subject to any fall. The Government of the Western Region has got something from rubber whereas it has got a loss from the cocoa industry even though it is expected that cocoa industry is the life-blood of the Western Region I must say that that life-blood has been de-oxygenated. Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a sin, if not a political sin, it is a moral sin to give something to one part and not the other.

The squandermania propensity of the Government. Mr Speaker, Sir, I have said earlier that the fall in the Regional balance in the consolidated fund was due not only to the so-called unexpected fall in the revenue derivable from the export duty on cocoa but also to the squandermania propensity of the Western Regional Government. This squandermania inclination has been clearly set out by the hon. the Minister of Finance on page 3, lines 9-11 of his 1961-62 Budget speech as follows. I don't want to bore this hon. House. I simply want to give a precis of it. Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Finance said: "It will be noted from the figures just quoted that recurrent revenue has increased at an average of £1.05 million per annum as against an average increase of £2 million per annum in recurrent expenditure." That is to say, mathematically that the annual current expenditure exceeds the annual current revenue by about a sum of £950,000 annually.

Be that as it may, Sir, it is known all over Nigeria and all over the world, Sir, that apart from the reasonable salaries of the Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries of the Western Regional Government, these Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries draw basic car allowance of over £75 each per month in addition to other allowances.

Chief Odebiyi: On point of information.As soon as the Midwest State is created if the hon. Member belongs to the right party he can become a Minister and draw his allowances.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I don't live on hope.

Sub-head 2, Head 31 Fixed Vehicle Allowance for 1961-62 £10,260 that is in respect of the Premier's Office. You will see that that of the Ministry of Local Government is up to £15,000. When Ministers are replying they should give explanation about this item. I note that there is no explanation about the item at all. I know you are not responsible for this. Your employees did not make any explanatory notes in respect of all the Ministries. I was very careful I read through.

Mr Kotoye: On point of information, Sir. (*Opposition Benches: Which information?*) If the hon. Member will look at note M he will see that there is an explanatory note in respect of the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Amadasun: I am on the Premier's Office. (*Government Benches: You are in the Western House!*)

I mean on the Estimates for the Premier's Office.

Alhaji Adegbenro: At the Committee of Supply hon. Members will have ample opportunity of debating each head of Estimates at full length. It is no use referring to the Premier's Office or any other Office now.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member leave all details until we come to the Committee of Supply.

Mr Amadasun: I am only speaking in general.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member has only one minute more.

Mr Amadasun: Already, Mr Speaker, Sir, even in the Estimates there is provision for £1,350 for entertainment and we have never got any entertainment from the Minister. Mr Speaker, Sir, we got a lot of entertainment from Chief Awolowo. We have not got any entertainment since you won the 1960 elections. How many invitations have you given? The financial policy of the Government is the worst in the Federation of Nigeria.

Mr I. A. Olukoju: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is remarkable that the hon. Members on the other side have always left substance to pursue the shadow. The hon. Member

made a remark that the back benchers before the dissolution were not as embarrassing as the present set. I can assure him that we shall continue to embarrass him. In the second place as an old Member of this House it is surprising to find him reading his notes contrary to Standing Orders. He is expected to give a lead to newcomers. (*Opposition Benches: You are reading from your notes.*) I have the right to refer to my notes, not to read.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government of Western Region controlled by the Action Group should be congratulated for budgeting £39 million for the services of the people of this Region. It is quite clear that this Government is a Government of action and it is known in the whole of the Federation of Nigeria. It is no sooner said than done, and there is no reason why the Members on the other side should continue to say that the Government is budgeting certain things which do not exist.....(*Opposition Benches: what things? what things?*). I mean some heads under the budget. I would treat some two points here.

If you look at the Estimate for 1961-62, we shall have to congratulate the Government for putting up such a reasonable sum of money for education, which is rather important in our development of the day, and I think if you follow closely on this, the Government needs commendation rather than destructive criticism. Where there is room for commendation Members of the Opposition should be able to know. When the debate comes to Committee Stage, I will say more on this but now, I would like to correct one impression and I am sorry that the Member for Ikeja South is not here now, but I shall tell other Members on his own Bench and I hope they will be able to tell him. He gave the impression that the Government was neglecting Idoani constituency, his own place. I would like that to be corrected immediately because that is my constituency. I can assure the Member that although he was born and bred in that constituency, he ran away to Ikeja South and knows very little about Idoani. I can assure him that work in Idoani is in progress now but he cannot know because he is far away from there. I think you will carry the information to him, that twelve miles of the road to that place has been tarred and so it is quite wrong of him to give the impression to this honourable House that Government made promises during the election and does not fulfil them. All promises made by the Action Group during the election have

[MR OLUKOJU]

been fulfilled. He should look on to the Government to do more except that the Opposition wants the Government to do everything in one day. They should bear in mind that it is not possible for Government to do everything in one day.

It is noteworthy, too, that in the Ministry of Works and Transport a reasonable amount has been voted and I do hope that when it comes to the Committee stage the Minister will tell the House of some other roads to be tarred in Owo South Constituency.

In the field of health, there is nothing.....

Opposition Benches: Are you criticising your Government?.....(laughter)

Mr Olukoju: Well, I think you should be able to differentiate between criticism and praise.....(interruptions from the Opposition and cheers from the Government Benches.....)

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government has done its best in the past; and to say that its surpluses are reducing simply shows that the Government is doing more for the people of the Western Region. I think the Members of the Opposition should be able to know that when the industrial projects are springing up, it means that the Government has much to use the money for. I am happy that Members for the Midwest on this side of the House do not agree with them on the other side, because the Action Group Government distributes amenities evenly throughout the Region. Therefore, it is wrong for Members opposite to say that the Government does nothing for Benin—I think it was the Member for Benin Central or Benin Rural, who said so. I think he should carry the impression home that the Government is doing all it can to improve this Region, the Midwest not excluded.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the Government has done well to appropriate £39 million for the services of this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (Mr I. A. Ositelu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am joining those who.....(interruptions from the Opposition Benches)

Chief Odebiyi: Point of order, Sir. May I say that this being his maiden speech both sides of the House should please listen to him.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member shall be heard in silence.

Mr Ositelu: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am joining those who have already spoken in support of the Appropriation Bill, and in doing so, I have to start with the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The Government of this Region in an endeavour to raise the economy of this Region and to create employment opportunities for the people of this Region, has done a lot to industrialise this Region. The Western Nigeria Development Board which is an arm of the Ministry of Trade and Industry has established several industries in this Region.

There is Rubber Plantation and Rubber Processing Factory at Uronigbe; there is Oil Palm and Oil Mill Factory at Ubuluku; there is also another Rubber Processing Factory at Ikpoba. These and many other industries are established by the WNDC in the Midwest. There are also industries established by this Government in other areas of the Western Region.

In the case of industries sited at Ikeja, there have been a lot of attack on this Government. Opposition Members from the Midwest have spoken so bitterly about this and I am sure they must have injured the feelings of their Members from that area.

They accuse this Government of being partial in concentrating these industrial ventures in Ikeja area, because that area is Yoruba area of the Western Region. We have been told by several Government speakers in this House the factors that determine the siting of industry in any area. I have nothing to add to what members have said on this but to inform Members of the Opposition, particularly those from the Midwest that if this Government had wanted to be partial in the siting of the industries, the cement Asbestos Factory, the Tower Aluminium Factory should have been sited in Oyo Division where the hon. the Minister of Trade and Industry comes from.

I want to tell those Members who are jealous of the developments now going on in Ikeja, that it is our geographical position that has placed us in this enviable position.

To further enlighten some Opposition Members as to why these.....(shouts of "Premier designate of the Midwest," (as Mr Otobo came in) from the Government Benches)industries are established in Ikeja I have this to say.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, point of order Sir. There is no relevance in what the hon. Member is reading.....(interruption from the Government Benches).

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman please continue. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

Mr Ositelu: The Tower Aluminium Factory, the Cement Asbestos Factory and the Textile Factory now under erection are financed by foreign capitals with the WNDC as partners. The Foreign Investor who invests his money in this country must do so in a way that will yield quick profits. He must also see that his industry is located in a place where he can market his products easily. The siting of industries is not done for partisan or clannish reasons. For instance, the Cement Factory at Ewekoro has been sited in Abeokuta Division because of the availability of lime stone deposits in large quantity in that area.

The hon. Member for Ikeja South said on the floor of this House this morning that employment in these factories are made conditional on production of Action Group membership cards. I am from that area and I want to inform this House that there is no substance of truth in this allegation.

When I visited one of the factories early this year, I am now referring to the Tower Aluminium, of the 98 workers employed by this Factory, only six were Yorubas, the rest are Midwesterners and Easterners. If party consideration had been the criterion in the appointment into these industries do hon. Members think that the position could have been what it is in the Tower Aluminium Factory?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Adeoye Adisa: I rise to contribute to this Budget Speech and I have in view the fact that all these budgets are always given a title. It is the traditional way of dealing with these things and therefore this budget is called "Operation Take Off". It is very relevant to remind this House that the last Budget was called "Operation Prosperity". If the Action Group Government is going to take off, certainly it is taking off from prosperity to adversity. It is beyond argument that they are taking off from life more abundant to life less abundant. It is point clear that if we grant them all that they asked for in previous years, we ourselves will realise that they have taken off to paradise. (*Chief Odebiyi: Which one? Is it the Ibadan one or the one beyond?*) When you resign your portfolio I will take you to the beautiful paradise where you will be.

If one reads the whole of the Speech which was given to this House by the hon. Minister of Finance, one will certainly appreciate

that the whole fiscal policy of the Action Group Government of this Region is hollow and shallow, not only that, it does constitute an unprecedented affront to the principle which ought to guide any Government in the preparation of its budget.

We listened last night to one of the best pronouncements ever made in this House by the hon. Premier and I will confess that everyone in this House was struck at least by its verity. What he had to say was that this Government belonged not only to the members of the Action Group but the Opposition themselves form part and parcel of this Government. Therefore, in order that we may set a good example of hedonism, that is, that the ends of all governments is the total happiness of the governed, we should(*Several Government Benches: Like in the East*). If one goes through this budget, one will find nothing which takes the interest of the total number of this Region into consideration. Now, one can say that the policy of this Government is something that can be expressed in one word, that is squandermania. You find first of all that in the Printing Corporation, I am citing one example now, the sum of £40,000 has been the subject matter of an inquiry and that was not revealed to this House. This £40,000 was it really lost by this Government or not? If it was not, why was it not disclosed to this House?

In respect of Television, that Corporation is in dire financial strait and there has been mass sack of workers. Everybody knows this. (*Few Government Benches: It is not a money-making organisation*). It is not. But that was not what was said in this House when the Action Group said it was far better for this Government to spend the money of the poor people of this Region in establishing industries than in bringing about these luxuries only to satisfy the rich members of the Action Group. (*Government Benches: Has the hon. Member any television set at home?*) At that time, we were assured that the television was a sort of commercial enterprise and that sooner or later it will pay its way. Now, we hear the contrary and we do not know what to believe, whether the past sayings of the Action Group or its present sayings, in view of its present predicament. We don't know which is which.

Thirdly, the question of the National Bank. It was rightly said, Sir, that what the Government has done is to convert preference shares to equities, that is, the Government, if it wishes to realise the shares it has in this company, would take them to

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court and sell the properties which form the securities for this loan. That is one of such things which qualifies the Action Group, if they want to know what they are qualified for, as an institution to teach squandermania.

Fourthly Sir, Mr Speaker, we find that in the Budget Speech which was prepared so many debts have been written off and this House was not informed upon what grounds they have been written off. We do not know who are these people who owe these debts. You have not told us and it is proper now to ask the Government to stop this practice. The best the Government can do now is to go to law Courts and see that these debtors are brought to court. If they cannot pay, then a judgment debtor summons should be prepared and if they still cannot pay the place where they will be very useful to this community is very near you here, at Agodi.

About the iniquities of this Government which are so manifestly displayed by their fiscal policy, one comes to the Ministry of Local Government. I believe that most of the woes suffered in this Region have been brought about by the iniquities of the Ministry of Local Government. I say this, Sir, because I want to give my hon. Friend the Minister of Local Government every chance to mend his ways so that all of us can take assurance from what the Premier told us last night. In the first instance, you will find that one of the reasons why rates and taxes have not been coming in as expected is that the composition of these assessment committees is not above party politics. You will find that the Minister has already ruled that it is he who has power under the Law to appoint these members of the assessment committees, and these members are appointed on the recommendation of either an Action Group controlled council or, where the council is controlled by a party which is not Action Group, then the Action Group Opposition will still submit the names. That is why there has been a sort of failure on the part of these assessment committees to do the job entrusted to them under the Law and I did approach both the Minister and the Premier about this matter, because about December, the rate-payers, particularly in Ibadan, were very anxious to get their assessment forms so that they can pay their rates straightaway, but these assessment committees refused to issue out assessment forms and in some cases, rate-payers who went to pay their rates were turned back. That is the ignominy of the system followed by the Minister of Local Government who has responsibilities for these matters. Secondly,

Mr Speaker, we find that people who have paid their rates for 1959-60, and 1958-59 are nevertheless prosecuted. They are taken to the law court because they are one or two days late and because they are members of the Opposition, that is, they do not belong to the Action Group Party. This is a matter I will like the hon. Minister to check. The hon. Minister should not, in his reply, treat these points with abracadabra excuses.

Everyone, Mr Speaker Sir, appreciates that our women folks should participate at the local level in the machinery of government, but the way of nominating women is only to ensure that where the Action Group is defeated in a plain and fair election, by the machinery of nominating these female members, it will be able to bring about a majority and that is the type of thing which defeats the whole fiscal policy of the Regional Government and it is high time it was stopped.

Mr Babayemi: Mr Speaker Sir, Standing Order 27 (4). What has the selection of women into councils got to do with financial policy?

Mr Speaker: Will hon. Member for Ibadan continue.

Mr Adisa: I go now to make concrete suggestions to the hon. Minister of Finance as to how we could increase our revenue and in course of time before this Session is closed I should have a greater opportunity to bring more suggestions, more proposals, as to how we can have an increase in our revenue. (*Government Benches: Hear! hear!!*)

Firstly, Mr Speaker Sir, I suggest that this Government should embark on a policy whereby there will be tenement rating. I feel that all these commercial houses making thousands upon thousands of pounds and those renting out houses, should be forced by Government to pay these tenement rates. I know that exception has got to be made in respect of these mud buildings, particularly in the native areas. I am speaking generally of a policy that will cover the whole Region and I feel that there is no reason at all why all these commercial houses should not pay.

If we can have a guess at the number of these buildings, it will be about 500,000 buildings and if all these do pay £50 per annum, as is the case in England, certainly this Government would have at least a sum of two and half to three million pounds.

In the second place, Mr Speaker Sir, I suggest that all these Forest Reserves should be converted into kola nut reserves. (*Several Government Benches: NPC! NPC!!*). I say

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this so that the Action Group Government will be able to grow kola nuts and send them to the Northern Region for sale.

In this way Mr Speaker, we will be able to develop a sense of national unity in Nigeria.

The third suggestion Mr Speaker, is what we have already touched in this House before. I feel that P.W.D. should be expanded and the whole system of giving jobs to contractors should be cancelled, so that in this way the Government will be able to employ thousands upon thousands of our unemployed citizens and at the same time the Government will be making money, because the Government having expanded, the P.W.D. would undertake so many jobs that our other small firms will not undertake, and this is one way in which I think socialist principles will be practised.

Now the fourth suggestion, Mr Speaker is, I believe, not so controversial now that the Midwesterners have had not only their say but their way, this Government should sack immediately all these Members from the Midwest who are Ministers—they should remain ordinary Members. Immediately they are sacked they will be able to go to the Midwest to work for the party of their choice so that when the caretaker government that will be set up to manage the affairs of the Midwest has completed its job, then the Action Group having used these former Ministers as Organising Secretaries they can have some hope.....(*Interruptions*).

Now Sir, the fifth suggestion is in connection with Vehicle Inspection and Testing. I know that from the way these things are being done in the Region so many owners—lorry and car owners do go outside the Region to obtain their licences. Anybody who is familiar—I do not want to impute motives but I do know that a word is sufficient for the wise—would not hesitate to condemn the way these vehicles are tested. If you go there you find these vehicles lined up for days without any attempt to look into them. I do know that the system obtaining in the conduct of inspecting and testing of vehicles is wrong and that is why people go outside the Region and in this way the Government of the Region is losing a lot of money. This must be checked immediately if the Government is serious.....(*Interruptions*). I know that at one time the local councils had some shares in the fees. (*Government Members: Federal Government*). I do believe that if the Regional Government co-operates with the Federal Government there is no doubt that

the system will be changed. Anybody who goes there to see will find hundreds of cars and lorries lined up piling up every day. We fail to see why these vehicles are not taken care of.

Now Sir, the point I will like to make about the fiscal policy of the Government is that it is not adequate to meet the problems of unemployment. I will say that it is not enough for our Ministers to express concern over the matter of unemployment but to shed crocodile tears over the question when they are not doing their uppermost to eradicate it. I believe that these things ought to be done and must be done. I believe that any Government that cannot ensure the right to work and create the opportunities to work must resign and leave the place for us to do the work, who have the ability to execute it.

Now, Sir, if the Government spends fabulous sums of money every year on these primary schools and secondary schools but does not give any employment to school leavers, then it is a waste. When these school leavers have no opportunities to work they turn into vagabonds. I believe that that is a very wrong system and it is an issue which the Government of the day could decide in consultation with the Opposition so that we even can take it outside the realm of politics and make the people feel that they too can have life more abundant. The opportunity we want the people in this Region to be given by way of sound fiscal policy is surely that which will allow everyone who can work hard enough to get a limousine as the honourable the Minister of Finance has suggested. It must be something which comes out of sweat, tears but not blood.

I do say that the medical provisions of this Government are totally inadequate. We need not be jocular about what has been done.....(*laughter*). We should do our best to improve these services and that is the best way to make everyone of us laugh.....(*laughter*). Not the other way which I think the other Minister there was trying to do and he was being checked (*laughter*).

As the hon. Minister of Finance said that it was the wish of his Government to leave the realm of productive enterprise to private industry, and that his Government will do it only as a matter of compulsion in the last resort, I believe that that is absolutely wrong. It should be at the very head of a thing that has as its main purpose the improvement of the productive enterprise for the Region.....(*Interruptions*). I am a socialist, but not of the kind that the Action Group practises. I know that members of the Action Group

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from three days ago have certainly been trying to be democratic and I wish them success in that endeavour. (*Cheers*). Now, I will say this: that the air of freedom has arrived; everybody knows his position and I can assure the Action Group Government of this Region that they will enjoy the greatest respect and admiration of all Members of the Opposition if they can continue in this mood.

I will only touch lightly on this question of farm settlements because I believe it is very wrong. The very purpose and the very end and objectives are quite admirable, but the way it is being done is very wrong and it will lead to greater troubles than it sought to remove. First of all the acquisition of lands of persons. Once these people are turned out then certain children are brought from outside that circle to take over these farms (*Interruptions*). I feel that the farm settlements should be operated on the principle of voluntary acquisition of property. Anybody who gives land to the Government, Government could use the farms, but to take away the land of farmers and set upon these lands children of other people is absolutely unjust. (*Government Members: Typical Ibadan man.*)

I do believe the fiscal policy of Government is wrong in siting the University of Ife at Ife. (*Interruptions*). I believe that this University ought to be sited at Ondo.

Mr B. G. Ewah: Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Appropriation Bill I must first of all congratulate and praise the Minister for the able way he has prepared this our Budget, the largest Regional Budget in the history of this country. The Government is to be congratulated for all it has done in the past to carry out developments in every aspect of the lives of the people of Western Region including the Midwest.

I have been reported by enemy newspapers, particularly the "*Southern Nigeria Defender*" and the "*West African Pilot*" as having criticised the Government for neglecting the Midwest and my constituency.

Mr Amadasun: Point of Order Sir. Order 27 (2)—"A member must confine his observation to the subject under discussion and will not introduce matter irrelevant thereto". Mr Speaker, Sir, I am of the opinion that what the hon. Member is saying is highly irrelevant. He should say something about the fiscal policy of his own Government.

Mr Speaker: I think that the provision of amenities to his constituency has some bearing on the fiscal policy of the Government.

Mr Amadasun: Yes, but he was speaking of newspapers.

Mr Ewah: Certainly, that would be a wrong report of my contribution to the debate on the Speech from the Throne. No one with eyes to see would certainly not be aware of the various development projects which have been carried out in various parts of the Midwest. I will not like to refer to them in detail in my speech, as this has cropped up from time to time in the various speeches which have been made by hon. Members in this House.

It will also be out of place, however, for me to set in detail some of the improvements and developments which the Regional Government has carried out in my Division—Ishani—and in particular my Constituency. I have always been aware, as I am still aware, that Ishani Water Supply Stage I which is enjoyed by my Constituency has been completed at a cost of £260,000 and I believe that I am voicing the views of the people of my Constituency when I say that I am grateful to the Government for setting in motion Ishani Water supply Stage II during my time as a Member of this House, which when completed at a total cost of £168,000 will cover all my villages, Obinuan, Oberhuan, Okhiole, Uzea and Eho-Ibadin.

In the field of road construction between the period of 1958-61, six road schemes have been set in motion and most of them have been completed and the following—Agbor to Uromi road costing £65,000 is completed; Uromi-Uvie-Ewu road costing £22,698 has also been completed. In all, over a total cost of £200,000 has been spent between the period of 1958-61 on road construction in Ishani Division by this Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are also grateful that in the field of Health Services and Rest House facilities, my Constituency, Uromi, has not been neglected for the Government has completed the Uromi Hospital at a total cost of £72,000, the Government Catering Rest House at Uromi at a cost of £15,520 with the swimming pool (*cheers from the Government benches*). By the Grace of God, it is hoped that this Rest House and its facilities will be opened by the first or second week in May and many of you will be invited. (*An Opposition Member: Obedient boy.*)

[MR EWAH]

Sir, I do not need to mention the several maternity centres, dispensaries and private hospitals grant-aided by the Government because these have now become the normal feature of progress in the Western Region today.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have also been wrongly quoted as saying that the Government has not awarded scholarship to anybody from Uromi. I am aware that within the last two years, twenty post-secondary scholarships have been awarded to sons of Ishan Division and one post-graduate scholarship to a son of Ishan Division.

I also want to take this opportunity Sir, to correct the irresponsible report in a section of the Press that I was absent from the House after my speech on the Debate of the Address from the Throne because I have been reprimanded by my colleagues, on the Government side for criticising the Government. I left the House on Wednesday morning for my Constituency to attend to some urgent matters and I did so with the knowledge and permission of both the Leader of the House and the Government Chief Whip.

Mr Oviasu: Irrelevant.

Mr Ewah: I know that the Members opposite have not been happy about the desertions which are taking place from day to day in their camp; only last week an important hon. Member from their camp got fed up with them and decided to cross to this side of the House; the Opposition were so much stunned by this desertion that their leader was running helter-skelter to see that his rank does not continue to dwindle. I am sorry the Leader is not here.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Speaker, Sir, the speech of the hon. Member is not relevant.

Mr Ewah: I was a teacher, I will teach him from the known to the unknown. *(laughter from both sides of the House).*

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member avoid that place of the speech which deals with personal explanation.

Mr Ewah: Mr Speaker, Sir, in the discharge of my duties to my Constituency, the Government can count on no better loyal supporter than myself and I can assure them that the Action Group continues to become unassailable from day to day in my Constituency.

One of the great achievements by this Government during the year which has now ended is the taking over of the National Bank

by the Government of this Region and I congratulate the farmers of this Region and of my Constituency of the good fortune they will have to be able to get in order to finance their farm projects. Speaking for my people, I look forward to the day when the branch of the National Bank, the Bank of the people of Western Nigeria, will be established in Ishan. The people of my Constituency have great confidence in the ability of this Government which from time to time has never neglected them in distributing all amenities and it is always our belief that as long as this Government is in power the people of Uromi will always enjoy life more abundant. *(Cheers from Government Benches).*

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I resume my seat I like to refer to an incident which took place in Benin, the city of blood, in Oba Akenzua's palace.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Speaker, Sir, what the hon. Member is saying has nothing to do with the Budget.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member is allowed to refer to the incident in Oba Akenzua's palace if only it has something to do with the Budget.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Speaker, Sir, it has nothing to do with the Budget.

Mr Speaker: I rule that he should avoid that portion about Oba Akenzua.

(Shame, shame, from Opposition Benches).

Mr Ewah: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is understood that in the midst of rejoicing over the Motion for the creation of the Midwest State, that somebody was killed in the Oba's palace this morning. Sorry, may his soul rest in peace.

An Opposition Member: He is continuing in spite of the Speaker's ruling.

Mr Ewah: We know that during the Benin Empire of many centuries ago, it was customary for human beings to be killed as sacrifices at the pleasure of the Oba on occasions of rejoicing. I hope that what has happened is no indication of the return to the old days already referred to but whatever the case, the people of the Midwest should take note, I repeat people of the Midwest should take note.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. gentleman take to my ruling.

Mr Ewah: With these few comments Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr I. O. Aniyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, it gives me a great pleasure to speak on Appropriation Bill which is well planned, popular and to the point. Mr Speaker, Sir, whether or not certain people congratulate the Government the Bill has won admiration from people who matter.

Mr Speaker, Sir, much as I would not like to dwell on what good things the Government has done, yet it is fitting for me to remind the Opposition that this Government has done more than enough to cater for the progress of the people. Sir, repetition strengthens memory, and because of that I draw the attention of the Opposition to what they saw themselves at Agege, Ikeja, Ewekoro and what they will see at Ilesha and Apoje in Ijebu.

Mr Speaker, Sir, seeing is believing. What is sure is that the activities of this Action Group Government have occupied a conspicuous place in pages of history. All the Angels in Heaven are rejoicing joyfully because the Action Group is a God-given party. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). This Bill, Sir, has no parallel in the Federation of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, turning to the question of roads, it is alarming, Sir, to hear Members of the Opposition crying above their voices saying that they don't enjoy any amenities at all. I congratulate them for belonging to this Region, were they in other Regions they would see that most of what they say and would lead them to the prison house.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member for Ede/Ejigbo complained that the Government did nothing in Oshun Division. Sir, these few years he was in school he would be able to turn to page 174, Head 702 and sub-heads 33, 34 and 40 of the Estimates. I will refer to it if the Speaker will allow me. Sub-heads 33 and 34: Bituminous Surfacing Roads: Iwo-Awo; Iwo-Iwo Station—Ongan-Ikire; Iseyin-Lanlate-Eruwa, Iyem-Oko-Otu-Okaku; Ago Are-Kishi; Iyeku-Oyan; Ilobu-Erin-Oshogbo-Ede. Sub-head 40, Ikirun-Illa Northern Region boundary.

The hon. Member needs to say all these things that his few electorates may take note of in their performances. That is also why others on the opposite side from Oshun Division have been standing up and repeating the same thing. Water at Ede, Sir, is drunk out of charge. Ede's light was functioning before Ijebu had its own and up till now Oshogbo has not enjoyed similar amenities

but Oshun Division is very lucky in that it has three General Hospitals (*Government Benches: Fire on, fire on*). One is at Oshogbo, the other is at Ogbomosho and the third is in my home town Iwo. We have numerous maternity centres in the Division.

The local Carter Bridge at Ede was recently opened to traffic and much money has been spent on this bridge, yet the hon. Member from Ede-Ejigbo has come to say that Oshun Division is neglected (*Opposition Member: He does not live in Ede but he lives at Abeokuta*).

Now, I will throw a challenge to the hon. Member for Ede-Ejigbo to resign his seat now. If he resigns his seat, I am sure he will make an attempt of crossing to this side of the House (*hear, hear*).

The Action Group must be congratulated for all its plans concerning community development in the Region, especially in Oshun Division. We are able to have a local carter bridge at Ede which is very good. At the time this bridge was to be started at Ede this hon. Member and his people went about trying to bias the minds of many people so that the project might ultimately flop.

Mr Okwesa: Point of order, Sir, (*Government Benches: What order? Sit down*). Order 30 (1)—Relevancy in debate. Is the hon. Member answering the points raised by the hon. Member for Ikeja on the Speech from the Throne or on the Budget Speech?

Mr Speaker: What the hon. Member is saying clearly has something to do with the fiscal policy of the Government (*shouts of shame! shame! from Government Benches*).

Mr Aniyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have stood up to speak on what the Government has done to cater for the health of the people of the Region. Those hon. Members who come from different places have known what the Government has done, except Opposition Members who pretend not to know the value. We of Oshun Division enjoy and will continue to enjoy the amenities which the Action Group Government provide. (*Interruptions*).

I congratulate the Minister of Finance on his Budget Speech. With these few remarks I beg to support.

Further Debate on the Bill adjourned till tomorrow, Friday, 7th April, 1961, pursuant to standing Order 69.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until 9 a.m. tomorrow morning. May I also say, Sir, if Members will please observe the rule of relevance, their speeches ought not to be unnecessarily long so that hon. Ministers can reply to points which have been raised in their speeches in order that the Committee of Supply Stage may begin on Monday. In order to

finish the debate on the budget itself and to enable Ministers to reply, it may be necessary tomorrow evening to have a night sitting.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 9.45 p.m. until 9.00 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, 7th April, 1961.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 7TH APRIL, 1961

The House met at 9.10 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): I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (3) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 12.00 noon 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.

ORDER OF THE DAY THE EDUCATION LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill before the House is a non-controversial one and it is meant to correct an omission in the existing Law with regard to the opening of private educational institutions.

At the present time, Sir, Government has the right to refuse permission for private institutions opening but the right has not clearly been defined for Government to refuse the opening of private institutions. We may express gratitude to Providence that many more of the people have not taken advantage of this loophole in the Law, otherwise we might have been in a worse position than we were.

The trouble we have in the Ministry now, Mr Speaker, in particular reference to the opening of Secondary Modern Schools, is that these schools are private schools not grant-aided. About four years ago there were very few of these, less than a hundred, but in the short space of four years the number has risen to over five hundred.

We may say that they are very popular institutions but on the other hand, there are some which are not very satisfactory from the point of view of their proprietors. It has

become the habit of some people who are not educationists, who know very little about education—they may be carpenters or tailors or traders—to put up a building of three classrooms, hire teachers at substantial wages, use these teachers to help them out of their illiteracy, and make them run the institutions as Secondary Modern Schools with the result that innocent parents send their boys and girls leaving primary schools to these institutions.

At the present time Government has no means of stopping these institutions from existing. Well, it is very unsafe to allow such institutions to continue. The present Bill is to amend the Law, Sir, so that the Government will be empowered to refuse approval for the opening of private institutions, as well as public ones, if these are not satisfactory.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education (Mr J. O. Oye): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, according to the face value of this very Bill it appears highly non-controversial in that what the Bill states is to give power to the Minister of Education to give his consent to the founding of a non-governmental education institution. It is very good, Sir. But, Sir, in the object and reasons in respect of this Bill reference is made to what experience has shown. I am saying here, Sir, that experience has shown nothing. If experience has shown something, the instances the experience has shown ought to have been cited by the Minister of Education.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we must always be afraid of amendments from the other side of this House in respect of any original Law. I have it in command from certain people from the Midwest, Sir, including the Attorney-General (*Chief Ighodaro: Not from me*) (*laughter*)..... that a person who has never entered the field of politics and who has never been an educationist, seeing that many of these Secondary Modern Schools were founded, even by carpenters, according to the Minister of Education, took the initiative to found a very decent Secondary Modern School with about four classrooms, with cement walls, with asbestos ceiling, I mean with amenities even much more adequate than could be found in any institution belonging to the Government has not up to the moment that I am speaking in this House received any approval for the school. Now, Mr Speaker, if the Minister of Education is sincere in all that he has said

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in respect of this Bill, the Bill should not be retrospective. But any person who has built an educational institution in the category of Modern Schools should be allowed to continue, because the Government of the Action Group used to say that in the field of education it is the first, they brought the light of education, so that every person who is an educationist or who has that philanthropic interest to further the advancement of education in the Western Region should be allowed to continue. But in future before any Secondary Modern School is founded as from this day, 7th April, 1961, the Minister of Education has to give his assent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, you know something has happened in respect of conferment of chieftaincy in Benin and the Minister of Local Government hurriedly came here, made certain amendments to the Local Government Law. The original law should be burnt because, Mr Speaker, I have the vision that he is going to give another amendment in respect of the Local Government Law, 1957. The original law was so amended that it is now no law.

Mr Speaker, what I am saying in respect of this Bill is that the implementation of this very Law should start from the 7th of April and then it should not be made political. When you see an NCNCer wants to found a Secondary Modern School and he has the ability, and has got the requisite material, and the right number of qualified teachers to teach in the Secondary Modern School, such a school should be allowed to run.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have said at the inception of my speech that this Bill appears superficially non-controversial, but if politics comes into it, we shall have to shout and the Queen of England will hear about this very Bill and know of our position in the Western Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr A. T. Rerri: Mr Speaker, Sir, we do not intend to oppose this Bill, but we wish to strike a note of warning that institutions which comply reasonably with the provisions of the Law should not be closed down or should not be made unworthy. Why I am saying this is this: Cases have been seen in the past where Secondary Modern Schools' proprietors had difficulties in getting certain things done and you will remember, Mr Speaker, sometime ago, the Minister of Education brought an amendment to this House which amendment sought to facilitate the procedure and methods of submitting

applications in respect of opening an institution, and the time elapsed in getting these applications through.

I think, Mr Speaker, that a similar provision should apply in the case of Secondary Modern Schools so that if a prospective proprietor puts in an application through the Ministry, it should be possible, within a specific time for the proprietor or prospective proprietor, to know where he is heading for rather than keep him in the dark waiting and writing reminders.

It is my wish Sir, that the Minister of Education should take particular note of this. After all, as the Premier of the Region stated sometime ago, this is our Government, the Government of the Action Group and the NCNC and the question is whether the junior or the senior partner in the Government should suffer because of the political party to which they belong.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr P. V. Okwesa: I am of the opinion, Sir, that we should not be opposed to this Bill but according to the instance cited by the Minister of Education that some people who cannot be called educationists—some carpenters, some fishermen some washermen—had put up buildings and opened secondary modern schools, it is my candid opinion that if a carpenter or washerman or farmer or whatever he may be, is philanthropic and opens a school for the benefit of the children of this Region there should be nothing to stop him from doing so provided he complies with the conditions laid down in the Education Law for the opening of schools. It has been pointed out that experience has shown that some proprietors who had put up decent buildings had been refused permission to open. (*Mention one, Where?*) In Aboh, Benin—and now why were these schools refused permission to open. There was some political bias in the attitude of the Minister of Education and this should not be so. There should be no politics in matters of education because we are all going to benefit whether we are NCNC or Action Group. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am really surprised that Members of the Opposition picked holes in this amendment which the Minister of Education has explained. The hon. Chief Whip of the Opposition will agree with me that there has been no complaints in this House that the Minister of Education is discriminating in the opening of new schools.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

Even in regard to the closure of schools the procedure is that the Inspectorate Division of the Ministry of Education will go to the schools, inspect them, and write their reports pointing out the defects to the proprietors and asking them to amend the defects within a specified time. It is when proprietors finally fail to make good the defects that notice of closure is served on the schools concerned, unless Members of the Opposition can produce evidence to the contrary.

Mr Speaker, Sir, most of these matters are done by administrative machinery and the Minister is only concerned with high policy matters. In the existing Law there is no provision for the Minister to exercise his power with regard to private institutions as he does with public institutions. What we do now is to amend the Law so that no loop holes are left. There are many fraudulent proprietors all over the Region. Can we allow bad schools to continue for the benefit of the pockets of a few fraudulent proprietors? I know Sir, that the Chief Whip of the Opposition is a teacher of some repute and would not allow the standards of education in this Region to fall. I think, Sir, that this is a very non-controversial Bill and that we should not waste time on it because we have many other businesses to handle.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that Members of the Opposition have conceded that this Bill is non-controversial. One or two questions have been raised. Those secondary modern schools that wanted to open have not been allowed to start because proprietors have not discovered the loop holes in the existing law which we now want to plug. I am glad that people have not been able to take advantage of the loop holes.

It is the duty of the Government to protect parents and children from unscrupulous school managers. Let me cite one instance of a secondary modern school in which there were thirty pupils in each class of three classes and charging £25 per annum per pupil for tuition, uniform, meals, etc. £25 in thirty places gives £750 and this in three places gives £2,250. The proprietor employs three teachers, he pays the first one £250 per annum and each of the other two £150 thereby making a total salary payment of £550 to the three teachers in the school. Subtract £550 from £2,250 and that leaves the proprietor with a gain of £1,700 per annum. Whoever poses to be the friend of the parents and builds an institution should be

able to finance it. Government is genuinely interested in the welfare of the children and not individual pockets.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

1958-59 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (6th April)—“That the Bill be read a Second time.”

Question proposed.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill once again reveals lack of understanding of the correct procedure on financial matters on the part of the Minister of Finance. Although the sum involved is not great—only £9,390—he ought to have known that he was wrong to transfer anticipated savings from the Statutory Sub-head which require the sanction of this Legislature, but for the Director of Audit this would have gone unnoticed. It would have been proper for the Minister of Finance to have brought this Supplementary Appropriation Bill over two years ago. This Bill is two years behind time before it was brought to the Legislature for approval. I submit that this is a sign of inefficiency on the part of the Minister of Finance. We do not oppose this Bill. The Minister has spent this money though he did not put it into his pocket. What I am quarrelling with is the method of bringing this Bill to the Legislature. I hope this will not be repeated again.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, in agreeing with my hon. Friend from Benin West, I have to say that this is a clear sign of the inefficiency which we are charging this Government with.

This very amount of £9,390 should have been spent by the Government of this Region unnoticed. And Mr Speaker, Sir, we would like to know why that error was not detected for so long a time. This thing happened about five years ago and if the Government of the Region is efficient, and the staff employed are equally efficient, this error should have long been detected and we could not have been called upon

[MR AMADASUN]

today to spend time in debating this Appropriation Bill.

Mr Speaker Sir, at this Session we have seen that the Government of the Region is giving us a lot of Supplementary Appropriation Bills to debate. This very Session, Mr Speaker, should have been profitably allocated for debate on the 1961-62 Appropriation Bill because, from my careful study of that very Bill, we can even take all to do justice to the debate arising from the 1961-62 Law or Bill. So that Sir, I am saying it now that in future this House will not be called upon to pass a Supplementary Appropriation Bill, the money for which has been spent a long time ago. The Appropriation Bill should be so that the Government should not be open to suspicion. I am charging the Government that the Government is inefficient and therefore the Government of this side should take up. Mr Speaker, Sir, when the Minister of Finance has failed or is answering the cogent things in my debate, he has to give a satisfactory explanation to exculpate the Action Group Government of the Region from this gross inefficiency. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, may I say that the points made by the Member for Benin West and also Benin Central are noted. But it is not unusual that Supplementary Estimates are brought before Parliament. Cases have occurred even in the Federal Parliament where Appropriation Bills amounting to over £1 million have been brought into Parliament and approval has been given. On several occasions we have brought Supplementary Appropriation Bills to this House and the House has no reason to doubt the honesty of the Government. In this case, it is another proof and evidence of the financial integrity of this Government. If anybody quarrels with this Appropriation Bill, it means that he no longer wishes that the Government assist the Director of Audit who is an independent and impartial body who looks over all items of expenditure of Government from day to day. It is unfortunate that the irregularity was not discovered even by the Department of Audit until it was brought to our notice and it was the right thing to do that Government attention was invited to it and it does not matter at what stage, Parliament ought to know and the full facts have been brought by the hon. Minister of Finance. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

THE 1959-60 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL

SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (6th April)—“That the Bill be read a Second time”.

Question proposed.

Mr R. A. Akinyemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to say again that the Action Group Government, especially the Ministry of Finance has been grossly inefficient. In the first place, if Mr Speaker looks at the explanation in respect of this particular Supplementary Appropriation Bill, it says it will be explained in detail by the Public Accounts Committee when it examines it. I remember that there was a circular issued out by the Clerk of the House asking the Public Accounts Committee to meet some two months ago before this Supplementary Appropriation Bill was brought. If the meeting was cancelled, the reason for the cancellation of the meeting, we don't know. But I am suggesting that this particular explanation should have been made to the Public Accounts Committee and if the Public Accounts Committee thinks it justifiable then the Supplementary Appropriation Bill could be brought into the House. I would say that the Minister of Finance has the most inefficient Ministry in the arm of the Government of the Region. It is a very serious allegation I am making against the Western Region Government. I will not try to heckle them because they are Members of the Front Benches of the Government. But when it degenerates to back benchers of the Action Group I will.....(*Interruptions*) and I will warn the Minister of Transport again.

Now this money has been spent. It was spent without the appropriate authority, and that is the authority of the Parliament. Now if it was spent without our approval, on what was it spent? Was it spent for the pockets of the Members of the Government

[MR AKINYEMI]

or was it spent for Government purpose? If we had done this in the Public Accounts Committee, there would have been no necessity for us to oppose the Appropriation Bill. And I submit further Mr Speaker, Sir, that it is foolery to pass the Appropriation Bill when at the last meeting this was not detected, and after passing that, they brought another Appropriation Bill for a second time. I submit Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Action Group Government of this Region is so inefficient that, I, through Mr Speaker, call upon them to resign now and we of the Opposition will take over. And I would say that but for the Accountant and the Auditor this thing could not have been detected and but for the Auditor we could not have known that this amount had been spent. I would say, Mr Speaker that although we have no other alternative than to support this item of the Appropriation Bill, nevertheless, we must make the Government realise that we do not wish to subscribe to this type of practice. If the Minister of Finance is inefficient as he is showing now, I shall ask Mr Amadasun to take his place. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr A. E. E. Atohengbe: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is our duty as Her Majesty's Opposition to co-operate with the Government of this Region. In doing so we are not prepared to mortgage our legislative rights. With your permission, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to read what the hon. Minister of Finance said yesterday as being responsible for the over-expenditure necessitating the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

He said:

"When the accounts for 1959-60 were closed, it was found that expenditure had been incurred under the Heads of the 1959-60 Estimates shown in the Schedule to the Bill in excess of the sums approved by the Legislature. The over-expenditure arose from the fact that the requirements under various sub-heads were underestimated in the first instance. Unfortunately, the Accounting Officers responsible for the Heads of expenditure did not realise that their votes were overspent until the accounts for the year were made up. As the over-expenditure under individual sub-heads will be examined in detail by the Public Accounts Committee, I do not wish to trouble the House with explanations for the items which have caused the excesses to which this Bill relates."

"I would like to emphasise, therefore, that the presentation of this Bill does not mean that the total sums appropriated in the 1959-60 were exceeded," and he quoted certain figures to show that.

Well, Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that was the most appropriate time to bother this House with the items that made this over-expenditure responsible because in the old House, we had 80 members, but in the present House we have 124 Members and most of the Members of the old House were not electorally privileged to be here now and we now have more new Members than the old ones. This is the most appropriate time to have made Members of this House know what items were responsible for this over-expenditure. Well, this is inefficiency on the part of the Ministry of Finance and also of the auditing of the accounts.

He said further that one Public Accounts Committee will review these accounts. Then if it was possible to approve 1958-59 Supplementary Appropriation Bill, it should not be too late for the Public Accounts Committee to review these items and then resubmit it to this House later on.

So, Mr Speaker, Sir, I suspect that there is a motive behind the idea of pushing this Supplementary Appropriation Bill through without having told Members of this House what items were responsible for the over-expenditure.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr D. Atolagbe: I beg to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill which has been presented to this honourable House by the hon. Minister of Finance. I do believe, Sir, that if there is honour and virtue in being silent when a very clear Bill is presented to this House, this Bill is a singular instance and I therefore find it very difficult to appreciate the lengthy criticisms which have been levelled against the Ministry of Finance in respect of over-expenditure under £50,000.

It has been suggested that Parliament has not authorised or passed this vote. I believe that this criticism from the Opposition side stems from the fact that they have not divorced themselves of colonial mentality. They have to appreciate the status of this Government and of this House, in this new year of independence and sovereignty. Under the constitution the Minister of Finance has considerably wide powers to authorise expenditure during the period the House is not sitting.

[MR ATOLAGBE].

In the old days, the Standing Committee for Finance was charged with that responsibility. What is also more is this, that if there is any Ministry of Finance which should be criticised or condemned, certainly, it is not the Ministry of Finance of the Western Region because we do know that an independent Enquiry has had to castigate and criticise severely an NCNC Minister in this country and we say that if that Minister were in any other part of the world, that person will not be holding the portfolio of finance today. It is on record that there has not been an occasion when any stricture affecting the prestige, honesty, or reputation has been levelled against any Minister of Finance in this Region.

Also one other important point which I think deserves attention at this stage, because we are going to consider two other Appropriation Bills, to be made clear to the Opposition is that there is no dishonour and is not unusual for any Government to come to this House from time to time with Supplementary Appropriation Bills. Even in the United Kingdom, Supplementary Appropriation Bill which was passed for the year just ended totalled £140 million and that was discovered to be in proportion of 1 : 4 of the original estimated expenditure. The Supplementary Appropriation Bill of £50,000 which the Minister presented to this House represents a very insignificant proportion of the original estimated expenditure of this Region. Perhaps if hon. Members on the Opposition study the responsibilities of Parliament and of the various committees, they would understand that the very details of half-pennies and pennies which are spent by this Government is not a matter for concern for an enlarged House, that is why the Public Accounts Committee has been set up, and there is no doubt that when the appropriate time comes the Public Accounts Committee will be called, and if hon. Members opposite are anxious, they have machinery, they have remedies in their hands which they could use if they feel that we are genuinely withholding comments of the Public Accounts Committee and I do know that the hon. Minister of Finance or his representative when answering to this debate will certainly give the House very cogent reasons why the Public Accounts Committee has not been able to meet until now.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief A. Adekeye: I just like to say, as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, that there was to be a meeting of that

Committee last month but when we sent out circulars, we discovered that Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments who were to appear before us were very busy with the Estimates and we had to postpone it.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I am most grateful Mr Speaker, Sir, to the Government Whip who has made a very invaluable contribution to this debate. If they have read the explanatory notes, I should have thought that the Members of the Opposition should have been satisfied with that. After all, this Parliament has approved 1959-60 Appropriation Bill and the hon. Minister of Finance in presenting this Supplementary Appropriation Bill made it clear that the Approved Estimates for 1959 by Parliament was underspent to a tune of £8 million and this is another indication that Government is sincere, and wants to place all facts before Parliament. This sum of £35,000 which has been overspent is included in the net amount underspent by Government during 1959-60 financial year and there is no reason, therefore, why Members of the Opposition should be so bitter about this Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Unfounded allegations of inefficiency have been levelled against the Ministry of Finance and I do know, Sir, that throughout the Federation of Nigeria, the Ministry of Finance, now Treasury in this Region, and particularly the hon. Minister of Finance is the most efficient. I would challenge any Member of the Opposition to place before us at a later stage facts to show the relative ability, achievement and competence of each Minister of Finance in any other part of the Federation and I will give facts on which I rely to say that the Minister of Finance of this Region is the most efficient and hardworking we have ever heard of in the whole Federation. We of this Government do not believe in noise-making. We keep to our pledge that we shall work in the interest and for the upliftment of the people of this Region, and therefore, we may leave the question of spending money entirely to the officials. No Minister of this Region has ever handled a penny. We do know, Sir, that that has never been the case in other parts of the Federation.

We are in Parliament, Mr Speaker, Sir, and if anybody thinks that there is anything against my statement, he has the opportunity to say so and I am prepared to meet him on his own grounds.

If you permit me, Mr Speaker, Sir, I like to repeat this that the Government of Western Nigeria uphold our pledge in the

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

light that our motto will be "Honesty, Integrity, and Faith" and that in matters of finance, we have nothing to hide and we can come into the open with open hands and lay our cards on the table. How many Ministers of Finance in this Federation can do that? How many Ministers in this country can do that? I challenge the Members of the Opposition to say that castigating remarks have never been directed on a certain Minister of Finance in some other part of the Federation of Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, We are happy and glad, and we are proud, Sir, and I think all Members of Parliament should be proud of the Government which they have, because the Director of Audit is not under any ministerial control. He is directly responsible to the Director of Overseas Audit in the United Kingdom and, therefore, he is entirely free to criticise and condemn any acts of Government or any Minister for that matter. I say that we are proud because we have not, I repeat, we have not had anything recorded as an adverse report against this Government. The Director of Audit is a competent person, Mr Speaker, Sir, and I therefore commend this Supplementary Appropriation Bill to the acceptance of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee.

First Schedule.

Question that the sum of £35,586 for the First Schedule stand part of the Bill put and agreed to.

Second Schedule.

Question that the sum of £5,036 for the Second Schedule stand part of the Bill put and agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Question proposed.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I beg to move an amendment to read £5,036 Additional Capital Expenditure 1959-60.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 3 as amended agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported with amendment, read the Third time and passed.

THE 1960-61 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL

SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (6th April)—"That the Bill be read a Second time".

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

In the Committee.

FIRST SCHEDULE

HEAD 322.—PREMIER'S OFFICE

Question that the sum of £10,640 for Head 322.—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 323.—TREASURY

Question that the sum of £47,000 for Head 323.—Treasury—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 324.—MISCELLANEOUS

Question that the sum of £342,550 for Head 324.—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 325.—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

Question that the sum of £30,000 for Head 325.—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 327.—TRANSFER OF PAYMENTS

Question that the sum of £1,250 for Head 327.—Transfer of Payments—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 328.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Question that the sum of £29,550 for Head 328.—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 330.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question that the sum of £508,000 for Head 330.—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 331.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Question that the sum of £3,100 for Head 331.—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 332.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question that the sum of £97,390 for Head 332.—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 333.—MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Question that the sum of £3,100 for Head 333—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 334.—MINISTRY OF MIDWEST AFFAIRS

Question that the sum of £1,030 for Head 334.—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 335.—MINISTRY OF LANDS AND LABOUR

Question that the sum of £27,000 for Head 335.—Ministry of Lands and Labour—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 336.—MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Question that the sum of £2,320 for Head 336.—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 337.—MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Question that the sum of £8,880 for Head 337.—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 338.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Question that the sum of £62,980 for Head 338.—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 340.—ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Question that the sum of £30 for Head 340.—Electoral Commissioner's Office—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 341.—JUDICIAL

Question that the sum of £500 for Head 341.—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 342.—LEGISLATURE

Question that the sum of £30,970 for Head 342.—Legislature—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 344.—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Question that the sum of £5,920 for Head 344.—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Question that the sum total of £2,442,930 for the First Schedule—stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

SECOND SCHEDULE

HEAD 701.—BUILDINGS

Question that the sum of £9,945 for Head 701.—Buildings—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 702.—ROADS AND BRIDGES

Question that the sum of £11,870 for Head 702.—Roads and Bridges—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 703.—URBAN WATER SUPPLIES

Question that the sum of £1,900 for Head 703.—Urban Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 705.—LOANS

Question that the sum of £400,000 for Head 705.—Loans—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 706.—EDUCATION BUILDING GRANTS

Question that the sum of £150,000 for Head 706.—Education Building Grants—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 709.—SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Question that the sum of £336,400 for Head 709.—Special Agricultural Development—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

HEAD 720.—GOVERNOR

Question that the sum of £7,310 for Head 720.—Governor—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 722.—PREMIER'S OFFICE

Question that the sum of £32,370 for Head 722.—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 723.—TREASURY

Question that the sum of £1,660 for Head 723.—Treasury—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 724.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Question that the sum of £6,000 for Head 724.—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 726.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question that the sum of £47,140 for Head 726.—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 727.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Question that the sum of £38,580 for Head 727.—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 732.—MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Question that the sum of £1,690 for Head 732.—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 733.—MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Question that the sum of £2,630 for Head 733.—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 738.—LEGISLATURE

Question that the sum of £250 for Head 738.—Legislature—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Question that the sum total of £1,047,748 for the Second Schedule—stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

Sitting suspended at 10.30 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 11.35 a.m.

THE 1961-62 APPROPRIATION BILL SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (27th March). "That Bill be read a Second Time".

Question proposed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr R. A. Olusa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill with all the emphasis that I can command. In doing so, Sir, I wish to pay tribute to hon. the Minister of Finance for the careful manner in which he got up the Budget Speech and for the masterly way in which he delivered it. I congratulate him most heartily. I congratulate too all his colleagues with whose co-operation the Estimates have been prepared. Here, the hon. Premier deserves special commendation for leading a team of selfless hard-working men such as we have in this Government. This Region is by the Grace of God blessed with men of sterling qualities. May God grant that this Region is always led by men of exemplary ability such as we have today.

Mr E. O. Imafidon: Mr Speaker Sir, Standing Order 27 (1). The hon. Member is reading his Speech.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman continue.

Mr Olusa: The Estimates before the House reflects sound economic policy and healthy financial standing. Comparison is said to be odious, but man cannot but compare and contrast. Therefore when we compare the financial and economic policy of this Government with those of the other Governments of the Federation we do not mean to disparage those Governments.

Mr Speaker Sir, the Budget of the Northern Government, controlled by the NPC shows a deficit. That of the Eastern Government, controlled by the NCNC barely balances, while our own, as we can see from the copies of the Estimates in our hands, is sound and bouyant with a surplus of nearly half a million pounds.

Mr A. A. Babayemi: Mr Speaker Sir, on point of information. The Southern Cameroons has broken away from Nigeria, so the National Council of Nigeria and Cameroons now becomes NCN and not NCNC.

Mr Olusa: Mr Speaker Sir, I take the correction. Instead of NCNC, I will say NCN. (*laughter from both sides of the House*). The Action Group Government of the Western Region deserves to be highly congratulated. That is what it should be. It has always been so. It shall ever be so.

It is unfortunate Sir that with the exception of one or two persons from the Opposition side, none of them has been able to make any effective and useful contribution to the debate. Instead of aligning themselves with the Government, if they agree with the provisions of the Estimates, or make alternative suggestions, if they disagree, they indulge in worthless multifarious platitude. I am not surprised this is so. Sound common sense has long departed from the people on that side of the House as could be seen since the commencement of this session, beginning with the gratuitous misbehaviour and bad manners of the Leader of that side who did not scruple to treat tradition and convention with puerile levity.

Mr Speaker Sir, the hon. Member for Ikeja South started with the role of agriculture in the economy of this Region. One will expect him to disprove or prove Government right in its agricultural policy. But what did he do? He jumped off to say all sorts of unparliamentary things of the

[MR OLUSA]

Government party and top notchers of that party as if it is on account of abuse that he was voted into the House to earn £840 per annum. The hon. Member for Benin West started by comparing the votes for various agricultural products like rubber, oil palm and cocoa. He could not appreciate the effort that the Government is making to improve these commodities and thereby raise the standard of living of the people of the Region. What did he do? He went off the rail. He accused the Government of neglecting rubber and oil palm in the Midwest in the past. But we are dealing with the present. What is the Government policy for the current year like? That is the question he is called upon to answer. This is the sort of thing these men on the other side of the House come to say in the House in order to earn £840 per annum shamelessly. I want all of them to know that what they are doing is nothing short of political robbery. Their receiving money and failing to do their duty rightly is swindling, and everyone of them there is guilty of swindling public fund.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members don't come here to swindle public money. Please withdraw that.

Mr Olusa: I withdraw. But I say, Sir, that these people should go and learn how to do their job properly. They should know that they are not to come and abuse but to credit the Government and make proposals for improvement.

Mr Speaker Sir, you will all agree that the economy of this country hangs on agriculture, and that of this Region hangs chiefly on cocoa. This Government has always recognised that fact. Now that rubber and oil palm are occupying their own proper places this Government makes provisions for their improvement. Hence the provisions of thousands of pounds for rubber and oil palm in the Midwest and similar sums of money for the improvement and rehabilitation of cocoa in cocoa growing areas of the Region. I congratulate this Government and especially the Minister of Agriculture for the sound agricultural policy pursued by this Government.

Mr Speaker Sir, much has been said on Farm Institutes and Settlements that I need not bore the House with more words on the subject even though too much cannot be said in praise of the Government for the scheme. With the good work of the Town Planning Division of the Ministry of Lands and

Housing more and more good buildings will be erected in this country both in the Urban and the rural areas. Therefore more and more timbers would be needed for these buildings and for furniture. Therefore, more conservation of our forest products should be done. Export of timbers should be controlled and restricted, especially the export of hard wood. Timbers which some years ago cost next to nothing today cost very much. Government should exercise more control on the timber trade. If less wood is exported the price will likely rise and more money would accrue from export duty. The Government deserves praise for the intensive afforestation that is being undertaken by the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Forests are our natural heritage. Forest products contribute much to the revenue of this Region, and therefore we praise the Government for its good work in our forests.

Mr Speaker Sir, roads properly built and tarred ramify all over the Region making it possible for all and sundry to reach any part of the Region he desires.

Mr Speaker: I really could not differentiate the Member's speech from what he had to say on the Speech from the Throne. You will direct your speech to the financial policy of the Government.

Mr Olusa: Mr Speaker Sir, what I am saying Sir is that Government has spent a lot of money for the improvement and tarring of roads. With good roads, it is clear that farmers can move their products to any place that they like and traders could move anywhere for buying and selling. If this is not an economic policy I would like to ask members opposite what it is.

Mr Speaker Sir, we know the number of industrial projects in the East, North and even Federal. Tell me which of them can compare with the West and beat her? We know how many Corporations a sister Government has formed and dissolved after spending huge sums of money without producing anything at all in return. Tell me which party controls that government? (*Several Government Benches: NCN, NCN.*) Yet these men over there—among them chemists, QCs and small lawyers.....

Mr Akinyemi: On a Point of Order Sir, Order 27 (2). As a Parliamentary Secretary I expect that he ought to know that he should not read his speech, but also he should confine himself to the financial policy of this Region. (*Government Benches: Keep quiet*).....When

I am making a point you ask me to keep quiet; the Premier himself will not ask me to keep quiet.

(Cheers as the Premier entered the House).

Mr Speaker: The Premier just arrived at a time order is being restored.

Mr Olusa: There is one channel through which some money of this Region flows away. It is via motor licensing. The Police and especially the Vehicle Inspection Officers are chiefly and wholly responsible. The purpose of the inspection of motor vehicles is to ensure that motor lorries which ply our highways are road-worthy. What do these officers do? They lay premium on lorries to be tested. Whether a lorry is road-worthy or not the premium must be paid otherwise the lorry is not road-worthy. Some of these officers went as far as to declare any lorry road-worthy as soon as it is known that the premium has been paid. For inspection all the lorries line up. A junior officer goes round to see them and collect the money and return to give particulars of the lorries on which they have been collected. I wish the authorities concerned to take serious view of it.

Mr C. O. Olamigoke: I observe that so much has been done in this Region to so few. It is unfortunate that the Action Group Government in this Region betrayed the confidence of the masses. No one will fail to be impressed by the amount of money voted for education on paper but if one goes into the details to see how much of this money is being spent one will be very sorry to see the amount which is being wasted because in the so-called primary schools built by the Regional Government what you find in some of the classrooms are cockroaches, termites and lizards, because all these schools have been built by the unqualified contractors of the Action Group *(Government Benches: Are you a teacher; Opposition Members: Yes! a Principal for that matter)*. Ondo Province is badly neglected by the Action Group Government of this Region. There is the "Sitation" of the University of Ife.....*(Interruptions, Government Benches: Sitation?)*.....Yes, the Action Group has sited the University at Ife because they are very discriminatory and tribalistic.

Mr Kotoye: We will like to know whether the hon. Member is using Bensonian English—"Sitation"? *(laughter)*.

Mr Olamigoke: Take the Agricultural project of this Region for instance. The

Farm Settlements scheme has been a weapon of oppression in my Division.

Mr Speaker: I have to call the attention of the hon. Gentleman to the fact that we are dealing mainly and specifically with the financial policy of the Government and that what he is saying has got nothing to do with the financial policy of the Government.

Mr Olamigoke: The farm settlements scheme is designed to find jobs for Action Group supporters.

Mr Speaker: I do not like to interrupt hon. Gentlemen when they speak but when I make my ruling or give my advice I think it is proper that it should be taken. The hon. Gentleman should please confine his speech to the financial policy of Government otherwise I shall rule him out of order.

Mr Olamigoke: Mr Speaker Sir, I challenge the Leader of the House to arrange a parliamentary delegation to see some of the schools built in this Region—built by the Regional Government—in order to see what is obtaining in these schools. The schools are ill-equipped.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Standing Order 36 and 69. I want both to be read conjointly *(Opposition Members: Read it)*. I refer to Order 69 (2):

"After the Motion for the Second reading of the 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 the Western Region of Nigeria and the Western Region Government's financial policy....."

This has been contravened by the Member for Okitipupa Waterside Rural. Mr Speaker has ruled against him and he continues to infringe the Standing Order. I therefore refer Mr Speaker to Standing 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".

I think the Member for Okitipupa either does not understand the Speaker or does not understand the procedure. I think he is contravening the order of the Speaker.

Mr Speaker: The Standing Order quoted by the hon. Gentleman is a confirmation of the authority of what I said before and I have given the hon. Gentleman sufficient latitude because I feel that he is a new comer to this House; but if he continues to flout my authority I shall deal with him in the way I shall deal with anybody flouting my authority.

Mr Olamigoke: Mr Speaker Sir, in Okitipupa Division there was a cinema van located to the place, but just last year the cinema van disappeared from the place.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The question of cinema van has nothing to do with the financial policy of the Government. Any other Member prepared to speak?

The Deputy Speaker (Mr S. T. Adelegan): I rise to support the Second reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1960-61. In supporting this Bill there are two aspects of the speech of the hon. the Minister of Finance which I think are worthy of remark, and if the Speaker will allow me I would want to read them once again: One describes the duties of the Government and the duties of the citizen. On page 3 Sir, the Minister of Finance declared:

“.....I have indicated what we consider to be the proper business of Government in this matter of economic development—that is, to assist and promote. There are two major ways in which the ordinary citizen's own behaviour is of vital importance. First, we must all help to correct the wrong impression that Government's financial resources for meeting the cost of services which it provides are limitless. It is our duty, as representatives of the people, to bring all to a greater realisation of the fact that Government has no means of meeting its commitments other than taxes, direct or indirect, paid by members of the community. It should be clear also that even where a Government is able to raise loans, it is the people who ultimately will make the repayment through the taxes paid”

I have no doubt that this passage puts the matter clearly. I have heard Members of the Opposition complain that Government has not built secondary schools in some Divisions or in their own towns: the Government's financial policy in this respect is very sound, that is community self-help, and it is to this aspect that I wish to draw the attention of Members of this House. The Government wants to encourage communities to help themselves in the building of secondary

grammar schools. The Government encourages communities to contribute initial expenses of building of these schools, sometimes may be a block of four classrooms or a block of six class rooms, then Government will come in to support the community, and later on they issue building grants. It will be right for Members, especially the Member from Aboh who has been here for ten years and has not shown the spirit of leadership, to lead his people to build a secondary school and there after earn grants in aid for his constituency.

The other point, Sir, which I think is very remarkable is the point that despite the fact that the Government has reduced rates and paid substantial grants to Local Authorities the Government still do not want to resort to raising higher rates during the year. Let me read this passage to you from the speech of the honourable the Minister of Finance with the permission of Mr Speaker. On page 3 Sir—

“At this time last year reforms, which were acclaimed by all, were introduced in our income tax system. Considerable reductions were made in the taxes payable by the great majority of the citizens. Women were exempted altogether from the payment of either general rates or special rates. Government undertook to assist local authorities in meeting any short-fall in their incomes which might result from the new arrangements. We have no intention, at the present time, of increasing the rates of income tax, or changing the system of assessment and collection, except in regard to the introduction of Pay As You Earn System”

Sometime ago the Opposition suggested that Government has finished all the money in the Treasury and we are very happy, Sir, that when we read the speech of the Minister of Finance there is no indication that all the money in the Treasury has been finished and that the steps taken by Government in reducing rates last year was only for election purposes, now we have seen that the Government was sincere in this motive.

Therefore, Sir, I beg to report.

Mr R. O. Areola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this 1961-62 Appropriation Bill and the general financial policy of this Government—the only Government..... (interruptions).

Chief Odebiyi: Point of order Sir. Standing Order 29 (5). Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking. If Members are being

interrupted when they speak it will affect the standard of debate in the House and I would like the Speaker to apply that rule.

Mr Speaker: Order 29 (5) has been pointed out by the honourable the Leader of the House and Minister of Finance. It reads—

“Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking”.

Apart from the reason given by the hon. Minister of Finance, Members have always complained that their speeches were not accurately reported and I think one of the reasons for that is the noise that goes on all around in the honourable House. I agree and probably you will agree with me that I have got to be firm on this point and I shall leave no stone unturned in enforcing this Order.

Mr Areola: Mr Speaker, Sir, I was saying that this is the only Government that has been able to pave its way without recourse to loans or accumulated debts. Let us examine some of the items on which the Government spends its Revenue.

	£
Education	9.7 million
Roads	5.5 million
Agriculture and Natural Resources	2.9 million
Health and Social Welfare	2.6 million
Urban and Rural Water Works and Transport	2.6 million
Loans to Statutory Corporations	4.4 million
General Administration	9.4 million

Mr Speaker, Sir, which of these items could be omitted from the list without causing the masses of our people a loss of their social amenities?

It is easy Sir, to speak of unbalanced Budget without understanding what exactly is meant by the term “Balanced Budget”. A budget may be unbalanced in one of two ways: either it does not cover all the essential services or covers them in disproportionate ratios. When the hon. Member for Ikeja spoke of “unbalanced Budget” yesterday he was making one of his usual sweeping generalising statements unsupported by facts and figures. The hon. Member for Remo South tried to put him right by telling him that a budget is balanced when expenditure does not exceed income.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall now go a little further, Sir and by simple examples given in the language understandable to the hon. Member for Ikeja teach him what a balanced budget is, or should be. Take for instance the items enumerated above, if the Budget gives an unusually large proportion of the Revenue to, say, Education, at the partial or total neglect of, say, Health and Social Services, such a budget may be said to be unbalanced. Or if Sir, the Revenue ought to be divided between Agricultural and Industrial projects, say in the fair and equitable ratio of three to five, instead if it is divided in the ratio of one to seven, such a budget can be termed to be unbalanced. But Sir, to go out of these and attack this well-got up budget as unbalanced is to make an irresponsible statement.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Opposition of this House can hardly be regarded as the alternative Government of this Region. For if by any misjudgement or miscalculation on the part of the electorates this Opposition is voted to power, it will have nothing to offer to the people of this Region. Its main business so far has been to read red into every honest attempt of this Government to improve the living standards of the people of this Region. Apart from the curious suggestion by the Leader of the Opposition that a seller's market should be established for the sale of cocoa to keep up its price in the world market, all the criticisms of the Opposition have been destructive throughout, you will agree with me Sir, that such a suggestion was very un-Kayode and even then he went off the rail when he thought the seller should dictate the price at which to sell and yet clear the market of his goods. What the Government or the people of this Region expect from the Opposition is not merely to brand the plans of the Government as unprogressive or their statements as watery but the Opposition's alternative proposals for improvement (*Cheers from the Government Benches*).

When Chief Awolowo discovered the short-sighted financial policy of the Federal Government, he made concrete suggestions for improvement and these suggestions were thankfully received by a Government which believes in the superior and far-reaching suggestions of the Opposition for improvement.

The Opposition's contention, Sir, as far as criticisms from the hon. Members from the Midwest are concerned, is not that the Government's financial policy is unsound or imprudent. What they objected to was not that the industries already established in

[MR AREOLA]

the Region are not superior quantitatively and qualitatively to anything produced in any other Region, but that the industries sited at Abeokuta, Ewekoro, Ikeja, etc., should have been scattered over the Midwest so that this town or village in that area should have been with an industry. Their contention, too, is not that the industries do not provide employment for the sons and daughters of this Region, but through parochialism, as is usual of the NCNC party members, they felt that because of the so-called historical and economic importance of certain villages and hamlets in the Midwest, no Industry should be located outside the place.

The Leader of the House, Sir, had made it abundantly clear to the Opposition what factors are considered in locating an industry. Permit me Sir to use the slang of the economist. Apart from the traditional factors—land, labour, capital and entrepreneurship—there are other factors such as availability of, and accessibility to, raw materials and easy portability or distributability of manufactured products. If this is borne in mind by the Opposition, they will lessen their attacks on this forward-looking and progressive Government and applaud rather than despise the laudable attempts of the Government at raising the standard of living of the common man in Western Nigeria. *(laughter and cheers)*.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on close examination of the industries established in the Region, it would be discovered that it is not true that no industries have been located in the Midwest, as some Members of the Opposition will have us believe. What about the Rubber Industry, etc.? I may seize this opportunity Sir, to advise the members of the Opposition from the Midwest that even when their State has been created, they will not help to improve the lot of the people if they think that they must distribute their industries all over the Region. Sir, I must warn them that they should loosen their rigid hold on parochialism if they intend to raise the standard of living of their people as they will have within their Region, the Edos, the Urhobos, the Itsekiris, the Ishans, the Ibos, etc. They cannot satisfy each of these linguistic groups in the distribution of their industries if they are not going to make a mockery of industry and therefore of the economy of production.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Rerri: I have this much to contribute to the debate. The Action Group Government has an illegal policy of carrying out illegal operations.

Mr Speaker: Illegality in that context is unparliamentary.

Mr Rerri: Mr Speaker, Sir, that is withdrawn. The West Regional Government has a poor financial policy. In saying so, I want to show that the principle of investment of the Government negates the idea of public good. The Government that spends £3 million in building skyscrapers is not a good Government. *(interruptions)* Mr Speaker, please protect me.

Chief Odebiyi: I protest on behalf of the Government of the United States *(laughter)*.

Mr Rerri: Mr Speaker, Sir, what I mean is that the Minister of Education is looking for money to build new schools and even a University, the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Minister of Trade and Industry are building industries at Ikeja or wherever they wish and this Government has the effrontery to loan out some £3 million to build skyscrapers in Lagos. I agree that money in respect of rents could accrue but is it money that this Government is after or development and welfare of the people? Do you know how many of our schools require aid both from the community and the Government of this Region and how many are unable to receive such help and how many men and women leave your schools and do you know what difficulties the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources encountered in finding work for these people? I thought that if this Government had spent money on building more schools and more advanced projects, the Opposition would have had more praise for the Government.

The policy of the Western Regional Government is the bad policy of staff recruitment and ministerial appointments. A policy which militates against the economy of this Region. Here are directors who have no knowledge of directing business. Here are business experts who have no expert knowledge, here are ministers who do not know the "delivery-know-how".

We take another example of the financial policy of the Government and it is that policy whereby certain petty loans are given out by bodies that go by the name of Local Loans Board. These loans are a public waste because those who get them make no use of them. The Minister of Finance can tell us how many of these have been redeemed

[MR RERRI]

or used for the purpose for which they were taken. For your information these loans are generally not given to NCNCers. I remember just before the last election the Action Group Government distributed these loans to their good boys in order to enable them to do what I do not know.

The Western Region Government pursues a Machiavellian policy. This policy is permissible in war but in peace it is ungodly. How can we say anything in favour of the Government that gives contracts to only Action Group supporters in preference to the NCNCers even if it costs less to give it to an NCNCer? How can we praise a Government when it is the Government that fails to dissolve a most nepotic and corrupt Action Group controlled council, that appoints agents that warm seats in these councils and earn nothing? Mr Speaker Sir, how can you praise the policy of the Government which, in order to make Action Group grow, insists that NCNC must be dissolved in the acid?

I proceed to point number three which touches the discriminatory policy of the Western Regional Government. It has been said and it cannot be oversaid that the policy of the Government is concentrating development of amenities and industries in a section of the Western Region. There is no getting out of it. In concentrating industries at Ikeja I agree that the participating partners and firms want where they can make profits. The Government should have a foresight in doing what is prevailing in other countries. The Government should provide industries that are not only profit making but provide jobs for the jobless people. The rates which they pay come back to the Government. No Government in the world can close her eyes to the problem of unemployment and the present policy does initiate projects which encourage migration and depopulation. That is bad policy.

Take the question of amenities. It is a direct compensation for Action Group support. For instance how can we bring into relation the growing of cocoa in Ondo province which is the main stay of the Region's economy with the distribution of amenities in the Western Region. One would have thought that the policy of the Government would have made adequate compensation for the economic contribution of Ondo province to the prosperity of the Region.

How, Mr Speaker, Sir, can we relate the importance of a very important town like Sapele with the relative importance of the very small towns on the plateau of the Western Region. You know this, those of you who know Geography, Sapele is easily one of the most important towns in the Region, at least it is one of the most important to the Minister of Finance. He knows what he gets from it. Yet look at a town like Sapele, it has not got water supply. That is the discriminatory policy of the Action Group Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the Government should change. There is another point which is very nauseating to the Members of the Opposition. You will see the question of industry in the Midwest. The Midwest is easily the home of rubber in this Region. Why should the Government set up a competing industry with the industry some where else? Why should Government do that? One should have thought that the Government should develop cocoa to the advantage of those in the Western West and rubber on a higher scale in the Midwest. That could have been the proper compromise.

Then coming to the question of industry I will like to mention one significant fact. In the last report, from one of the agencies under the Minister of Trade and Industry, a report was given that the Ikpoba Rubber Factory at Benin made a net profit of £10,000 while Lafia Canning Factory suffered a deficit of £60,000. That goes to show, Mr Speaker, that if only the Action Group Government had developed the rubber in the Midwest to an advanced stage the Government would have made more profit from it. In giving this one example I want the House to know there are rubber magnates in the Midwest who are getting on well. I am convinced that if this Government with some of the revenue at her disposal should initiate bigger schemes for the development of rubber in the Midwest, Government will realise much profit from the industry.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to talk about bad Government of this Region as far as the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is concerned.

Well that Ministry is one of the most important, and yet the care which Government gives to it is grossly inadequate.

I am the Chairman of the District Federation of Boys' and Girls' Club from the area where I come (*Government Members: Congratulations*), and as a man who like the welfare of young people we hold our meetings, with Ministers some of whom are looking at

[MR RERRI]

me now, or with other officials of the Ministry. We have always prayed that they should do something to enhance the welfare of the youths of the Western Region, and, of course, in particular the Midwest. Things like club houses and other amenities for Boys' Clubs generally have been grossly neglected and I do not know if our supplications are generally placed on the tables of the Ministers.

Now, I have one other sub-point to mention about this Ministry. Well, if I have my way, I would prevent a big evil by doing a small one. In the medical profession just now this Government is conniving at certain evils. I would suggest that Government should increase the salaries of Medical Officers and ban private practices in that Ministry. Because we have lost many souls because a doctor will not touch a patient unless he is given ten guineas. (*Shouts of "Ah!" from Government Benches*). Don't shout ah! You know. If you doubt it I will produce a tape recording to be processed in this House. That evil is very deadly and I think an ban increase in their salaries and consequent on private practices will go a long way to abate many evils.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I also note that the Western Region Government pursues a hypocritical policy. Government professes one thing on the floor of this House and does precisely the opposite. The other day our hon. Premier told us of the consultations which he is going to have with the Opposition; he talked to us about the very goodwill he is trying to promote between the Government Bench and the Opposition Bench, and yet when his Ministers go out the policy professed on this floor is precisely the exact negation of the policy sent, I do not know by what communication, to their supporters and agents in the constituencies.

Mr Speaker, I am just trying to say this that certain undemocratic things are being done in the constituencies from which we come and such undemocratic practices do not fall in alignment with the good intentions, at least, as expressed by our hon. Premier. I have some suggestions for the improvement of our financial policy.

I would suggest, Mr Speaker, that we set up an unemployment industry (*Government Benches: eh!*), unemployment industry, that is, an industry that caters more for unemployment than for anything else, so that we can help to solve the unemployment problem of this Region.

Alhaji Opaleye: Where did you learn your economics? That is Indian economics.

Mr Rerri: Secondly, Sir, I suggest the development of fisheries and the palm produce industries in the Midwest and cocoa in the Western-west, as the Minister of Finance would like me to put it.

I would suggest that, in order to make more profit from rubber, this Government should place rubber on the Marketing Board, I know the Minister is going to express a fear, and fix an agreed and beautiful.....

Mr Speaker: Order! This is another convenient time for a break, a long one because we shall come back at eight o'clock.

Sitting suspended at 12.40 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.25 p.m.

Mr Rerri: Mr Speaker, Sir, I was saying that rubber should be placed on the Marketing Board and that we fix a small reasonable price to compensate for fluctuation in the usual price of rubber, the price so fixed, using statistics at Government disposal, to make sure that the usual fluctuations will be reasonably compensated for. I am sure that rubber dealers, particularly in the Midwest, will be prepared to accept a reasonably low price that is regular, so that they can buy and sell at any time and at that low reasonable price, rather than face the odd of any erratic fall in the price of rubber.

The fourth suggestion to help preserve the financial solidarity of the Region is that the salaries of all Ministers should be cut by ten per cent and the salaries of all Legislators should also be cut by five per cent, and from my calculations, judging from the number of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and hon. Members in this House, Government will save slightly over £32,000 in that per annum.

The fifth suggestion is that, I understand that Mr Lui Ching Chang is leading a Chinese delegation to this country, and I am suggesting to the Minister of Finance, who is very loud at praising me and I like him for that, to make all possible contact with this Chinese gentleman with a view to getting some of our surplus cocoa sold to him. Why? Because this same Gentleman is now prepared to sign a contract for the sale of one million tons of cocoa from Ghana.

[MR RERRI]

I do not see any reason why this Government cannot sell half of that amount to this Chinese gentleman.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would like to say or rather I would like to make a correction on certain allegations made by a Member of the Government side.

A Minister in this Region was saying that the Federal Government is in the habit of paying more per mile on tarring of certain good roads that are in the Western Region. That is only half the truth. Surely, a lamb is a lamb, some cost twenty pounds some cost only 5s 6d. Surely Federal roads are much better roads, superior roads. Now how do you compare the solidarity of Parliament Road or Elizabeth Road with that of, take the one between Ikenne and one village north of it? How do you compare it? They won't compare. That will take only one car, whereas that of Elizabeth Road will take four cars abreast. When the Federal Government gives out a contract for a road for £7,000.....

Mr Speaker: The road from Ikenne to my town takes more than two cars (*laughter from both sides of the House*).

Mr Rerri: Now, what I am trying to say, Mr Speaker, is that there are three grades of roads, if I may quote the Minister of Finance with modifications (*Chief Odebiyi: Quote me correctly please*). (*Laughter*).

So that when the Federal Government awards a contract for a road for £7,000, it does not necessarily follow that that contract is cheaper than that awarded by the Western Region Government for £5,000.

Very, very finally (*Government Member: Very very finally?*),.....I know what I am saying. I would like to say that Government should always be aware in their policy of the welfare of the people and not the welfare of single individuals. Government should take such actions as will not put wealth in the hands of a negligible minority. That puts a serious cog in the wheel of progress of the State, because if a few people are rich in a State and the majority are poor that State will be a poor State.

Finally, I repeat Government should restrict its actions, regulate them in such a way that wealth will be put in the hands of the people and not a few members who form themselves into a company.

Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

The Leader of the Opposition: (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): I must congratulate the hon. the Minister of Finance for a very able Budget Speech.

The burden he had to discharge was a heavy one, a very heavy one! For he had to make bricks without even straw!

He will be remembered for ever for the Speech. This Speech, this greatest window dressing of a phoney Budget ever presented by any Government in the Federation of Nigeria.

On careful analysis of the naked Speech, however, after removing the trimmings and decorations with which it has been carefully camouflaged, I say there are many points on which there is a large measure of agreement between the statement of policy of this Government and that of the Opposition.

(1) In paragraph 6 of the Minister's speech, he stated categorically that the duty of Government is to raise productivity and standard of living of the people to the highest possible level in the shortest possible time.

This aspiration, in principle, is commendable but in the field of realistic politics, it is dangerous if accepted without modification. The true aim of a Government worthy of its status as trustees of millions of the governed should be the greatest possible maintainable rate of increase in the standard of living of the people, not a sudden up-surge in standards of living followed by a depression as resources run out. Anybody can squander resources in a few years, but then comes retribution.

And so far in this Region, apart from the pious hopes of Government, there has been no signs of any improvement in the standard of living of the people although there have been great signs of vicious squandermania of the resources of the Region to which I shall point later in this speech.

It is common knowledge that the society in which we live can roughly be divided into three parts—

- (a) the aristocrats of finance;
- (b) the middle class; and
- (c) the lower class.

(1) The aristocrats of finance, comprising a few people who can talk in hundreds of thousands of pounds to millions of pounds.

(2) The middle class which comprises the upper middle class—the business man, the professionals, the higher strata of the Civil Service and the lower middle class comprising the trader, land owning farmers and the lower strata of the senior service workers and

[MR FANI-KAYODE]

(3) The lower classes—the small farmers, the lower strata of the civil service, the peasants down to the smallest labourer and the unemployed.

It is clear that by means of Housing Corporation loans and the new Housing Estates set up by Government, housing for the middle class has been greatly improved, increases in salaries from public revenue for those in the civil service also have benefited this class more than any other class and no doubt the purchasing power and the standard of living of this class have been considerably improved.

What has been done in housing, increase of purchasing power for the lower classes—the young workers, the peasant, and the labourers?

We know free primary education and improved medical facilities have been made available to those people.

Mr J. O. Kehinde: Mr Speaker, on point of order.

Opposition Benches: Oh, do not spoil this important speech. Sit down.

Mr Kehinde: Order No. 27: (1) Members shall not read their speeches (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Will hon. Members please let me hear the hon. Member raising a point of order. Hon. Member, please let me hear what Order you are talking about.

Mr Kehinde: Members shall not read their speeches.

Mr Speaker: Thank you for the order raised. Will the hon. Leader of Opposition please continue his speech?

Mr Fani-Kayode: Thank you, Mr Speaker, but in passing I would like to enlighten the hon. Member that it is in line with Parliamentary practice that if the Minister of Finance can read his Budget Speech, the Leader of Opposition can also read his own.

In the first instance, the primary school leavers in the Region today are mostly unemployed and no visible plans for their beneficial absorption into society has been made by Government.

In the second instance the medical aid granted them by and large is not realistic. For the following reasons:—

(a) By living in insanitary conditions, overcrowding and the like.

(b) lack of funds to purchase the type of food necessary to build up body resistance.

A man becomes ill because of the above reasons. What is the use of saving a man's life in a hospital if after he is taken to the hospital and his life is saved, he is then discharged and thrown back again to the same condition of living that brought about the original illness? This creates a vicious circle that ultimately ends in untimely death and in addition a colossal waste of money.

Further, an unhealthy lower class must necessarily affect the health standards of the upper middle class and of the whole community.

Housing Schemes and housing improvements should be provided for the lower classes and not the middle classes. Income is the condition precedent to raising the standard of living of the lower classes, and the middle class instead of decreasing is increasing to the detriment of the lower classes who form the majority in the Region.

It is the duty of a people's Government to close this gap as far as possible.

A prosperous Western Region must be likened to a beautiful building; a beautiful super-structure cannot exist on a rotten foundation.

In paragraph 7 of the Budget Speech, we agree with Government that we welcome the assistance of more advanced countries in the form of capital and technical "know-how" but we must lay emphasis on two points:

Firstly, in our attempts to attract Capital and technical "know-how", we must preserve our national dignity and avoid being caught in economic traps.

We must, in the first instance, realise that no nation gives economic or technical aid for nothing and the world today is economically and politically inter-dependent. We take, but we give in return. As the Minister pointed out in paragraph 5 of his Speech "per capital exports of manufactured goods from industrialised countries to other industrialised countries are many times more than those to non-industrialised countries." Foreign countries with much more experience in international trade are much more aware of this situation than ourselves. We don't have to grovel in the dust and made to feel or look like beggars in this quest for economic advancement.

Modern Western Germany is a concrete example of terrific growth built in innate ability and foreign financial help. If we show the innate ability to deliver the goods the foreign financial help will follow not

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only in our own interest but also in the interest of the nation giving out the aid and the whole world generally.

Secondly, we are new to international politics and we must be very wary in making policy statements on international affairs and when the hon. the Minister of Finance said in paragraph 7, I quote:

“I trust, however, that it will be pushing at an open door for me to appeal, especially to our friends in the Commonwealth, America and Western Europe”.

I hope he will remember that as students in international affairs, our policy of non-alignment is the best. We must keep our eyes open and learn quickly, it is true that old friends or even old foes could be much more easily weighed, sized up and understood much more than complete strangers and in that context I appreciate the Minister's intentions—but we must realise that we in Africa may be the final hope of the Universe in bringing the countries of the world together. We must be extremely careful but we must also be prepared to open wide the gates of friendship to all the nations of the world.

Even America and Russia will make friends of each other tomorrow if they know how!

In our quest for friendship, however, we must distinguish between servility and cordiality. We must not create a colour bar in reverse—and I say quite happily there is no sign of that at all in Nigeria—but neither must we tolerate in the least colour prejudice in its minutest form.

For a long time our Daily Newspapers have protested against foreign companies who fling colour prejudice in the face of our nation, with the utmost contempt by advertisements on the pages of our dailies asking for “Expatriate Secretary/Typists” or “Expatriate Receptionists” and the like and despite all protests persist in these open insults, as a cursory glance at the classified advertisements on the pages of the “Daily Times” for the past six months and more will verify.

Again, it has been publicly brought to our notice that the German Embassy had “repatriated” one of its employees for associating with a Nigerian and lately a Mr Balfour, an employee of one of the oil companies drove out, and is now going to repatriate, an expatriate employee again for the crime of associating with a Nigerian. There was a case of a Lebanese Motor Dealer

who boasted that he does not associate with Nigerians.....

(Chief Odebiyi: *Even a Lebanese!*).

We meet the unfortunate and annoying incidents from many foreign companies and individuals who are strangers and guests within our gates.

I must say that foreign capital or no foreign capital, technical know-how or no technical know-how, we must preserve the dignity of our race and our national sovereignty, and our Government must protest to the Federal Government on behalf of all the people of the Western Region that we shall not tolerate this situation and that companies and individuals practising such discriminations and heaping such contempt and insult to our race, our nation and our sovereign state are *persona non grata* in Nigeria and must be summarily ejected from the country (*hear, hear*).

If the Federal Government does not take this matter up on the Government level, I shall not hesitate to call for political action in the most forthright and thorough manner against such foreigners and foreign companies (*hear, hear*).

We want Capital, Mr Speaker, we want technical know-how, we want foreign aid, but all these in return for our own effort in enhancing international co-existence and preservation of international comity and the peace of the world—but not at the expense of losing our national self-respect and renouncing the dignity of man, whatever the race, colour or the creed.

In relation to paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Speech relating to savings by Nigerians, we of the Opposition agree entirely with Government that the greatest share in Government sponsored industries established in Nigeria should be held by individuals and that soon opportunities would be given to, and I hope will be taken by, the public in buying Government's shares and shares held by Government agencies in these enterprises where Government and its various agencies had contributed capital. But we would like to add (1) that intense publicity must be given to the masses as to the benefits accruing to them in putting their savings into these industries before the sale of such shares are put in the open market and (2) that wide publicity be given to the sale of such shares later in order to avoid the danger of share grabbers making fortunes out of institutions and enterprises established from public revenue or at least reduce this danger to a minimum.

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But I must capitulate that we agree with Government, not because we believe that state control of industry and enterprises is bad, but solely because at this stage of our regional and even national finances and economic development the State cannot afford to tie down public funds indefinitely even when such capital produces appreciable profits, and such capital when recovered by sale of the shares of Government and its agencies must be utilised to prime and pump another Government sponsored industry.

In the last few lines of the paragraph, Government supported the creation of internal loans, but Government itself must set the example. Referring to the £10,000,000 internal loan launched by the Federal Government, to what extent has Government and Government agencies contributed to this loan especially by switching its foreign investments held overseas and utilised by foreign countries? All inquiry failed to show that this Government and its agencies have contributed any appreciable sum to this internal loan of £10,000,000.

The Opposition supports the stimulation of the people in starting and expanding investment clubs, investment trusts and any other means of bringing people together to build up joint enterprise. The whole economic growth of advanced Western nations is built up on development of Corporate enterprise through limited liability companies.

But the Government Information Service has a sacred duty to perform in educating our people on these issues. Intense and continuous publicity, especially wide publicity of such successful ventures and the benefits and profits therefrom must be given by the Information Services as such institutions are still uncommon in Nigeria and the average Nigerian, like most other people, likes to follow the trodden path especially where their hard earned savings are concerned.

In the foregoing matters as I have said, we of the Opposition are in a large measure of agreement with Government but there are the following matters arising from the Budget Speech in which we are in complete disagreement with Government:

In paragraph 9: *Role of Marketing Boards*: The Minister talked with a sense of pride of financing £50 million worth of capital expenditure without recourse to loans from external sources and boasted of a public

debt amounting only to £11 million; all internal. This has only been achieved by raiding Marketing Board reserves to make grants for capital development, but Marketing Board reserves are in nature of Trusts Funds for farmers.

It is perfectly proper for these funds to be used for development in Nigeria rather than invested in overseas securities, but this should be done by Marketing Board making loans to Regional or Federal Government rather than for the Regional Government to expropriate. By this means money would be available for Nigerian development, but Marketing Boards would also retain reserves for use in time of need. Development Plan Sessional Paper No. 17 of 1959 showed £21 million being made available from Marketing Boards. Capital Estimates now show £42,016,000. Even if this is a practicable figure, which I doubt, on what terms is it being made available, and are we running down Nigeria's external monetary reserves to finance welfare projects within Nigeria? That way must lead to national bankruptcy.

The Regional Government has been using the Marketing Board as a source of revenue to avoid increasing taxation directly. It is more honest to impose much higher produce sales taxes, if Government insists upon penalising farmers, or increasing direct tax to back door device for raising money.

As regard the reduction in the price of cocoa, the Minister said in paragraph 20 of his speech that for two seasons running the Marketing Board was paying more to the producers than the price commanded by cocoa in the world market. If this were so, why did not the Government instruct the Marketing Board to reduce the price earlier?

The answer is clear, in that the Government would not be prepared to reduce the price before the last elections, although, in consequence, they had subsequently to break every pledge by reducing the price in the middle of the season. Moreover, if the Marketing Board reserves had been invested instead of dissipated in the form of grants, the fall in producers' price would have been substantially lessened and cushioned.

A gross example of gross frittering away of precious reserves is the sum of £3,600,000, which I now understand has been increased to £5,000,000, lent by the Marketing Board to the National Investment Properties Company Limited—a company established mainly for purchasing real estate and erecting and leasing out colossal mansions.

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This loan was made from the reserves of the Marketing Board and is greater than any loan or grant ever made in the annals of any Government in Nigeria, and is comparable only to the investment in National Bank preference shares, and even here one would even be compelled to draw a distinction between the latter investment and the former as the latter can be on the ground of creating dependent facilities for indigenous farmers, businessmen and traders.

Criticism has been levelled by Government supporters on our challenge to this loan because, it was argued that no disclosure was made that the loan was given on interest and also no real property security had been given.

However, I state and shall give reasons for this statement that the deal was the worst type of squandermania and nepotism ever met in the annals of the financial history of Western Nigeria.

(1) The loan was given for a period of eight years, no repayment being due for the first three years at an interest of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent over United Kingdom Bank rate, interest for the first three years to be due for payment after the third year.

(2) In the first instance we must realise that 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.

However, it has been argued, and there is a lot to be said for the argument, that such reserves might be used in the public interest to the common benefit of the whole community for example in building roads, hospital, dispensaries and such other capital expenditure in the public good and here again the holders of this theory must concede such use is a deviation from the purpose of the accumulation of the reserves and at the best is merely excusable or to put it at highest justifiable.

From this, it is clear that any further deviation from the purpose of accumulation in the expenditure of such funds will require very strong argument not to make it reprehensible.

In the present case, the loan was made to a private limited liability company for its own purposes and its own benefits and profits.

Again an argument, most untenable and ludicrous, is made in defence of a loan from the reserves to such institution. The defence being that the purpose of the limited liability company to which the loan is made available lay especially in the highly commercial areas, saving property from purchase by foreigners and thus safeguarding the interest of the community thereby. If this is so, a public corporation, or other agency of the Regional Government created by the Regional Government and with the same funds available to it as the loan made to the National Investment Properties Company Limited, would have served the same purpose especially as the properties built will form parts of the assets of the whole Region and rents or profits realised from the Corporation so created will revert into the public Revenue for the benefit, not of individual shareholders, but the whole of the teeming people of Western Nigeria.

And where and when the Market exists among indigenous Nigerian Companies or individuals these assets may be realised at great profits and re-invested in other Regional projects or the proceeds returned to the Marketing Board reserves.

This may be true, but considering the purpose of creating such reserves the only justifiable or excusable investments of such monies are short term loans on the world Market, at interests very much higher than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent over United Kingdom Bank rate, demandable at short notice certainly not for terms of three years; much less eight years! Further considering this argument such investment can be made in supporting internal loans in the Federation.

It can further be argued that adequate real security collateral was given for the loan. This is the most fatuous argument of all, for institutions lending money on real security will do so only for properties which are in the proportion of 3: 2 to the money lent.

The action of the Government in sanctioning the lending £5,000,000 of Reserve Funds is a breach of trust, so culpable, so reprehensible, condemnable that it is a fraud on the people—the farmers—for whom this colossal sum is held in trust.

I demand a comprehensive White Paper on the operations of the Marketing Board since the 1st of October, 1954, with particular reference to the manner and terms in which the reserves have been utilised.

In paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Budget Speech, the Minister discussed taxation direct and indirect. Whilst I agree with the hon. the Minister of Finance that in the

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final analysis the people must pay for the amenities they enjoy and for the development of the Region generally, I say that the system of direct taxation in the Western Region today and in the whole of the Federation is incompatible with the present state of our economic development.

Direct Income Tax can only be beneficial where the amount realised form a considerable part of the national income after taking into consideration the (i) amount of money expended on collection, e.g., salaries, equipment, housing of officials, office stationery; (ii) the output of work and energy of officials employed—which might be diverted to other avenues; (iii) the amount of money, time and labour output in matters ancillary to the collection on, e.g., as in cases to appeal boards or to the Law Courts, where energy output and time spent on these matters can be employed elsewhere in full knowledge that the salaries are paid out from the revenue for the time used and the output of work within that period of time; and (iv) the time and efforts wasted by tax-payers who appeal and attend the law courts or tax boards in following up their appeals and last but not the least (v) tax evasion and the amount of worries the system causes both to the Government and the governed.

A quick glance at the Estimates and the Budget Speech will indicate what I mean.

For example in 1959-60 the actual revenue collected in the Region was £19,671,544 of which the revenue collected from personal income tax is £390,296 roughly 2 per cent of the total actual revenue of the Region.

And in collecting this personal income tax, an amount of roughly £50,000 in salaries alone was paid to officials, and when we take into consideration car and basic and travel allowances of this staff, and the departmental cost, e.g., offices, equipment, etc., and costs of inter-related Government departments in matters ancillary to collection, it is quite clear that the amount expended in collection must be nothing less than £100,000, in other words, the actual revenue in terms of realisation of profits is about £290,000 roughly which will be further reduced by another £100,000 loss arising from costs, the payment for output on collection of the officials and departments, housing, etc., which could be diverted to other avenues or scrapped in its entirety; leaving a balance of £190,000.

It is clear this is a paltry sum in our Regional Revenue, the amount actually collected in 1959-60 could easily be realised from judicious increases of indirect tax on

luxury goods which will in no way affect the day to day life of the masses of the Region.

This system will bring more happiness to the people, less worry to the Government and no increase in expenditure from collection.

However, the time may come when through industrialisation of the country and colossal improvement of agricultural production that incomes of the people might have improved to such an extent that direct taxation may prove more beneficial to the country.

The same argument covers direct tax collection by local taxing authorities in the various districts of the Region. Now even if the system of taxation suggested by me is unacceptable to Government, analysis will show the inadequacy of the present system.

Paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Budget Speech dealt with the Income Tax System.

Income Tax System.—The Regional Government this year has transferred to Local Government Councils responsibility for assessing and collecting personal income tax, but Government now proposes to remove from these Councils responsibility for taxing employees. Government can take pride in a reasonably sophisticated income tax law but administration of such a system cannot be left to Local Government Councils for the following reasons:—

(a) responsibility was transferred to Local Government Councils for political reasons so that pressure on tax-payers could be applied or lessened at will in each local government area;

(b) committee of laymen cannot possibly hope to administer a quite sophisticated system of income tax and the mass of case law upon which individual decisions must depend;

(c) whatever the truth is in the disgraceful affair at Akure, which led the Minister to discharge all assessments made by the Local Government Council—and I agree entirely with this decision—I cannot find any legal authority for it in the Income Tax Law. Another example of what happens when political considerations override common-sense; the Akure affair is not by any means isolated. The same mal-administration pervades the whole Region. Government took steps in Akure merely as a palliative and in order to delude the outside world to accept its *bona fide*. The people in this Region know better;

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Personal income tax must become the responsibility of Regional Governments with its own tax inspectors, although Local Government Councils can and should participate in the administration, as in the Eastern Region.

The Minister has drawn attention to the need to diversify Government revenues, he claimed that 80 per cent of revenues of the Federation come from indirect taxes, *i.e.*, export, import and excise duties, and went on to advocate industrialisation as the panacea. Industrialisation has a vital role to play, but increased agricultural productivity is much more likely to produce speedy results in raising the standard of living.

Industrialisation will lead to higher incomes for workers and, therefore, more personal tax and also when industries prosper, more company tax revenues. But, as production inside Nigeria increases, imports of these goods produced will decline and so will import duty revenues upon which Government will depend. I do not agree with the Minister in lumping together import and export duties on the one hand and excise duties on the other. I am sure we shall have to impose some form of indirect taxation, *e.g.*, excise duty, purchase tax or sales tax, on some of the products of Nigerian industry in order to earn revenues. I strongly urge Government to consider possibilities in this field in consultation with the Federal Government which has already imposed excise duties on a few products.

In general, the whole impression of the Budget Speech is of a Regional Government intent on producing welfare services far in advance of the economy to sustain it. For example—

(a) introduction of compulsory free primary education without corresponding increases in secondary and higher educational system of education, where too much of available resources has to be allocated to Primary education. It is significant that the Ashby Report drew attention to this problem in saying that the North has unique opportunity to develop a balanced system of education in not investing the bulk of its available funds in primary schools at the expense of secondary and teacher training facilities. The Report goes on to recommend that one in five children of school age should complete primary schooling. On economic grounds, it would have been much

better for the West to have placed less emphasis on the doubtless socially desirable universal primary education.

In concluding my address on the Budget speech and before making a brief analysis of the Estimates, I make an indictment against Government and its agency, the Marketing Board. An indictment, the nature of which is unheard of in the world today.

The sum of £997,000 has been stolen, I repeat, stolen from the funds of the Cocoa Marketing Board. I indict the Board with either taking part in the theft as a whole or protecting a number of its members involved in it.

I indict the Government with collusion by its not taking steps to order a public inquiry or public investigation immediately the loss of these funds became apparent.

The facts are brief—

(1) When the price of cocoa was reduced, the Marketing Board had in stock a certain tonnage of cocoa.

(2) On the day the price was reduced, or soon after, the tonnage on the stock books was quadrupled. Although the actual stock remained the same.

(3) Cocoa at the "cut price" was bought with Marketing Board funds and passed into stocks.

(4) Payment for these surreptitious purchases was debited against the Marketing Board at the old price.

(5) The difference between the old price and the new was misappropriated.

(6) The sum mis-appropriated amounted to one million pounds less £3,000, that is £997,000.

(7) The fraud was detected and reported to the appropriate Minister.

(8) The Chief Secretary to the Government advised the Minister to appoint an independent person to inquire into the alleged loss.

(9) The Chief Secretary to the Government contacted Dr Aluko of the College of Arts to make an Inquiry.

(10) It was later discovered that high-ups in the Action Group Party were involved in the fraud.

(11) The Inquiry by the independent commissioner was suspended.

(12) Government is now proposing to make a Departmental inquiry and is considering to appoint Mr Dina, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, to conduct the inquiry.

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I demand a public inquiry from Government and challenge the Government to report to the Police on the issue to conduct an investigation. Government stands indicted until it can clear its name in public and see that those connected with this colossal fraud are dealt with by the normal process of the law.

The only comments I make on this issue is that Mr Durosaro was the Chairman of the Board at the time this matter took place. Government has thought it fit to make him Chairman of the nationalised National Bank.

Apropos the National Bank.—The Honourable the Premier has stated from the floor of this House that he was not informed at any stage of the negotiations for nationalisation that the Bank was on the verge of bankruptcy or virtually bankrupt. I believe the Premier. He is a man of honour. If this statement is correct, and if it is correct that the Directors of the Bank had assured the Premier that the bank was viable at the time of the investment of £1,500,000 in its equity shares, and further if the bank was not viable as I stated with full responsibility at the time of the investment, then the Directors of the Bank were guilty of fraud of the most vicious nature. We of the Opposition call on the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Criminal Investigation Department of the Police to look into the matter and they will be shirking their duty if they fail to make a thorough investigation and make public a report on such investigations.

Administration of Public Funds is a matter which affects every citizen of the Region in particular and of Nigeria in general.

We of the Opposition are the watchdogs of the interests of the community and in this capacity we call for an immediate inquiry by the Central Bank and the Police Department of Nigeria.

However the Premier informed this House that Government intends to invest more funds in the National Bank. We of the Opposition demand that before any more public funds of the people of the Western Region are invested in this institution there must be an inquiry. Government must stay its hands. No more funds must be risked and we call on the Central Bank to investigate immediately the situation and suspend the activities of the bank, involving share dealings, until a full inquiry has been made and a report submitted to the nation.

We are not asking by this that the Bank should stop its day-to-day transactions with the public.

The Bank is now a bank of the people. It is no longer a private concern. The people have a right to a full inquiry and investigation. We demand those rights.

This demand is even in the interests of Government, for only after an independent report absolving it from blame, can this Government again be respected by any right thinking person in the Federation of Nigeria.

In conclusion, I have to make a few comments on the Estimates—

(a) The total Recurrent Budget revenue is just over £20 million the main feature being outlined in Minister's Budget Speech. The capital Budget receipts estimated were at £22,768,000, but no mention of this was made in Minister's speech.

(b) A sum of £3 million was shown as appropriation from revenue surplus, 1960-65 comes from running down reserves in Consolidated Revenue Fund. No objection to that, but this should be shown clearly.

(c) A sum, amounting to £14,576,000 shown accruing from Western Region Marketing Board. Upon what terms?—loan or grants, *i.e.*, expropriation of farmers' money; of this we were told nothing.

(d) £1,500,000 only shown as contribution from current revenues to capital expenditure in 1961-62, but this is not reflected in receipts under Capital Estimates. Could it be because this figure will never materialise, the paper surplus on the Recurrent Budget being taken up by the full cost of the recurrent services?

On the Recurrent Estimates—(a) The format of Revenue Estimates disguises the degree of dependence upon Federal Government revenue payments by showing export duties and import duties on motor fuel as "Regional Revenues".

The true position is as follows:

Region		Share of Federal Revenue £	Total Revenues £	Percent- ages
West	61-62	16,225,830	20,368,420	79.6%
West	60-61	16,612,000	20,558,880	80.0%
North	60-61	12,955,000	18,126,345	71.4%
East	60-61	10,595,770	16,579,230	63.9%

Even "poor" North can raise 28 per cent of its own revenue.

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(b) Expenditure Estimates deliberately minimise true expenditure especially grants-in-aid for Education, which repeat Approved Estimates for 1960-61 despite the much vaunted growth in education facilities. Actual expenditure grants-in-aid for Primary Schools, 1958-59, £3,866,696, 1959-60, £4,883,042. Estimate for 1960-61 repeated for 1961-62—£4,980,000. But 1958-59 and 1959-60 figures did not include the full cost of Morgan revision for local government teachers which take average increase of 12½ per cent, nor do 1961-62 Estimates allow any provision for increase in number of schools and pupils.

Estimated true figure for 1961-62 must be at least £1 million more than estimated. Similarly grants for secondary education and teacher training at least must have been under-estimated.

Supplementary Estimates approved in July 1960, provided additional £1,300,000 for Education. The bulk of this was for grants-in-aid this strengthens my argument considerably.

(c) Without allowing for transfers to capital expenditure and Development Fund, the Estimates purport to show surplus of revenues over expenditure of £1,957,270. This could be entirely taken up by true costs of education grants-in-aid and other hidden economies—this is definitely a “phoney” Budget. The capital receipts statement (page 157) does not reflect any transfer—an indication that none is likely to materialise (see also (c) under Capital Estimates).

(d) Statements of expenditure published in Gazette of the 2nd of March, 1961, show that, excluding transfer payments, total expenditure 1st April to 31st December, 1960, amounted to over £15 million for the nine months. This is equivalent to over £20 million for the year. But the total estimated expenditure, 1961-62, excluding transfer payments, is only £18,411,150 and that is supposed to be £1,178,800 more than the Approved Estimate for 1960-61. If this indication is anything to go by, total recurrent expenditure next year will be something like £21 million, and shows clearly that the Estimates submitted by Government is no more than a camouflage of the true financial position of the Region.

In conclusion, it is quite clear that this Government is grossly incompetent. It deserves neither the faith nor the trust of the people. It is driving this Region to ultimate bankruptcy.

Soon, Sir, the scales will fall from the eyes of the electorate and this Government, Mr Speaker, Sir, shall be rejected for ever (Loud cheers from Opposition Benches).

Government Benches: (as Mr Fani-Kayode leaves the chamber) Are you running away? Wait for a reply.

Mr Fani-Kayode: According to the information given me by the Leader of the House Ministers will start giving their replies on Monday. I assure this honourable House that I shall be here to hear their answers.

Alhaji Opaleye: Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Appropriation Bill I must register my disappointment that the Members of the Opposition have only criticised but failed woefully to bring any better suggestion as an alternative.

The hon. Mover has been straightforward. He said at page 6 as follows:

“As in previous years, our fortunes must depend very largely on what happens to our export produce, especially cocoa”.

This was an honest statement of an honest man. He added:

“I will now turn to the second point regarding what we ourselves can do to accelerate our economic growth. We must cultivate the habit of saving. This is the best way of finding money for the capital with which to promote the industrialisation we hear so much about these days. The ultimate aim as far as my Party is concerned is that the greatest share in manufacturing industries established in Nigeria should be held by the citizens of this country as individuals and not by the Government”.

To my way of thinking this a true to fact statement of policy. I am glad, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the hon. Mover has spoken in such a way that any criticism of the Bill is bound to founder because the Opposition can find no good premises for their criticism. The Budget is straightforward, realistic and far better than anyone elsewhere in the Federation. This Budget provides for essential services which are higher than any other in this country. The Western Region will spend £19.95 million to provide for over 6.95 million people. This Region has a reasonable surplus of £400,000. This is higher compared with what obtains in the other parts of the Federation. The East has got a surplus of only £70,000. It will interest Members, Mr Speaker, Sir, to note that in 1958-59 Estimates the East budgeted for £13.9 million for 7.5 million people, the Northern Region Government £13.74m. for

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16.4 million people while the most ably run Government of the Western Region budgeted £15.31 million for 6.5 million people. And the fact remains that for the past nine years this Government has provided for the people without turning to external loan whatsoever. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a sign of hopefulness, security and prosperity.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member for Ikeja made a lot of noise about Government appointing Regional Ministers. This talk is most irresponsible. And I can prove that with figures.

In the Eastern Region, Mr Speaker, Sir, fifteen Ministers at £3,000 each give us £45,000. Twelve Commissioners at £2,400 is equal to £28,800. By a simple addition which I am prepared to teach the Members of the Opposition, the total amount spent on Ministers' salaries is £73,800. Whereas in the Western Nigeria, the Premier earns £4,000 and the other Ministers together earn £53,000 making a total of £57,000. The difference, by a simple subtraction shows that the Eastern Region spends £16,800 over what we spent here on salaries of Ministers and whereas, Mr Speaker, Sir, this irresponsible Opposition will come here and criticise this dynamic, able, and well managed Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I still have a lot to pour into the heads of people who will not study their Estimates and still criticise without points, without figures, and without even understanding what is meant by Consolidated Funds or what is meant by Regional Revenue. The Leader of the Opposition said that this Government gets £17 million as part of our revenue from the Federal Government. If the Estimates is well studied, you will see that in the Estimates, it is clearly stated at page 1 that statutory payment from Federal Government is £7,228,250. Whereas if this is subtracted from £20,368,420, you will see that this Region had internal Regional Revenue from taxation and other sources amounting to about £13,140,000. That is the Regional Revenue whereas the Leader of the Opposition said that our own revenue is only £3,000,000 whereas it is £13 million. That is how Members of the Opposition come here to display to the gallery their ignorance and misdirect the public and give them false alarm, false accusation and all the rest of it.

Mr Speaker Sir, I am satisfied, and the public is satisfied with the activities of this Government and we shall continue to rule you for another twenty-five years.

Mr Speaker Sir, as the Minister of Agriculture is not available today I will like to answer some of the criticisms levelled by the Opposition against my Ministry. One Member, whether Okuosa, or Okusa, I don't know. (Mr Okwesa: Don't joke with my name). (Several Government Benches: He is Okusa).

Mr Speaker: All hon. Members should be referred to by their constituencies except the Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, and Parliamentary Secretaries, who should be referred to by their portfolios if they have any or simply by their office.

Alhaji Opaleye: The hon. Member for Aboh Rural I.

Mr Okwesa: On point of correction. there is no Aboh Rural I.

Alhaji Opaleye: Mr Speaker Sir, the Member for Aboh said that no improvement has been made by this Government or no money has been spent on rubber in the Midwest and I would like to reply to that. Mr Speaker Sir, I have the authority of my dynamic Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources to refer the hon. Member to the Estimates where we have £28,000 for the encouragement of rubber planting in the Midwest area and furthermore Sir, another step which the Government has taken to develop rubber in the Midwest is a loan of £350,000 given to Mr J. Asaboro who has been doing a lot to set up rubber factory and rubber plantation in the Midwest. This man, a reputable businessman is from the Midwest and I feel the hon. Member from Aboh will not dispute that. Furthermore Sir, we have another provision of £25,000 earmarked for rubber plantation in the Midwest.

Furthermore Sir we have Farm Settlement in the Midwest in Asaba area. Another rubber rehabilitation is going to cost about £3,000. In 1961-62 Estimates, there is another amount of £68,000 for the development of oil palm in the Midwest area. (Cheers from Government Benches).

Other points I will like to reply to Sir, I am sorry hon. Utomi is not here now..... (Mr Speaker: He will read it tomorrow.)

Mr A. B. Bello: Mr Speaker Sir on point of order. It appears the hon. Member is not addressing the Speaker on the financial policy of this Government.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman is a Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and in the absence of the Minister he has the right to reply to certain points or

questions raised by the Opposition or any other Member which affect his Ministry. I hope new Members will ask other Members who know better before criticising.

Alhaji Opaleye: The hon. Member criticised this Government by saying that we have plenty of livestock development in Ado-Ekiti, and Fashola, but nothing like that in the Midwest. By simple geography, this is the map of Nigeria, showing part of the Midwest (*the hon. Member brought out a map*). By simple geography, you will see that you have very little savannah area in the Midwest, in Auchi area and, therefore, by simple study of climate, you will see that in Auchi cattle will not do well. That is why in the Midwest anything connected with livestock development will not do well. In Agara in Auchi where we have a pocket of savannah, the Ministry of Agricultural and Natural Resources under the able management of this Government has voted a new amount of £1,270 for a farm unit in Igarra. Furthermore, in Effurum about five hundred layer units which will cost £5,600 have been earmarked and if you go to Effurum you will see that work is going on there. In Benin City, we have poultry very near the Ministry of Agriculture costing about £5,000. I advise the hon. Member to co-operate by going round to see all Government developments going on in the area. This Government is one hundred per cent prepared to listen to constructive criticisms by the Opposition but we are not here to hear unreliable criticisms.

I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information (Mr S. A. Okeya): Mr Speaker Sir, in supporting this Bill, I will like to bring the Opposition as far back as the time when my father and my mother were not yet born, when the reins of this Government were in the hands of the whites. I will only take one item out of many as an example and that is the money voted for education up to 1952 which was 4½ per cent of the total revenue collected in this Region. (*Opposition Members: What is your authority*). I have my authority within me.

Let me remind you of the British administrator who three years ago said that what the British Government failed to do in fifty years the Action Group Government has done within a period of six years. (*Opposition Members: Who is the administrator?*).

In my own town, Emure, we could only boast of one culvert some years ago but now we have more than thirty culverts. Instead of praising this Government you are criticising it. Personally I will not like any Government without Opposition but I wish the Opposition to give constructive criticism and to be considerate and to be merciful..... (*Interruption*). You simply criticise without any idea whatsoever. I could only tell you one thing that a Manager of Esso Company Limited told me one day; he said that if he chooses to join any party he will join the Action Group because it has plans and not as planless as the people on the other side.

The Action Group is the only Government that could lead the Western Region and the whole Federation. When you talk of Education, go to the East; go to the North.....

Mr Speaker: May I direct the hon. Gentleman to confine his debate to the financial and economic policy of this Region.

Opposition Members: Shame! shame!

Mr Okeya: Now concerning the question of this Esso Company Limited Manager, it is a testimony of somebody who feels satisfied with the plans and accomplishments of the Action Group, but instead of praising this Government you are criticising it. If you make constructive criticism we shall welcome it and there is no point in criticising this Government without reason. I wish this Government long life and greater triumph.

Mr F. O. Osuhor: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill which is not a controversial issue, but I am not supporting it without some constructive criticisms. The financial policy of the Western Region is weak in that the Government has failed.....

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Did you say the financial policy of the Western Region or the Government?

Mr Osuhor: The financial policy of the Government is weak in that it has again failed to include pipe-borne water system for Ika District in the 1961-62 Estimates. The Government of Western Region takes delight in seeing people in Ika District collecting water from ponds and wells.

Mr Speaker: Order. That is irrelevant. The debate is on how Government spends its money; where funds should come from and where it is going to be

spent generally. When we come to the Committee Stage you can bring matters either on Ika or anywhere. That is my ruling.

Mr Osuhor: Mr Speaker, Sir, I quite agree. (*Mr Speaker: You agree, that is the end of it.*) (*Opposition Members: Carry on.*) (*Government Members: Sit down—don't waste our time.*) You are not Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Perhaps I may be of some assistance to most hon. Gentlemen by saying that when in the Committee of Supply we get to either Urban or Rural Water Supply the hon. Gentleman could ask the Minister of Works or whichever Minister is in charge of that particular item to state why no arrangements had been made for the supply of water in certain districts or certain towns, not at this stage at all.

Mr Osuhor: Mr Speaker, Sir, in mentioning Rubber, I just want to enlighten the Government of the ways and means of increasing the revenue of this Region. In doing so, Sir, I believe that this Government will be benefitted if a Marketing Board were to be created for Rubber, because Rubber which is the mainstay of the Midwest can be compared with cocoa which is the life-wire of Yoruba West. I remember quite alright that cocoa has a Marketing Board. (*Mr Speaker: Which is Yoruba West?*) I should say the Yoruba land. Cocoa which has received hundred per cent attention of the Western Region Government has no doubt brought sufficient revenue to this Region so that if a Marketing Board were to be created for Rubber I believe, as I said before, this Government will be gaining. In this respect I am urging the Western Region Government to establish rubber estates and help farmers in the Midwest areas.

For example Mr Speaker, agricultural and industrial projects will also be welcomed in the Midwest because according to the Premier—the hon. Premier of the Western Region—he said in this honourable House that the agricultural and industrial projects scattered all over the Yoruba land yield sufficient income. So I believe that if such opportunities were to be extended to the Midwest, well, sufficient revenue will also come into the coffers of this Government.

I have to mention Mr Speaker, that health is wealth, and in doing so, we cannot boast of sufficient revenue to run the Government of this Region if we have incapacitated people living in it, that is, as a result of people drinking bad water. If the numerical

strength of this Region is reduced because of drinking bad water the revenue will also reduce and that is why I have to mention water supply.

Now I continue to deal with ways and means of improving the economy of this Region and in doing so again, the Government should reduce the fabulous allowances for Ministers and utilise the amount so reduced for providing amenities for the forgotten areas. (*Opposition Members: You are making a good point.*)

Similarly, I say Mr Speaker, Sir, the Secondary Modern Schools must be scrapped and the estimate budgetted for that purpose should be used for better amenities because we don't get anything from those institutions. (*Government Benches: Can you say that outside the House?*) It is bogus. (*Mr Speaker: I can assure the hon. Gentleman that that is not financial policy.*).....

Mr Speaker, in winding up, and as I have taken the advice of Mr Speaker to carry forward part of my speech to the Committee of Supply, I think I should resume my seat.

Mr S. O. Oyewole: Mr Speaker, Sir, as far as the development of this Region is concerned the Government and the Opposition must seek for the progress of the Region as a whole. I must say, Sir, without any fear, that this Government is always spending money like a prodigal son. Some of the Ministers are inefficient. I do not envy any of you. (*Mr Speaker: Any of them.*) It is the duty of the Opposition, Sir, to co-operate with the Government and the Government to respect the Opposition because I can boldly say Sir, that the Opposition has great pride. If you want the progress of this Region you need not base everything on politics as the Government has been doing.

Mr Speaker: This is not financial policy.

Mr Oyewole: As far as the Budget is concerned, in my personal opinion, I say that the Western Region Government is developing nearly everyday. But one danger is there and the danger is before a worker could be employed today the employer who is in charge of the place concerned would like to know the party which the applicant belongs to and this is rather too bad. Rates should be collected from every adult without asking anybody to which party he belongs; these are being done all along in the Western Region and the people concerned know themselves. When collecting rates and income tax it should be collected from every adult, why not give everybody his due right? I can only guess the answer Sir.

Mr Speaker: I do not agree with you that that is financial policy, it is a political policy.

Mr Oyewole: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition this evening has already shown us what I can say is the true position of the Government and the Members of the Government know where they stand today and I am sure if you can continue like that people who seek the downfall of others will fall. You continue to do anything you like without caring to develop certain areas as the figures for the development were shown on paper. As a matter of fact nobody would like to criticise the money put on paper, what I want to say is that the Government is only spending the money of this Region to benefit their supporters. When the Government is having a certain intention to do something, to develop certain areas they get this money and they use the money anyhow. Ibadan has never been developed by this Government. Since the year 1951 they have never developed anything or anywhere in Ibadan.

Mr Speaker: Not even the Parliament Building here!

Mr Oyewole: Sincerely speaking, Sir, it is true to say that the Minister of Local Government, if any Council fails to collect rates and taxes in time and is against the Government, will definitely dissolve that Council without any notice and I am sure if that Council is controlled by the Action Group the Minister of Local Government will not dissolve it.

Mr Speaker: Do you mean the financial policy of the Government is to dissolve Councils which did not collect rates and taxes?

Mr Oyewole: On Monday people who know better among Ministers will find..... (*interruptions: but you know less.....*). It is just a political dishonesty to have two Ministers in one Ministry.

Mr J. O. Awopeju: The hon. Gentleman has been cursing people and using offensive language. Not only that, Sir, he went to the extent of showering curses on people. I do not know whether he has been to Mosan in Ijebu to get curse charms to use here. I think he should be warned not to make use of offensive language. He did not confine his speech to the Budget. So on point of order I refer to Order 27 (2) and (5).

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Gentleman when speaking of the Minister of Local Government dissolving Local Councils was making it abundantly clear that any Council

that shirks its duty of collecting rates and taxes ought to be dissolved and I think that is sound financial policy because money will not come to the purse of the Council or the Regional Government. Will the hon. Gentleman carry on his speech.

Mr Oyewole: As I was saying before I was interrupted, I say it is political dishonesty to suggest that this Government will reign for twenty-five years; I am telling you now that it is just a dream. You may be reigning today and one day you will ruin yourself.

Mr Speaker: I did not know that that was what the hon. Gentleman from Remo North was saying. Why should you rain curses on me? Will you forget all about the Minister of Local Government and direct your speech to me.

Mr Oyewole: I am not cursing you Sir, I am talking to the Government. Once more before I come to the conclusion I must say that the money of this Region must be used for the people.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr V. A. Aina: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill, 1961-62, and to commend very highly the honourable Minister of Finance for presenting such a praiseworthy and comprehensive Budget for the current financial year.

Much as I concede to the hon. Members of the Opposition the right to criticise, the more I regret to observe that ever since I have been sitting in this House the criticisms they levelled at the Government are biased, ill-conceived and destructive. Sir, all honest and right thinking people will agree that the Government of Western Nigeria is doing in every way all that is humanly possible within the reach of its resources to raise the standard of living of the community in this Region. There is however a tendency on the part of Members of the Opposite side to say that the Government must provide all amenities free, even up to their pants and without any reciprocal contribution from the people concerned.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a lot has been said by Members of the Opposition about squaldermania on the part of the Government but no reference at all has been made to the benefits that are being derived by their children in free primary education and free health services, and the provision of employment for all and sundry in the ever rising industrial and agricultural enterprises all over the Region.

[MR. AINA]

The Government should not be expected to perform miracles or to do things just by the stroke of the magic wand and every Member of this honourable House is in conscience bound, to see good in all those enviable and progressive performances of the Western Regional Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am particularly impressed with the provisions made in the Estimates for Education, Health, Agriculture, Water Supplies, Roads and Bridges. It must however be remembered that every nook and corner of the Western Region cannot be completely satisfied overnight in the distribution of amenities but, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to submit that those people who believe in self-help and actually do help themselves in every way by communal effort should be encouraged as hitherto by the Government in the distribution of amenities such as Rural Health Centres, Farm Settlements, Roads and Bridges, etc. and in this connection may I be permitted to say that Ota and Districts stand every chance of not being forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Sitting suspended at 10.20 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 11.10 p.m.

Mr D. E. Okumagba: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to criticise the aspect of the financial policy of this Government which has not been sufficiently criticised by previous speakers. I refer to the ever increasing salary, ever increasing item of personal emolument. I agree completely, Sir, that this bad aspect of the financial policy is not only in this Region. I agree completely that this headache is in all the Governments of the Federation.

I was listening to the press conference held by the Minister of Finance immediately after delivering his budget speech and when asked a question by pressmen as to what he proposed to do with regard to this admittedly bad aspect of the financial policy, I watched the hon. Minister of Finance moving round in his chair in embarrassment and I shared his embarrassment. I agree it is the embarrassment of every Minister of Finance in the Federation. In answer our own Minister of Finance turned to the Pressmen and said we inherited this from the old colonial Government of this country, and added that we could do nothing about it. That is where I disagree with him.

It is true that the employees of old were enjoying what was left behind by their masters of the colonial era. The country was colonial and those people came to reap the fruits of their fathers' labour. Can we say as patriots who are responsible for the Government of our own people that we are justified in thinking that because others earned so much we should earn the same? To say that it is a problem that cannot be solved is where I disagree.

Mr N. A. B. Kotoye: Tell Okotie-Eboh that.

Mr Okumagba: I will ask the Speaker, to advise the Government benches. (*Interruptions. Chief Odebiyi rose.*) Mr. Speaker, I am not yielding.

Chief Odebiyi: You made appeal to him.

Mr Okumagba: If the Minister of Finance is in difficulty I want to suggest ways of solving the problem. The Minister of Finance did not suggest any solution in his Budget Speech.

(*Government Back Bencher: Rubber dealer, experienced businessman.*)

I am not a rubber dealer. If I take the problem as it is, the salary bill can be cut down without harm to the present workers in the Service. I am speaking of the upper segment. If the Minister of Finance had suggested in his Budget Speech that the salary of anybody promoted to the upper segment should be £2,000 nobody will quarrel, but if I am already on £3,000 and you ask me to go down to £2,000 I will quarrel. There are so many civil servants now on £3,000 but from now on you can begin to start those on the upper segment with £2,000 and they will have no reason to quarrel, and every civil servant to be employed will have his salary adjusted accordingly.

Mr Kotoye: In what segment are you?

Mr Okumagba: I am in a higher segment than you. I am a teacher recognised by the Government (*Laughter*).

Then this Government can bring in a tax policy that will take the excess within a period of ten years.

Mr Kotoye: The Leader of the Opposition has asked for the abolition of tax.

Mr Okumagba: You do not understand him.

[MR. OKUMAGBA]

There is another suggestion to help you in solving this problem. Those of you who went overseas will agree that civil servants there work much harder. One man there can do the work of five to ten civil servants here. If you can encourage our own men to work harder you can then employ few and those who cannot be employed will go to the farm.

A Government Back-bencher: You will do that in the Midwest.

Mr Okumagba: We can do it better than you. If the Minister of Finance has not known, I have given him something to think about.

I come again to another aspect of the financial policy of this Region. I take capital expenditure in this Budget. I notice that the money meant to be spent in the Estimates, most of it is diverted to the establishment of heavy industries in other parts of the Region except the Midwest. We understand what you are doing. You deceive those Members of the Midwest with your loans and if they cannot pay.....

Mr Speaker: I want you to withdraw that.

Mr Okumagba: I have taken the ruling of the Speaker in good faith. I will like the Government to attach importance to the establishment of industries in the Midwest. I am not satisfied.....

Mr Speaker: The hon. Gentleman has not withdrawn.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Speaker, Sir, I withdraw. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a growing unemployment in the whole of this Region. There have been several opportunities for school leavers in the Ministries in the past but at the moment they are filled to utmost capacity and it will be a good financial policy for this Region if they will diversify their finances for projects in all parts of the Region especially the Midwest.

Mr N. A. Adibi: I rise to support the Appropriation Bill, 1961-62, as presented by the hon. Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech. But before I go further, Sir, one hon. Member from Ede-Ejigbo South made an impression which I do not want hon. Members to carry away with them. In his Speech he made irresponsible and wild statements. During the course of his speech

he said that Ogbomosho was having two hospitals. Indirectly he was imputing motives that the Government was wasting money unnecessarily but this is not the case. The American Baptist Mission started a hospital there around 1925. These American Missionaries will not receive grant from the Government in order that children of the people in the area might not enjoy the benefit of the health programme brought by this Government to children under eighteen years of age. Ogbomosho is next in size and population to Ibadan, over two hundred thousand strong. I think this Government has done the right thing in giving Ogbomosho a general hospital so that people there might enjoy some of the facilities that other parts of the Region enjoy.

Again this hon. Member for Ede-Ejigbo South said that Oshun Division was maltreated by the Government; that there was no amenities given to that Division. But this particular Gentleman has forgotten that in Ede, his home town, if he ever came from that place, there was electricity so many years ago and Ogbomosho has none now but very soon there will be light in Ogbomosho (*hear, hear*).

In Ede there is a grand water scheme which that ungrateful hon. Member has been enjoying for quite a long time now and yet he has the audacity to come to the floor of this House to say Oshun Division is neglected by this Government.

Again, many farmers in Oshun Division were given financial help by this Government (*Opposition Member: How much?*).....as much as they required.....and that hon. Gentleman can never deny this. In Oshun Division we have got so many roads tarred—Iwo-Ejigbo; Ejigbo-Ede; Ogbomosho-Igbero; Ogbomosho-Igbeti—and there are quite a lot of others. Well, if the Government did all these to a division, will it be proper to come to the floor of this House and say that that division has been neglected? (*Government Benches: No!*). That is typical of these Members on that side there, especially the hon. Member for Ede-Ejigbo.

May I say, Sir, that to some of these people here words have lost their meaning, even they see all good things upside down. Those political ignoramuses that you see there (*hear, hear*). These people should be told that when this House sits it only does so to do serious business for the good of the masses of this Region (*hear, hear*). Already these people have shown in this House their emptiness by their wild and

[MR ADIBI]

irresponsible and uninformed utterances and criticisms of this Budget so ably presented by the hon. Minister of Finance. If the Opposition Members know what is right and pretend not to know, then, Mr Speaker, we should take them as they are—an object of pity.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has made several appeals in his Budget Speech, but instead of these people sitting down to study very well the Speech, because they are so lazy to read and study it, they resort to irresponsible attacks and criticisms of this Budget. The hon. Minister of Finance has laid his cards on the table and he did not mince words to tell us where our difficulties lie and where we have hope. He did this so that we might buck up and face facts as we come across them (*Opposition Member: Finally!*)... This is not finally, I am just beginning. It is very surprising that many Members on the other side of this House never made any attempt to make comments on these very precious suggestions and appeals made by the hon. Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech. He talked about self-help. He was telling us that the age was now past when this country will depend on one man's business. Does that have any message? Does it have any message for you? For the people on this side that has a very great meaning.

Alhaji Opaleye: Point of Order, Sir. Order No. 29 (1)—“During a sitting all Members shall enter or leave the House with decorum”. Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member for Urhobo West II opposite me has not put on an underwear. (*Shouts of shame, shame, from Government Benches*).

Mr Kotoye: It is customary in the Mid-west parliament (*laughter*).

(*Government Benches: Don't cover it, don't cover it!*)

Chief Odebiyi: We want a ruling, Sir.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member should be properly dressed. (*Laughter from all sides of the House*).

Mr Adibi: Mr Speaker, Sir, according to the appeal of the hon. Minister of Finance, this is the time for us to pull our resources, both financial and human, in organising big business enterprises in this Region. The appeal of the hon. Minister of Finance for private savings to be put into productive investment in order to create more wealth and more savings is timely and relevant.

In my own area some young men have started a Savings Club on the line suggested by the hon. Minister of Finance. We wish the Egba Investment Club all the best, and we want to assure them that many more of such clubs will soon spring up, especially in this Region.

I think, Sir, that every Member of this honourable House can be of great help to this Government and of great service to this Region, in particular, and to the country as a whole, and we should make it a point of duty to organise such Investment Club in each constituency. That certainly, Sir, will be another broad way to prosperity and progress in this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think there is no amount of emphasis that can be laid in appealing to the community to pay their taxes, according to the appeal of the Minister of Finance. We want the Government to continue operating this welfare scheme for the masses. Mr Speaker, one of our civic duties to co-operate with the Government is by our timely and regular payment of taxes. To do otherwise will be a sabotage to the good intentions and efforts of the Government.

Once again, this Government has come boldly in aid of the workers of this Region. It is surprising that no Member of the Opposition Party commented on this “pay as you earn” (PAYE) system of taxation introduced by the Government of this Region. I think that is very important, and the Government should be congratulated for introducing this scheme. It appears to me, Sir, that it is much easier and more convenient to get your pay packet with part of your taxation already deducted than to be asked to pay a lump sum either in one or two instalments; months after the money might have been spent. But this Government is very considerate; it thinks of the good of the workers of this Region and intends to give a great relief to the workers of this Region. And the Government, again I say, should be congratulated for this.

The Minister of Finance has asked for positive suggestions about ways and means of improving the revenue of this Region. To the men on the opposite side there it does not mean anything. They just want to sit down there and criticise irresponsibly Government's measures. That is where their help is required. They should sit down and bring out their own suggestions about how the revenue of this Region could be improved.

In my own opinion, Sir, I would like to give this suggestion. That is, the Government should not have the intention of

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raising taxes now, rather other means should be employed, and I would suggest that one of these means should be a very rigorous exploitation of our mineral resources. To me it appears that not much has been done along that line and I feel that this Region is rich in mineral resources (*Opposition Member: Like what?.....*) Iron ore, for instance, and many others.....(*Opposition Member: Where?.....*) I am sorry that if I say it he will not know. (*Laughter*).

Again, Sir, I would like to suggest that the possibility of establishing a furniture industry in this Region should be examined. We have quite a lot of forest resources and if we establish a furniture industry, there is no doubt that the products therein will find a ready market in this Region or even outside this Region.

Mr Speaker Sir, there is only one point where I disagree with the hon. Minister of Finance (*Opposition Member: Disagree with the Minister of Finance!*), and the point is that he does not want more encomium for the Government. The Government deserves to be congratulated for what it has done, and to the hon. Minister of Finance I would say: "Seest thou a man diligent in his works, he shall stand before the King" and not before politically mean men like these. (*Cheers*).

Mr Okumagba: Point of Order, Sir. Order 27 (5)—"It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House". Well, Mr Speaker, it is insulting to refer to Opposition Members as "mean men". If we are mean, then, there is no hon. Member in this House.

Mr Speaker: I am sorry I did not hear what the hon. Member said, so I cannot say whether that was what he said or not.

(*Government Benches: Shame, shame*).

Mr Adibi: Mr Speaker, Sir, this Budget has been well considered and ably presented, and for this reason I beg to support.

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until Monday, 10th April, 1961, at 10.00 a.m., when hon. Ministers will make replies to points raised by all Members of the House.

Chief Adeyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Speaker, Sir, it could have been highly appreciated if Members on this side of the House had been given an opportunity to say one or two things on this debate (*Chief Odebiyi: Which Members of the House?*).

Mr Speaker: All Members of the House have spoken.

Mr Okumagba: Some of us on this side of the House have not even had the opportunity of making a maiden speech.

Mr Speaker: When the hon. Member says "Members on this side of the House", probably he is referring to Members on the Opposition side. May I tell him that they have had much more as it appears on this sheet, because I tried to give everybody an opportunity to speak at the ratio of two to one, which is according to the numerical strength of each side. When you look at the Hansard you will see that you have had more than your share, if you go by numerical strength, and as such I do not like this to go unchallenged.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, twelve Members have spoken on the Opposition Bench, fifteen on the Government. (*Mr Okumagba: we don't oppose many more Members speaking on the Government side.....*)

Members will have the opportunity when we are considering the various Heads of the Estimates.

Mr Okumagba: But we have to speak differently.....

Opposition Member: It is very unfair, Mr Speaker.

Chief Osuntokun: I beg to move that the question be now put.

Alhaji Opaleye: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Original question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.45 p.m. until Monday, 10th April, 1961, at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 10TH APRIL, 1961

(The House met at 10.10 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS EDUCATION

Establishment of Government Secondary Grammar Schools

10/27. Mr Y. Adekunle asked the Minister of Education when the Regional Government will consider the possibility of establishing in each Division, a Government Secondary Grammar School in view of the educational expansion of the Region.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr R. A. Olusa): There are at present four Government, secondary grammar schools in the Region one of which is for girls which is situated at Ede. The other three are for boys and are at Ibadan, Benin City and Ughelli. Government does not propose to establish any more of these schools for the time being but plans are being made for the expansion of existing ones by the addition of more streams.

Mr A. E. E. Atohengbe: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask a Supplementary question of the Minister of Education whether the establishment of secondary grammar schools in each Division would not have been better if based upon the number of elementary schools existing in each Division?

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Please give notice of that question.

Exodus of Science teachers

10/28. Mr Adekunle asked the Minister of Education, in view of the importance of science subjects in our Secondary Grammar Schools, what efforts are being made by Government to stop the exodus of science teachers from the teaching profession.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education (Mr J. O. Oye): Although there is an acute shortage of graduate teachers, especially science graduates, I am not aware that there is any exodus of science teachers from the teaching profession. Most of the Nigerian science teachers in the Region's secondary grammar schools received their university training as sponsored students

under regulation 17 of the Education Grants-in-aid Regulations (1957), published as Western Region Legal Notice 85 of 1957, and as such they are bonded to serve for a specific number of years after their training. There is no evidence that such teachers break their bonds of service or leave teaching for other none educational work.

Mr F. H. Utomi: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister of Education the supplementary question as to what records he has of these science teachers who resign their appointments?

Dr Onabamiro: There is no record that any Science teacher has resigned from any secondary school in this Region.

Standardised Entrance Examination to Secondary Schools

10/30. Mr Adekunle asked the Minister of Education whether Government would consider the advisability of conducting a standardised entrance examination to all the various Secondary Schools in the Region.

Mr Olusa: A common entrance examination is at present conducted by the West African Examinations Council for the benefit of the very few secondary grammar schools in the Region which are willing to take advantage of it. There is no evidence that the majority of principals of these schools are keen on this examination and it is not considered that pressure need be exacted on them to do so.

Establishment of Secondary Schools in Ibadan and District

10/45. Mr L. A. Ajimobi asked the Minister of Education whether Government would consider establishing one Secondary Grammar School in each of the four Ibadan District Constituencies, viz: Ibadan East, North-West, North-East, South and South-East.

Mr Olusa: No, Sir. It is not the intention of Government to establish any more Government secondary grammar schools in Ibadan in addition to the existing Government College, Ibadan.

Mr J. A. Ajuwon: I beg to ask a supplementary question, Mr Speaker, of the Minister of Local Government whether the financial aid given to secondary grammar schools now existing is extended to those owned by Missionary Societies.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Local Government (Chief S. A. Tinubu): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not the

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duty of the Ministry of Local Government to finance secondary grammar schools. I think the Minister of Education may still add to what I have said. Secondary education grants are the responsibilities of the Ministry of Education in respect of those approved.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Opening of Maternity Centres and Dispensaries

10/138. Mr E. O. Oke asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare when the various Maternity Centres and dispensaries built by Government at various centres in this Region will be opened.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa): 160 dispensaries and eighty Maternity Centres are being built all over the Region by Local Government Councils with Government grants. Many of them have already been completed and opened. It is the responsibility of the Councils to get the Supervisory Engineer for their area to inspect each of the institutions on completion and issue a Certificate of satisfactory completion on it. The Council should then forward a copy of the Certificate to the Government Chief Pharmacist at the Regional Medical Stores, Ikeja, and request him to appoint a date for the equipment for the institution to be supplied.

On the appointed date, the Council should send transport accompanied by a responsible officer and an official letter of authority to the Chief Pharmacist who would then issue the equipment. The letter of authority should be signed where possible by the same officer who forwarded a copy of the Certificate of satisfactory completion to the Chief Pharmacist. The Council may then choose a date for the opening ceremony and inform my Ministry. Whenever it was possible the Hon. Minister or myself always opened the institutions formally.

EDUCATION

Siting of the University of Ife

10/152. Mr V. I. Amadasun asked the Minister of Education why the proposed University for the Western Region is being sited at Ife rather than at Benin which is a more central point for the people of this Region.

Mr Oye: In the first place I do not think it would be correct to describe Benin as a more central point for the people of

Western Nigeria than Ife. Then, secondly, the choice of the area near Ife town as the site for the University, which is being established by the Government of this Region, was made on the unanimous advice of experts, who conducted an extensive and thorough survey of the larger towns in the Region, including Benin City, and investigated the advantages of each town in relation to the site of the University. I consider that the expert advice which the Government has received is to be preferred to the hon. Member's judgement in this matter.

Mr Amadasun: I would like the Minister of Education to give as briefly as possible two disadvantages in respect of the selection of Benin City as the site for the University and then to ask whether in the code of these experts, there is no column for the corporal works of mercy to give things to the Midwest which have not been given to it before this time.

Dr Onabamiro: Mr Speaker, Sir, there are eight very important reasons..... (laughter and applause from Government benches). These eight reasons will be given in my answer to the Debate later this morning.

Mr P. V. Okwesa: May I, Mr Speaker, Sir, ask the Minister of Education this supplementary question, whether the importance of a town depends upon the population or upon the size of that town?

Dr Onabamiro: That is a question for the Census Officer.

Mr Speaker: In other words, the Minister wants notice of that question to be given.

Secondary Modern School Examinations

10/187. Mr D. A. Popoola asked the Minister of Education what provisions are being made whereby candidates who fail the final examination of a Modern School may retake such examination regardless of whether the particular applicant is an employed person or not.

Mr Oye: No provision is being made for candidates who fail the secondary modern examination to retake it at the moment. The examination, up to now, is a school leaving test and it has therefore not been possible to allow students who have left school to retake it.

The question will however be reviewed in the light of recommendations contained in the Banjo Commission Report on the future of Secondary Modern Schools.

Mr F. H. Utomi: When will the Government lift the ban imposed on secondary-modern school leavers from entering secondary grammar schools.

Dr Onabamiro: Categorically, secondary-modern school leavers are not allowed to enter secondary grammar schools.....
(Interruptions).

Mr T. E. Igugu: As the Minister has told this House that in England Modern School leavers are not allowed to enter into secondary grammar schools, is there any need to send our children to Secondary Modern Schools in view of the growing need of modern education?

Dr Onabamiro: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that many Members on the Opposition Benches are labouring under a misunderstanding of the educational structure in Great Britain. In Great Britain Secondary Modern School leavers can take the General Certificate of Education and also here we have cases where Secondary Modern School leavers attempted and passed the General Certificate of Education examination. Secondary Modern Schools exist for reasons which are to be preserved. Secondary Grammar Schools are for people who have the necessary aptitude. Not many people have this aptitude. There are students who will go for teaching and there are people who will go for nursing. All these do not need secondary grammar school education, and these include considerations which are absent from other Regions.

Mr Utomi: How does the Minister equate the standard in England with the standard in this Region?

Dr Onabamiro: In England all school children take the Eleven-plus examination in order to gain entrance into secondary grammar schools. The position of secondary grammar school education in England is that it will take not more than 13 per cent of the children. The remainder will continue in the primary schools up to the age of fourteen and they will then go into secondary modern schools. In the Western Region the position is that at the end of primary education, entrance examination is conducted for entrance to secondary grammar schools. You will notice that our boys pass entrance examinations to King's College more than children from any other part of the Federation. That is an eloquent evidence of the fact that the standard of achievement with the six-year primary education in the Western Region is by far superior to what obtains anywhere in the Federation. (Cheers).

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Mr 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 p.m., if necessary. This is an obvious and usual method of allowing the House to sit beyond the stipulated time.

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

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

1961-62 APPROPRIATION BILL SECOND READING

Adjourned Debate on the Question (27th March)—“That the Bill be read a Second time”.

Question again proposed.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Chief A. O. Adeyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Speech delivered last Friday by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition will for ever rank as one of the most irresponsible ever delivered by any person holding such a position in any legislature in the world. (Cheers). Towards the end of his slanderous effusions he said, in so many words, that the sum of £997,000 had been stolen from the funds of the Cocoa Marketing Board, and he went on to suggest that this sum was misappropriated by what he called “high-ups in the Action Group Party”, and that the Government connived at the fraud. In any democratic Assembly like ours, abuse of parliamentary privilege to slander any person is absolutely prohibited; nor should it be used as a cover for departing from the path of honesty. It therefore follows that no responsible Member of a legislature of this kind will take advantage of parliamentary privilege to make a statement in an honourable Assembly like this which he cannot make outside this House without running the risk of sedition or libel. The act of the hon. Leader of the Opposition is not only immoral, it is also cowardly (cheers) to impugn without just cause the integrity of the Government or any of its members. The allegation that a sum of £997,000 had been stolen from the funds of the Marketing Board made by the Leader of the Opposition is untrue. It contains no iota of truth whatsoever.

[CHIEF ADEYI]

The fact of the matter is that not a penny has been stolen from the funds of the Cocoa Marketing Board. The Leader of the Opposition has, by irregular and questionable means, characteristic of him, obviously got hold of some information about an inquiry proposed by the Government and, in a disreputable fashion wishes to take credit for it as well as use the opportunity to smear this Government. This is mean. It is most unbecoming of a man of honour.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let me seize this opportunity to place all the facts before this honourable House. When it was being contemplated to reduce the producer price of cocoa it was necessary to ascertain the tonnage of cocoa already purchased at the old price and stocked by each Licensed Buying Agent, but not yet taken up by the Cocoa Marketing Board. It was necessary to know, as far as possible, the exact tonnage of cocoa already bought by the Licensed Buying Agents and kept in stores by them before the new price was announced. A few days before reduction of the producer price, on my instruction, the officials went round the various stores in the Region and checked the tonnages declared by individual buying agents. This was done without giving the cocoa producers any indication that the price might be lowered, nor were the officials themselves in possession of that fact. The day before the reduction was announced, the tonnage of cocoa held in the stores, by the Licensed Buying Agents were booked at the old price for this tonnage. But, human nature being what it is, the possibility of false declaration by the Licensed Buying Agents could not be ruled out, and it was the duty of the Board to arrange for prompt and efficient scrutiny and verification of all declarations. From its experience of the scale of monthly purchases in the course of the season, it had a fair idea as to how great or how small these undelivered stocks might be. The declarations proved in total to be much greater, very suspiciously greater, than the Board's estimate. The matter was brought to my notice as the Minister responsible for cocoa marketing and I immediately ordered that no payment should be made in respect of the doubtful declarations until further orders from me. Contrary to the mischievous allegation of the Leader of Opposition, the Board has not been authorised to make the payment, and it has paid nothing. After consultation with the hon. Premier, I decided that an inquiry should be undertaken into the whole administrative arrangements for implementing the

price change, and, in particular, the acceptability of the stock declarations by the Licensed Buying Agents. Also with the Hon. Premier's concurrence, I instructed that His Lordship the Hon. Chief Justice should be asked to be good enough to nominate a judicial officer to conduct the inquiry. He has made a nomination and the inquiry will be starting shortly.

(One Opposition Member: Is it a public inquiry?)

The Hon. the Chief Justice is nominating a high officer to conduct an inquiry and a lawyer is asking whether or not it will be a public inquiry. I wonder what it could have been!

The decision to set up a Commission of Inquiry had been taken before the present session of the House began and the decision had nothing to do with the malicious representation made by the Leader of the Opposition from the floor of this House. My assumption is that somehow the Leader of the Opposition heard of the decision to set up a Commission of Inquiry and he therefore twisted that fact to suit his political end. I repeat, it is most untrue and falacious that £997,000 of the Cocoa Marketing Board had been stolen, and not a penny has been paid out to the Licensed Buying Agents. I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to mention a single Licensed Buying Agent who made a doubtful declaration who has been paid. If the Leader of the Opposition is a man of honour, he ought to substantiate his reckless and irresponsible allegation or, otherwise, withdraw them with appropriate unreserved apology.

For the information and enlightenment of Members, I wish to say that in normal circumstances, weekly returns of produce graded are sent to the Cocoa Marketing Board. By means of these returns the Board is able to ascertain the total tonnage held by each Licensed Buying Agent. During this operation which led to the reduction of the producer price, officials had gone out to collect returns of produce graded during the previous week. A Licensed Buying Agent who normally buys, for example, 20 tons a week and who declared 50 tons during this operation, would give one cause to suspect malicious practice, but a buying agent who normally sends in returns of 30 tons and during this operation sent in 35 tons would be accepted as giving a correct tonnage. In all cases where there were doubts or false declaration the Marketing Board had not paid a penny.

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An irresponsible Opposition is a plague and a misfortune for parliamentary democracy. Not only is our Leader of the Opposition ready, under cover of his parliamentary immunity, to slander, in the most malicious terms, the Government and those who compose it, he sees nothing discreditable in maligning a Board Chairman who has no opportunity of reply in this Assembly. This is cowardly. Mr Durosaro is a son of Nigeria of whom all right-thinking Nigerians can be truly proud. His record of integrity and efficiency is second to none; his name is highly regarded, not only in this country, but in all other countries with which he has had contact by virtue of his position as Chairman of our Marketing Board.

The Leader of the Opposition, in his irresponsible fashion, also attempted to drag into political controversy two senior officials of this Government and a private person who has had nothing at all to do with this affair. Although as a rule it would not be right for a Minister to disclose the nature of the advice tendered to him by official advisers, I have the consent of the hon. the Minister of Finance to do so on this occasion. There has been no difference of view between the Minister and his official advisers in regard to what should be done in this case or how it should be done. There has never been any suggestion at any time by anyone, Minister or official, to make use of the services of Chief Dina or Dr Aluko for this inquiry and official as well as ministerial opinion was all in favour of the use of a high-powered legal or judicial officer.

The good name of this country is very important now. The reputation of the country must be safeguarded; to malign, and unjustly at that the leaders of the nation is to lower the country in the estimation of the world. No genuine patriot will do that. True nationalism is made of a different stuff. I blame the Leader of the Opposition because he made the allegation recklessly and without any regard for truth. The hon. Premier has assured the Leader of the Opposition time without number, on the floor of this honourable House that he could approach him or any of his Ministers at any time to get any facts he wanted. The Leader of the Opposition has, at no time, made any effort to ascertain the truth of any matter which he may not understand clearly well.

If the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is a gentleman, one of two courses is now open to him. He can get up here, solemnly recant everything he said last Friday on this issue, and apologise to all those whom he had expressly or impliedly vilified. If he does

not do that he must appear before the Commissioner undertaking the inquiry and produce evidence to substantiate the allegations he has made before this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I like to refer to the other points made by hon. Members in this House in regard to the location and siting of industries in Western Nigeria. I have time without number made explanations on the conditions and factors which guide the siting of industries in any country. Economic factors demand or guide investors who come to this country to locate or to establish industries in this Region. This Region has very limited economic resources, and the little reserve must be stretched in such a manner which will do justice to our efforts.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government does not normally establish an industry by itself. To establish an industry, as I have repeatedly explained to Members of this honourable House, there are two basic factors—capital and technical and managerial knowledge and experience. It is possible for Government to provide all the capital and to have individuals to provide the necessary skills. We have in fact done that in the past and have learnt by experience that it is not the most satisfactory method. Firstly, it uses up very quickly the capital resources available, and secondly, the hired staff have little or no direct interest in the success of the venture and have not got the services of an established and experienced firm available in the background to help during any initial difficulties that may arise.

Government therefore decided that a much more practical approach was to utilise overseas capital and know-how in partnership with our resources. This policy has the advantages of attracting a lot of additional capital and so enabling our own funds to go further, and also of providing skilled and experienced management with an enduring stake in the success of the company. This is a realistic and practical policy and is appreciated by overseas firms as such. The Government has undertaken two major types of industrial partnerships. There are those major industries which Government considers essential to the economy of the Region and in which, as a consequence, it contributes substantially to the capital and invites suitable partners to join the venture. There are those less essential but highly desirable industries in which the initiative usually comes from overseas firm but to which the Government gives every assistance and invites some public money to enable subsequent participation by Nigerian investors.

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In both classes of industries (which I have enumerated) where hard-headed and realistic overseas partners are involved, the siting of the industry can only depend on one really essential factor and that is the same one which determines the location of industry the world over: Which site is likely to make the industry most profitable? The answer to this will depend on many factors—location of raw materials is the determining one in some cases: for example, in the case of the Ewekoro Cement Factory, the factory makes use of local deposits of limestones; access to ports is vital in the case of industries dependent on bulky imported materials; other factors include access to adequate power supplies, water supplies, markets; repair facilities for machinery, and the availability of suitable accommodation for staff. All these are factors which influence or determine the economic operation of a factory and hence, by any sound commercial standards, its location.

Government is most anxious to disperse the benefits of industry as widely as possible but it must be appreciated that the practical steps it can take in this respect are at present limited. It is very actively examining several possible areas in the Region with a view to setting up additional industrial estates and to offering particularly attractive terms in the hope of diverting industries to these areas. The obstinate fact remains, however, that such attractions will only be marginally effective. Where other economic factors are reasonably evenly balanced, special inducements and the persuasion of Government may well tip the scale and persuade investors to select new areas. Members can be quite certain that we will take every reasonable opportunity; we cannot fly in the face of economic facts.

It is my pleasure to see a soundly based industry established in every area of the Region but the plain fact is that there is a limit to the extent we can influence economic factors. If Government were to insist on directing overseas industrialists into areas they do not consider suitable on economic grounds for their proposed ventures, the tempo of industrialisation in this Region will be considerably reduced.

There are of course opportunities for developing small scale industries either in the hands of individual Nigerian businessmen or through small co-operative groups. Such ventures must, to a large extent, depend on local initiative, the emergence of enterprising industrialists, or the action of a local

government council in sponsoring a training group in a co-operative industry. I hope all the hon. Members who have raised the question of establishing projects in their area will use their influence to stimulate local initiative on these lines. I can assure them that such initiative will meet an immediate and active response from my Ministry.

As at the end of February this year, about £7 million had been invested in various industrial projects in the Region. Some of these projects are established in partnership with overseas investors. They include the following:—

(a) The Crittal (Nigeria) Limited in Mushin. The factory manufactures steel windows and door frames and has proved a great asset to the building industry. Its annual output is estimated at 60 tons, and its labour force is about 80.

(b) The Nigerian Pre-stressed Concrete Company at Abeokuta which manufactures pre-stressed concrete products suitable for culverts, electric poles, and bridges. The factory employs 190 workers.

(c) The West African Portland Cement Company Limited with an authorised capital of approximately £4 million is situated at Ewekoro, producing cement from the limestone deposits in the area. Its labour force is about 300; and

(d) The Tower Aluminium (Nigeria) Limited which manufactures aluminium products such as posts, pans, kettles, jugs and other household utensils. The factory employs about 90 workers.

The visit of Members of this House to the various industrial projects will convince them that the products of these factories were being manufactured in the country. Steps have been taken to ensure that indigenous businessmen and traders participate in the marketing and distribution of the products of the various factories established in the Region.

The West African Portland Cement Company has no authorised distributors. All its sales are made on a cash basis ex-works at Ewekoro and, when the plant is working to full capacity, it will be able to sell at works to anyone who should come to take delivery.

At the moment it has been obliged to restrict the number of customers due to the fact that the plant is still only working at less than half capacity. Modifications are being made to some of the plant and, as soon as these are completed and the plant is in full production, the number of customers will be increased. The present customers

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have been restricted to about thirty and it is not possible to increase this number immediately due to restricted production and the fact that the company has an obligation to ensure continuity of supply to the customers already taken. The present customers include the large commercial concerns, co-operatives, Nigerian businessmen and a Nigerian building contractor.

The Tower Aluminium (Nigeria) Limited distributes its products through U.A.C., G.B.O., Chellarams, Patterson Zochonis, but they also sell direct from factory to wholesalers who are able to place bulk orders.

Nidogas: Most of sales are made direct from company to customers, but the Co-operative Society acts as agent in some centres.

The Asbestos Cement Products (Nigeria) Limited: authorised distributors include Briscoe, B.W.A. Corporation. Chellarams, C.F.A.O., Gottschalck, John Holts, A. G. Leventis, G. B. Ollivant, Patterson Zochonis, Reiss and Company, U.T.C., U.A.C. and Vivian Younger Bond. Arrangements with these distributors were made twelve to eighteen months ago. They are unable to appoint further distributors until they have settled down to full-scale production. The factory has only been in operation a few months and they are not in a position to take on further distributors until they can ensure continuity of supply. This will probably be in about six month's time.

Crittall Hope (Nigeria) Limited authorised distributors are John Holts, Patterson Zochonis, Gottschalck and U.A.C.; John Holts are also shareholders in the Company.

The Plastics Company has no authorised distributors as such; most of the sales are made direct to building contractors, Government departments and individual buyers. The bulk of production has been related to specific items such as piping, cocoa pots, latex cups, Independence beakers, and not to the retail trade as such.

The Nigerian Pre-stressed Concrete Company does not cater for the retail trade but supplies mainly to builders and contractors. The bulk of business consists of electricity poles for the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria.

"Beauty itself doth itself persuade
The eyes of men without an orator;
What needeth then apologies be made
To set forth that which is so singular".

The people of this country know their friends, and the citizens of this Region know

their champions; those who fight day and night to protect their interests; to seek their welfare and to provide for them life more abundant. They do not need an orator of the type of the hon. Leader of Opposition, nor the type of Adeoye Adisa. We are farmers and farmers' children. We know the feelings of farmers. Mr Speaker, Sir, it will interest you to know that the hon. Leader of Opposition who now styles himself as the champion of farmers cannot differentiate a cocoa tree from an *iroko* tree. Until recently he still believes that cocoa beans are dug from the ground. (*Government Benches: Shame, shame*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to give the assurance again that this Government will continue to work for the welfare and advancement of the people of this Region. Our goal is to achieve a satisfactory fundamental economic change as well as a satisfactory fundamental social change.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I discover that some Members of the Opposition are still in the dark as to the correct role of the Marketing Board in relation to the interests of farmers. The Marketing Board, as an executive agency of Government, has the interests of farmers at heart. Apart from its primary responsibility of giving reasonable protection to cocoa farmers against violent fluctuations in the world price of cocoa, it also contributes to the development programme calculated to improve the prosperity of the Region. There is nothing strange in the Marketing Board contributing to the development finance of the Region. It has done this in other parts of the Federation and in neighbouring countries.

The farmers know that this Government honestly seeks their interests. This Government has done many things to help the farmers. I will mention only a few. The predecessor of the Marketing Board, the old Cocoa Marketing Board, endowed the Faculty of Agriculture at the University College to the extent of £1 million and in addition establish an endowment fund of £225,000 to provide in perpetuity fifteen free places at the College for the children of cocoa farmers. The Board also gave a grant of £1 million to the Co-operative Bank in addition to a loan of £100,000 which was used in financing specific expansion projects of the Association of Nigerian Co-operative Exporters and various Produce Marketing Unions. The Marketing Board also contributes to the running of the inter-territorial agricultural research organisation like the West African Cocoa Research Institute and the West African Institute for

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Oil Palm Research. For the rehabilitation of cocoa areas after the ravages of the swollen shoot disease the Board contributed over £3 million to the extension work of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and has spent about £500,000 on the cocoa spraying subsidy scheme.

The fall in cocoa prices has been dictated by economic factors beyond the control of this Government. Though we have taken steps to increase cocoa production, cocoa consumption has not kept in line with the increase in cocoa production. The result is an alarming downward trend in the world price of cocoa. The reduction in cocoa prices, as the Member for Aboh ignorantly said, was not due to lack of prudence or extravagance on the part of Government; it was a result of hard economic facts.

In the years 1955-56 and 1956-57, for instance, the Board paid over £4 million and about £1½ million price subsidy respectively to farmers. Since the establishment of the Marketing Board in 1954, farmers in this Region have always received higher prices for their cocoa than their counterparts in neighbouring countries. There is a limit to which world price can continue to fall without the Marketing Board reflecting the fall in the prices paid to producers. It should be remembered that after paying the farmers for their produce the Marketing Board then has to pay for freight to take the produce to Europe and to America. Payment also has to be made to insure the produce against all risks in transit. The licensed buying agents have to be paid agreed commission for their services while exports duties also have to be paid as well as other small handling charges. After paying all these additional charges the Board discovered that it was losing about £50 per ton in the world market.

To meet the situation, the Board had to reduce the producer price of cocoa from £160 per ton to £112 per ton. To leave the producer price at £160 per ton for the whole of this season would involve the Board in a subsidy of around £7 million. Before we took this unpleasant decision to reduce the producer price for cocoa, the farming community, through representatives, was closely consulted. I would appeal to Members of the Opposition to desist from false propaganda. The Government is dedicated to improving the lot of all sections of the community, and the farmers in particular.

Steps are now being taken to increase the consumption of cocoa in an effort to push up its price in world markets.

The Government, in answer to the persistent requests of Members of the Opposition from the Midwest, has appointed a Working Party to advise it on the desirability of placing rubber under Marketing Board control. The report of this Working Party is yet to be submitted to the Government but there is an indication that the Working Party did not support the proposal to put rubber under Marketing Board control because the Working Party thought that the desire of the small rubber producers would not be achieved because Marketing Board control might result in lower prices than they would otherwise have obtained because the cost of operation and inspection will eventually come off the producer price. The Working Party was of the opinion that the rubber industry and rubber producers in the Region would be better off if the subsidy of about £1 million in a year that Marketing Board control would involve was devoted to the planting of high yielding rubber varieties in economic-size units.

Some Members of the Opposition, Mr Speaker, Sir, have referred to the investment made in the Nigeria Properties Investment Company Limited. There is nothing wrong in the step taken by the Marketing Board. I will only refer Members to the appropriate reply given by the hon. the Premier at the November sitting of this House to the point made by Members of the Opposition. The only point I like to make here is that in financial business matters a fruition period is always allowed: this period runs between three to five years. This is done, and is being done, in normal business matters. I say again, Sir, that nothing is wrong in this transaction.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill ably moved by the hon. the Minister of Finance. The Opposition Members who have spoken on the Second reading made three or four points in criticising the Budget. I will only confine myself to the criticisms levelled against my Ministry.

I would like to refer to the statement made by the hon. Member for Ede. The hon. Member, whose constituency is Oshun, lives in Lagos and hardly knows what is happening in his constituency. If he will take to my advice, I will ask him to go home at once to see that he is in possession of actual facts about what happens at home. It is unbelievable that

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a Member who has won an election and does not know what his supporters do pay by way of tax or rates. He made a very irresponsible statement that in Ede nobody paid less than £3 tax. This is a glaring show of ignorance and lack of interest in the people who sent him to this House.

The actual fact is that a large number of persons, about 80 per cent of the total rateable adults, in Ede, paid 37s 6d as tax this year; the remainder paid 22s 6d. What the hon. Member added up to make his £3 is made up as follows: Water Rate—12s 6d, and two special rates of 5s. The other is for the building of a Secondary Grammar School which I have approved for the Council to build in order that the students of rate-payers, in that area will have the opportunity of secondary education in the future. In actual fact 80 per cent of the rateable adult population of Ede-Ejigbo pay 37s 6d as tax. It is a gross misleading of public opinion in this Region to say that in Ede nobody paid less than £3 tax. I would like hon. Members of the Opposition—and indeed I appeal to them—to come forward with facts and figures when they make statements of this nature.

When the new tax measures were introduced the hon. Premier made it quite clear that tax in this Region would be 37s 6d throughout the Region, and no more; but if a community wants a particular amenity, then they must decide by themselves what to pay. (*Opposition Members: Who approves it?*) The Government of this Region has set up a Board known as the Regional Tax Board, which is independent; the community certainly will have to apply to that Board to investigate whether the community are willing to pay the Special Rate, and the Board will satisfy itself that the community has the ability to pay, after which the Board will make recommendations to me as such, and I will not approve any Special Rate without the recommendation of the Regional Tax Board.

There were allegations that members so appointed were Action Group members. Mr Speaker, Sir, I have repeatedly said it in this House that in appointing members to the Area Assessment Committees in this Region I paid no regard to their political affiliation. Mr Speaker, Sir, I pay regard to the orderly standing, character and integrity of an individual. Unfortunately, there are not many on that side of the House

who are qualified; those qualified are to be found on this side. As a matter of fact, shortly before appointments of Area Assessment Committees were made in Ibadan, the hon. Adeoye Adisa approached me so that Members of the Opposition might be considered for appointment, but almost immediately the NCNC Opposition party in the Council broke into several factions and it was difficult for me to know to which party they belonged.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the other point made by the hon. Member for Ibadan is that up till now members of his party who had paid their rates for 1958-59 are still being prosecuted, and I am telling him through you, Sir, that if he can cite a specific case I will certainly investigate and take appropriate action; but no case has been made to me.

The hon. Member for Urhobo West, Sir, also charged that this Government is in the habit of not dissolving corrupt councils. I think, Sir, that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is not in the House, but I will ask that members of his party may take this message to him. I will cite the case of the Ife Divisional Council. The Ife Divisional Council was dissolved as a result of the disgraceful activities of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. (*Shame, shame, shame*).

Mr G. I. Oviasu: Point of Order, Mr Speaker. Order 69 (2). (*Read it, read it*). I am addressing the Speaker and not you. Mr Speaker, Sir, the dissolution of a Council is not a financial matter. I think the Minister shouldn't use the privilege to come and criticise the Leader of the Opposition; he should confine his speech strictly to the Budget. We have finished the Debate on the Speech from the Throne; if he wants to accuse the Leader of the Opposition he has got the time for it.

Mr Speaker: This appears to be an appropriate time for the Government Bench to answer all the questions put during the debate; and not only that; it appears that the Government collectively and individually have been accused of certain things for which they probably have to reply, and why should I ask them not to reply in the way in which they are now replying?

Mr Oviasu: We do appreciate that you have the last say, Sir, and we have to obey you. (*Shame, shame*).

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not surprised. I am not surprised at all, because the hon. Member knows that after leaving the Leader of the Opposition I will come to him. Mr Speaker

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

Sir, when I heard of corruption and misuse of public funds by the Ife Divisional Council when the hon. Leader of the Opposition was Chairman, I appointed a Principal Assistant Secretary in my Ministry, a highly experienced officer in the Government, to conduct an inquiry into these allegations. What did he find? I will only give some of the corrupt practices indulged in by the Ife Divisional Council. An ex-convict, who was a close friend of the Leader of the Opposition, was appointed Chairman of the Assessment Committee in Ife with a salary of £25 a month. The officer found, as a matter of fact, that that was true; and what did I do? I gave instructions immediately that that man must be removed, not only as Chairman of the Assessment Committee, but even as a member of the Assessment Committee. Then what a clever manouvre, what a clever device was adopted by the Leader of the Opposition to circumvent my decision! A teacher employed by the Ife Divisional Council in one of the Primary or Modern Schools was appointed in place of the former Chairman at a salary of £25 a month but the money paid to this teacher was diverted to the pocket of the ex-convict who was a personal friend of the Leader of the Opposition. (*Shame, shame, shame*).

The officer conducting the inquiry also found that not less than eighty tax members, tax collectors, tax appeal tribunals, were being paid but there was nothing in the Estimates of the Council to show that provision was made in the Estimates for payment to these people; they were paid salaries ranging from £108 to £180 per annum. The report was so shocking that I had no alternative but to conduct an inquiry into the activities of the Ife Divisional Council. Then it became obvious that owing to the evil practices indulged in by the Council, under the Chairmanship of the Leader of the Opposition, the Ife Divisional Council should be dissolved.

An Opposition Member: It was then an Action Group-controlled Council.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I also have it on record that the Benin City Council.....(*Loud interruptions and laughter.*)

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman be reminded of the provisions of Standing Order 29 (4) and (5) which says that during a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones. Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while

any Member is speaking. I hope they will be adhered to. Thank you for your co-operation.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Benin City Council was also dissolved for corrupt practices and abuse of power. The hon. Member for Benin Central West, Mr G. I. Oviasu, was the Chairman. (*Shame, shame, shame.*) For example, Mr Speaker, Sir, contrary to the Standing Rules of the Council, and in direct violation of the Local Government Law, hon. Oviasu awarded himself a contract for the supply of drugs and dressings. Another official of my Ministry also conducted an inquiry into these allegations, what did he find? He found, as a matter of fact, that not only did Mr Oviasu, as Chairman of the Council, sell drugs and dressings to the Council, but he also sold hoes, shovels, etc., (*Shame, shame, shame*). The report of the Board of Inquiry is available in my Ministry; if any hon. Member is in doubt he will see it there in black and white. What did he say? He accepted and, as a result; I felt that I would not be doing my duty to the Government and the people of Benin City if I did not take immediate action to scrap that Council and put in gentlemen who will take care of the Council and spend the money of the tax-payers for the welfare of the people of Benin City. I did that, and Benin people are the happier today. That was the proper thing for me to do. Since the arrival of my hon. Friend at Ibadan he has not been happy; my colleagues on this side have been wondering what has been the reason and I did not wish to reveal. But my friend from Benin continues to show this sordid countenance when he arrived in the House, particularly since the hon. the Minister of Health and Social Welfare had spoken strongly about him.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would say that I like constructive criticisms. Hon. Members should bring facts and figures to prove their allegations and if there is any case of injustice anywhere, I will order an inquiry immediately, either in respect of councils controlled by the Action Group or in respect of those controlled by the NCNC. Even when allegations were brought against the NCNC-controlled council in Agbor, and the allegations were found to be untrue. I refused to dissolve the Council. If allegations were made against a council (no matter what party controls it) and investigation is made and found to be correct that the Council has indulged in misuse of public funds, I shall not hesitate, Sir, to dissolve that Council.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a brief comment on some of the points which hon. Members made or, rather, sought to make during the Debate. Repeatedly, some of my hon. Friends on the other side stated that the development of the Midwest Area is being neglected, in that the industrial projects sited at Ikeja and Ewekoro had not been located in the Midwest. The point was also made, again by some of my hon. Friends opposite, that whereas there is a Housing Estate in Ibadan, there isn't any in the Midwest Area. A further point put forward by an hon. Member of the Opposition is that Industrialisation in this Region is not directed towards creating equal opportunities for all citizens; as proof of this assertion, the hon. Member stated that labourers engaged by some of the industrial companies were not being paid 5s 10d *per diem* for labour, and that the wages paid to Nigerian staff were less than those paid to expatriate staff. Other points raised by hon. Members refer to such topics as the tarring of specific roads and the provision of various forms of amenities.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not propose to comment on such matters as requests for the tarring of named roads or the supply of water and electricity to named places and villages. Hon. Members must be given some opportunity for playing to the gallery, particularly when they receive information that a Member of their constituency is around. I do not wish to diminish the air of importance which hon. Members may thus acquire in their local areas. In any case my colleagues, the hon. Ministers of Agriculture and Natural Resources and of Works and Transport and of Health and Social Welfare, will have no difficulty in disposing of the allegations that social amenities have been unevenly meted out. But before I go on to make my brief comments I cannot avoid mentioning certain discussions that took place at a meeting of the Midwest Advisory Council. A certain area of the Midwest had represented to that Council that they would want electricity. The Council went into the matter and invited a representative of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria for a discussion. Later the Council sought to know from the people who wanted the amenity whether they would pay the appropriate rates. No reply has been forthcoming. This is not a unique case in the Region. But I think this case should be borne in mind by my hon. Friends who come here to ask that all sorts of amenities be extended to their area and

villages. I cannot believe that hon. Members would also be oblivious of the fact that the provision of amenities must be tied to ability to pay service fees.

The main issue on which I wish to comment is the allegation that because industries have not been sited in certain parts the development of those parts have been neglected. Before I go on any further, I beg your indulgence, Mr Speaker, Sir, to quote an excerpt from the Report of the F.B.I. who visited this country some time ago—

“We pointed out also that questions of industrial location were determined by the lowest production and distribution costs. To insist on an inferior location was to force costs up and profits down. It was patent therefore that any idea of using the Pioneer Certificate as a means of forcing an enterprise into a wrong (*i.e.*, a less profitable) location could not be effective, for it offered relief of taxes on profits which, in the wrong location, would be reduced or overtaken by higher costs. Industrial location was therefore an entirely separate matter, involving inducements in costs.”

These are the words of the Federation of British Industries, a delegation of which visited Nigeria recently. The point I am trying to make is that in the location of industries we do a great disservice to ourselves and to our great country if we seek to direct, by political considerations, the siting of industrial projects. In the particular circumstances of this country where we rely on the overseas partners both for capital finance and for technical know-how and, in some cases, managerial skill, there is very little doubt that if we seek to direct the operation of industrialists who come out by some form of political consideration in the matter of location, very soon there will not be any new foreign investors available to direct; they will just not come under those conditions.

But this does not mean that Government will not seek to encourage a dispersal of industries. Indeed it is in pursuance of such a policy that the Government of this Region has embarked upon the creation of Housing and Industrial Estates in strategic parts of the Region. I would refer hon. Members to paragraph 9.09 of the 1960-65 Development Plan. Not only Ikeja, but also Ibadan, Sapele, Oshogbo/Ede, Ijebu, Abeokuta and Akure are on the list of places to receive industrial estates. In this way the Government hopes to encourage the dispersal of industries; but this is different from

[OBA AKRAN]

directing or coercing investors and industrialists to go against their own expert conviction in the location of their projects.

But wherever, in the Region industries are located, I have no doubt that the Region as a whole stands equally to benefit. Take, for example, an iron and steel industry; if the foreign experts and investors decide to locate such an industry in the Midwest Area, they would have the advantage of power in the form of natural gas, of lignite deposits at Asaba, and of the Escravos Bar when completed. But these matters are for the expert technician and the businessman to determine. I think the essential question is how far the industries benefit the whole Region? I do not think there is any doubt in the matter. The benefits are Region-wide. A tyre and tube factory, wherever established in the Region, cannot but have the effect of generating greater and intense economic activity in the rubber-producing Midwest.

I think that the greatest testimony to the intensity of economic activities which Government policies have generated migrate to the area, even from other Regions, in pursuance of all forms of private enterprise. So much and so intense commercial and other activity does not usually go on in the midst of economic stagnation.

Reference was made to the scale of wages paid by existing industrial companies to their daily paid labourers and to their Nigerian employees. My only comment is that, excepting by persuasion and by example, Government does not interfere in the internal management of industries.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the sooner it is realised in this country that the matter of economic development is above party politics, the better it will be for us all.

I wish to urge upon hon. Members to desist from entertaining the idea that this Government is working so loosely that Members do not know what is happening. Our work is neatly organised and admirably co-ordinated. Attempts to bring any arm of the Government into disrepute, be it the customary courts or tax assessment committees, will always fail, will fail ignominiously, and crush forever all who try hard enough to indulge in vilification.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): Mr Speaker, Sir, May I begin by commenting as briefly as I can on points made by some hon. Members regarding certain aspects of the

work of my Ministry in the course of their contribution to the Debate on the Budget.

May I now, Sir, with your permission attempt to give a short summary of the activities of my Ministry during the past financial year. This summary would, I hope, present hon. Members with a progress report on the work performed by the different departments or divisions of my Ministry.

I should like to take the Medical and Health Divisions of the Ministry first. These Divisions continue, not only to expand their services, but also to improve on the existing standards both in the services rendered and in the institutions which enable us to render these services. The Government embarked on a Special Health Programme recently and I am happy to be able to announce that this programme is now nearing completion. A number of the 160 new dispensaries and eighty maternity centres provided under this scheme have been completed and put into use; the twelve Rural Health Centres are also nearing completion. Two are now practically ready to be opened.

Construction of the four general hospitals in Asaba, Uromi, Igbetti and Ibiade which is also a part of this programme is progressing satisfactorily. When finally completed the total expenditure on this single item will be in the region of one million pounds. This is the first time that a health and medical programme of such magnitude has been undertaken anywhere in the Federation.

In order to provide staff for these new institutions and to continue the Ministry's intensive activities in the field of preventive medicine, the rebuilding of the Health Auxiliaries Training School at Ibadan was commenced during the year. This is estimated to cost about £116,000 and it is expected that the School will be ready for occupation by the third quarter of this calendar year. When completed, the School will provide living quarters for nearly a hundred students, class and demonstration rooms, laboratories, a hall and the usual administrative offices for the teaching staff. It will also temporarily house the Health Propaganda Unit of the Ministry. Again this School will be the only kind of its type in the country. The House will be glad to know that approval has now been given for the rebuilding of the Nurses Preliminary Training School in Ibadan. The building plans are now being prepared by the Ministry of Works and Transport in collaboration with the officials of my Ministry and it is hoped that actual construction will commence soon. When completed the new school will

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be capable of an intake of 100 student-nurses, *i.e.*, 200 students yearly. This new school is estimated to cost the Regional Government nearly £117,000.

With the completion of this school and the afore-mentioned Health Auxiliaries Training School there would be a steady outflow of the much needed junior staff of all cadres to man our ever expanding services. It is hoped that our young school leavers will avail themselves of these facilities which should enable them to render useful service to their Region and mankind. There are many vacant posts in the Ministry for this cadre of staff.

The new Midwives Hostel in Ibadan built at a cost of £30,000 has just been completed. We are already making use of the premises.

Owing to the increasing number of Senior Service officers and their families using the Jericho Nursing Home in Ibadan, it has been decided to extend the premises and so provide more accommodation for both out and in-patients in the Home. I am happy, Sir, to report that the work has been commenced. I am assured that the new premises will be ready for occupation in a few months' time.

Outside Ibadan a number of new projects have been completed and several improvements are being made to existing units. In Ile-Ife, for instance, a new General Hospital is under construction, whilst the new Nurses Hostel and the two-storey outpatient department block in the Benin-City General Hospital were completed during the year. Hon. Members from various areas in the Region will have noticed marked improvements in the local units of my Ministry. I refer, for example, to the extension programmes in such places like Oyo, Oshogbo, Sapele and Badagry. It is our intention to continue this useful work of expansion and consolidation in the coming year.

If I may, Mr Speaker, turn to the preventive side of our work—we prevent the incidence of diseases as well as try to cure diseases that have occurred. I must not forget to mention to the House the good work being done by the field workers of my Ministry in preventive medicine. Throughout the year our team of vaccinators were engaged in their struggle against small-pox in all parts of the Region, particularly in the area on the western boundary bordering on the French territory from which many cases of small-pox have been notified in the past. So very successful have been

their efforts that the incidence of such outbreak has been practically negligible during the year. My Ministry has also continued in its efforts to bring succour to all known lepers in the Region, to trace new cases, and finally to bring the disease under control. Whilst on the control of infectious diseases, it is with great pride that I report to the House that the great programme for the eradication of yaws, that horrible disease, which was started nearly seven years ago has been so successful, that this disease no longer presents a problem and it is hoped that it will be completely eradicated within the next three or four years. May I, with your permission Sir, here pay warm tribute to the Medical Field Units of my Ministry and their colleagues of both the World Health Organisation and of the United Nations Children Emergency Fund for the great service which they have jointly rendered to this Region in this respect. This work has taken them into every town and village throughout the Region in their search for this disease and they have, during the course of their work, carried out over two million medical examinations of patients in the Region.

The campaign against tuberculosis in the Region has been intensified during the year under review. Final arrangements have been concluded with the World Health Organisation to enable a team of specialists in this field to join forces with the Ministry's experts in carrying out a survey of the incidence of this disease in Ibadan and thereafter work out a scheme for its control. My hope is that, from the knowledge thus acquired, similar schemes will be worked out for the other parts of the Region. In the meantime, every hospital in the Region is acting as a treatment centre for this disease and, from time to time, the specialists based in the Government Chest Clinic in Ibadan tour the various centres to study progress of the work being undertaken and giving advice to local medical personnel. In the control of this disease, Mr Speaker, the active co-operation of members of the general public is most essential, and I hereby appeal to them to give my officials every possible help in this matter.

I cannot, Mr Speaker, conclude this summary of activities of the Medical and Health Divisions without reference to the work being done in the field of mental health. The Aro hospital for mental and nervous diseases was very active during the year. The Specialist in charge and his team were kept fully occupied during the year. In addition to their routine duties in the hospital, they have managed to arrange tours to

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several areas in the Region to examine patients and to advise their medical colleagues. The number of cases treated successfully in the hospital continues to increase. It is hoped that in course of time, and as funds become available, it will be possible to provide at least another institution of this type in the Region. So much, Sir, for the Medical and Health Divisions of the Ministry.

I now propose to say a word or two on the activities of the Dental Division of the Ministry. Here again we have almost reached our initial target of providing one Dental Centre in each administrative Province of the Region. We now have two well-equipped Dental Centres at Ibadan and one each at Benin City, Warri, Oshogbo, Akure, Ijebu-Ode, and Abeokuta. Last year we were affected by the world shortage of Dental Surgeons. Three of our Centres had to close down for some time. In the circumstances, it is most encouraging to note that the number of dental patients treated last year was up to 23,984.

I am advised that as far as we are concerned the shortage of Dental Surgeons is temporary. Some of our scholars in Dental Surgery will qualify this year and more will do so next year. As the conditions of service of Dental Surgeons in this Region now compare favourably with those in other parts of the world, our boys and girls in this cadre will have no excuse for not returning after graduation.

A very important aspect of the Region's dentistry is the School Dental Service. Two Dental Hygienists have qualified from the Federal School of Dental Hygiene, Lagos. These girls, with those gaining clinical experience, are doing very important work. More school children are having dental inspection and treatment than ever before. These girls also frequent schools to give lectures and demonstrations on oral hygiene and dental health.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I referred earlier to preventive medicine. In the Ministry we also have preventive dentistry. Films on dental health are shown, literature is distributed, and Radio talks, lectures and demonstrations are given by the dental officers. The Ministry is aware of the importance of dental health and its relation to the general health of the people, and is doing everything possible to make the services of the Dental Division of my Ministry available to all the people of this Region.

There is, Mr Speaker, one more division of my Ministry about which I wish to report

progress—the Welfare Division. The last Five-Year Development Plan has ended, leaving us with the following very impressive achievements:—

(a) The establishment of the first phase of the Boys' Approved Institution, Iwo with an inmate population of fifty at a cost of £15,000. This institution is designed to serve the whole Region.

(b) The completion of two Remand Homes at Sapele and Abeokuta at a total cost of £30,000—Abeokuta centre of redemption, Aro Lantoro Asylum, now Remand Home.

(c) The founding of Juvenile Courts and panels at Ibadan, Abeokuta, Sapele, Warri, Ijebu-Ode, Benin-City and Ikeja.

(d) The establishment of small Remand Homes in rented premises at Warri, Ijebu-Ode and Ikeja, with the prospect of a fourth one at Benin-City.

Ibadan has all along got a Remand Home in rented premises, but necessary preliminaries have now been completed for building of a permanent Home at a cost of £20,000.

All effort is being made in order to arrest the rising tide of juvenile delinquency in this Region, priority of treatment being given to those areas faced with a graver aspect of the problem.

Existing side by side with treatment of juvenile delinquency is also the work of Family Welfare, the two being co-ordinated by Welfare Officers in charge of each Provincial Unit. In this way, Sir, we provide counselling for disaffected couples at Ibadan, Benin-City, Abeokuta, Ile-Ife, Ilesha, Warri, Sapele, Ikeja, Ijebu-Ode and Shagamu. In the past year, due in part, Sir, to intensification of the work, but primarily to the inroads of material development on the solidarity of the family in our communities, there has been a sharp rise in juvenile delinquency. This fact could be seen from the relatively modest figures of 650 court appearances of juveniles throughout the Region in the year before the last, as against the staggering figure of 1,456 returned for the last year. This is an increase of 44.5 per centum. During the same period there has been steady consolidation of the work of Family Welfare throughout the Region and 2,134 couples received counselling. A sum of £3,833 collected from fathers of children of broken homes was disbursed amongst persons having custody of such children, through our various Welfare Centres, from where these unfortunate children are being supervised.

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Mr Speaker, Sir, this Division is also concerned with liaison work of Government with a number of voluntary organisations such as, to mention only two, the Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Association and the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. During the past year, and through the agency of the welfare officers (and, I am happy to note, with the generous co-operation of the public), a sum of £1,000 was collected from the proceeds of the sale of poppies. This amount will be used in the rehabilitation of needy ex-servicemen during the current calendar year. A sum of £3,200 was paid as grants-in-aid to the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, now known as the Nigeria National Advisory Council for the Blind, to assist in their efforts to train and rehabilitate the unfortunate blind persons in our midst. I have posted an After-Care Officer to serve at the Farmcraft School, Ikeja. Whilst we look upon the question of the growing menace of juvenile delinquency with a lot of concern, we are consoled by the active steps this Government is taking to arrest it. We realise that as our industrial preoccupations gather momentum, and urbanisation of rural areas increases, there would be more problems of this nature, and the wisdom in our remedial efforts will, I trust, be clearly vindicated.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my Ministry also has responsibility for the broad administration of the Western Region Sports Council. I cannot conclude my speech without some brief reference to the activities of that Council. During the last six months I have received with considerable interest and approval the Western Region Sports Council's proposals for the implementation of its duties as set out in the Western Region Sports Council Law of 1959. In due course these proposals will be placed on the Table of this House in the Council's Annual Report for 1960-61. Hon. Adisa criticised the construction of the Liberty Stadium at Ibadan here. I feel he ought to have appreciated the need for that Liberty Stadium being constructed at the Regional Headquarters which will provide for the promotion of sports all round.

Mr Adisa: Which promotion is it making?

Chief Osuntokun: You will all have visited the Liberty Stadium and, I am sure, will agree with me that in this magnificent building with its most modern equipment, our Government has set a new high standard in the provision of sporting facilities not only in Nigeria but in the whole of Africa. (*Hear, hear.*) It is proposed that the development

of the Stadium site, for which provision has been made in the 1961-65 Development Plan, should be to the same high standard. Facilities for swimming and diving, lawn tennis, boxing, cricket, hockey, table tennis, basket ball, netball and wrestling will be added to the facilities for athletics and football already provided by the Liberty Stadium. A site lay-out plan for this development has been commissioned by the Ministry of Works and Transport and will be made available to hon. Members in the Council's Annual Report to which I have already referred. With the approval of the same Ministry, the Sports Council has itself commissioned the working plans for the first section of the Hostel which will eventually provide accommodation for 200 students attending coaching and personal performance training courses. It is hoped that it will be possible to begin this building within the next few months.

In fulfilment of its duty to raise the standard of all sports throughout the Region, the Council employs two football coaches and a continental coach is negotiating for the appointment of coaches for athletics, boxing and table tennis. We should all be happy about performances of our boys in China.

The Sports Council is further required to develop and provide sporting facilities throughout the Region. It has therefore submitted specifications for a standard Sports Centre to be provided in each Provincial Headquarters. These Sports Centres will provide the same facilities as Liberty Stadium but on a modified scale.

The Sports Council is very conscious that many of our schools have inadequate playing space or playing fields. It is therefore seeking, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Works and Transport, ways and means of extending and improving school playing fields as economically as possible.

Many young people are deprived of the opportunity of wider participation in sport because of the cost of transport. The Council has ordered the first of what is hoped will eventually be a fleet of buses. These buses will be available for hiring by any sporting body on terms which it is hoped will make wider participation in sport available to many more than are at present able to afford it.

The health of our sportsmen and women has also been considered by the Sports Council. A clinic for the treatment of sports injuries has been set up at Liberty Stadium and it is hoped that, with the

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co-operation of interested members of the medical profession, it will be possible to bring similar clinics into service throughout the Region. In co-operation with governing bodies of sport, the Sports Council is also planning a special medical examination of all sportsmen and women who represent the Region. (*Hear, hear.*)

May I assure the House that it is the intention of the Government to continue to seek the promotion of sports in this Region and will not spare any efforts in achieving this aim. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sitting suspended at 12.00 noon.

Sitting resumed at 1.35 p.m.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill so ably moved by the hon. Minister of Finance.

Several Members of the Opposition Benches in speaking on the Debate on the Bill, have made certain criticisms of our educational system in Western Nigeria. I am grateful for the privilege of answering these critics.

Three main criticisms have been levelled against the Ministry of Education. The first is that we fail to provide employment for the boys and girls whom we turn out of our schools. The second, which specifically came from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, quotes the Ashby Commission Report in alleging that the educational system of Western Nigeria is unbalanced. The third criticism relates to the siting of the University of Ife. Sir, if I may take the first one first.

I would not like to presume to handle a question which probably belongs to the portfolio of my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Labour. I should only just like to say that the Government has made comprehensive plans for the employment of Secondary Modern School leavers, in that among posts reserved for those of them who pass the Entrance Examination for appointment to Scale F posts in the Service of the Government of the Western Region are: clerical assistants, enumerators, dispensing assistants, book-binding assistants, stenographers-in-training (girls only) and student nurses in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. In addition to these, large numbers of Secondary Modern School Leavers are going to be absorbed into Teacher Training Colleges and Trade Centres. Members of the House will remember that recently twelve secondary modern school leavers were sent to

Israel to undertake accelerated courses in technical subjects for one year, and the new Trade Centres which are being built at both Oyo and Owo will further provide technical training for larger numbers of students from these schools.

Mr Speaker, may I now come to the second criticism, *i.e.*, the one alleging that our system of education is unbalanced. The portion of the Ashby Commission Report which I think the hon. the Leader of the Opposition was referring to is paragraph 2, page 5, extracts from which, Sir, I should like, with your permission, to quote. It goes as follows:

“But the geographical distribution of these primary school children is very uneven. In the East and West it can be assumed that the majority of children will complete primary education; in the North only about one in eleven of children of school age are at school and in some areas the proportion is as low as one in fifty. Primary education will undoubtedly spread in the North; but there is a unique opportunity for the North to develop a balanced system of education; and we would hope that the Northern Ministry of Education will not invest the bulk of its available funds in primary schooling, at the expense of secondary schooling and teacher training. The first objective should be to ensure that the North has enough candidates for secondary and post-secondary education to fill its own needs and to contribute its share of high-level man-power to the nation. We believe this could be done if it expands its primary school system so that one in five children of school age completes primary schooling. This will take some years to reach, but if it is taken as a first objective it would produce a balanced system of education, and it is much easier to expand a balanced system than one that has grown out of balance.”

That is an extract from the Ashby Report. Now, Sir, I cannot detect from this any categorical condemnation of our system as being unbalanced. We have built up a system of free primary education in Western Nigeria which is absolutely unique in Africa. (*Hear, hear.*) The people of this Region have every reason to be proud of the Action Group Government for this achievement. (*Hear, hear.*) and the Government which has planned and executed this stupendous project has every reason to be pleased with itself. We have not folded our arms after the provision of primary education for all children between the ages of six and twelve. The Government of the Action Group has looked further

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ahead and built up a composite system of secondary education which provides technical and vocational as well as grammar school education for all those who desire to take advantage of them; and what is the proof of this?

We run Secondary Modern Schools in this Region which do not exist in any other part of the Federation of Nigeria (*Hear, hear.*) We have 167 secondary grammar schools with a student population of 25,755 under 1,419 teachers, of whom 495 are graduates, a much higher graduate ratio than can be found in any other part of the Federation of Nigeria.

In our secondary grammar schools, there were 7,260 students in Class I in January of this year, compared with 5,300 students in all the grammar schools of the Eastern Region at the same time, even though the population of Eastern Nigeria is, as we know, greater than that of Western Nigeria. Mr Speaker, Sir, these are facts which I should recommend to Members on the opposite benches to bear in mind when they criticise the educational system of Western Nigeria. Statistics are available in the Ashby Report. (*Opposition benches: What page? It is out of date.*)

Last year nine of our Secondary Grammar Schools were running Sixth Form classes, compared with only seven such schools in the Eastern Region, and two other schools have started Sixth Form this year, with the result that more students from Western Nigerian schools are passing Advanced Level subjects and qualifying for University admission. This is not a vague statement, but is substantiated by facts and figures. In October, 1960, there were 500 men students from Western Nigeria admitted to University College, Ibadan, compared with 419 men students from Eastern Nigeria. These figures are from the statistics produced by the University College Ibadan, last month in the University Gazette which shows that 500 male students last year were from Western Nigeria, 419 male students from Eastern Nigeria, and thirty-seven women students from Western Nigeria compared with thirty-three female students from Eastern Nigeria, making a total of 537 students from the Western Region, admitted to University College, Ibadan, compared with 452 students from the Eastern Region, which proves the superiority of the performance of Secondary Schools in the Western Region over those of the Eastern Region. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Speaker: Order! I wonder how the Hansard Reporters will be able to report the speeches of everybody at the same time.

Dr Onabamiro: These facts prove conclusively that the Government of the Western Region takes a comprehensive view of education in its planning, right from primary education to University level, and while we are far ahead of the other Regions in the Federation, we are by no means resting on our oars. The purpose of the Government in setting up various Commissions and Committees to advise it on education is that what we have at present, which is good, should be bettered, and that eventually what we should have in the years to come should be not only the best in Nigeria, but the best in Africa.

Now, Mr Speaker, if I may come to the question of the siting of Ife University. Members after Members of the Opposition Benches have risen up to criticise Government action on this matter. As you have been informed before, Sir, the Government set up a body of experts to advise it, and what the Government eventually did, was to implement the recommendation of these experts.

In a matter like this, no harm is done by a little repetition. There are eight reasons, I repeat, eight reasons, why Ife has been chosen as the site of the University of Western Nigeria.

First, we want a place possessing soil suitable for agricultural research. We all know by the quality of the cocoa grown in Ife area that such a place would have the ideal soil desired by agricultural research workers, so Ife passes that test.

Secondly, we want a place which has, or will have, within a few months, water, electricity and tele-communications. Ife passes this test.

Thirdly, we want a place which will be within easy access of all parts of the Region. While it may not be the precise geographical centre of the Region, it is yet located at a place which is within easy access of all parts.

Fourthly, in the establishment of a University containing the Faculties of Engineering and Medicine, along with others, it will be necessary to instal heavy equipment, and for this reason, nearness to a railway for the transportation of this equipment will, though not strictly essential, be quite an advantage. Ife is only twenty-four miles from Ede railway station, and that is a considerable advantage.

Fifthly, we are establishing a University which is going to be the second University institution in the Western Region, as the

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University College, Ibadan, a Federal institution, is geographically situated in this Region. For this reason, it will be desirable to foster bond between the two institutions on matters academic, athletic and cultural, in the same way as such a bond exists between Oxford and Cambridge in Great Britain. Students from the two institutions should meet often for debates, for sports, for staging joint plays, and so on. Oxford and Cambridge are sixty miles apart; University College, Ibadan, and Ife are fifty-five miles apart. Ife passes this test.

Sixthly, this University we are proposing to build is a Government project. As such, it should be the most precious Government property. The Government should be proud to take foreign visitors out on day trips to see it. Most foreign visitors visiting Nigeria would probably visit Ibadan as the nearest Regional capital. It will be easy for the Government to put the visitors in a car and say "Go out to Ife and see our University". It is only 1 hour 15 minutes by car and that is a considerable advantage. Ife passes this test.

Now for the seventh reason. The name of Ife is already known internationally and in particular among the learned circles in archaeology. The Nigerian 6d stamp which carries mail from this country to all other parts of the world contains the Ife bronze. Having a University in a place which carries such an ancient and internationally-known name, particularly in academic circles, will be a considerable advantage to the institution itself.

And lastly, as the eighth reason, Ife is the place where we believe our ancestors originated. When I speak of our ancestors, Mr Speaker, I am not referring exclusively to the Yorubas. The Oba of Benin claims his origin from Ife, and as such our Members from the Midwest can proudly claim to be descendants of Oduduwa themselves. The Emir of Onitsha, History tells us, crossed the River Niger at Asaba on his way from Benin to find an empire in Ibo land. May I say, on behalf of several of our Ibo friends, that I am proud to link with the Oduduwa of Ife in the same manner?

Ife, therefore, Mr Speaker, is the one place in the Western Region, which every man, woman and child in the Region can be proud of his own. For this reason I think the Government of the Western Region deserves to be congratulated for making this wise decision.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode: His Excellency, the Governor of Western Nigeria hails from Ife as the descendant of Oduduwa.....
(Laughter and cheers from Government Benches).

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief S. O. Sogbein): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1961-62 Appropriation Bill ably delivered by the hon. Minister of Finance. I do not have much to say. During the Debate on the Budget very few scathing remarks were made against my Ministry. I know that one of the main reasons is that all Members came to this House on good roads. Of course, I know that it is those who cannot see beyond their noses that would not see anything good in the progressive Government of the Western Region.

The hon. Member for Ede-Ejigbo alleged that nothing is done for Oshun in the way of amenities. He failed to point out that Ede is provided with electricity, water supply at a cost of £536,000 free grant, apart from many roads tarred and bridges constructed in his area.

The Member for Ibadan South-East or West Rural, otherwise known as Malam Adisa, said that we should not give work to contractors and that all work should be done by direct labour. This suggestion is hypocritical. Why do I say so? He is a Member of the NPC and his Minister of Works in Lagos does most of his work by contracts.

It is the tradition of my Ministry to do its work partly by contract and partly by direct labour. May I add at this juncture that my Ministry has been, and is still, doing good work. For example, the Liberty Stadium, the building of the Regional Treasury and the Premier's Office, to mention only the most recent. May I assure the hon. Member that we shall continue with this policy of carrying on our work partly by direct labour and partly by employing contractors. Members will also be aware that the rate of development in this part of Nigeria is phenomenal and all the roads constructed, waterworks, electricity and dredging cannot all be done by the staff of my Ministry.

The same Member spoke on vehicle inspection and testing. May I assure this House that Government is looking into the whole problem with a view to working out a system whereby vehicles will be tested more speedily.

An Opposition Member said that we spent money in building houses. Through Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the Opposition to do

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this simple arithmetic? Which is cheaper: to build a house for £100,000 once and for all, or to hire a house, known to have been built for £54,000 by an individual, for £100,000 for five years? Instead of such squandermania, the Government of this Region builds its own houses. If the Opposition wants more of the squandermania they should refer to the Audit Report of the Federal Government.

The Opposition Member for Ikeja alleged that Government gives a job costing £30,000 for £50,000. If the hon. Member were serious, he should cite a single example. May I say that although comparisons are odious, yet they serve as eye openers. The average cost of tarring a mile of road by the Western Nigeria Government is £5,000, whereas I have it on record that a mile of road of the same quality and specification is being tarred elsewhere as high as £22,000 per mile. Squandermania-de-Luxe!

May I, in conclusion, acknowledge with thanks the commendable remarks made by most informed Members of this House, including many Members of the Opposition. For instance, my hon. Friend of the Opposition from Ikeja came to me outside the House and thanked Government for constructing Ipelle Bridge and Idogu-Imeri Bridge near Idoani. When I told him that the appropriate place is the floor of this honourable House, he emphatically refused to repeat it there on the pretext that he will not be performing his duties as an Opposition Member if he does not oppose in the House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is an example of the working of the inner minds of the Members of the Opposition: They all in their mind of minds appreciate the colossal work that Government is doing but they have to mortgage their conscience. My prayer is that their party may continue to be in the Opposition while we continue to be in the Government saddle until we shall win all the Federation to the Life-More-Abundant-for-all Programme of the Action Group. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Justice (Chief J. E. Babatola): Mr Speaker, Sir, Members of the Opposition continue to allege that Members of this Government and the Action Group in general make some Customary Courts victimise members of their party, that is the NCNC, especially in rating matters which come before the Customary Courts.

It is well-known that the NCNC just wants to get these courts abolished as a matter of policy and not as a result of any general defect in their structure or because of the Judges in these courts.

I can guess why the NCNC continues to wage war against our Customary Courts. Mr Speaker, Sir, you will observe that the Local Government Service Board Chairman and Members are persons of honesty and integrity who are impregnable to the suggestions and influence of NCNC members whenever they come forward to nominate rascals for the posts of Customary Court judges.

May I, Sir, once more remind Members of the Opposition why this Government regards our Customary Courts as a necessity in our system of administration of justice.

In the first place, a radical and violent change in our native system of administration of justice would be undesirable from the point of view of our people themselves and from the point of view of the expenses certainly to be involved in replacing all the Customary Courts with Magistrates' Courts.

Secondly, even if we are able to find money to pay the required number of Magistrates, we have to remember not only what the qualifications of these Magistrates are but also what primary purpose the Customary Courts serve. Like similar courts in England, our Customary Courts are designed to administer justice in matters of local custom which vary from community to community. Persons, therefore, who are versed in knowledge of customary laws in their respective areas are appointed as Customary Court judges. If they have legal knowledge they serve in Grade B or A of these courts and administer cases that are more serious in nature than simple matrimonial and domestic quarrels which the Customary Courts deal with with dispatch and competence.

Thirdly, Sir, I said that our customary courts have their counterparts in the United Kingdom. May I say also that their efficiency is not less. There is even one more aspect of them which I consider an innovation in a direction to make justice possible even for the poorest of persons who want to prosecute their cases beyond the local Customary Courts, but without the financial ability for doing so. I am referring here to the provision of redress through application, free of charge, to the Customary Court Supervisor in each Customary Court Division.

Sir, if any judiciary is designed to cater for justice and with as low a cost as possible, it is

the judiciary of Western Nigeria with its broad base consisting of the Customary Courts.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Budget Speech. (*Cheers.*)

Mr Speaker: This appears to be another convenient time for a break and we shall resume at 8 o'clock tonight.

Sitting suspended at 2.15 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.15 p.m.

The Minister of Information (Chief E. A. A. Fadayiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1961-62, and in doing so I must congratulate the hon. the Minister of Finance for the characteristic, able way in which he delivered the goods. It is a Bill which reflects a virile Action Group Government under the worthy leadership of Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola (*cheers*) manned by virile, intelligent and transparently honest Regional Ministers. The financial policy of this Government has shown from year to year its determination to make this Region a welfare state.

The fact that the Opposition Members were less pronounced in their attacks on the Ministry of Information indicates that our public relations with both the Opposition and the Government are in a healthy condition. The first attack was from the hon. Adeoye Adisa from Ibadan and the second from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. The latter was in quest of information as to what my Ministry was doing to publicise the activities of public enterprises. Events have overtaken his suggestions and we have already for years been doing a lot to publicise these organisations. I will come back to this later.

It is untrue for hon. Adisa to say that the WNBS-WNTV corporation is in financial crisis. It shows complete ignorance of the day-to-day running of the Television—First in Africa (*cheers*) to say that there has been mass sack of our workers. Hon. Adisa should know that Television came into this country less than two years ago, breaking a completely new field, and must naturally face associated difficulties with any pioneering work. But even so, we are the first to have Television in the whole of Africa and, like any other business organisation in any part of the world, particularly in the field of Television, it cannot be a paying proposition for the first few years. WNBS-WNTV have made a tremendous impact on the people of this Region, an influence and a privilege which cannot be measured in cash. In fact people

with families can readily appreciate this impact and I understand the predicament in which the hon. Member finds himself in this matter. It is the intention of this Government to give the Western Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation a chance and we are satisfied with its progress and achievements so far as could be seen in our various programmes which depict the life of this country. Our culture and tradition have been given priority in our programmes and the public service programme "Progress" run by my Ministry has been acclaimed by all and sundry as a very educative programme. The schools' programmes on the Television, under the able guidance of Mr George Arms of the Ministry of Education, have been a very useful medium to teach secondary grammar schools their subjects effectively. Perhaps the hon. Member has not yet the opportunity to hear children from secondary and secondary modern schools praising the programmes. Already the Government has supplied more than 200 television sets free to secondary schools and secondary modern schools in the Region. The cost of production of these programmes is very high but nevertheless they have more than value for the money spent.

The reference by hon. Adisa to mass sack of workers is wicked and unfair. A few of the staff have resigned their appointments to other newly established businesses. It has no reflection on the financial situation of the company. The company (WNRS), on the other hand, has engaged within the past few months a number of new employees who have left their work for better-paid jobs at WNRS.

I will take this opportunity to pay sincere compliments to the WNRS who have succeeded under such unusual conditions in creating such enviable impressions. Since the introduction of WNRS many African countries, after visiting our Television House, are now making arrangements for television in their own countries. Ghana, Kenya, Portuguese East Africa, Guinea, and a few other countries are proposing Television. And coming nearer home this Government, as a pace setter, has given a lot of advice to the Eastern Nigeria Government before they could start their television and even then, up till now, the East Television can only cover a very limited area in the township of Enugu. It will interest hon. Adisa to know that before the Federal Government could embark on Television it has to start commercial broadcasting to be able to raise money for its Television and they have to go all the way to Canada for help. The

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Federal Government has no respect for the Regional Governments and therefore shamelessly went into competition with them in commercial broadcasting.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if the Federal Government had any respect for the Regional Governments, it would have consulted the other Regional Governments before it entered into the field of commercial broadcasting. The North Regional Government has now completed arrangements to complete its sound Broadcasting and Television, and yet when this Region first mooted the idea here, the NCNC Opposition made hue and cry that Television was a luxury. But now that their counterparts in the Federation and the other Regions embarked on it, it is no longer a luxury.

I now come back to the speech of the hon. Leader of the Opposition in which he suggested that intense and continuous publicity must be given to the successful development of corporate enterprise in this Region. I wish to assure the honourable House and the leader of the Opposition that the Ministry of Information has always done its very best to publicise Government's achievement in this regard. In the Ministry of Trade and Industry, a Senior Information Officer—United Kingdom-trained—is permanently attached to handle all the publicity of these industries and corporations. He is full time there. I assure the House that everything possible is being done to step up this publicity. In fact there is now a scheme to post Senior Information Officers to the Provinces of the Region to step up out publicity work in order to have effective supervision of our field staff. Such centres will at present be as follows: Ikeja, to supervise Colony Province and Ijebu and Abeokuta Provinces; Ibadan, to supervise Ibadan Division and Oyo Province; Oshogbo, to supervise Oshun Division; Akure, to supervise Ondo Province; and Benin City, to supervise Benin and Delta Provinces.

I want to give a warning to the Members of the Opposition, through you, Mr Speaker, that these are Government organisations run to propagate the activities of the Government, and not for political campaigns. I say this because I know their tricks, and they will complain if they do not toe their party line. They will propagate Government policy from day to day.

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

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to express my thanks to the hon. Members who have contributed positively to the Debate on the Budget and, in particular, I express my thanks, coupled with considerable disappointment, to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition for his vitriolic and unpatriotic speech (*Government Benches: "Shame, shame"*) delivered to this House last week. There is no doubt that, very much unlike him, he has devoted, in this particular case, some amount of time and energy to a study of the Estimates for 1961/62 as presented to this honourable House. For the few—regrettably too few—valuable suggestions contained in his speech, I have to thank him and to express on behalf of the Government our desire to look into the points he has raised. I can assure him that as many of them as are found practicable in our present circumstances will be given very favourable consideration. (*Opposition Members: Inquiry, Inquiry.*) If the Members of the Opposition want an inquiry let them tell Okotie-Eboh.

There is no doubt, however, that as Leader of the Opposition he has devoted most of his time mainly to finding faults even where they did not exist, but one would have expected that in order to manifest the responsibility expected of a Leader of the Opposition in this honourable House, he would desist from making inflammatory and irresponsible statements without just cause. Time and again, it has been said in this House that Members of the Government are available at all times for consultation and questioning, howbeit informal, by the Members of Opposition on points about which they are in doubt. More emphatically, I would repeat that even the hon. the Premier himself has always advised the Leader of the Opposition in this House to avail himself of the opportunity thus offered. But unfortunately, because of his inability to appreciate any goodness in his opponent, and for all I know that is characteristic of him, and of his natural inclinations always to create confusion where there is peace and quiet, he has found it difficult to co-operate with the Government. I say this with particular reference to the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition apropos of the Marketing Board. I can assure this House that this Government has an answer for every false accusation made by the Leader of the Opposition on the floor of the House.

First, I shall deal with his criticisms of our financial policy. In this regard, I would attempt to classify his speech as coming

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under (a) our expenditure policy, and (b) our income tax system. How I wish he had been more systematic!

With regard to our expenditure policy, it has always been stated that the Government is out to do whatever it can to raise productivity and the standard of living of the people to the highest possible level in the shortest possible time. We have no apology to make for this as that has always been the *raison d'être* of any democratic Government that has as its objective the greatest happiness of the greatest number of its people. This is what we have generally called our welfare policy, which has been reflected in our education and health schemes and our economic programmes—the results of which are well-known to, and appreciated by, every honest citizen of this Region. But because the Leader of the Opposition can see nothing good in the words and deeds of the Government, he has contradicted himself by saying in one breath that there have been no signs of any improvement in the standard of living of the people and, in another, that no doubt the purchasing power and standard of living of what he called the middle class has been considerably improved. Anybody can guess that the Leader of the Opposition was at pains to find any vulnerable point of attack in the policies adopted and so far successfully executed by this Government. We cannot over-emphasise that it has never been our policy to discriminate in the implementation of our welfare schemes either amongst groups of people or between individuals. Our policy is to raise the living standards of all, irrespective of class.

It was very dishonest and unfair, to say the least, of the Leader of the Opposition, to say that no visible plans are being made by Government for the beneficial employment of our primary school leavers, in spite of all that has been stated and done in the field of agriculture and industrialisation for which an allocation of £7.3 million has been made in the Estimates under debate and the evidence of which Members have seen for themselves. Farm Institutes and Farm Settlements are being established to absorb these boys and new industries are being set up to solve part of our unemployment problems. Apart from all these efforts on the part of Government, Government Agencies like the Marketing Board, the Development Corporation, the Housing Corporation, employ quite a large number of workers. Even local government councils (including

the Ife Divisional Council and the Ife District Council, of which the Leader of the Opposition was Chairman before those councils were dissolved) employ large numbers of staff on various types of jobs. If our employment programme is not good enough, the influx of people from other Regions to Western Nigeria, particularly the colony area, would not have taken place. The fact that these Nigerians from other Regions are found in large numbers in our industrial centres points to one inescapable fact, that, far from the Government of Western Nigeria not being able to find employment for the products of our schools, it is the other Governments of the Federation which might not have been doing enough in solving this same problem in their areas of authority.

I do not say this to disparage what has been done by the other Governments; I only wanted to point out to the Leader of the Opposition that he ought to behold the mote in his eyes before he sets his eyes at other people's alleged faults. Under the 1961-62 Estimates, Government is spending about £20 million for capital projects, part of which sum will go into the hands of workers engaged on these capital works as their pay-packets.

In regard to his observation on our health policy, far be it from me to wish to usurp the function of the hon. the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, but I would like to remind the Leader of the Opposition of the health and social welfare policy already adopted by this Government under the Western Region Development Plan, 1960-65. I quote from paragraph 18.02:

“Government will concentrate, during the planning period, on the development of the health and preventive services in order to reduce the incidence of disease and thereby reduce the number of people requiring treatment in medical institutions”.

To this end the sum of £2,200,000 has been allocated. I am sure he himself would deduce from this statement that he was merely preaching to the converted. But I wish he had taken the trouble to read his papers more fully and carefully.

With regard to our Income Tax system, I would agree with the observation of the Leader of the Opposition that the amount of total tax collected in 1959-60 would not appear to justify the administrative machinery set up for the assessment and collection of

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personal income tax, but I would like to point out that 1959-60 was more or less the first year of the operation and existence of the then Inland Revenue Division, now the Regional Tax Board, and the machinery that was set up was adequate for the collection of millions of pounds were the public aware of its responsibilities and duties to the State. (*Government Benches: Mr Adisa!*) Furthermore, it was because the Government was fully aware of the immense possibility of an ever-rising increase in the amount of personal tax collectable from an increasing number of persons gainfully employed in industries and agriculture that the Regional Tax Board has been set up as the administrative organisation for its assessment and collection. I would assure this House that the Board will not shirk its responsibilities. (*Cheers.*)

I would therefore put it to the Leader of the Opposition that the success of any tax system in this Region depends on the co-operation of people like himself who have attempted so far to make politics out of a necessary evil. Until that co-operation is forthcoming, all talks about increasing revenue from direct taxation would be worthless. I therefore seize this opportunity to appeal again to the hon. Members of Opposition to show a greater awareness of their responsibilities to the State by keeping the question of direct taxation out of politics. I repeat, the sure road to the success of any tax policy for that matter in this country, to my mind, is for us all to eschew tax politics as an abominable sin to the State to which we all look for our greatest good; and to encourage our supporters, by example and precepts, to discharge fully and faithfully, even if grudgingly, their apparently onerous duties to the State.

In this connection, I would like to remind the House that indirect taxation is the full responsibility of the Federal Government only, and it is no use coming to this House suggesting measures which can be implemented only by that Government. For our part, we shall consistently continue to offer to the Federal Government, in spite of rebuffs in the past, suggestions as to ways and means of increasing our revenue derivable from export and excise duties as well as from other sources.

With reference to the Marketing Board, I only have to confirm what has already been stated in my speech that the Government looks up to the Board for assistance to finance part of its development projects. After all,

it is the people's money which is being expended for their benefit. It would appear, however, that the Opposition could not make up its mind as to how best to utilise the Marketing Board Reserves, for whilst some said that they should not be given as loans to productive industrial or investment projects but rather be expended on Government development programmes, their Leader himself is against Government for so utilising the Marketing Board funds. The Government, however, knows its mind and has adopted a policy that will enable the Board, not only to contribute substantially to the development projects of the Government, but also to fulfil its obligation to subsidise producer price in time of temporary falls in world market price by investing its reserves on reasonable terms.

Lest the uninitiated be led to believe that there is any window dressing which has been pulled down, I would like to deal with some of the points made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition in regard to details of the Estimates.

1. *Classification of Revenue.*—It will be remembered that one of the terms of reference of the Fiscal Commission which reported in 1958 was to examine the system of allocation of revenue in the light of "the desirability of securing that the maximum possible proportion of the income of Regional Governments should be within the exclusive power of those Governments to levy and collect, taking into account considerations of national and inter-Regional policy." Although the Commission experienced difficulty in reaching a balance between what they described as "these somewhat conflicting considerations" they finally produced a scheme for the allocation of revenue under which they classified revenue jurisdiction and allocation in three parts, as will be seen from Appendix "F" to the report as follows:

- (a) Independent revenues from taxation and other sources;
- (b) Derived revenues; and
- (c) Grants from Distributable Pool.

The projections for 1960-61 which the Commission gave in the Appendix show clearly the proportion of Regional revenues which the Commission itself considered should be independent (*i.e.*, Regional) revenue. I quote from page 67 of the Fiscal Commission report. Mr Speaker Sir, I am sure that some hon. Members of the Opposition may not have seen the Fiscal Commission's report:

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1960-61

	North	West	East
Independent revenues—			
(i) from taxation	7,684	7,926	7,342
(ii) from other sources	1,877	2,194	892
Derived Revenue	2,924	3,533	2,419
Grants from Distributable Pool	3,467	2,081	2,688
TOTAL	15,952	15,734	13,341

It will be seen therefore in the summary of revenue at page 17 of the Estimates book that we have merely followed the format which was definitely proposed by the Fiscal Commission. If the other Governments have chosen to ignore that Appendix to the Fiscal Commission from which I have just quoted, that certainly does not mean that we in this Region have done something wrong. The Leader of the Opposition spoke as if the moneys received from the Federal Government by Regional Governments are in the nature of charitable grants. I do not think that anyone who does not wish deliberately to be perverse would fail to see that if cocoa and palm produce, for example, were not produced in this Region and exported, the revenue accruing from this cannot be made available to the Regional Governments by the Federal Government. It should be noted also that the greatest proportion of the retained revenue of the Federal Government comes from general import duties which the Fiscal Commission classified as independent revenue of the Federal Government. The point I want to make here is that the Federal Government could not get a tenth of this revenue if imported goods were not consumed by the people in the Region. (*Alhaji Opaleye: Good point!*) As I said in my Budget Speech, the problem which faces the whole of Nigeria is that of over-dependence on imports and exports for revenue. This, in my view, is the matter to which we should all direct our thoughts rather than for the Opposition to accuse this Government falsely of deceiving the public with the format of our Estimates.

The Leader of the Opposition tried to show that the internal revenue of the Western Region is the lowest in the Federation.

This is not true, because he has tried to compare things which are somewhat incomparable. The composition of the internal revenues are not the same in all the Regions. For instance, the internal revenue of the

Eastern Region includes income tax, the whole of which (about £2,000,000) accrues directly to the Eastern Region Government. In the case of the Northern Region, about £1½ million is received by the Government as shares from direct tax and Jangali collected by Native Authorities. As is well known, the whole of the income tax, collected by Local Authorities in this Region (and this amounts to about £6,000,000 in a year) accrues to the Local Authorities. If this amount were included in the Regional Estimates of revenue, it will be seen that the internal revenue of this Region, on the basis of the Leader of the Opposition's classification, would be very much higher than those of the other Regions.

The Leader of the Opposition suggested that the amount shown under Head 326 of the Recurrent Expenditure Estimates has not been reflected in the receipts under Capital Estimates; this is also not true. The sum of roughly £1,500,000 is included in the £3,000,000 shown as estimated receipts, 1961-62, against sub-head 1 of Revenue Head 700. As will be seen from the foot-note at page 43 of the Estimates, the amount shown as transfer to Capital Expenditure and Development Fund under sub-head 1 is the estimated minimum required for inescapable expenditure under Heads 720 to 743. Hence the net estimated surplus for 1961-62 has been clearly shown in the financial statement at page 12 of the Estimates as £427,250. I should explain also as I have done on several occasions before in this House that the actual amount transferred from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the Development Fund (apart from the inescapable transfer to meet Other Non-Recurrent Expenditure) is decided after the accounts for the preceding year have been closed. Such transfer is made on the basis that the working balance required in the Consolidated Revenue Fund at the beginning of each year need not exceed £1.5 million. Thus, if the accounts show that there is a balance at 31st March of £6.5 million in the

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Consolidated Revenue Fund, a sum of £5,000,000 would be transferred to the Development Fund notwithstanding the estimate shown under sub-head 1 of Revenue Head 700. The difference between the amount transferable and the estimated figure, if the latter is less, would of course be reflected in a Supplementary Estimates under the Head for Transfer Payments.

I now come to the Expenditure Estimates. In my Budget Speech, I did not minimise the need for economies and avoidance of extravagance in Government expenditure in view of present revenue trends. It is in view of various economy measures which Government intends to carry out during the financial year that a total Recurrent Expenditure of £19.9 million is shown in the Estimates which the Leader of the Opposition insinuates is a deliberate attempt to show a surplus by under-estimating. This is not true.

As regards the Estimates for Education Grants-in-aid, I regret the omission to give some explanation in my Budget Speech. For a very long time, Government has been concerned at the rate of growth in this sector of Government expenditure and also at the proportion of the total resources of Government which it consumes. For this reason, Government recently appointed a sole Commissioner to look into the whole question of expenditure on Education. I may point out that as a result of intensive inspection of primary schools a saving of one and quarter million pounds was made.

(Cheers from Government benches).

(Shouts of Cocoa fraud, cocoa fraud, from Opposition Benches).

An interim Report has been submitted, and it is on the basis of the suggestion in the Report that the provision in the 1960-61 Estimates has been repeated for 1961-62.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one Member of the Opposition referred to what he termed as "cocoa fraud". I leave the person to the judgment of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare if he is really all right. *(Laughter)*. Our policy on Education remains the same and I do not think that Government can properly be criticised for taking steps to ensure that wasteful expenditure is avoided by ensuring that grants are only paid in cases where they are properly due. It is our intention to do everything possible to keep actual expenditure in 1961-62 within the total figure shown in the Estimates, that is, £19.9 million, including Transfer

Payments shown under Head 326, and provided; as we hope, the estimated revenue of £20,368,420 is achieved, the actual surplus will not be less than the estimated £400,000 approximately.

The criticism levelled against the Government in regard to the £10,000,000 Development Loan recently raised by the Federal Government would appear to be the result of some misconception. The loan was being raised, as was clearly stated, for the purposes of the Governments of the Federation, and I cannot see how the Government who themselves require the money should have been expected to contribute to the loan. Surely, Sir, knowing the hon. Leader of the Opposition as a businessman, I should have thought, Sir, that if he was going to any financial institution to borrow, he himself will first of all put money in that Bank before he can borrow money. *(Opposition Members: Better than fraud and stealing)*. What will appear is that he will reduce the amount he wants to borrow either for his brief making or for property investment. *(Laughter)*.

As regards the agencies of this Government, it is well-known that apart from the Marketing Board, they all depend on the Regional Government for funds, and the limited resources at present at their own disposal have been stretched to the utmost limit in order to carry out the functions for which they were established. As regards the Marketing Board, it is unfortunate that the launching of the loan almost coincided with the continuous fall in the price of cocoa in the world market. It was therefore natural for it to be hesitant about the participation in the loan, considering its commitments to this Government in connection with the 1960-65 Development Plan.

(Don't run away, wait and hear). *(Shame, shame)*.

Mr Speaker: Order. There should be freedom of movement. *(Laughter)*.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a great pity that whereas I listened attentively to all that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition had to say three days ago, he has now absconded from listening to the reply which is so much desired.

In his characteristically destructive and vindictive style, the Leader of the Opposition made unwarranted attacks on the National Bank which is now the people's Bank. I think, Sir, that at this juncture it is necessary

[CHIEF ODEBIYI:]
 for me to state on the floor of this House what are the hall-marks of a viable financial institution:

(1) *Liquidity*.—How far is this institution discharging its duties to its depositors? As far as I know, no depositor has gone to the Bank without having his cheque honoured, provided the individual depositor is credit-worthy.

(2) Is this financial institution licensed or not? The National Bank is the first indigenous Bank to be licensed in this country and has remained so ever since. It seems to me that the Leader of the Opposition must have been making use of documents or facts which are not in the possession of Government; and, as far as I know, banking affairs are conducted with the greatest secrecy and it is only when a public inquiry has been conducted that its affairs are ever made public. I have yet to be told that the National Bank of Nigeria has been subjected to a public inquiry and that its report is to be published. If and when that report is published, and there are allegations that raise doubts in the mind of Government, then a new situation would have arisen and Government would then know what next step to take.

How can the Opposition expect Government to peep into what happens in the National Bank when we only invest something in it? Our position is what I will call a Reader's passage. Since the preference shares became equity shares we have now been in a position to determine policy in the place and to make the banking operations run along very recent lines.

In no country in the world has there been the type of attack that was launched on the floor of a Legislative Assembly on a Limited Liability Company over which a Government had no control, as has been done in this case by the Leader of the Opposition. There have been occasions in this country when all nationalist forces were joined in battle against economic exploitation, political degradation and social ostracism, and at no time was a lurid, vicious and unpatriotic attack made against any expatriate institution in this country. History and posterity will record that there once lived in the heart of Yorubaland a young man who claimed to be a full-blooded Nigerian, and a Yoruba man at that, but who made a very scurrilous attack on one of the very few institutions for which this Region, or Nigeria for that matter, can always be proud.

When it was decided that the Government should help the National Bank, prior to the issue of preference shares by the Western Nigeria Marketing Board, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition was a member of this Party. It may be true, and it may also not be true, that in the conduct of his business activities the hon. Leader of the Opposition might be disappointed particularly on issue of credit facilities. It may be true, Sir, and it may not be true.

Mr Adisa: Point of Order, Sir. No member shall impute improper motives against any other Member.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I thought the hon. Member of the Opposition who spoke understood the English language. I said that it may be true and that it may not be true. In any event, you will have to go to school to study Grammar by G. G. Kuye.

I am not saying that all indigenous banking institutions in Nigeria are as well run as expatriate banking institutions. Surely, every encouragement must be given to them so that the standard which has been attained by expatriate banking institutions can be attained by them.

(3) *Usefulness to the Community*.—The National Bank of Nigeria has given assistance to the small businessmen and it was as a result of this policy that expatriate banks softened their attitude to Nigerian businessmen in the question of credit facilities. Government appreciates the role of both indigenous and expatriate banking institutions; that is why it assigns its banking business to a few of them.

Finally, Mr Speaker, what has been the role of the Opposition since 1952 in this House? Having lost elections continuously from 1952, the Opposition has become a wounded tiger and can therefore not discriminate as between its objects of prey. The account which the Opposition has given of itself in the Western House of Assembly is a tale of woes and, with your permission, Sir, I want to enumerate them.

On the issue of the minimum wage, the Opposition has been most dishonest. They came out with a Motion for 7s 6d minimum wage and even at the Federal level, where they are supposed to be junior partners in the coalition, they have not seen it fit to press for a minimum wage of 7s 6d for workers. On the question of the creation of States, what has been the attitude of the Opposition in this Region? Knowing as they do that the Western Region is the smallest of the three component units in the Federation, and having lost all hopes of ever becoming the Government of this Region in the foreseeable

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

future, they have developed a new philosophy of national liquidation by suggesting that apart from the creation of the Midwest State the boundary between Lagos and Western Region should be extended to include the whole of the Colony Division. The Northern Region with its monolithic entity, consisting of people, varied and diverse in their customs and traditions, is left entirely untouched, in spite of the desire of, and consistent demand of, the people of the Middle Belt for their own State. Eastern Region, which is the second largest in the country, has been left untouched, even though the people of the Calabar/Ogoja Rivers areas are pressing for a separate State of their own.

On the question of Customary Courts, the Opposition can find nothing good in it. What sincere patriots should have done is to come out with concrete suggestions as to how improvements could be made to the system of customary courts in the Western Region. Because of a few lapses on the part of individuals connected with the administration of customary courts, the Opposition wants to reckon vengeance on the Government on an institution which we hold very dear. What has the Leader of the Opposition, as a Queen's Counsel, got to say about the administration of Native Courts in the Northern Region? As far as the Opposition are concerned, everything that has been done in Northern Nigeria has been in the interest of Nigerian unity!

When people rioted in Benue Province against their oppressors, what role had the Opposition played? When, on the other hand, the late Leader of the Opposition died in a motor accident on a straight road, the Action Group was condemned and castigated for an act of God.

Mr Adisa: Was it?

Chief Odebiyi: When people are denied fundamental human rights in other parts of the country, the Opposition Members are blind to it. But if there is a single act of over-zealousness on the part of an Action Group supporter in any remote village of the Region, it is considered as a calculated attempt by the Government party to win support.

When the question of the participation of women in local government was raised about a week ago, what was the attitude of the Opposition? Their attitude was not less, and not more than, that women are not good to be councillors. When Marketing Board funds in the East or the North are used for

development, the Opposition hail it as being in the best interest of developing the economy of Nigeria. When a similar thing is done in Western Nigeria, Government party is castigated as filchers, pilferers and frauds.

Mr Speaker, Sir, those of us who are privileged to serve our generation today are enacting a history which only very few of us will be alive to read. When, therefore, generations yet unborn and posterity read the pages of the history being enacted, particularly by the Opposition, in this generation, they will apportion to every actor that which is his desert. Whether the policy of this Government is right or wrong is not a matter which can be dispassionately examined in the hurly-burly of party political partisanship. Was it not Hazlitt who said:

"Greatness is great Power

Producing power in itself,

No man is truly great in his life time
Save on the pages of History".

Whether it is we or the Opposition who are builders or wreckers,.....(*Opposition Benches: We are builders*) whether it is we or the Opposition who are sincere or insincere, is a matter entirely in the hands of Providence who in the final analysis is the greatest arbiter in human disputes.

Mr Speaker, Sir, what are we here for: to build or to wreck, to set one family against the other, to kill indigenous institutions or to save them; to vent our personal vengeance against individuals and attack them on the floor of this House in the name of nationalism? I think, Sir, that we are here to build a nation, to heal the nation's wounds, to promote the sanctity of the home, to bring up children in the true path, and leave this world better than we found it. If we fail to make our contributions to the above objectives, we would have belied the purpose of our creation.

God grant that truth will continue to prevail however beleaguered we clay-footed individuals may make it.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I want to refer to a matter of great public importance. On many occasions the hon. Premier has stretched the right hand of fellowship to the hon. the Leader of Opposition by requesting him not to hesitate to come to him whenever he requires any information about Government activities. The latest tactics of the Opposition are concerned with their method of getting information from sources other than official Government sources. I am saying this with a sense of responsibility. Sometime within the last week or two, the

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

hon. Member for Ikeja South, Mr Akinyemi, went to an officer in the Treasury to find out certain facts connected with certain Government expenditure. This officer gave the information. The particular officer will be the subject of an inquiry which will be carried out to ascertain the manner in which the information was conveyed.

I think, Mr Speaker, Sir, that this method of obtaining facts by fraudulent means through unauthorised sources is not only dishonest, but also vicious, mischievous, illegal and completely out of tune with established practice. It shows the method by which some people get on in the world.

I therefore challenge the Opposition to state categorically that they have not been going round the Government offices to obtain information for the purpose of bringing the Government into public obloquy. May I warn that those who live by the sword will die by the sword. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, those are my observations on the vituperations, effusions and empty verbiage of the Leader of the Opposition.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee of Supply immediately.

THE 1961-62 APPROPRIATION BILL

Committee of Supply (First Alloted Day)

Mr Fani-Kayode: It is most unkind and most unco-operative of the Minister. The Minister on the one hand talks to this House about the right hand of co-operation about having a system of work in this Parliament and yet, Sir, we were informed on our programme that the Committee of Supply will commence on the 13th of April, Thursday, and when I had a personal discussion with hon. the Minister, he told me that Ministers would reply today to the Budget Speech. But if they insist on it, I won't be surprised because that is the kind of treatment we on this side of the House expect from the Government.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, the trouble with the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is that he gets excited quite too often. Well, the NCNC has been completely liquidated in Northern Nigeria. (*Shouts of "shame, shame", from Government Benches*).

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

HEAD 320—GOVERNOR

Question proposed, that the sum of £22,170 for Head 320—Governor—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 321—PREMIER'S OFFICE

Question proposed, that the sum of £374,830 for Head 321—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 343—ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Question proposed, that the sum of £48,340 for Head 343—Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Okwesa: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 343 be reduced by £5. Mr Speaker, Sir, I move this amendment from what I have personally observed in the elections, both local and regional. I have discovered to my surprise that the Government Party is always interested in winning elections by fraud. I am going to say what happened during the 1956 elections and during the 1960 elections. It is characteristic of the Government Party to use forged ballot papers. Many Action Group members got false ballot papers to hide in their pockets, and when they went to the polls, Mr Speaker, Sir, they were given one ballot paper to show to the public, but in their pockets were hidden about a hundred ballot papers; with the result that when they go to the polls, they bring out these ballot papers and cast into the ballot boxes. In this way, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Action Group won the elections of 1956. That was also true in August 1960. Apart from that, there is another tendency of buying Presiding Officers. They bribe the Presiding Officers, give them money and beg them to stamp ballot papers after voters have gone away and their ballot papers are cast into the boxes. Sometimes the Presiding Officers deceive the public.

Now, I am saying that the Regional Electoral Commission is not worthy of its name, and for that reason, I am moving the amendment.

Mr Adisa: It is very necessary that elections may be fairly contested. I, myself, can support what has been said by the Mover. I have a personal experience which cannot be doubted at all. And if the Government doubts it, they can call for all the facts from the Electoral Commissioner. During the last elections, one of the Presiding Officers distributed ballot papers.

[MR ADISA]

I am not trying to make politics out of this because I will not say that every member of the Action Group was responsible or involved, but what we are trying to say is that the Electoral Commission Office should treat this matter with the seriousness that it deserves.

Luckily for me one of my old agents went to the station and caught this Presiding Officer handing over the ballot papers to certain of the Polling Agents of my opponent, and these people were taken down by hon. Akinjide to the Electoral Commissioner's Office himself. This matter was left and it is regretted that the person who should have been at Agodi enjoyed perhaps a good time and is still left free. The main point which we want this House to consider is that whenever this kind of thing happens, the people who are responsible for it should never again be employed as Presiding Officers or as Counting Agents. That is the point we are making. And then the Electoral Commission should appreciate that the only allegiance, the only duty, it owes to the Government of the day is to ensure fairness and impartiality in its conduct of the elections. If it thinks otherwise and arrogates to itself the duty of pleasing the Government of the day, then, certainly, it will fall into unpopularity and there is no doubt that we shall be compelled to come here and state specifically the names of the people who are involved.

For this reason we feel that the vote for that office should be reduced by £5 because in the past it has not been doing well its job and we do not doubt its ability to do well its job. It is true that when we begin to criticise the Electoral Commission Office voices will be raised from the other side denying these unjust practices and the wickedness and the malice of this Office, but we of the Opposition feel that if the Action Group, if they will fall, or they will go into liquidation, they should do it in a way that is fair and that could make them cross so easily to our side, not in the way that we would feel that, no matter whether you make your application to us or not, we will not allow you to be members on this side (*Government Benches: To the N.P.C?*)

Lastly, Sir, I know that it is a matter, which many of us have suggested, that this Electoral Commission should not be under the Regional Government at all; it should be an apparatus of the Federal Government, an extension of the Federal Government. (*Shouts of "Ah!" from Government Benches.*)

The reason is that in the matter of local elections, we certainly know that the Federal Government has no say in one way or the other, but in matters of Regional elections the Federal Government has got a say, and now that the Action Group is in the Opposition in the Federal Parliament.....

Mr Chairman: May I remind the hon. Gentleman that we shall not dispute the Constitution.

Mr Adisa: It is so, Sir. I will not myself dispute the Constitution and I have been surprised that Members opposite have been too anxious to dispute what misfortunes lay on them as a result of the Constitution.

So with this Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the amendment.

Amendment proposed.

Mr F. H. Utomi: Mr Chairman, Sir, if there is any section of this Government which exposes it to ridicule and public scorn, it is the Electoral Commission Office.

Throughout elections, local, regional and federal, the Western Region Government has succeeded in corrupting and prostituting the Western Region. In the first place, they use local councils clerks, who already are in their boots. They use them to secure votes and secure.....(*Government Benches: sekui...*) and these local councils clerks.....

Mr Chairman: Freedom of pronunciation. (*Laughter from both sides of the House.*)

Mr Utomi: I have several times caught the local Action Group party men who go round the district to bias the minds of the electorates.

Well, in the last elections most of us were denied ballot boxes in time. I remember that in my own constituency it was announced on the air that acid was put in my own box. I reported immediately, and luckily for me an NBC correspondent was on the spot, and it was announced on the air within thirty minutes. I refused the ballot box until a new one was brought to Ogwashi-Uku and then my people started to vote. In other words, it has always been the policy of this Government to use their influence to get round local council officers against the opponents of the party.

For this reason, I am saying that the particular Head should be reduced by £5.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): I am sure that both sides of the House ought to

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be keenly interested in this particular Head because without the Electoral Commissioner, it would be impossible for us to organise elections. It was through the good offices of the Electoral Commission that arrangements have been made for all hon. Members to be here. I can, therefore, understand why you are all interested. But may I say that all elections through which we have been here have been conducted in secret—in secret ballot. But the hon. Okwesa, who happens to know all secret and confidential matters, including private bribes and secret boxes, and who knew that certain voters had ballot papers in their pockets, does not appear to know that under the electoral regulations, both of this Region and of other Regions, any Member who suspects that any voter is keeping ballot papers in his pocket, is at liberty to report to the Police and that under the regulations the person or any voter may be searched. If the hon. Member does not know his position, I think it will help him to study the regulations very well. (*Mr Okwesa: Yes, I know it.*) If you knew that and you were sure that some voters were keeping ballot papers in their pockets and did not say it, you may be accused of being an accessory before the fact. We all are interested in fair and clean elections. In future, if any Member or any candidate for elections suspects foul play on the part of the Government, he has every remedy under the law. The electoral regulations are there; the law of the land is there; the Constitution is there; all are made with a view to ensuring fairness of elections. But, unfortunately, there are some of my Friends opposite who never read these electoral regulations. I think it will do us a lot of good if we all seize the advantage which the law extends to us.

I may go a little further than that. He alleged that some people kept ballot papers in their pockets. It might be possible to keep ballot papers in their pockets; it might be possible that the hon. Member knew that candidates established secret agents in the houses of the voters. But I want to know by what means he happened to know what they did when they came into the booth, where the voter is alone and nobody knows what he did in the booth. (*Opposition Benches: That is presumed.*)

Mr Okwesa: I was told by an Action Group agent.

Chief Akintola: May I say, Sir, as the next point on that, that apart from the electoral regulations which are intended to

prevent this fraud, after the voting, the number of people who cast their votes is always known and all parties to the election can ascertain the facts through their agents. If the number of ballot papers exceeds the number of those who actually registered their votes, certainly all candidates have their remedies. And what did the hon. Member do? All these might form grounds for an election petition.

We have heard a lot about these accusations of fraud. But may I mention to you that the Electoral Commission is an independent body. Only for the purpose of making financial provisions for the Commission, is it shown in our Estimates; but under the Constitution nobody can dictate to the Electoral Commissioner. In fact, the Chairman of the Electoral Commission is in charge, not only in this Region, but in all the Regions throughout the country. It is the same group of people who are responsible for elections in this Region who are also responsible for elections in other Regions. It does not mean that they are different in this Region or that they perform their duties in a different manner in this Region. Certainly not. And I would appeal to the hon. Member not to accuse the Government for an offence which not only it does not commit, but which it is incapable of committing. If you have any quarrel with the Electoral Commission you ought to know the appropriate authority to whom this particular complaint ought to be directed. I understand that part of the bad ground for this accusation, according to the hon. Okwesa, is that the NCNC in this Region lost the elections in 1952 and they accused us of winning only by fraud. In 1956 they lost also, and they accused us of fraud. In 1960 we were also accused of fraud. If it is so easy to defraud you all—in 1952 you were defrauded, in 1956 you were defrauded, in 1960 you were defrauded—are you intelligent enough to be entrusted with the welfare of the Region? (*Government Benches: No.*) I don't think it is a happy commentary on the intelligence of the Members of the Opposition if it is so easy to defraud all of them indefinitely. If you keep your money with a clerk who always defrauds you and the money is always lost, then you should come to the conclusion that this man is not fit as a storekeeper and that you will never entrust your store with him. That is perhaps why the electorates of this Region will never trust you.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question, that the sum of £6,340 for Head 343—Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 347—PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Question proposed, that the sum of £32,100 for Head 347—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move an amendment that Sub-head 1, Item 2, be increased by one, and provision by £2,700, bringing the number of persons to 4 instead of 3.

May I say Sir, that this is not the subject of comment because the fund is statutory and the provision is a direct charge on the General Reserve Fund. I only mentioned it for the purpose of amendment in the Estimates.

Alhaji Opaleye: I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £34,800 for Head 347—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Mr A. Atohengbe: By the programme distributed, Mr Chairman, Sir, it was stipulated that Committee of Supply will start from next tomorrow.....(*Jeers from Government Benches*). Mr Chairman, Sir, I like to say that it is surprising that the Government has undertaken of its own alone to alter the programme without notice, so that if my name has appeared, it was without any notice to me.

HEAD 721—PREMIER'S OFFICE

(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed that the sum of £16,600 for Head 721—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 743—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed, that the sum of £660 for Head 743—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 322—TREASURY

Question proposed, that the sum of £320,300 for Head 322—The Treasury—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 323—MISCELLANEOUS

Question proposed that the sum of £515,130 for Head 323—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 324—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

Question proposed, that the sum of £47,200 for Head 324—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 326—TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Question proposed, that the sum of £1,530,020 for Head 326—Transfer Payments—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 341—AUDIT

Question proposed, that the sum of £90,280 for Head 341—Audit—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 345—LEGISLATURE

Question proposed, that the sum of £260,140 for Head 345—Legislature—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 705—LOANS.

Question proposed, that the sum of £4,432,000 for Head 705—Loans—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to move that the provision under Head 705—Loans—be increased by £1,200,000. The provision under sub-head 4—Housing Corporation—should be, increased by £1,000,000 and the one under Sub-head 6, entitled "Town and Country Planning", should be increased by £200,000. The provision made is a revote from last year. Already the Minister of Lands and Housing has in mind to give loans to Town Planning Authorities to carry out their work. The increase in respect of the Housing Corporation is made in order to enable the Corporation to carry out their work of land acquisition for development.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £5,632,000 for Head 705—Loans—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 722—TREASURY

Question that the sum of £600 for Head 722—Treasury—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Committee report Progress—to sit again tomorrow.

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 10.25 p.m., till 10.00 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, 11th April, 1961.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 11TH APRIL, 1961

(The House met at 10.15 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Oye-Otun Road

10/4. Mr D. A. Atolagbe asked the Minister of Works and Transport when the Oye-Otun road, via Ikun in Ekiti Division which is now half-way tarred would be completed.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief S. O. Sogbein): It is hoped to commence bituminous surfacing of the remainder of Oye-Ikun-Otun road as soon as possible.

Tarring of roads in Ibadan

10/24. Mr S. A. Sanni asked the Minister of Works and Transport what steps Government was taking to improve the tarring of all roads in Ibadan so as to make this town worthy of a Regional Capital.

Chief Sogbein: Ibadan township roads are the responsibility of the Ibadan District Council and not that of Government (*Hear, hear*).

Mr A. Atohengbe: I would like to ask the Minister of Works and Transport whether his Government is satisfied with the unplanned conditions of all the roads in Ibadan township and what improvements he would recommend to his Government to make these roads worthy of the Regional Capital?

Chief Sogbein: The answer is the same as the one I gave to the original question. It is the responsibility of the Ibadan District Council.

Mr A. S. Somotan: Since the Ibadan District Council is under the Regional Government, why is it difficult for the Minister of Works and Transport to tell us something about the Ibadan roads?

Mr Speaker: The maintenance of the roads is the responsibility of the Ibadan District Council. The second question does not arise. It arises for the Ibadan District Council (*Laughter*).

Tarring of Ilie-Oba Road

10/32. Mr Y. Adekunle asked the Minister of Works and Transport whether the Regional Government would in the interest of the public concerned include in the current Development Programme the tarring of Ilie-Oba road.

Chief Sogbein: The tarring of the Ilie-Oba road would be taken into consideration when the next road development programme is drawn up. (*Laughter*).

EDUCATION

Number of Secondary Modern Schools in Ibadan and District

10/42. Mr L. A. Ajimobi asked the Minister of Education the number of Secondary Modern Schools there are at (a) Ibadan, (b) Ibadan District; also whether the Minister considered that the present number of Secondary Modern Schools is adequate for absorbing all qualified primary school leavers.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr R. A. Olusa): The distribution of secondary modern schools in Ibadan and its district is as follows:

	Ibadan Town	Ibadan District
Existing on 31st December, 1960	25	4
Permitted to open in 1961	1	4
	26	8

Government's policy is to provide secondary modern school education for 50 per cent of successful primary school leavers from time to time. It is not clear whether the second part of the hon. Member's question refers to the number of secondary modern schools in Ibadan and its environs or to the number of such schools in the Region as a whole. It is assumed however, that the hon. Member had the former figure in mind. On that assumption I am of the opinion that the existing facilities are adequate for primary school leavers in Ibadan and its district.

In any event, the future of the secondary modern school system throughout the Region is under consideration by the Government (*Hear, hear*) in the light of the recommendations in the Banjo Commission's Report.

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Tarring of Roads

10/95. Mr I. A. Olukoju asked the Minister of Works and Transport when Government would undertake the tarring of the following roads:—

- (a) Ikare-Oka Road junction to Iwaro-Oka (three miles).
- (b) Ibaka Oka-Ishua Akoko (eight miles).
- (c) Idoani-Idogun (six miles).
- (d) Idoani-Ipele (twenty miles).
- (e) Ifon-Ikaro (two miles).
- (f) Sobe-Ijagba-Imoru-Ifon (eight miles).

Chief Sogbein: These roads would be considered along with others in the future Road Development Programme of the Government.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Ikole Maternity Hospital

10/124. Mr R. O. Areola asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare whether Government would consider the advisability of expanding and converting Ikole Maternity Hospital to a General Hospital.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa): The Ikole Maternity Hospital is not a Government Hospital. It is owned and run by the Methodist Mission but receives generous grants from the Regional Government.

It is not considered advisable, at this stage at least, to convert the Ikole Maternity Hospital into a Government Hospital.

The only figures available on the services rendered to the public by the Ikole Maternity Hospital are in respect of the treatment of children under eighteen years old. These figures are usually merged with those for the Wesley Guild Hospital. The Ikole Maternity Hospital has no resident doctor but one of the doctors from the Wesley Guild Hospital visits there two or three days in the week. The estimated number of children under eighteen years old treated yearly is 7,300.

EDUCATION

Grants-in-aid to Schools and Colleges in Epe Division

10/126. Mr J. A. Odutuga asked the Minister of Education the total sum of the grants-in-aid that was paid to each of the existing Schools and Colleges in Epe Division during the periods March 1956 and March 1961.

Mr Olusa: In 1956-58 Grants-in-aid were paid in block to proprietors in respect of their schools. During that period the following grants were paid to schools in Epe Division through the Local Education Authority, Epe Division.

	£	s	d
Recurrent Expenditure...	96,969	16	1
Capital	27,600	0	0
Total Expenditure ...	£ 124,569	16	1

During 1959-61 Proprietors were paid in respect of schools under their management as follows:

(a) Primary Schools:			
Recurrent Expenditure	120,919	19	9
Capital Expenditure ...	18,000	0	0
Total Expenditure...	£ 138,919	19	9

(b) Secondary Schools:			
Recurrent Expenditure	10,638	3	4
Capital Expenditure ...	10,381	9	7
Total Expenditure...	£ 21,019	12	11

(c) Teacher Training Colleges:			
Recurrent Expenditure	16,066	17	11
Capital Expenditure ...	285	0	0
Total Expenditure...	£ 16,351	17	11

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Water Supply Scheme for Akungba

10/163. Mr S. T. Adelegan asked the Minister of Works and Transport why the water supply schemes proposed for Akungba and Ajowa in Akoko District have not been begun.

Chief Sogbein: The proposed water supply for Akungba and Ajowa have not begun because of shortage of technical staff. As soon as the staff position improves, work will start.

Tarring of Roads

10/191. Mr D. A. Popoola asked the Minister of Works and Transport how soon the work of tarring would be begun on the following roads in view of their commercial importance:—

- (a) Awe-Akinmorin-Itoşi junction; Fiditi-Iware.
- (b) Oyo-Akinmorin; Ilora-Imini; Akinmorin-Idi Igba;
- (c) Fiditi-Ilu Aje; Iware-Akinmorin.

(d) Ilora-Oluwatedo; Imeleke-Akinmorin.

Chief Sogbein: Government is not unaware of the commercial importance or otherwise of these roads. They will be considered along with others in future road development programme.

An hon. Member: I should like to know from the Minister of Works and Transport why it is that the Government of this Region is not responsible for the tarring of Ibadan roads.

Chief Sogbein: I cannot understand what the hon. Gentleman is talking about. (Laughter).

An hon. Member: I can repeat my statement for the Minister to understand. For instance, roads in Akinmorin, Oyo, Ilaro, Awe, etc., are being tarred by this Government; the Ibadan roads are not going to be tarred by the same Government, even though Ibadan happens to be the Regional capital. Why is the Government treating Ibadan like that?

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): Mr Speaker, I do not regard this question as supplementary. It appears even greater than the very original question (Laughter).

The Minister of Home Affairs (Mr Duro Ogundiran): If you join the Government party you will realise what big proposals the Government has for Ibadan (Hear, hear).

Mr Speaker: This is no supplementary question and so it is ruled out of order (shame, shame).

LABOUR

Problem of Unemployment

10/226. **Mr A. Ajibola** asked the Minister of Labour what positive steps his Ministry is taking to minimise unemployment in Western Region.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr J. O. Odigie): I invite the attention of the hon. Member to the answer which I gave to Question No. 10/170 earlier in this Meeting. I referred to employment possibilities existing in Government institutions and avenues of employment being created by the promotion of industries and the establishment of farm settlements and farm institutes.

LANDS AND HOUSING

Housing Estates

*10/227. **Mr Ajibola** asked the Minister of Lands and Housing the total number of Housing Estates that exist in the Region: also to indicate (a) where these are located and (b) their future prospects.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lands and Housing (Mr C. A. Williams): Western Nigeria Housing Corporation has established two Housing Estates in this Region. These are located at Ibadan and Ikeja. The future prospects of these estates are bright as the demand for houses is great. Efforts are being made to meet the increasing demand by expanding the existing estates and establishing new ones.

I like to add that arrangements are afoot to establish a new estate at Benin and another at Sapele during the financial year.

Mr E. O. Imafidon: How soon are you going to start that of Benin?

Mr Williams: It is our proposal to have one in Benin and another at Sapele this financial year.

Mr T. E. Igugu: I would like the Minister to state the expenditure involved in the Housing Estate at Ikeja and the revenue which has so far accrued to the Government from the estates.

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Mr J. O. Adigun): I wonder whether the hon. Member will take that as a supplementary question? In any case I require a notice of it.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: I like the Minister of Housing to explain the meaning of "supplementary" (*Government Benches: Go and use your dictionary*).....in the answer given to the hon. Member's question.

Mr Adigun: If you open the Oxford Dictionary, you will find the meaning there.

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (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 Osuntokun: I beg to support.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Allegation of Financial Loss in the Cocoa Marketing Board

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, the practice of this honourable House, consistent with the established practice in Legislatures of this kind, is that the affairs of the House are conducted on the floor of the House.

The question of Cocoa Marketing Board loomed very large on the floor of this House for the past few days and, in keeping with parliamentary practice, it should have been confined to the floor of this House, especially between the Opposition and the Government. But the Leader of the Opposition (unfortunately he is not here now) has chosen to conduct part of the affairs of this House, not on the floor of this House, but outside it. On the matter of the inquiry, the Leader of the Opposition addressed a correspondence to me personally, but before I got that correspondence it was already in the air, being broadcast. I have nothing to hide about the question of the Marketing Board but I feel the record of this House will be incomplete if part of the discussion between the Opposition Leader and the Government is in the record of the House and part of it is in the record of the Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation. In order to keep the record complete, I wish to read to the honourable House the text of the letter addressed to me by the Leader of the Opposition and the text of my reply to him:

“Official Opposition,
Western House of Assembly,
Western Nigeria Parliament,
Ibadan.
10th April, 1961.

Premier,
Western Region,
Ibadan.

“Cocoa Marketing Board: Allegation of Financial Loss

The Official Opposition rejects the offer of Government to institute a public enquiry into ‘administrative arrangements for implementing the price change, and in particular the acceptability of the stock declaration by Licensed Buying Agents’ by a Judge as proposed by Government.

In the first instance, the first part of the proposed inquiry is so vague as to be meaningless and the second part is too extended.

The Opposition demands an inquiry by an independent economics specialist into the allegations of the Opposition into the activities of the Cocoa Marketing Board in connection

with all payments, purchases and monetary transactions made by the Cocoa Marketing Board from the date of the reduction of the price of cocoa in Western Nigeria by the West Regional Government and the stocks of cocoa held by the Board and its Agents at the said date up to date.

Further, a Judge is hardly qualified to conduct an inquiry of the measure the issues raised indicate.

We assure Government that the only satisfactory conclusion to the situation alleged is a full public inquiry into the issues raised by an Independent Economic and Financial Expert.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. FANI-KAYODE,
Leader of Opposition

I replied as follows:

“My dear Leader of Opposition,

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 10th April, 1961, which, to say the least, has done you no credit at all. That a man in your position can stick persistently and remorselessly to obvious inaccuracies and deliberately ignore the patent facts, even when you know them, makes me wonder whether Western Nigeria has the type of Opposition it deserves.

2. I am amused to observe that you have now chosen to resort to writing and publishing private letters on an issue which you so flagrantly distorted on the floor of the House of Assembly. This antic of letter-wiriting is a device with which you intend to becloud the issue. Before you started to disseminate untrue information in the House you had every opportunity to approach me or contact any of my colleagues to ascertain the facts. You did not think it necessary to avail yourself of that opportunity and in consequence your criticisms became not only blatantly malicious but also grossly uninformed.

3. You alleged on the floor of the House of Assembly, without ascertaining the facts, that £997,000 of the Western Nigeria Marketing Board has been stolen. The House had been informed by the Government that the allegation was untrue and that not a penny of the Marketing Board was misappropriated. In what fraud then were those described by you as ‘Action Group high-ups’ involved? Contrary to the allegation made by you, nothing was paid for what you referred to as ‘surreptitious purchases’. As declared by Mr Aluko himself, no one appointed him to conduct any inquiry. In spite of the evidence

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

against you, you have not appeared to feel sorry for misleading and misinforming the country including your own supporters. You do not, up till now, think it wrong to impugn the integrity of the innocent without a just cause. All men are fallible, but it is only the honest ones among them who are courageous enough to own up their mistakes.

4. Instead of owning up, and accepting the truth, you adroitly shifted grounds and narrowed down the issue to the brand of inquiry to be set up. The inquiry, according to you, should be economic and not judicial. In your wild and unfounded allegations against the Government and the Marketing Board, you raised serious issues of fraud, stealing, misappropriation and allied crimes. You will agree with me as a lawyer, I presume, that these are not matters within the province of an economic expert. Whether a transaction involves fraud, or amounts to stealing, or constitutes misappropriation is certainly an issue to be inquired into by a man with legal training and judicial mind. That is why it sounds strange that you do not support the appointment of either a Judge or a Magistrate to conduct the inquiry. The Government is fully competent to determine the nature and the term of reference of the inquiry it intends to set up. Whatever we do, I assure you, we of the Government of Western Nigeria are motivated by a desire to promote the best interest of the people who have so much confidence in our honesty and sincerity as to entrust their welfare to our hands.

Yours sincerely,

S. L. AKINTOLA,
Premier"

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Western Regional Government's Economic Policy

Motion "That this honourable House do congratulate the West Regional Government and pass in this honourable House a Vote of Confidence in the said Regional Government for its bid to expand Trade and Industry, for its endeavour to check the monopoly of aliens on our economic grasp, and for its determination to promote actively the interest of indigenous business enterprise in order that our political independence and/or national pride may not be a farce". (Mr S. A. Akerele) not moved.

Employment in the Region

Motion "That this honourable House congratulate the Regional Government for the measures which it has taken to prevent

unemployment by the progressive agricultural and industrialisation policies now being pursued the effects of which are already being felt in the Region". (Mr B. I. G. Ewah) not moved.

Appointment of Members of Area Tax Assessment Committees

Motion "That this honourable House prays the Western Regional Minister of Local Government to desist from the present practice of appointing Action Groupers as members of Area Tax Assessment Committees to impose and collect rates within the jurisdiction of NCNC controlled Council in Benin Division. (Mr V. I. Amadasun) not moved.

Removal of Hospital from Forcados to Bomadi

Motion "That this honourable House consider the removal of the present General Hospital from Forcados to Bomadi the Divisional Headquarters, Western Ijaw Division in view of the fact that the said Hospital is not centrally located which is causing considerable inconvenience to the citizens of this Area". (Mr A. A. Zuokumor) not moved.

A. B. Bello: Point of order. Standing Order 25 (1) says: "A Motion or an Amendment may be withdrawn, at the request of the Mover, by leave of the House or Committee, after the question thereon has been proposed but before it has been fully put, provided that there is no dissentient voice. A Motion or an Amendment so withdrawn may be made again but in the case of a Motion notice is required."

Mr Speaker: I could understand the difficulty of the hon. Gentleman. He is a novice. (Laughter). The Standing Order says that a Motion or an Amendment may be withdrawn at the request of the Mover by leave of the House or Committee after question thereon has been proposed but before it has been fully put. In this case they have not been proposed. I say this for your information and future guidance.

ORDER OF THE DAY

1961-62 APPROPRIATION BILL

(Second Allotted Day)

Considered in Committee of Supply.

House in Committee.

HEAD 327—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Question proposed that the sum of £1,942,680 for Head 327—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. A. Layonu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment that the sum of £5 be reduced from this Head. Now, Sir, at present the Ministry of Agriculture is making a certain Farm Project in Oshogbo covering a piece of the land between Oshogbo and Ede. Now, the Agricultural Department has so placed my people in a very complicated position that they always find it very difficult to make their claims or obtain necessary explanations from Agricultural Officers there despite the fact that I personally went to the District. I went to their officers at Oshogbo still these farmers are in a very difficult position. I think at least if the administration is good enough our farmers who are illiterate masses should not be put into any difficulty at all. They should have made arrangement that these farmers should have everything easy for them but instead of this the officer there has appointed an Action Group councillor through which (*Government Benches: "Through which!"—Freedom of grammar*) (*laughter and interruptions.....*).

This councillor is not prepared at all to help the farmers, simply because he knows they are not his supporters and up till now the farmers are still in difficulty. Therefore, I pray this House to reduce this Head by £5.

Mr S. A. Oyewole: In the money under the Estimates of this Ministry I should like the Head to be reduced by £5 (*Government Benches: Why?*) Very recently, if I am not mistaken (*Government Benches: If you are not mistaken?*) a large sum of money has been spent on this very Ministry and if this amount is reduced... (*Mr Chairman: On what has been spent or what is to be spent?*) (*Government Benches: Sit down*). For financial reasons I think it is good to make this amendment.

(*Government Benches: Shame, shame*).

Amendment proposed.

Chief Adigun: Mr Chairman, Sir, the acquisition of land is the responsibility of my Ministry. When pieces of land are acquired by Government we publish Notices of Acquisition and such notices are sent to the people in the areas where Government likes to acquire land for use. When such notices are sent we expect owners of land to make claims. Invariably, two or three persons may be claiming a particular piece of

land. Where there are conflicting claims, Government does not pay compensation to anybody, in which case we expect claimers to prove their claims; as soon as they are proved, Government pays compensation. But in the case of Ede there are so many conflicting claims that it will be necessary for Government to take the matter to Court, and until a decision is taken as to who is the rightful owner and to whom money should be paid Government will not be justified in paying any compensations to anybody. If my hon. Friend has any useful information to give to my Ministry I can assure him that he will be welcomed.

In the case of economic crops, it is the duty of Agricultural Officers in the area to count the number of such crops and as soon as they send in their report we pay. I don't think the hon. Member has any quarrel with the crops; his main quarrel is with the use of land itself. Until these claims are settled, I am afraid Government cannot pay anybody compensation.

Mr D. E. Okumagba: I think this is a matter in which Government has not shown sufficient interest. It is my opinion that Government has not shown the interest in this Ministry that it deserves.

Now, we are at the moment facing the problem of unemployment in the Region. We see large numbers of persons completing their courses in primary schools and secondary modern schools. You will agree with me, Mr Chairman, that in the past once the average Nigerian had completed his secondary school education or University education or even primary school education he thought that he had got himself prepared to get a job in any of the Government departments or the Ministries. At the moment we have since realised that these Ministries have got all the numbers of employees they require and no room more for school leavers. One would expect that the Government of this Region would take this problem in hand. What are we going to do? We know that the Region is mainly an agricultural Region, and it will be the duty of Government to consider the problem before it reaches a stage where very little can be done.

Now, when I look through all the agricultural projects in the Region I find that what is being done is experiment, experiment and experiment on and on. When shall we realise the results of these experiments? Now, Mr Chairman announced that the vote for this item is well over £1 million, but I find it difficult to convince myself that the result of agricultural experiments in the Region

[MR OKUMAGBA]

benefits the people. I even find it difficult to convince myself that the production will be up to £1 million. Are the farmers in the Region producing as much as £1 million as a result of the knowledge they gained from these experimental farms? Are we producing any good results in this Ministry?

I would like to recommend to the Ministry that we should not take the agricultural department as a department that should just be there, because it will be a shame if we don't have a Ministry of Agriculture; but it is my opinion that the Government is not realistic enough in their own agricultural projects. I feel that something must be done apart from the experiments that produce no good results. I recommend that now that we are faced with unemployment the agricultural department should do more to lead to the employment of school leavers in the farms. We have reached a stage when attention should be turned to the farms because there is no point considering that the boys should be trained to take jobs only in the offices. I recommend to the Government to take a different outlook on agriculture.

Mr P. V. Okwesa: Mr Chairman Sir, the aim of Government for voting such a large sum of money for the Ministry of Agriculture is to help to solve the problem of unemployment which faces the Region and the country as a whole. As has already been explained, many thousands of our primary and secondary modern school leavers face unemployment. They have no jobs and Government wants to solve this problem by establishing Co-operative Farm Settlements, we are told. But I am surprised, Mr Chairman, Sir, that in the Ndosimili District, where we are prepared to embrace this project put up by the Government, we are being denied all our rights; we are neglected. Land has been provided, and agreements reached with the people of Osis and Obikwele who, having been advised to give up their lands freely, have done so in good faith, but up till now nothing has been done in the way of establishing a Co-operative Farm Settlement in Ndosimili for our primary and secondary modern school leavers. What are these boys going to do? Are they going to run to other parts of the Region or are they going to remain in the district facing unemployment? Their education as primary and secondary modern school leavers is not enough to give them jobs in Government departments. What is delaying this project and why has the Government not given the Ndosimili District a Co-operative Farm Settlement?

Mr Chairman, Sir, when we visited Ikeja the other day we saw dairy and poultry farm projects. I believe also that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. What is good for Ikeja is also good for Ashaka. We want to enjoy what other parts of the Region are enjoying. For this reason I support the amendment that this Head be reduced by £5.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to support the amendment on this matter. Mr Chairman, Sir, it is only regrettable that the Minister of Agriculture is so conspicuously absent this morning. (*Chief Odebiyi: He is away from the country to Ghana in the interest of the country.*) I wish that a competent man is here to answer to the points of the opposition.

I refer the House to Sub-Heads 22, 23, 24, 25 and 32 and, with your permission, Mr Chairman, the implications in these Sub-heads are so difficult that without refreshing my mind I may not be able to judge them accurately. Mr Chairman, I know for certain that the prosperity of this Region depends hundred per cent on the cocoa industry and, as Ministers on the other side used to say, "cocoa industry is the life-blood of the financial life of this Action Group Government." But I have said this before: unless they are very careful the financial life-blood will be de-oxygenated.

Now turning to Sub-head 22—Capsid and Black Pod Disease Control of Cocoa—£13,000, that is for the capsid seed. Sub-head 23.—Cocoa Drier: Maintenance and Running Charges—£420. Sub-head 24.—Cocoa Survey—£35,100, Sub-head 32.—Rehabilitation of Cut-out Farms—£25,000 and Sub-head 34—Swollen Shoot Compensation Payment—£16,000. If all these quotations, Sir, are mathematically calculated a total sum of £249,520 will be spent by the Regional Government on cocoa industry. Now, for purposes of comparison, Mr Chairman, I refer the House to Sub-head 26—Encouragement of Rubber Planting—£98,000, Sub-head 33.—Rubber Research Station—£3,000, when it is totalled up Mr Chairman, if we subtract the sum of £101,000 from £249,520 this gives a difference of £148,000. This is the discrimination. When you use a penny for rubber, try to spend two pence for cocoa, and then the creator of cocoa and rubber will not be annoyed. Everytime you come to the House to say that the price of cocoa has fallen, he who is responsible for the fall is somebody greater than you and me.

Chief Odebiyi: You know that; you are inconsistent.

Mr Amadasun: I want to protest against the Leader of the House who came to this House yesterday and rushed through Governor's Office, Premier's Office, etc. I have something to say on them but I did not know you wanted to start.

I am glad this Government has supported the creation of the Midwest State so that we can develop our own economy. (*An hon. Member: Snails are found in the Midwest*). Mr Chairman, Sir, fixed vehicle allowances is £58,000. If you go through the Estimates you will see that the draftsman made an explanatory note to even the minutest item, but on these vehicle allowances, involving so many thousands, there is no explanatory note. The Government pay £75 car basic allowances for Ministers monthly and not annually. I stand corrected whether the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries didn't get their £75 car allowances. In fact, in the Western Region there is no morality in politics. When an ordinary man like myself gets £11 car consolidated allowance, you get £75. This is a challenge to the Minister of Finance. I want an explanatory note to this sub-head to be given by the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House of the Western Region Legislature at Ibadan.

Another very complicated and annoying omission in respect of this Head is Sub-head 1, item 167—Minister's Allowances. To be fair, Mr Chairman, during the time of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, long may he live. (*.....Prolonged cheers*). He used to be my friend. During the Budget Session he would entertain all Members of the Legislature; so also would the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources and also the Leader of the House; but since he has gone we have not got anything from anybody in this House. Since Chief S. L. Akintola has taken over he has never invited even one legislator; he is saving his allowances.

Mr Chairman: The Head dealing with the Premier's entertainment allowances has been settled last night and approved.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Chairman, I should not be anticipating. I wouldn't say anything about that. I went to the house of one of these Ministers the other day. When I entered, he asked what I wanted to take and I replied that I would like to take Beer. He said, "Steward, come and give master a bottle of Beer". When the bottle of Beer was brought it was half a bottle of "Heinekens". (*Prolonged laughter*).

Chief Odebiyi: Point of explanation, Sir. I think, Sir, that it was as a result of

increases in the tax, and custom duties on Beer that my hon. Colleague had to give you half a bottle of beer.

Mr Amadasun: But I was obstinate. I told him to bring two. I took the two and I thought I had taken my own share out of these allowances. I have it in command of myself that what I am saying is true. If the Chairman wants me to name the Minister I have to do it.....(*Prolonged laughter*).

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Mr C. I. Akere): Mr Chairman, I rise to say that the remarks made by Members of the Opposition against the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources spring from the ignorance and inability of Members of the Opposition to examine carefully the votes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and to look also into various projects that the Ministry has established and intends to establish.

Some Members of the Opposition made some silly remarks about certain things which affect the Ministry. I would say that some of these Members of the Opposition fail to understand the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources in respect of matters they raise. An hon. Member from Ibadan said that the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources acquired land compulsorily from people without paying compensation or adequate compensation for such lands, and also that the Ministry settles young men in a Division when they come from other Divisions. Some mentioned that young farmers outside Ibadan have been chosen to settle in the Ibadan Farm Settlement. I say, Sir, that this is wrong.

The policy of the Government is to admit on to a settlement only natives of the administrative Division to which the settler is related, and only people within that Division or living within 30 miles radius can be settled in that settlement. I also will say that the Government does not acquire land compulsorily from land owners without payment when compulsory acquisition is done, sufficient compensation is paid. I would like to give a brief explanation to Members of the Opposition as to the manner in which any land is acquired by the Government and what compensation is paid therefore. When land is acquired for a Farm Settlement, the Government publishes a notice in all the local newspapers requesting Obas, Chiefs and Councillors, Local Government Councils, for offers of land which they want to use. Further details of the Farm Settlement Scheme are carried out by arrangements

[MR AKERE]

between individual owners. The Government, Sir, is not bound to accept any offers of land, and its decisions to negotiate depends on the soil and the topographical survey.

After a piece of land has been offered and inspected and found to be satisfactory for use, a Notice of Compulsory Acquisition is usually published under the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance, so that the claims to the land can be settled and compensation paid. A sum of £270,000 was inserted in the 1960-61 Estimates under Head 709 for paying such compensation, and a large proportion of this sum has been paid.

I think Members of the Opposition will therefore appreciate that the Government has been very fair with the acquisition of land. I must say that the farm settlement scheme is becoming so popular that we have begun to receive more offers of land from many Divisions than we are able to cope with.

The Member for Ede said that Members in his Division are experiencing difficulties. I can say that the difficulty which he envisaged has been explained by the Minister of Lands and Housing about what he ought to do. It is a shame that he does not know.

The hon. Member from Aboh has said that Government has not shown sufficient interest in agriculture in his area and that the problem of unemployment has not been looked into. I would like to assure the hon. Member that one of the reasons for the establishment of farm settlements was to combat unemployment. The system has been to establish, at least one farm settlement in every Division. It has been pursued logically. In Agege we have found that the question of unemployment has been solved to some extent. Not less than 500 have been employed on general labour in these farm settlements and not less than 350 settlers are to be established in each of these farms. It will be observed, therefore, that if Government established something around 22 to 24 of these farms, each of which is capable of taking in 1,000 settlers, the Government is solving the problem of unemployment by providing work for 22,000 to 24,000 people. I think the Opposition should not quarrel over this. It is a step by this Government to solve the problem of unemployment.

You may ask what qualifications are required for employment. The candidates must have not less than a Primary Six pass and you will find that many of those leaving school have embraced agriculture as something worthwhile.

Opposition Benches: How many Ministers' sons are there?

Mr Akere: How many of *your* sons are there? It is wrong, Sir, for the Members of the Opposition to have a wrong impression about the work of the Ministry of Agriculture. I am sure that if the hon. Member can take some time to see some of the projects of the Ministry of Agriculture in the Western Region, he would not have come here to exhibit the degree of ignorance which he has exhibited here today.

Hon. Okwesa has said that Government has not taken any steps to set up a farm settlement in Aboh. I wish to say that the intention of this Government is to establish one in every Division, and I might say that if the hon. Member from Aboh does not want us to set one on water, and he has up to about 4,000 acres of land, he should communicate with my Ministry. We assure him that we shall send our officers there to examine and report in order that we may know if the land is of the required type and may be useful for our purpose, we shall not hesitate to look into the matter. I would like to assure him again that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure that a farm settlement is established in each Division.

With regard to the criticisms of hon. Amadasun, I wish to say that he exhibited his ignorance of the attitude of the Government to the projects in the Midwest. My first observation is that he merely implied that while this Government has placed much encouragement upon the planting of cocoa, nothing has been done for rubber which is the life-blood of the people of the Midwest. I would like to say that if you look through the Estimates you will find that a sum of £98,000 has been set aside for the encouragement of rubber planting in the Midwest. You will see again that a sum of £3,000 has been set aside for research in rubber and that research station will soon be built in the Midwest. You will also observe, Sir, that a sum of £28,000 has been set aside for the encouragement of oil palm planting in the Midwest. You will also note that this Government has made available a sum of £35,000 to J. A. Asaboro for the processing of rubber in the Midwest.

Opposition Benches: Because he is an Action Grouper.

Mr Akere: You will not cry about this. Your explanation is that he is a party man. Are you saying therefore that the grant made to a Midwesterner will not be used for the benefit of the Midwest?

[MR AKERE]

If you look into the Estimates you will find that a sum of £25,000 has been set aside for the rehabilitation of cut-out farms. (*Where in the Midwest?*) If you read all these things, I am afraid, you will not be right and you will feel some prick of conscience if you stand up here to criticise the Government instead of praising them. (*Shouts of Alhaji, "Alhaji, Alhaji" from Opposition Benches as Alhaji Opaleye rose to hand over a book to Mr Akere*) I know some sensible Members of the Opposition appreciate what the Government is doing. One of such people is hon. Oputa-Otutu who said:

"I am grateful to the efforts made by the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources in my constituency".

(*Opposition Benches: Is that what the Alhaji was showing you?*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, these are my observations on the criticisms of the Members of the Opposition on my Ministry.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £1,942,680 for Head 327—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 709.—SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £561,830 for Head 709—Special Agricultural Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 723.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed, that the sum of £175,760 for Head 723—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 328.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed, that the sum of £144,580 for Head 328—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr K. O. Owonikoko: Mr Chairman, Sir, Head 328—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development. The system of administration of this Ministry leaves much to be desired, particularly about the works undertaken by communal efforts by the members of the community in this Region. In my constituency, Oyo Central I, a certain road from Iseyin to Upper Ogun

Road—17 miles—was constructed by communal effort of the farmers between 1949 and 1950 with an estimated cost of £2,100. Later this road was taken up by the Production Board, now Development Corporation, and, unfortunately, the road has now become the *bona fide* property of the Corporation in Upper Ogun and no lorries were allowed to ply on this road without permit. As a result, there are only four local lorries plying on this road, and the qualification of these lorry owners are the Action Group membership cards. The entire majority of the community in this regard were dissatisfied with the situation and this automatically discouraged them to initiate other communal efforts to construct or build any road.

Secondly, many useful roads and public buildings which were proposed by members of the NCNC are always neglected by the officers of this Ministry, except these people can prove that they have either declared for the Action Group or produce Action Group membership cards. Mr Chairman, Sir, how could it be possible to develop only the Action Group areas alone and not the whole Region? Since 1951 this Action Group Government had been blessed by the strong opposition of this NCNC and our belief is that if not because of this strong opposition of this party, the present development projects could not have been possible. Many sites have been surveyed within my constituency area for fishing pond, but all to no success for about four years.

Mr Chairman: That appears somewhat irrelevant. The Ministry of Economic Planning has nothing to do with fishing.

Mr Owonikoko: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister in charge of this Ministry could hardly claim to have been to my constituency since these years that he has been made the Minister.

Mr Chairman, Sir, under another item, Item 5—Adult Education. In my own constituency, Oyo Central, the Adult Education Officer has been removed to another place since about one year ago for reasons best known to the material Ministry; whereas, in the Estimates under—Other Charges (Item 11), £5,000 was provided, but in my constituency there is none, whereas my constituency is in Western Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, Sir, Item 17—Shasha Camp. I could remember that there was a certain letter inviting members of the Council to undergo this Course. We submitted applications about two years ago. Nothing has been heard about the Course

[MR OWONIKOKO]

whereas this money was voted every year. We don't know why this should be so. (*Government Benches: Finally.....Sit down. It is finished.*)

Mr Chairman, many councillors had applied to undergo this Shasha training about two and a half years, but nothing heard about their applications for reasons best known to the Ministry. However, funds for these services were made available by the Government every year.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the reasons for all these things, as far as I am concerned, is that the Minister in charge of this Ministry is not used to touring. I could remember, as a member of that Council, that I have never seen that Minister in that Council. So he cannot know what is going on. But he can go to the Northern Region to campaign, and I think this might have been the result of making all these defects in my constituency because he has never visited my place. It is very important; that is why the Premier always comes there—Oyo Central.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these remarks I feel that the estimates of this Ministry deserve to be reduced by five pounds. (*Government Benches: Very dry. No point.*)

Mr C. O. Olamigoke: Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to move an amendment that a sum of £5 be reduced from this Head. Some Divisions in this Region hardly know that this Ministry is in existence, particularly Okitipupa Division. Now, we believe very much in divisional self-help. But these people have been discouraged by this Ministry because there was a road being constructed by the people of Irele. The people applied to this Ministry for money, but no help was forthcoming.

Sometime ago, an amount of £1,000 was given to my division for recreational facilities. This amount of money was handed over to an Action Group chief. He constructed a lawn tennis court which could be used by kids. The youths of Okitipupa did not see any welfare officer at all. We have several boys' and girls' clubs in Okitipupa, but when we applied to this Ministry for help no help was forthcoming. Perhaps the area is so close to the Midwest, that is why we are neglected.

We were victimised politically. For instance, there was one Adult Education Officer who was all out to do his best to the Division, the son of the Division for that matter, but because he refused to do the wrong thing, he was reported by the Action

Group Secretary and this man was removed from job for doing the right thing. Maybe the Ministry expected him to campaign for the Action Group whenever he went round the Division, but because this man refused to propagate the ideology of the Action Group he was sacked.

Now, under Sub-Head 60.—Ministers' Allowances—it is a shame on this Government that even the Minister's allowances are more than the salaries of the Legislators. It is really a shameful thing. Therefore, I recommend that this Sub-head be reduced by £5.

Amendment proposed.

Mr A. B. Bello: In supporting this amendment I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the activities of this Ministry, with particular reference to the Community Development Division. In most areas, the officers only exist on paper. We cannot see them or know them, much less to notice their work. This is much true of the Adult Education Organiser in charge of Oyo North who was transferred to Iseyin from Oyo since a year ago but who chose to stay at Oyo, flouting the orders and instructions of his employers.

As much as I would not like to repeat what my hon. Friend has said, I feel very strongly about the discriminatory attitude of the Western Nigeria Development Corporation in respect of the use of Iseyin-Upper Ogun road which was constructed by the local people before the W.N.D.C. came there sometime in 1950. For some years past this Corporation has restricted the use of the road, whereas the road belongs to the local people. Although the Corporation decided sometime ago that they would like to take over the maintenance of the road yet this does not make it a private road for the exclusive use of W.N.D.C. We have so many farmers on both sides of the road who produce foodstuffs both for local consumption and for sale in other parts of the country. Yet these farmers are not allowed to use their *bona fide* property.

For these reasons, Sir, I strongly appeal to the Minister responsible to look into this matter and effect a change.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Okumagba: I would join the previous speakers in moving that this Head be reduced by £5. I don't consider any need for this Ministry at all. All that

[MR OKUMAGBA]

is done in this Ministry can be incorporated into the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The interest in establishing the Ministry of Economic Planning is to get one or two Ministers employed.

Mr Chairman, I will however make reference to a town in my constituency—Ejeba town. This town has not been considered for some form of community development for the past years. There are two roads in the Division. There is one road leading to Warri Divisional Council and the second road in the whole Division is the one leading from Warri Township to Ejeba. It will be appreciated if this Ministry will consider it necessary to extend some measure of development to the people in the area.

They have even applied for loans for the building of their Town Hall and their applications are never considered, so that I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to the Minister to take note of this point and consider it necessary to approve some sort of loan for the building of a Town Hall.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support that the item be so reduced by £5.

Mr Okwesa: Mr Chairman, Sir, I will seize this opportunity to talk about community development. It is said that one of the aims of the Government is to inculcate into the people the spirit of self-help. The idea of inculcating a spirit of self-help is not a bad one, but I feel that Government should refund two-thirds of the total amount spent by the people of a village in carrying out a development scheme.

Now, in some places, the total cost of embarking on a development scheme is so great that the people are not even able to contribute two-thirds to it. I am referring to road development in the Ndosimili District. Here we need construction of many roads and bridges and if the Government sticks to refunding only one-third of the total cost, then community development in Ndosimili District is not a practicable proposition.

I would therefore appeal to the Government to contribute two-thirds instead of one-third. This will help the people to embark on self-help schemes more than they do at present.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the idea that this Head be reduced by £5.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: Mr Chairman, I support the amendment Motion that Head 328 be reduced by £5. A glance at this

Estimate, Sir, will reveal political jobbery. In that Ministry we have two Ministers, one is an Oba and the other is a commoner. Well, if the Oba is too big to travel or to do his work he should resign. Or if he feels the junior Minister is to be there to help him because he is so weak, let them tell us so. I think, Sir, it is just finding jobs for the "boys" to appoint another Minister in this Ministry. He has very little to do. The Minister is also responsible.....

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye): Point of Order, Sir, Order 37. You are not expected to impute motives. The Regional Minister is not a junior Minister in the Ministry of Economic Planning.

Mr Chairman: The other Minister is only junior to the Oba. (Laughter).

Mr Oviasu: For this reason it also prepares vital statistics relating to this Ministry. That these statistics are always two years behind shows that that Ministry is very very weak. It is not only weak too, it is also guilty of political jobbery. So, Sir, I will strongly suggest:

- (1) that one of the Ministers be sacked;
- (2) that competent civil servants be appointed in that Ministry to ensure that the statistics relating to the affairs of this Government are always brought up to date.

One thing more I would like to say is about Ministers' allowances, which are far too much, as one of the hon. Members on this side of the House has also said. For instance, a Minister gets £75 per month car allowance, while the salary of an hon. Member is £70 per month. All these won the elections to this House. This sort of disparity is very very bad.

With the salaries of these Ministers, their allowances should be reduced.

Mr F. H. Utomi: It is unfortunate, Mr Chairman, Sir, that I have to stand on the floor of this House to object to the activities of the Ministry of Community Development, although a few years ago, when that Ministry had come to stay, it was under such a reputable and respected Minister as Oba C. D. Akran. It is unfortunate, Sir. Whether it is due to age or senility that this Ministry is dwindling, I cannot tell. Sometime ago, in 1955, when community development and self-help came into being.....

Mr Chairman: Order. Age may be pardonable, but senility is out of order. Withdraw.

Mr Utomi: Well, however, in 1953 the people of Asaba Division resorted to self-help through community development as a result of which we constructed twelve roads. I got the then Minister of Works to be present when the road construction was in progress. (*Government Benches: What roads, name them.....*). There was 8 miles of road constructed from Asaba to Ila, another 13 miles from Ogwashi-Uku to Alakwako, 6 miles from Ogwashi-Uku to Olobi, 3 miles from Onitsha-Ugbo to Ubuluku, and so on. However, we were lucky to have the then Minister of Works on the spot during road construction. He saw the people working, noted their difficulties, and especially that of steepy hills to be brought low, and he promised to give us help in the way of trailer or caterpillar. I remember making approaches to him, besides visiting him several times now over five years ago, and was given to understand that there was a new earth-moving machine which was in use somewhere in Yoruba West and that after completing its work, we could loan it. Even our town sent delegations to him and to the then Minister of Works, may his soul rest in peace. I mean the late Hon. Ogedengbe, who even promised to loan us a caterpillar at the rate of 2s 6d a mile for conveying it to Asaba, besides further £6 10s for each day it worked.

The Council voted a sum of £1,800 to pay for the transportation of this heavy vehicle to Asaba and promised to pay £6 10s for each day it is used. But unfortunately, till this time, we have been denied the opportunity of using the trailer for reducing the hills.

I am happy that the Minister is here, for then he praised our community spirit. Mr Chairman, Sir, I support that this item be reduced by £5.

Chief F. Oputa-Otutu: I rise, Mr Chairman to add very few words to what some Members on this side of the House have already said. Sometime ago, during the Budget Session, I raised the question of bringing this Ministry under the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Then, I suggested it to this House, and I still hold on to the same view because I think that this Ministry has little or nothing to do. I realise that the Minister of Economic Planning himself is a very nice man, and has been one of the oldest Members of this House, and we on this side of the House find him to be nice. But at the same time, Mr Chairman, as champions or watch-dogs of the public money, we should not continue to support a Ministry which we consider, Sir, not useful. Mr Chairman

Sir, I feel that the functions performed by this Ministry should be transferred to the Ministry of Trade and Industry while another Minister may be added to this Ministry who would receive £3,000 every year for doing nothing. That is my view.

Mr Chairman: If the Ministry is useless you want to provide another one to cancel it.

Chief Oputa-Otutu: I feel that the functions performed by the Ministry can easily be performed by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. That is my idea. Mr Chairman. I like to add also to the contribution already made to the effect, Sir, that remuneration paid to councils for community projects done should be increased from one-third of the cost of the projects to two-thirds. I feel, Sir, that there are many people in this Region willing to build more roads in their own areas and who would succeed in so doing if only they got the necessary financial support from the Government.

I have in mind about two roads in my constituency. When I was Chairman of the Council of the area.....(*Government Benches: Were you sacked?*). I was not sacked. Alhaji Adegbenro injected traditional members into the Council and thereby.....(*Interruptions and laughter from Government Benches*). I have never been defeated at elections in that area and have been winning elections there since 1951. In the whole of the Western Region, it is in my constituency that the Action Group has neither been able to gain any foothold nor penetrate.

However, Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like the Minister of Economic Planning to consider the point made by the Member for Aboh Division that remuneration made to councils on community projects should be raised from one-third to two-thirds.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Chairman, I am a respecter of traditional rulers, and, consequently, I am not prepared to criticise this Head too much. I want to draw the attention of this honourable House to Sub-head 1, Item 61, of Head 328—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—Parliamentary Secretary's Allowances, £890.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not in any way grudge these Parliamentary Secretaries for these fat allowances given them by the Government of this Region but I am directing my criticism to the section on explanation given under "Explanatory Details".

[MR AMADASUN]

Now, in that section, this sum of £890 provides for Entertainment allowance, £150, Driver's allowance, £124, Gardener's allowance, £104, Allowance for electricity and water services, £144, and allowance in lieu of quarters, £360. £360 in lieu of what? What does it mean Mr Minister of Economic Development? Does it mean that the Parliamentary Secretary has no quarters and because of that he has to be paid £360? If it means that, Sir, this is the reason why that very Head, Item 61 should be deleted because the NCNC Opposition is always consistent and in the course of its consistency I am attacking this very item.

Mr Chairman (*holding a book*), this is the 1956-57 Estimates, and under Head 322, Sub-head 1, Item 28, we have allowances for the ex-Premier to be £300 in respect of quarters. We shouted it down in this House that the allowance should not be paid to him because he is an indigenous person and has got a house here.

This Parliamentary Secretary too has got a house in this very Ibadan and because of that the sum of £360 should be deleted because in ten years hence it will amount to £3,600; in 100 years it will amount to £36,000; and if this sum is used to build a house today, future generations like the children up here in the gallery, most of whom are future Parliamentary Secretaries, will make use of the house.

In the 1958-59 Estimates, a similar provision was made for the ex-Premier. We did criticise it loudly but again, today, they make provision for a Parliamentary Secretary in lieu of quarters in 1961-62 forgetting that it exceeds the provision of £300 for the ex-Premier. Even the University students helped us in crying it down that it is not economically sound for such a provision to be inserted in the Estimates of any Regional Government.

Mr Chairman, this is the point I want to criticise, and I hope that when the Minister of Economic Planning is replying he will give us a satisfactory answer.

Mr Chairman: This appears to be a convenient time for a short break.

Sitting suspended at 12.30 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 1.18 p.m.

The Minister of Economic Planning and Community Development (Oba C. D. Akran): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment proposed by Members of the Opposition. As far back as 1952

when this Government came into power people have received development grants for roads built by communal labour. The road referred to by the hon. member on the opposite side was one built by the Western Nigeria Development Corporation for its own use. I was informed that when the Western Nigeria Development Corporation first reached there, there was no road at all. There was only a foot path. The Western Nigeria Development Corporation spent money on it, and it is therefore a private road. If the hon. Gentleman will like the matter to be investigated I shall undertake to do so but, from the information, I know that the Corporation built the road because I happened to be looking after the Corporation at the time. So far as fishery is concerned it would be right to say that the subject belongs to the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources but it appears that what he wants is community fish pond, and if that is so I would advise him to discuss the matter with the officers of the Community Development Division of my Ministry who will help him to organise his fish pool; then he can get technical advice from the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to build a fish pond.

I come to the question of adult education organisers. I wish to say that adult education organisers are not the staff of Government, although Government reimburses the District Councils for their salaries but the Councils order them about. They are neither transferred nor dismissed by the Ministry as such.

Hon. Olamigoke spoke about £1,000 recreational facility grant which he alleged chiefs in his area used to construct a tennis court. Well, I do not deal with recreational facilities. That is to be dealt with elsewhere.

In answer to hon. Bello who also spoke about adult education organisers, may I say that they are not my staff; they belong to the local government councils of their areas.

If the hon. Okumagba who has been asking for assistance with the Ejeba-Warri Road will see the officers of the community development Division I am sure they will be willing to help.

Another hon. Member also spoke of vital statistics. The matter is under consideration.

Hon. Utomi spoke about the road built by communal labour in Asaba Division. Well it is a fact that when I was in the Ministry of Development I went everywhere after community development and on one occasion I went to Asaba and encouraged the people. I do not know whether the council set aside £1,800 according to hon. Utomi because I had left the subject of community

[OBA AKRAN]

development. I cannot give you an answer as to what happened.

Well, I cannot understand why the hon. Member for Benin Central hon. Amadasun, said here on the floor of this House that it would be better to put my Parliamentary Secretary in a catering rest-house rather than pay him £360 per annum. To do so will cost about £720. I must say that the Government will not like to abide by this advice. I think we are already doing much better. I oppose the amendment. (*Mr Amadasun: No point*) (*Government Benches: Because you made no point*).

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £144,580 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

Other Non-Recurrent Expenditure

Question that the sum of £28,000 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 £7,264,870 for Head 329—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Atohegbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment that Head 329 be reduced by a handsome sum of £5. (*Government Benches: Is that handsome?*) There would not have been the need to do so if the educational policy of the Region was hundred per cent good. May I call your attention to Sub-head 177, at page 66 here, Mr Chairman. Last year the establishment was 66 Technical Instructors as against 56 this year with a difference of 10. One would have thought that in view of this reduction in staff the money would be enough to spend on the remaining staff. Alas, the Government has increased the sum by £17,000. Logical and simple mathematics now applies. For 66 instructors last year £38,950, and for only 56 instructors this year £56,750! Economically speaking, this is ridiculous. (*Chief Odebiyi: Morgan Revision of Salary!*) The Government of this Region has made educational law and policy so flexible that they can twist them anyhow and you can hardly detect their tricks. May

I refer you to page 42 of the Western Region Statistical Bulletin, 1960. For the purpose of my argument I beg to call attention to the first and second parts dealing with primary schools and I would like to use Benin and Ondo to support my argument. (*Government Benches: And you won't use the whole Region?*) No. Benin 1,294, Ondo 1,206 primary schools. The number of Modern Schools in Benin is 41 while the number of Modern Schools in Ondo is 58; Grammar Schools in Benin 13 and Ondo 23. Then in the Second table, Benin, that is, 1959, 1,219 elementary schools, 14 Modern Schools, 13 Secondary Grammar Schools; Ondo 1,213 elementary schools, 61 Modern Schools, 27 Secondary Grammar Schools. By this reference there would have been more secondary modern schools in an area where there are more primary schools acting as feeders but the Government, because Benin is in the Midwest, has discriminated against her. Mr Chairman, Sir, a child starts school at the age of six and if he fails the primary school examination there will be no more modern school for him to attend; then, all the same, he has no access, no passport, to technical school and in the final analysis, because he fails the primary school certificate and could not enter into a modern school and would not be admitted into any technical institute, he becomes useless. By virtue of having entered into school when very young, but could not do well educationally, he will also find it difficult to go back to the land. Eventually he becomes the circumstantial child of lawlessness.

Then where is the aim and objective of the educational policy of this Regional Government?

Mr Chairman Sir, except the Regional Government revises and improves its educational policy it will have left out the frequent emphasis the Minister of Education has always made on the good policy of the Government as far as education is concerned. Mr Chairman, I beg to move the amendment.

Mr Utomi: Mr Chairman, Sir, even though we are not professors of zoology in the University College, we can still reason out things. (*Laughter*). The educational policy of the Western Region is a machine policy. We have been asking this Government to establish more technical schools and training colleges for these children but they will never listen. Last year throughout the Western Region there were 3,000 failures in the primary schools. They were not allowed to repeat. Neither were they allowed to take entrance examinations to secondary schools even when parents were prepared

[MR UTOMI]

to pay their fees. How much more the secondary schools? The academic standard is so hopeless that you will be ashamed when you hear them speak. And these boys are so rushed out of school that when they leave you find that they are too young to go back to the land. We have very often criticised this Government about this Standard Six education policy. We want them to revise it to give our boys better footing. (*What of the Eastern Region?*) The Eastern Region is better in that sphere. This Government knows that its educational policy has a lot of faults. The boys have no opportunity or, rather, the parents have no opportunity to see that their children are taught aright. I am happy however that the educational policy has fallen for the first time into the hands of a man who can think well and plan better. He should replan this bad policy.

Now let me come to the teachers—the tutorial side of this policy. I have very often brought before this House the plight of the teachers in this country. I do not want to say that only the Western Region is having the fault. The fault is throughout the Federation. (*Tell your people in Lagos*). Teachers are professional men who have undergone four years training courses in teacher-training colleges. Most of them depend on passing examinations, burning their mid-night candles, passing their General Certificate of Education (four subjects at advanced level) or the Higher School Certificate examination, with the result that when they do pass and receive no further encouragement from the Government, they resign their posts and look for other jobs with the mercantile houses or the civil service, who are prepared to give them bigger salaries. What do you expect these teachers to do in the circumstances?

In this Western Region I can emphasise that the services of voluntary agency teachers are not good. It is unfortunate that teachers who have been members of the Nigerian Union of Teachers, who have found themselves as good boys of the Government, have left their other members in the Nigerian Union of Teachers and continued to go about with the Ministers for personal gains. I still say that if the Government wants to have the standards of educational policy made better, more efficient, with primary schools and secondary schools, the lot of the teachers must be improved. You should give them higher initial salaries and higher maximum salaries. Unfortunately, Mr Chairman, Sir, teachers in teacher-training colleges and grammar schools are not encouraged. Give them improve-

ments. Give them in-service allowances as done in Ghana. It is advisable that the Minister should visit Ghana. There he will find that teachers are given identical conditions as workers in the Civil Service. Unfortunately, teachers have lost confidence in the Nigerian Union of Teachers. The leaders of this association lobby the Ministers for personal gains.

Mr Esua is an example. He has been sent overseas for international meetings, scholarships given to his children; but men have lost confidence in him. I am very happy that the policy of our education is now in the hands of a professor. I hope he will do his best to improve their lots.

Now I want to talk about retiring benefits. I know some teachers who retired two years ago and, till now, they have not got their retiring benefits. I know that when the Minister of Finance was Minister of Education he helped a man who found difficulty in getting his retiring benefits. I feel that teachers under voluntary agencies should be advanced with some money when they retire to keep them going until the preliminary arrangements about payment of their benefits are being made, that is, from the time they retire till such time as their payments are ready or worked out.

I appeal to all the Governments of the Federation. The teachers have been ill used for a long time. This is an important issue and I do not want the Governments to take it lying down. The Governments should realise that these men make up the nation and as such they should be equally encouraged. I support the amendment. (*As Mr Utomi sat down and Mr Oye—Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education—was walking across to the Minister of Education*): Can you answer those questions I have raised? (*Laughter*). Then answer them.

Mr J. O. Awopeju: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment suggested from the Opposition side of this House, namely, that the sum of £5 be deducted from the sum allocated to the Ministry of Education. Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the members of Opposition are not sincere with themselves, otherwise they should have been able to see the progress being made in the sphere of education in this Region (*hear, hear*). I would have expected them to support the sum allocated, if at all they cannot move a Motion here to add to the sum. They need to be reminded that the best system of public finance is that which secures the maximum social advantage from the operations conducted by the Government. As stated by

[MR AWOPEJU]

Dr the Hon. Hugh Dalton, "The only economic test of the 'productiveness' of any expenditure is its productiveness of economic welfare, and public expenditure on education and health, for example, is often productive of greater economic welfare than private expenditure on luxuries, or even on new capital goods." Thus it is obvious that what is expended on health and education will ultimately yield maximum Social advantage to the Community.

I congratulate this Government for the way it has brought up its educational policy. It is in such way that the individual can enjoy the money invested on education. It is in such a way that the individual can improve his lot. Inequality of incomes gives rise to inequality of opportunity. The policy of this Regional Government is so framed that inequality of opportunity is removed entirely. It is cancelled out and every young boy or girl is given an opportunity to have free education.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would say that having regard to this fact the money which is voted for the Ministry of Education, namely the sum of £7,264,870 is productive and that Government should be commended for voting such a good sum on the item of education because without education the country will produce rogues and vagabonds..... (Interruptions). Now, Sir, I think a Government which indulges in a policy of increasing the fortunes of the fortunate while impoverishing the poor and thus perpetuating a social order which is already horizontally stratified should be abhorred. But by voting such a heavy sum of money on education, inequality of opportunity for youngmen is obviated. Not only that; these boys should have had the foundation upon which to build so that they could even graduate on their own. So, Mr Chairman, I would say that the amendment moved by the Opposition cannot be accepted for it was moved from no constructive motive but to spite this Government and, at the same time, to show that they are only unappreciative of what this Government is doing day and night, even for the NCNC, but for which every honest man outside this Region praises this Government. I wish the Opposition would have learned their lesson and criticised constructively. Many of them are addicted to drinking and I think they are members of the Bachanalian fraternity. (Laughter.) Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment.

Mr Chairman: Order. For the benefit of new Members in this House, the idea of

filing an amendment to any head of an item does not necessarily mean that that item is going to be reduced by that amount; it simply gives the proposer or the persons who suggest it the opportunity to speak on that particular item. (Hear, hear.)

Mr C. O. Olamigoke: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am supporting the amendment to reduce £5 from the Head. Quite frankly, one would have loved to laud to the sky the efforts of this Government in respect of its educational policy for this Region, but a careful study of the educational policy of this Region will show that a very great blunder has been committed.

The education of the young ones of this Region is really very important, particularly to this side of the House. There is nothing wrong in your secondary education, but your primary education is a failure altogether. (Opposition Benches: Hear, hear.) You are reckoning with those children who pass the entrance examination to King's College, etc., but they are not children of your primary schools. They are children in the Modern Schools. Although there is a circular that Secondary Modern School Leavers should not take these Secondary School examinations, they do take them. It was the results of the pupils in the Modern Schools you reckoned with as a fair result and not those of Primary Six boys and girls. The only redeeming feature is that we hope that the new Minister of Education, who was incidentally, the loudest critic of this primary educational policy will be able to re-organise the educational policy of Government in respect of Primary Schools in this Region: In these Schools, built by the Western Regional Government all about the Region, I can assure you that you can only find cockroaches, lizards, etc., inhabiting them. In some schools, in an attempt to get children into these schools, they admit children without transfer certificates. This is the snag of your primary education. Now, the suggestion is, re-organise your primary education in this Region. (Interruptions.)

Mr Chairman: Order. I think hon. Members will realise that the policy of the Government concerning all these Ministries has been argued and debated. Nothing, however, prevents Members from touching on the policy of the Government on each item of head in the Ministry but we shall not make this a forum to start all over again.

Mr Olamigoke: These primary schools are not well looked after. The schools are ill-equipped. (One Member: windowless!)

[MR OLAMIGOKE]

(*Laughter*). The children of this Region learn in very difficult conditions. I understand that there are allowances of 5s per child and £10 per teacher annually. This money is not well spent, at least not to the best interest of the children they are meant for. These are the points I want to make. Our primary schools need to be re-organised.

Mr Chairman: Order. This appears to be another convenient time to adjourn. We shall resume in this Committee of Supply at 8 o'clock tonight.

Sitting suspended at 2.05 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.20 p.m.

(The Deputy Chairman in the Chair).

Mr I. Edeki: I would like, Mr Chairman Sir, to say that the educational policy of this Region is the soundest.....(*Opposition Members: In the whole world*).....in the whole of the Federation. This is the only place where you have free primary education and where you have education for independence. In the East, free primary education was started but never succeeded, and even now it is by instalment. In the North, people are not thinking about free primary education at all and very many children have no schools to go. In the Federation, they are toeing the line of the Action Group Government of the Western Region. A Member of the Opposition said that failures in the primary school examination are not allowed to enter Secondary Grammar Schools. I think that this is a lie. (*Mr Amadasun: Mr Chairman, on point of Order*).....That is not true. (*Mr Chairman: The hon. Member should continue his speech*).....Mr Chairman, that is not true. If failures in the primary school examination passed entrance examinations to secondary schools, they will be admitted, so that it is wrong to say that failures in the primary school leaving examination are not allowed to enter secondary modern schools or grammar schools. The Western Region is the only place where you have secondary modern schools, and this type of schools catered for poor parents. There are some parents who cannot afford to send their children to secondary grammar schools on account of the fees. The Government is to be congratulated for catering for people of average means.

In the Western Region, you have 168 secondary grammar schools. I think the Government of the Western Region ought to be proud of that achievement. When the Action Group party started to hold the reins of Government in 1952, the number of

secondary grammar schools was not one-third of the present number. Within nine years, the party has established many secondary grammar schools in order to cater for secondary education. In this Region there are so many technical schools and institutes to cater for the demand for technical education. I think this Government is to be congratulated on this achievement.

Teachers in the Western Region are the happiest in the whole of the Federation. (*Opposition: No, No!*) Salaries are paid in time and they are given all the amenities and encouragement they want in order to be able to do their work very well or satisfactorily; so that if anybody says that teachers are not happy, that man is misrepresenting them.

In the Western Region our educational system catered for the need of the poor. It is not right to say that the standard of education is falling as the performances of the children of the Western Region are not worse; even they do better than those children belonging to other parts of the Federation. Also in the University College, Ibadan: here we have more Westerners than Easterners. That is a point to show that our educational system is as efficient as ever.

With these few remarks, I beg to oppose the amendment.

Mr W. Aghahowa: Mr Chairman, in associating myself with my colleagues on this side of the House, I wish to say that in this country, Sir, where democracy is accepted as a way of life, money earmarked for any item should be spent on that item. A sum of £150,000 set aside for a technical school for Benin has up to today not been implemented. (*Opposition Members: Shame, shame*).

A similar bigger amount was also earmarked for the improvement of Edo College but, today what do we see? That amount is still not used. About one and a half years ago, the former Premier of this Region visited the Benin Divisional Council. The Benin Divisional Council set aside a sum of about £10,000 for the building of a Grammar School, but the Premier dissuaded the Council from using that money for the purpose. If it had been a council in the Yoruba area, the council would have been lauded to the sky. (*Opposition Members: Shame, shame*).

Not long ago, the Minister of Education appointed members to serve in the Backward Area Scholarship Scheme in Benin Division. What happened again? That Board never awarded one scholarship. (*Opposition Members: Shame, shame*). When the Government started the idea of Modern Schools,

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secondary modern schools were opened in my constituency. A year later this Government hurriedly closed up these schools; all for what? (*Opposition Benches: Politics*).

Well, my Council set aside in our last year's Estimates a sum of £1,500 for a scholarship scheme. What happened again? This amount was not approved by this Government. On what ground? (*Opposition Benches: Politics*.)

I think the time has now come for the Minister of Education to change his present outlook because it is the bounden duty of the Government to extend amenities on an even proportion. But simply because these proposals were meant for the people of the Midwest, they must be killed. (*Opposition Benches: Shame, shame.*)

We of the Midwest have lost confidence in this Minister. Even the adult education scheme is not even known in my area. And for what reason? (*Opposition Benches: Politics*).

I want the Minister to change his outlook in so far as the Midwest is concerned. It is surprising that a Government which praiseth its educational system as the best in the whole of Africa should have the effrontery of setting aside a huge sum of money without spending it for the purpose for which it was earmarked.

With these observations, I support the amendment.

Mr D. E. Okumagba: Mr Chairman Sir, this is an item which I intend to criticise constructively. In my opinion any matter connected with education should not be brought into politics. (*Opposition Members: Tell them*). For this reason I beg leave of my honourable Colleagues on this side of the House not to introduce any politics into it.

Now, Sir, when we find that the Government has achieved any measure of success as far as the running of free primary education is concerned we will be good enough to say it, but when we find that there are glaring faults Government should be good enough to accept those faults and do their best to consider the criticisms which we offer.

In the first place, we all agree that the Government which has been able to earmark a sum of over £7 million for the running of education in the Region deserves some measure of praise as far as the provision of the funds for the running of the system is concerned. I agree that this Government tried in a way to find funds for the running of free primary education and has succeeded to a certain extent in maintaining this

expenditure for sometime now. We will agree that this Government deserves to be praised in a way, as far as the provision of the funds is concerned, but we should ask ourselves whether we are getting value for the expenditure. It is one thing to find the money to set up the system, but when all that has been done we should also turn back and ask ourselves whether the money expended is producing the desired result. I think that the honourable the Minister of Education will agree with me that if we throw away politics we will know that we are not getting the desired result from the free primary education. The faults are there, and I will this night put various suggestions to the Minister which I hope he will consider in good faith.

I take the glaring causes of the failure of the primary education. The common belief is that failure is due mainly to the automatic promotion. That is what the common man can easily say. Some say that failure is due to lack of qualified teachers at the time the system was introduced. I don't agree that they are the most serious causes of our failures. These are the causes.

In the past it was the responsibility of the various Missions to help in the education of our own children both at primary school level and at secondary school level. You will find that in the present system the influence of the Mission is completely removed and our Minister and the Government have not been able to find out this effect on the free primary education. The responsibility for efficiency has been shifted completely from the shoulders of the various Missions and transferred to the Government. Now, what is happening? If there are any Mission schools, it is the responsibility of the Government to pay the teachers; it is not the concern of the Missions whether the teachers are doing their work well. It is the duty of the Inspectorate Department to find out whether the school is running well.

If you throw your mind back to consider the old system, you will find that the Missions took great care to ensure efficiency in the schools. If your primary school was not doing well, you are called to question by Government and for this reason you are forced to do anything possible to improve the school. But in the present system, the responsibility that was formerly on the shoulders of the Missions has been transferred and placed on the shoulders of the Inspectorate Branch of the Ministry of Education. You may not consider that a serious drawback in the educational system, but I can assure you that if you find out a way of giving

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the various Missions some share in the responsibility for efficiency in the running of these schools, instead of leaving them to look forward to the Government to supervise the teachers, there will be greater efficiency.

Another cause of failure is the examination set for these boys at the end of the primary school course. At the end of the first six years it was found that the boys who did the primary school leaving examination did very well and percentage was high indeed. Now we are all aware that if you are a teacher, it depends on how you mark the papers if you want the boys to pass. If you feel that those whom you want to pass will pass, those will pass. To take it, therefore, that the system is very successful because over ninety or over ninety-five per cent of the boys were successful in the primary school leaving examination and to use that as a criterion for judging that the system is successful is not correct.

As a way of checking these schools, if the Minister of Education will see to it that the examinations set for the primary school leavers are conducted in such a way that the boys who are capable do pass and those who are not capable fail to pass the examination, then, with the result of the various schools which can be checked, the inspectorate Department can examine those schools that are not doing well as revealed in the results of the primary school examination. In this way we shall solve the problem of those schools which are not doing well. I think the Minister of Education will change his opinion in this matter and look into the matter of organising the primary education examination in a proper way.

Another cause of failure is the administration of the schools by many councils. The Minister of Education announced that there was a saving of £½ million in the vote for education as a result of the recent inspection by the Minister of Education. You will agree with me that the people responsible for the wastage of this amount in the past have been the Councils that are very badly run; instead of getting the required number of teachers in a particular school they employ any number because the salaries of the teachers will be paid by the Ministry of Education. What is more serious is the way they administer the grants received for the building of schools. The grants are received and, if I may say so, misappropriated, and instead of building the right type of schools with the money sent by the Ministry

the money is diverted to other directions. So that one chief fault in this system is the weakness of the councils as a body helping in the administration of primary school education in the Region. If our able Minister will take this matter into consideration and recommend the necessity of transferring this responsibility from the councils to the Inspectorate Branch of his Ministry, there will be a great change. I don't believe that these councils are helping us in any way. I will appeal to the Minister to do something new that will bring some measure of efficiency in this direction.

I come to the Inspectorate Department itself. If the primary education will be successful, we must do something to that branch. You will agree with me that it will be impossible for us to achieve any measure of success with the Inspectorate staff as at present. Now the number of schools to be inspected has increased considerably. The number of secondary schools is also increasing. The very fact that the Inspectorate Branch is giving greater attention to the inspection of primary schools is in fact lowering the standard of inspection in the secondary schools. You will find that there is much to be done in the Inspectorate Branch. It is impossible for them to do any useful work with the limited staff at their disposal now. It is therefore, my recommendation that instead of expanding secondary modern school education we should set up primary school education at the Primary Six level so that secondary education can be handed over to the Missions and private bodies. I have my reasons for making these suggestions. If instead of spending money by way of building grants and for salaries of teachers in the secondary modern schools, and if this responsibility is shifted from the shoulders of the Ministry, then the money for the building and staff will be diverted to the Inspectorate Branch so that they can concentrate on the inspection of free primary schools. I think by so doing we will get better results. When this is done and the free primary school education system is perfected, then we can from then on be able to say to ourselves that the attainment of the Primary Six pupil can be easily equated to the attainment of a Standard Four boy according to the old system.

If our boys have to remain in school for six years, we want to see that they do good work for the first six years, so that the attainment of the first six years should be equal to what our boys used to attain in Standard Four of the old system, so that those who are not satisfied with that education,

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should they like, could go to the secondary modern schools which are run by the Missions and private bodies.

This system can be successfully run by lowering the fees in the secondary modern schools so that they will be at the reach of the rich and the poor where they can go to improve their education. I hope that the Minister of Education will take my criticisms in good faith and get down to his desk as a scholar, as he has always done, and think of some ways of bringing about some radical changes in our educational system.

Mr N. A. Adibi: Mr Chairman, after all it is very encouraging that at last we are seeing some ray of sanity coming to these Members opposite and so the hon. Member who has just spoken gave some suggestions, though some of them may be faulty, which may be regarded as characteristic of the Members there.

Mr Chairman, Sir, one hon. Member has spoken that in his own area he has never been given Free Primary Education Scheme.

An Opposition Member: No member has said that here; he spoke about the Adult Education Scheme.

Mr Adibi: Mr Chairman, Sir, if the hon. Member is somebody who is very much interested in the educational progress of his people, he should have urged the Government, or whoever is responsible, to introduce the Adult Education Scheme in his area, if the accusation is correct.

Thanks to the Western Nigeria Government for its help in educational development in Ogbomosho in particular, and Oshun in general.

(Interruption: Where do you come from? Are you from Ijaw? No, he comes from Oshun Division; no wonder; it is the hon. Premier's constituency!)

Mr Chairman, it is a good thing for us not to block our eyes to the educational development of the Government of this Region. We have to praise the Government for the help which it has given to many Divisions of this Region. I am going to cite, as a particular example, Oshun Division. In Oshun area, if you want to talk of schools there are Teacher Training Colleges in Iwo, Ede, Ejigbo, Oshogbo, Ogbomosho. Secondary Schools are established in the following towns:—Iwo, Oshogbo, Gbongan, Inisha, Oyan, Igbajo, and two at Ogbomosho—the Ogbomosho Grammar School and the Ogbomosho Girls' High School.

Secondary modern and Primary schools were established all over the area.

Mr Chairman, Sir, all these schools receive financial assistance from this Western Nigeria Government. This only shows beyond reasonable doubt that this Government places a great premium on the mental emancipation of the masses of this Region, and you ought to know that when mentally emancipated, tremendous opportunities lie before you.

Sir, there is however an inconvenience suffered by most of these schools through administrative process which may never have come to the attention of the hon. the Minister of Education. It is this: Grants paid by the Regional Government for the payment of teachers' salaries and fees for Government scholars are never received in time by the schools affected. I think Sir, that something should be done to ensure prompt and regular payment of various grants made to all grades of schools in this Region.

Mr Chairman, Sir, for its educational policy the Government of Western Nigeria ought to be congratulated.

And with these few remarks, Sir, I oppose the amendment. *(Loud cheers from Government Benches).*

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Member of the Opposition who moved an amendment to reduce the vote of the Ministry of Education by £5, and in doing so I would like to answer very briefly the points raised by Members. We on this side of the House do not claim that the educational system in Western Nigeria is the best in the world; what we do claim is that it is the best in the Federation of Nigeria.

The honourable Member gave an analysis of the number of secondary grammar schools, modern schools and primary schools now in existence in Ondo and Benin Provinces. Some secondary schools were opened by private people who are trying to use it as a trade. Someone or some people applied to open a secondary grammar school; one is a carpenter and one is a tailor, and they want to build a secondary grammar school. I refused and I told them to go back to Benin and consult the Local Authority or any other Voluntary Agencies.

Mr Chairman, Sir, another criticism was levelled against this Government by the hon. Mr Utomi. He said that there were 3,000 failures in the secondary modern school examination taken last year. Mr Chairman, Sir, about 19,000 candidates took

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the examination and only one-third failed. That was not so high. We can say that the percentage of failure is not too high. Furthermore, Sir, those who failed the examination had the privilege to repeat. May I say that the Western Region is caring for teachers more than any other Region, because in this Region there is a Terms of Reference Committee; this Committee is appointed with a view to reviewing the conditions of service of teachers and making recommendations concerning their improvement. If teachers proved their mettle and are recommended for awards under regulation 17, they can be sent to Universities so that they can be qualified as Graduates. Teachers also have the opportunity of being promoted to the extended scale. For these three reasons it is no longer correct to say that the Government does not care for teachers.

The Hon. Olamigoke raised the question of teachers who retired and were never paid their retiring benefits. The Ministry would like to expedite the payment and the release of money to teachers who retired, but teachers who have worked in other Regions of the Federation made the payment difficult. One specific case of which there was delay was because that particular teacher had taught in a Lagos school and until the Government of the Federation took action we were prevented from taking action.

Mr Olamigoke said that standards in primary schools are deteriorating and the general results are poor, but let me quote some statistics from only three primary schools in Ibadan. I mention this because the hon. Member is in Ibadan town. You are free tomorrow to take your car and check up yourself. St. Luke's School, Ibadan, sent in thirty-eight candidates to sit entrance examinations and eighteen of them were admitted to secondary schools. In Local Authority School, Mokola, 64 per cent of the primary school children gained admission to secondary grammar schools this year. A third one, Abadina School, scored 67 per cent entry to secondary grammar schools, taking account of the three streams in the school. (*Alhaji Opaleye: Point of order. Order 27. It will be out of order for those who benefited from free primary education to criticise it.*)

The Member from Benin raised two important points about Edo College, Benin, and Technical Institute, Benin. I have to say that it has not been possible to get a new site at Benin for the expansion of Edo

College. A site has finally been found. It has been surveyed and plans have been drawn for the school buildings.

The Technical Institute, Benin, is also in a similar position and plans have been drawn up by the Ministry of Works and Transport and construction of the new buildings will start during the current year.

Finally, Mr Chairman, hon. Okumagba has raised a very important matter. He has recommended that we should go back to the system of education of the old days whereby the building and management of schools fell squarely on the shoulders of the Voluntary Agencies. How could we go back to the days when education was suffering from three grave shortcomings, when there were not enough schools for children in the Region when there was no uniformity in the payment of teachers? Some teachers may be well treated by their Voluntary Agency Managers and others may not, to the detriment of the children. Thirdly, when there was discrimination against the admission of children of Muslim or Christian parents. I hope hon. Okumagba does not want us to put the hands of the clock back twenty years. I feel that the present system whereby there are schools for all children, uniform conditions of service for all teachers, and prospects of advancement, is the best for this Region.

With these Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £7,264,870 for Head 329—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 706—EDUCATION BUILDING GRANTS

Question proposed, that the sum of £595,500 under Head 706—Education Building Grants—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 725—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

Question proposed, that the sum of £39,400 for Head 725—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 330—MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Question proposed, that the sum of £1,928,275 for Head 330—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr O. Olaitan: Mr Chairman, Sir, I move that Head 330—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—be reduced by £5.

Chief Osuntokun: Why are you looking at me? (*Laughter*).

Mr Olaitan: May I say that it is ridiculous for any Member to suggest that the Western Region Government has not done any work in the Region, and that medical services have not been extended (*Hear, hear*) but I want to make the following suggestions. The Minister will agree that in some places in this Region most of the patients die before they can receive medical attention. This happens especially in some remote areas where medical services are not extended. People die of some illness which could have been cured if there were medical facilities. The Minister will agree with me that in his own town, Imesi Ile.....

Chief Osuntokun: I do not come from Imesi Ile. (*Opposition Benches: From where? You want to deny your home?*) Mr Chairman, if he wants me to correct him, I come from Oke Imesi Ile.

(*Opposition Benches: It is the same.*)

Mr Olaitan: He says he comes from Oke Imesi Ile. He will agree that if a man is sick at Oke Imesi Ile before he is removed to Ifaki he will die. I want the Region to establish mobile hospitals in rural areas.

I want to make special reference to Ilesha. When the Minister came to Ilesha we met him and told him that the town as a whole was suffering from medical attention and he told us that grants were being paid to the Wesley Guild Hospital in Ilesha. I think that is not a solution to the problem. In Ife we have the Seventh Day Adventist Mission hospital and at the same time this Government is providing another hospital, and Ife is not bigger than Ilesha. I am saying that the Government should consider the building of a general hospital at Ilesha, so that many people will receive medical service.

I will mention too the question of infectious disease. I feel that the Infectious Disease Hospital, where people who are suffering from smallpox go, should not be put in the charge of local councils; people who have infectious diseases should be taken outside the town and should not be left in the heart of the town. I think the Ministry should not leave this important aspect of a hospital to local councils. The Ministry should take action.

I like to touch on the point of Midwives. The Minister has said that there are many midwives in the Region carrying on private

practice. One would agree to that, Sir, but I feel that the Ministry is not paying particular attention to the supervision of these midwives. Now, for instance, in some places they have opened maternity centres and are carrying on the job and as a result some people have died because of lack of treatment by some unqualified midwives. We all know too that midwives, where they can, go to the medical field. And I think the Minister will take appropriate steps to see that these midwives are properly trained.

The Minister will agree that it is part of his functions to see that the integrity of this Region is maintained. One would find on the roads, and in the streets, mad men at times. I have had the misfortune of witnessing when a mad man was on the road and, accidentally, the other car following me knocked down the mad man, and the driver was taken to court.

I like to mention an interesting point about social services. I think once the Minister is responsible for social services, the next thing is to implement social amenities. There is a certain social menace in this Region which the Minister should try to combat. That is the question of certain foreign machines. I mean the music machines introduced into different shops. And invariably, schoolboys go there and drop their shillings, and these foreign shops they call Nigerian Music Company Limited. In actual fact the music they have is gambling (*Interruptions*).

The Minister will be interested to hear that in Ilesha, for example, which I am familiar with, so many schoolboys don't go to school at all. They go to these places to earn some money, and at times they steal their father's money.

I like to mention a very interesting point, and I won't like the Minister to say that it is a personal matter. Now, every precaution should be taken in this Region to see that prostitutes are never allowed in the streets. They made such strong bye-laws in Akure Council and they were able to drive away prostitutes. I don't know whether they have in Abeokuta. I am not trying to criticise the Ministry that it is not efficient. But I am trying to make the suggestion..... (*Interruptions*). If the Minister could devise a means of controlling these people..... I notice these people are professionals in one form or the other. I think that if the Minister would take proper action in a place like Ibadan the Minister would be doing a very good service. Because, in Ilesha, for example,

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we know that these people are troubling us and we take measures to drive them out. Now, we can't drive them away from Ibadan; I know that. But I think it will be a good thing if you can do what they do in Paris: for example, they have a system by which these people are allowed to go to hospitals for medical treatment to see that the boys who go to them are safe.

With these remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. O. Imafidon: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the amendment to reduce the Head by five pounds. What I want to say is that this Government is full of vindictiveness.

Mr Olaitan: Order 19 Sir. I don't see why the Chairman is not following the Order of the Day.

Mr Chairman: Mr Imafidon gave his name actually before Mr Olamigoke. It is a slight mistake of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Imafidon: What I want to say now is that I appreciate the improvements already achieved in the Benin General Hospital. But nevertheless, Mr Speaker, I would mention that one of the nurses in the Benin General Hospital was transferred away from the hospital all because her husband was an NCNCer. And so, automatically, within a given notice of less than two weeks she had been transferred.

This is very unfair of the Action Group Government of the Western Region. There was no reason to be advanced for the withdrawal also of the scholarship awarded her other than that her husband had been nominated as an NCNC candidate.

Mr Chairman, Sir, what I have to say about the Ministry of Health is not much; it is that the Government of Western Nigeria should not satisfy only one side. Vast sums of money being voted year in and year out are being put in a particular area of the Region. (*Fire them! Fire them!*)

They should be prepared to treat all the people in the Western Region equally and not to treat those that come from the Yoruba west as Yorubas; in other words, they should not be tribalistic in their duties. There are few maternities in the Midwest area. There ought to be at least two health auxiliary and nurses' training schools in the Midwest area. Money approved for services of the Region is for every part of the Region, and every part of the Region is entitled to amenities.

I beg to support.

Amendment proposed.

Mr C. O. Olamigoke: Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to commend the efforts of the Regional Government for building a hospital in each Division. But after a careful study of what is going on in these hospitals one will be disappointed to note the amount of corruption in these hospitals. I will therefore recommend to the hon. Minister of Health and Social Welfare that doctors are banned from private practices and I would like their pay to be increased in order to discourage them from these foul practices. I will cite an instance when a patient had a serious case of strangulated hernia, and he was rushed to the hospital. Instead of the doctor taking immediate action, he was not answered until some amount of money was demanded and paid before that patient was treated. Some nurses in these hospitals are indulging in telling patients that the patients cannot receive any good medicine in the hospital unless they come to the nurses at home. That is why I am suggesting that the pays of the doctors and the nurses are raised in order to discourage them from indulging in foul means.

In my own Division, Okitipupa Division, there are many children who need the attention of the Social Welfare Officers. We don't know that this Ministry is existing at all in Okitipupa Division, hence I would suggest that a branch of this Ministry is established at Okitipupa so that the Welfare Officers do not have to come to Okitipupa Division from afar again.

I would also like to suggest that the orphans in this Region are given free treatment, for it is just bogus when you say "free medical treatment" and children are not treated freely, because even the children of four months are not treated freely by this Government. This is a discriminatory attitude. There are certain sets of teachers who are treated freely while other sets pay for their treatment. For instance, the local government teachers receive free treatment, but voluntary agency teachers pay for their treatment.

That is why I am suggesting that an amount of £5 be reduced from this Head.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the amendment Motion that Head 330 be reduced by £5.

The hospital services of the Western Region leave much to be desired. Furthermore, I substantiate the points.

[MR OVIASU]

In some of the hospitals in the Western Region you will find that the services are most inadequate (*Government Benches: Where?*). I think it is because the Head of the Ministry is probably ignorant of matters relating to his Ministry (*Chief Osuntokun: He is going to withdraw your licence*).

In the whole Region, Sir, there is not a single hospital run by Government having a blood bank. That is a very sad situation. There are many cases in which lives have been lost because not a single hospital in this Region has a blood bank. In internal haemorrhage and all cases in which blood is lost, we do require blood for transfusion in order to save the life of the patient. It is only the University College Hospital in this Region that has a blood bank, and one Missionary hospital which is working very well, and which is at Eku near Sapele; and yet this Government comes to boast that they are providing health services in all parts of the Region when, in actual fact, these hospitals are nothing better than glorified dispensaries (*Hear, hear*).

Not only that, Sir. Of all the hospitals in the Western Region not up to fifty per cent have X-ray plants, and we know the use of X-ray in modern treatment. It helps a medical practitioner to diagnose diseases accurately. When you put a doctor in the bush and you don't provide him with X-ray, how then can you expect him to diagnose diseases accurately and help the patient? I am happy that one of the Ministers is a medical practitioner, but see him there given a wrong portfolio as a Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs! Because the present holder is so ignorant in matters relating to his portfolio, he does not know the conditions of these hospitals.....(*Interruptions from both sides of the House*).....Mr Chairman, I pray, protect me from interruptions.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am doing my work for which I am paid. I have not insulted any Minister. I am only criticising Government measures. No Member on the other side of the House under parliamentary privilege does not go so low to launch personal attacks on Members of the Opposition. But I tell you we shall leave no ground unturned and we shall not hesitate to hurl appropriately or vigorously to irresponsible Members on that side (*Government Member: Oviasu*).

Everyone knows the use of a laboratory, the importance of a laboratory in any hospital. I am telling you, Sir, that not up to thirty per cent of the hospitals in Western Nigeria is equipped with a laboratory. They have no

medical laboratory technologists, no apparatus, and so most of these doctors just go on guessing, with the result that they cannot diagnose any disease accurately. I am sure one doctor on the other side of the House can tell you that. (*Laughter*).

Not only that, Sir. Drugs are always short in these hospitals. The medical store at Ikeja is the distributor of drugs in Western Nigeria. There are instances where hospitals will send for drugs and for three or four months they don't get drugs and then the patients are suffering. These are things that will engage the attention of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, and I appeal that these sad situations are quickly ameliorated.

Also, Sir, we have observed in this Region that people who have not trained in either medicine or pharmacy are invading these two professions. There are lots of quack and illegal practices. I think the best way to check this is for the Ministry of Health to appoint inspectors. The Pharmacy Ordinance provides for inspection of premises, and Police Officers, not below the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police, can go into any premises to check illegality and quacks, and also go into the field where people carry out illegal practices. I am sure if this is done it will be to the best interest, not only of the citizens, but also to Members of the medical profession and the pharmacists.

In the whole Region, Sir, there is not a single Pharmacy Inspector. That is the practice, Sir, in every civilised part of the world.

I should like to say, Sir, that there is a difference between pharmacy and medicine. In Eastern Region the Pharmacy Division has been separated from the Medical Division. But here in Western Region the Pharmacy Division is made to operate under the Medical Division. I am suggesting that immediate steps should be taken by the Minister of Health to separate the Pharmacy Division from the Medical Division and put a pharmacist as administrative head of the Pharmacy Division.

Mr D. K. Olumofin: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment.....(*Interruptions*).

Quite recently, footballers from Ghana refused to play on a so-called stadium somewhere in the Federation and even threatened that they would not come to Nigeria unless they were allowed to play on the Liberty Stadium in Ibadan. This is an evidence of the brilliant achievement of the Ministry concerned. I would also like to tell Opposition

[MR OLUMOFIN]

Members, who do not know, that the Liberty Stadium was built at a total cost of £521,050. This stadium covers an area of 35,000 acres and is sited on a beautiful panorama. Presumably it is because some of the Members opposite have no interest in sport that they fail to appreciate this tremendous achievement.

Hon. Members opposite are always very forgetful of the facilities provided by the Regional Government. They forget that we have free medical facilities for children of eighteen and under. They forget that the Government has built a hospital in all Divisional Headquarters and is now starting to build one each in every large town and village in Western Nigeria.

For the information and enlightenment of Members opposite, I would like to say that in the 1954-55 financial year, the Government provided thirty-seven hospitals, which rose to fifty-nine in the 1958-59 financial year. And yet an hon. Member opposite, Mr Oviasu, said this is no progress. Besides, maternity centres between 1954-59 rose from 167 to 296, while dispensaries rose from 257 to 358. The criticisms advanced by Members opposite are therefore not only immaterial but destructive, hence Mr Oviasu does not find anything good in what Government has done.

Before I resume my seat, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister of Health and Social Welfare who knows very well the difficulties encountered in Akoko with regard to her hospital; and I should be very appreciative of it if the hon. Minister concerned would make a statement on the taking over of the hospital in Akoko, to allay the anxiety of the people.

Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose the amendment.

Mr R. O. Areola: I would like to point out the fact that in every Division of this Region there is a hospital. Contrary to what an hon. Member opposite said, I would like also to affirm that Government provides the facility of free medical treatment for children of eighteen and under, and I would like to know of any instance where any child under eighteen has been refused free medical treatment.

Apart from the existence of one general hospital in every Divisional Headquarters, there are also maternity centres and dispensaries scattered all over the Region, besides Missionary hospitals.

If anybody does not appreciate these facilities, it is not because this Government in general and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in particular has not done its job, but it is because such persons are lacking in appreciation of virtue.

Mr A. A. Babayemi: Point of order. Order 29 (4). "During a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones." I am sorry to say that hon. Adisa has been throwing his hands and feet about in the air as if he is in a Northern market or Alkali Court.

Mr Chairman: Not hon. Adisa particularly but also most hon. Members should be warned. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Areola: I am asking the hon. Minister of Health and Social Welfare to please consider very seriously the expansion of maternity centres in my area in addition to the general hospital. The fact of the case is that in some parts of my district, some places are about sixty miles to the General Hospital. Apart from that, when the present maternity centre was built in Ikole many people living very far away in the district moved into Ikole, which factor now makes Ikole a very large town. I am, however, asking the Minister of Health to include in his next development programme the possibility of making further expansion of the maternity centre in the area.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo: Mr Chairman, I want to make very constructive criticisms in support of what hon. Members on this side of the house have already said concerning X-ray facilities. I would like to inform the Minister that X-ray is no treatment and ought not to be paid for by patients. It is only a means of diagnosis. I would also like to mention further that the conditions of service of X-ray Technicians should be improved because it is not a job anybody can just take up without necessary training and hope to do well. It will be a joy for everyone in the Region if the Minister of Health and Social Welfare appreciates that X-ray service is a means to an end and not an end in itself.

We from Okitipupa very much appreciate the presence of the Divisional Hospital at Okitipupa, but there is one other thing which I want this House to think about, and this is the constituency of my hon. Friend on the Government Bench, Mr Akingboye. In the first place, the people are all on water. Before a pregnant woman could go from Atijere to Okitipupa it would take her five hours. You can just imagine the condition. If it is possible, I suggest the experiment of

[MR OMOKOWAJO]

hospital on water. If the Minister will please consider it, such an amenity will encourage the people.

I come now to the question of rabies in the Western Region. I think rabies, as you all know, is a very, very dangerous disease. If it is a question of increasing the votes, it must be done, and you should please make arrangements, if possible in the next Session, to make it a law for all the dogs in the Western Region to be inoculated against rabies. Many of you will not know, because you will not get out of your cars. If all the dogs are inoculated against rabies you will see that within a short time it will be possible for the Health Authorities to wipe out rabies. Mr Chairman, Sir, I have been to several hospitals in the Region and in the whole of the Okitipupa hospital; there is not a single microscope. It is used to diagnose. It is my wish that all the hospitals in the Western Region should be supplied with microscopes.

Now, I come to leprosy. Many of you rejoice because you are free from leprosy, and perhaps you live in Ministerial quarters. Some of the leprosy inspectors go to the bush to collect money from poor people, whereas the treatment of leprosy is supposed to be free. It will be my joy to see that all the Leprosy Inspectors in the Region are instructed to carry out the good work of this Government because I know that these drugs are given free because the lepers should be treated free. The Minister should see to it that lepers are not exploited.

Somebody else mentioned it just now and I know you will not like it. That is the question of private practice by doctors; and I am telling you that if you go to a doctor in the hospital he will tell you, "there is no medicine; you better see me at home". One day I asked the doctor, "Are you richer than the Government in such a way that the medicine which Government cannot buy the doctor can buy it?" It has been done in the Eastern Region. Private practice should be banned. You will not be the first Government to ban private practice in this country. I think the doctors' pay packets should be increased and that private practice should be made illegal. There are some people without a pound who go to the hospital and the doctor will demand £25 before any operation is performed. I am talking of Okitipupa (*Interruptions from Government Benches*). When you talk less I shall speak.

(*The Minister of Health and Social Welfare rose. Have you finished?*) I have not finished. For instance in the case of a man from whom £25 was demanded, such people still go back to the "Babalawos" because they cannot meet the demand made upon them. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would wish to mention the question of the employment of labour in Okitipupa hospital. Some Action Group "big guns" in the Region just write names of labourers and give them to the doctor. Both the Action Group and the NCNC should be made to enjoy the work and given equal treatment as to labour. Mr Chairman, Sir, even the salary of £3,000 for the Minister of Health is too much (*Laughter from Opposition Benches*). I knew him as a pupil teacher. Now he earns £3,000 and also £75 a month from the poor people of this Region. (*Opposition Benches: Fire! fire!*)

Mr Chairman, I beg to support the amendment.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): (*Loud cheers from the Government Benches.*) Mr Chairman, Sir, I should begin by replying to the various points raised by hon. Members, starting from the hon. Member from Okitipupa. (*Government Benches: The pupil teacher from Okitipupa.*) May I express the hope that Members of the Opposition will listen and that there will be no howling. The hon. Member from Okitipupa said he knew me when I was a pupil teacher. I never had the misfortune of ever meeting him. Before I became a Minister, as a teacher in one of the best secondary schools in this country, I owned my private car. I was a senior service man in my right. (*Cheers*) (*Opposition Benches: That has nothing to do with this matter.*) Mr Chairman, I have forgotten the name of that animal which howls (*Loud interruptions from Opposition Benches*).

Mr Oviyasu: Is he suggesting that the hon. Member is an animal? (*Opposition Benches: He should withdraw.*)

Mr Chairman: I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to Order 29 (4). "During a sitting all members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones."

Chief Osuntokun: I hope Members on the other side will bear with me. Whenever any Member on their side is making an allegation, they listen well for him to finish, but when it is time for any of us to reply to the allegation or criticism, they start to laugh and laugh. They all start laughing. Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel the last speaker was a little rude in his speech and I would suggest that he should be asked to withdraw.

[CHIEF OSUNTOKUN]

(*Opposition benches: Withdraw for what? No, no.*)

He even, of course, did not know what to say, and appeared beating about the bush. The question of dogs. It is our policy that dogs with rabies are segregated for others so that they do not infect the other dogs. Of course, I have had no report of any serious outbreak of rabies but I would like to say that the medical officers concerned are doing a lot of good work in this regard and most of the dogs are almost completely free from disease and we have been battling against this disease. He spoke of microscopes and he said that he had visited many hospitals in this Region. As far as this statement is concerned, I cannot say for sure how many hospitals he has visited in this Region, but what is true is that the Okitipupa Divisional Hospital is certainly one of the best hospitals in this Region. If this is so, if this hospital is equipped with an X-ray department, if there is an X-ray department in this hospital, how can this hon. Member come to this House and say that there is no microscope?

Then he spoke on the question of lepers. I must say that if lepers are allowed to move about with other people, then it will be the fault of their relatives because there is a very large leper settlement in the Midwest to which all these people are taken and where they are given very good and adequate treatment.

He also complained about private practice by medical officers. I have often said in this House that it is the duty of both Government and Opposition Members not to discriminate. It is the duty of the Members here, as representatives of the people, to report anything which they think is not good to the Police, my Ministry or myself, and I can assure them that I will look into the matter. But it will not do coming here only to make these allegations. The Opposition has a duty to help the Government all along in these matters (*Hear, hear*).

Turning to the allegation of recruitment of labour in the Okitipupa Hospital, I must say that this is none of my business and, as far as I know, nobody goes about holding or wearing either the NCNC or the Action Group badge in order to be considered for employment. It is not the policy to ask a prospective labourer to what party he belongs before he is considered for recruitment. I think what obtains is that workers employed should be suitably fitted for the work they are engaged to do. No report has come to my

notice that Action Group party membership is a gateway to employment in any part of the Region. I have only spoken of the statements which I know. That is what I know.

The next one is the Member—Mr Areola. I assure him that the Government will take note of his views and that considerable sympathy will be given to the views which he has expressed; but, at the same time, I should like to let him know that most of the projects are controlled by local government councils.

The hon. Member for Owo North II mentioned something about Akoko Hospital being raised to a general hospital. May I say that the Government will come to the aid of the local government councils by way of financial help. Ikare hospital was built and run by the local government council. I can assure the hon. Member that my Ministry has taken steps to come to the aid of these councils and by these steps the hon. Member will be convinced that we are doing our best. A medical officer has visited this place and what we are waiting for at present is the PWD site plan. We have asked them to give us the approximate cost of building it, with operating centre, an X-ray department, etc. As soon as we receive the necessary approximate cost from PWD we will be in a position to begin work.

The hon. Member for Benin Central and the other Member from Benin City.....As a matter of fact, Members from Benin City are always in the habit of making false allegations. They have developed a habit for deliberate falsehood in this House.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: On point of Order. Order 27 (5) "It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House."

(*Government Benches: Where is the insult in this statement?*) (*Sit down, sit down*).

(*Opposition Benches: Withdraw, withdraw*).

The Minister has just implied that we are telling lies and that is an enough insult. He must withdraw it, Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman: The Honourable the Minister of Health, please continue.

Mr Oviasu: Is that a ruling?

(*Government Benches: Are you overriding the ruling of the Chairman? Sit down, you do not know anything*).

Mr Oviasu: I shall not sit down until the Chairman has made it clear whether he has ruled. Is it in order or out of order for the Minister to use those offensive words? If it is in order, say; if not, say. I still refer you to this Order.

Mr Chairman: What the Minister was saying does not constitute offensive language (*Hear, hear*).

Chief Osuntokun: The allegation is that a Nursing Sister in the Benin City Hospital was transferred from Benin Hospital just because her husband is an NCNC man. Not only that; he alleged that a man's scholarship was withdrawn just because his people are NCNC supporters. The truth of this allegation will be weighed when it is remembered that hon. Oviasu is a strong member of the NCNC, his wife is a pharmacist, and she has not been worried at all. In the first instance, the scholarship being withdrawn is not a matter for me but for the Ministry of Education who awarded the scholarship. Secondly, as far as I know, no Nursing Sister has been transferred because of her husband being an NCNCer. Speaking of the Nursing School, we have only one centre in Ibadan, and there all candidates from the Yoruba West and Midwest are trained. It does not matter how many students are taken in from the Midwest, or any other part of the Region. Students are taken on merit, and when they complete their six months course are sent back to the place of their first recruitment. So that the question that Midwest is being discriminated against does not appear to arise. This allegation is most unfounded.....(*Interruptions*).

There exist the Asaba hospital, the Benin hospital; and there are three others. If you add these hospitals to the hospitals in the Midwest you will get twelve hospitals; and what do we have in the rest of the Western Region? We have fourteen hospitals—Ikeja, Abeokuta, Ijebu-Ode, Shagamu, Ibadan (I will count Ibadan as two because of the Adeoyo Hospital and the Jericho Nursing Home), Oshogbo, Ogbomosho, Ado-Ekiti, Okitipupa, Akure, Ondo and Owo Combined Hospital. Altogether there are fourteen hospitals, and then you have Mission hospitals at Ilesha, Ogbomosho, and one local government hospital at Akure. Altogether there are eighteen hospitals against twelve in the Midwest area; and still they are complaining. And as far as revenue derivation is concerned, we contribute more than two-thirds of the revenue of this Region.

The Member for Okitipupa Division made a serious comment about private practice and all the rest of it. The advice which I gave to his friend also stands for him. May I say that there has been a lot of free medical treatment in this Region and that children under eighteen years of age are treated freely.

Even in the United Kingdom, which we always admire, which we always follow, I have not seen a completely free medical treatment in practice. How much less Nigeria, which is comparatively a poor country!

Mr Chairman, there are just two more points which I would like to deal with. Hon. Oviasu made a vile, vicious and malicious statement.....

Mr Oviasu: On point of order. Mr Chairman, Sir, Members of this House are referred to by the name of their Constituencies.

Mr Chairman: The hon. Minister did not say that the man was vicious. It was the statement that was vicious. (*Opposition Benches: Ha, ha, Mr Chairman*). Members should be referred to by their Constituencies. (*Hear, hear*.)

Chief Osuntokun: Mr Chairman, I agree entirely with him. The difficulty we often experience is.....(*Opposition Benches: Louder please*). The hon. Member for Benin Central has made certain vicious, vile and malicious statements which can only come from.....(*Interruptions*). He came out by saying that 50 per cent of the hospitals in this Region are without X-ray Departments and that just about 70 per cent are without laboratories. There is nothing farther from the truth than this. I do not know how many hospitals the hon. Member has visited (*Interruptions*).....That somebody is a pharmacist does not make him an expert in medical and health matters. New hospitals which have been built in this Region from 1952 to the present time have always been equipped with X-ray Departments and Laboratory Departments. (*Hear, hear*.) The old ones, of course, have been provided, and those which have none have been provided. An example is that of Badagry Hospital.

The Minister has been accused by the hon. Member for Benin Central of not knowing what an apparatus is. Well, with due respect to him and Members; including Members on that side, some of them who have read any Constitutional Law know that a Minister need not be an expert before he becomes a Minister; that a Minister of Health need not be a doctor to become Minister of Health. According to the usual parlance, Ministers are.....(*Interruptions*). The Ministers get whatever they want by way of expert advice from their officials. And his own duty is a question of broad policy. I cannot be expected to perform an operation or prescribe medicine for people who have developed coughing, and all the rest of it.

[CHIEF OSUNTOKUN]

Then, Mr Chairman, he also referred to blood bank. I agree with him that Government has not yet got a blood bank in the Region. (*Shame, shame.*) What is shameful in that? When you are right we say so. We have not got a blood bank but we have an alternative arrangement by which these things are carried out. People who suffer from internal haemorrhage need not fear. He also said there is a shortage of drugs in all the hospitals in this Region. That has not come to my knowledge. I think the hon. Member from Benin Central is merely looking after his own profession. He is a pharmacist. (*Laughter.*)

Then, he also said that the Chief Pharmacist does not travel. If he had taken the trouble to come to me I would have explained to him that the Chief Pharmacist does travel; in fact recently he has travelled all over the Region—Benin, Abeokuta, etc.—chasing around those fraudulent pharmacists, patent medicine sellers, druggists, and so on and so forth, who deal in illegal injections. My Chief Pharmacist has been going round prosecuting the people, and those who have not been prosecuted yet will soon be brought to book. (*Interruptions*).....I do not think we need to draw a distinction between pharmacy and medicine. A doctor and a pharmacist work hand in hand in drugs. The doctor prescribes and the pharmacist is expected to give out the medicine. It is a sort of conveyor belt. And yet, Mr Chairman; they say they are all pharmacists; they all know their profession.

The last Speaker, Member for Ilesha Central.....(*Interruptions*). Some of the points which have been made by the hon. Member for Ilesha Central are quite good but I should like to say that I know that lawyers do not necessarily indulge.....(*Interruptions*)... ..elements of geography. For instance he made a reference to my home town and then I corrected him and he said if somebody had been sick from Oke Mesi before he was brought to Ifaki he would have died. (*Interruptions*). That is no excuse that you should not be familiar with the simple elementary knowledge of geography of this Region.

He complains about Ilesha not being given a general hospital. May I say that he is possibly misinformed. In the first instance, Ilesha hospital is a Mission hospital—Wesley Guild Hospital—and by common agreement, we have reached a decision with the authorities whereby we give them, during the Five-Year Development Plan, £40,000

for development, and that is as good as building a completely new hospital. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, may I say that before any centre is opened by any midwife, the Government has a laid down policy which must be conformed with.

The question of insanity referred to by the Member for Ilesha is one being dealt with at Abeokuta in the Aro Hospital.

The last speaker spoke about gambling. Well, I don't know much about gambling, but there is a Yoruba adage which says that "Ole lo mo ese ole to lori apata". (*Opposition Benches: Say it in English.*) "Set a thief to catch a thief."

Mr Chairman Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £1,928,270 for Head 330—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 707.—SPECIAL MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed that the sum of £93,720 for Head 707—Special Medical Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 726.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed that the sum of £48,070 for Head 726—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Sitting suspended at 10.55 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 11.40 p.m.

HEAD 331.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question proposed that the sum of £377,420 for Head 331—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. A. Layonu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move an amendment that the sum of £5 be deducted from Head 331, Ministry of Home Affairs. Mr Chairman, Sir, in moving this amendment, these are my observations.

Local Government Police are under this Ministry. The Ministry does not encourage the Local Government Police at all. The effect is that members of the Force consider that their salaries are lower in comparison with those of the Nigeria Police.

[MR LAYONU]

Somebody has suggested before that the name Local Government Police should be changed to Western Nigeria Police. I think that in order that our Police may not think of inferiority complex, and in order that many people may not think that Local Government Police is inferior to Nigeria Police, the name should be changed to Western Nigeria Police and they should be given adequate substantial salary.

Now, it is also the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs to see that corruption is scrapped out in the Western Region. (*Government Benches: Police are not corrupt*). I don't say that police are corrupt. I will not like any Minister to put in my mouth what I have not said.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that if at all we are to fight for the progress of the Police our Ministers should be the first to do so. After all, there is no Minister's car in which you will not find a Policeman. They maintain law and order.

Mr Chairman, Sir, corruption is very rampant in this Region, from the highest class to the lowest class. Mr Chairman, it takes many forms, such as bribery, nepotism, influence, etc. In whichever form it takes, it is a fatal disease, which is eating deep into our society from the highest to the lowest class. It should be stamped out completely. With these remarks, Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Mr J. A. Ajuwon: Mr Chairman Sir, I rise to support the amendment. I also like to draw the attention of the Chairman toHead 331. (*Government Benches: You better speak in Yoruba*). Listen first. You are spending £5,840 to protect the Minister's quarters, whereas the Minister is living at Oke-Ado and Iyaganku. He is not living in any quarter and yet this Government pays £5,840. This is a clever role in a clever sense. (*Several Government Benches: Withdraw, withdraw.*)

Mr Chairman: What did the hon. Member say; Clever rogue or clever role?

Mr Ajuwon: Mr Chairman, I said "clever role". I will spell it r—o—l—e. (*Laughter.*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, I refer to £48,500 for Catering Rest Houses. I don't know what this means. Is it to feed the families of the Ministers? £48,500 is too much to build houses.....(*Government Benches: Sit down, no point.*)

Mr Chairman, referring to the question of the Police, they are using these Policemen as agents in order to suppress the Opposition. I must say this: that the Minister in charge will agree with me that even the office of the Police has become something like the Customary Courts in which there are certain undesirable elements.

Another point Sir. A retired pensioner Senior Superintendent of Police, Oluwole had a compulsory retirement, and yet this Government renewed his service and called him to be Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police. The purpose is to try and help the Action Group in Ibadan in order to win the local government elections.

Another point, Sir. I want the Chairman to take notice is the entertainment Allowance for the Minister. This Minister has £3,000 per annum as his salary; he also has £145 as entertainment allowance. He has never entertained anybody in his house. (*Laughter.*)

Mr Chairman, on the question of the cinema I want the Chairman to take note of this. This cinema is taken to the outlying districts just to show to the party of their own. If this cinema is extended to all people in this Region it will serve the purpose of many of us in Ibadan here. (*Government Benches: Minister of Information.*)

Chief Adigun: Point of Order Sir. Order 22. Cinema show is the responsibility of the Minister of Information. Surely there must be relevancy in his debate. Of course after a short break in which Members were found upstairs, one can understand the attitude of the hon. Member.

Mr Chairman: Cinema show is the responsibility of the Minister of Information. Will the hon. Member please note that.

Mr Ajuwon: That is for the information of the Minister of Information.

Mr Chairman, the promotion of Local Government Policemen in this Region is another case. It is a question of family affair. They are not promoted unless they are relatives or families of Ministers. There is the case of a person who has served for twenty-five years and yet has earned no promotion.

Another point is Ife Museum. A sum of £940, approximately £1,000, is too much for the Museum. I don't know why this Government should place £1,000 on Ife Museum. The reason is this. This £1,000 is to be spent on these small, small local chiefs in Ife.....(*Interruptions*). Yes, it is that; that is your character. To spend

[MR AJUWON]

£1,000 for Ife is too much and exorbitant. You can use this money to build Rural Health Centres and Maternity Centres for Ife and Ogbomosho, if possible.

Another point is the mileage allowance of the Minister in charge. I don't know whether he travels at all. He has over £2,000 for mileage. This is really exorbitant for a man in Ibadan. He has nowhere to go than to inspect the offices of the police men, and still he is drawing this fabulous amount.....(*Interruptions*). I knew him when he was a kid. Before he went to England he had never ridden a bicycle. I want the Minister to be keen because in the Police Stations you cannot differentiate Police Stations from the Customary Courts...

Another point I want the Chairman to note is about allowances and salaries of Policemen. Our policemen have not got any overtime allowance at all. They work from morning till night; they are always on duty protecting your lives and your properties; still they are underpaid. You know, Mr Chairman, these people look down on the Police.

I beg to second the amendment.

Amendment proposed.

Chief F. Oputa-Otutu: Mr Chairman Sir, I would like to make a few remarks. Sir, I am reliably informed that some Ministers in this Region have been receiving up to £190 every month for housing and travelling allowances. I have also been informed by another reliable source that there is a circular from the Ministry of Finance, or perhaps the Treasury, to Government departments that they should not submit for scrutiny bills and vouchers submitted by Ministers. I have to report that I was shocked and startled when I got this information. I repeat that there is a circular from the Treasury that vouchers and bills submitted by Ministers should not be subjected for any scrutiny by the Audit Department. (*Opposition Benches: Skame.*) Mr Chairman, if this allegation is true, and I believe it is true, I would like the Treasury to withdraw that instruction immediately. (*Government Benches: That was how you got your cocoa information.*) I think time shall prove whether the cocoa allegation is true or not. You have appointed a Commission of Inquiry.

Mr Chairman Sir, I like to emphasise that this piece of news is disturbing.

Mr Chairman, Sir, it is a fact that they use Native Authority Police in the North to surpress political opponents, but in this Region a similar action is being taken by

Members of the Government of this Region. I remember that during the last election, in many places in this Region, there were several complaints of activities of Local Government Police who were alleged to have rough-handled and ill-treated members of other political parties. (*Where? where?*) There is no necessity for me to mention places. It was known that there were general complaints and even in election petitions references were made to the actions of these Local Government Policemen. I have nothing in particular against the Local Government Police. I will support anything to promote their efficiency, improvement and general well-being, but I will also support anything to bring them under the control of the Nigeria Police.....(*Government Benches: (No, no, no.)*) During the last Constitutional Conference there were many attempts by the Western Nigeria delegation to regionalise the Nigeria Police. That is a fact. I don't think the hon. the Minister of Justice will deny the fact that that was rejected by the Conference.

Mr Chairman, Sir, it is the wish of the Opposition that the Local Government Police, all Police Officers, receive fair and adequate treatment from everyone, and I would not like anyone or this Government to use any section of the Police to surpress their political opponents. That is the attitude of the present Government of this Region to continue to use the Local Government Police Force.

Finally, Sir, I would not like this Government to print ballot papers to be dumped into ballot boxes.

Alhaji Opaleye: Point of Order, Sir, Order 69 (9). The hon. Member shall confine himself to the sub-head or item which is sought to be reduced. The hon. Member is speaking about ballot boxes; the Ministry of Home Affairs is not responsible for the printing of ballot papers. (*Sit, down, sit down.*)

Mr Chairman: The vote for the Electoral Commission was passed yesterday; I think it is irrelevant to mention something about ballot papers.

Chief Oputa-Otutu: Mr Chairman, I have to accept your correction but I have to say that we are dealing with the Ministry of Home Affairs and it is in regard to the Printing Division.

Before I take my seat I would like to repeat again that if it is true that there has been any circular either from the Executive Council or from the Ministry of Finance that

Ministers' bills and vouchers should not be subjected to scrutiny, I am demanding, Sir, that the circular should be withdrawn immediately so that we can be satisfied that our money is safe.

Mr Adeoye Adisa: (*Prolonged shouts of "Omobolaje" "NPC"*). The Minister of Home Affairs is a son of the soil and I am proud that anything I say is in the ability and natural talents of my people. Nevertheless, as we have been trained to respect the principles and rules of democracy, and to be impartial in everything we do, I will only make certain suggestions to him so that he would carry out the duties of his office.

In respect to the responsibility for the Police, I have to say that I have the greatest respect and admiration for our Policemen. Their duties are so onerous and tough and at times when they stray from the path of rectitude they deserve our sympathy rather than our condemnation.

The only point, and greatest point, in respect of Local Government Police is that in a sense they have been made absolutely subordinate in status and quality to the Nigeria Police. When an hon. Member said that the Local Government Police should be taken over by the Nigeria Police, I was surprised to hear the voice of dissent from the Government Benches. The standard which the Nigeria Police has upheld in this country is of universal respect and an international one too.

It is a suggestion that the Local Government Police should in itself be incorporated in the Nigeria Police. I was surprised that the Action Group again opposed a suggestion which is further to raise the status of Local Government Police.

Chief Osuntokun: They know their friends.

Mr Adisa: The Action Group party believes in deceiving all people all the time. They did not know that this is absolutely impossible. You will see that, from today, if you oppose the incorporation of the Local Government Police into the Nigeria Police, you will be most unpopular with the Local Government Police. First of all, we are making the case in grades and in salary; secondly, for the raising of their training so that they can be properly trained; and thirdly, we want them to possess the same minimum educational qualification as in the Nigeria Police; and if I can get anybody to oppose this suggestion, certainly he is the enemy of the Local Government Police.

As regards the matter of trust, I believe that we here represent the common man, not because we are rich, not because we have failed...(*failed the last election?*)...but because of our conviction. I remember certain Members crossed the carpet a few days ago.

Chief Osuntokun: You have been begging me that you want to cross.

Mr Adisa: I challenge any Member of the Government to stand up on the floor of this House and declare that the hon. Member from Ibadan East Rural has made any suggestion to cross over to the Government Bench. If you say that I want to go to Ogbomosho it is true because Ibadan people used to train people at Ogbomosho.

It think it is grossly wrong for the office of the Superintendent-General of the Local Government Police to be situated in the same building as that of the Minister of Home Affairs. It is wrong because not only should justice be done but it should appear to be done. This is against elementary principles of natural justice. It is a fact, if not a point, to relate that the bond of friendship which exists between the Superintendent-General and the Minister of Home Affairs is such that the Superintendent-General may take certain actions which have been ordered by the Minister.

With respect to the Catering Rest Houses which are the responsibility of the Minister of Home Affairs, I have to say that these Rest Houses are too few in the Region and I do not see why they should be so, because I know that our civil servants are men of character and integrity and if they go on transfer these Catering Rest Houses should be provided in the Region so that many of them should enjoy life more abundant. Not only Action Group members should enjoy life more abundant. Again, Sir, we find that these Rest Houses, even the one at Ogbomosho, are eye-sores. Some of them have no doors. I am sorry if I have to touch the toes of anybody in respect of Ogbomosho.

With regard to the *Western News* and other publicity organs under the Ministry of Home Affairs.....(*A Government Member: Ministry of Information*)...I will keep out of that. I know that the Action Group Government is capable of errors of omission and commission. Nevertheless, I leave that for the moment. (*Interruption: Ignorant lawyer?*) If I hear outside this House that anybody calls me an ignorant lawyer, I shall sue him (*Shouts of "LL.M" from Opposition Benches*).

I agree that printing is under the responsibility of the Minister of Home Affairs and that is why we bring this point about printing of ballot papers. (*Alhaji Opaleye: Order 26*) (*Interruptions: "Read it, read it."*) The Chairman has ruled that the question of ballot papers.....(*Interruptions*) ("*You are wasting time*").....

Mr Chairman: I did rule that Members should refrain from mentioning things about voting but I will allow Members to speak about printing. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Adisa: Mr Chairman, I can only emphasise in this House that I shall not be detarred to make use of my rights in this House by any clown.

Government Member: It is unparliamentary.

Mr Chairman: There are no clowns in this House. Withdraw it.

Mr Adisa: I do not say there is anybody who is a clown. I will go further and say that...

Mr Chairman: Will the hon. Gentleman withdraw?

Mr Adisa: The word "clown" is withdrawn. (*Shame, shame*).

Mr Chairman, I want to make a point that if it is true, we want the Minister of Home Affairs to inform this House, whether true or not, that the Printing Department under him prints ballot papers. If so, what security measures are taken to prevent anybody from making use of these ballot papers illegally and without permission? Thirdly, to require that the Government should always make available to Members of this House all information at its disposal so that Members may get information straightaway from the horse's mouth. If we are not being given the information that we want, and we say what we have heard, it is irresponsible of this Government to condemn us for bringing these allegations that we have brought. That is why I say that the Minister should tell this House whether it is true that in the Printing Department certain civil servants were found of taking away ballot papers and as a result certain people have been suspended and further enquiry is taking place, so that he will not come round as is usually characteristic of him. Whether any statement I make now will be expunged from these papers and documents which look suspicious but affirmative of what I have said, perhaps I may get the necessary reply tonight.

There are inadequacy of law reports. I am talking of printing and I do not expect

Members on the other side to appreciate the right points I am making. This point is not for them. Their hope is that once this money is voted they are all right. Perhaps they are here to dream of the money they will get from their vouchers which are not subject to scrutiny.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support the amendment.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: I rise to support the amendment. In this I will confine myself to two items, *viz.*, the Catering Rest Houses and the Festival of the Arts.

The Catering Rest Houses in this Region need many improvements. When the House is in Session, Members take shelter in these Rest Houses in Ibadan.

Mr Kotoye: Is it shelter alone?

Mr Oviasu: Here are some shortcomings. The towels are too old and it is a disgrace that towels of such nature should be put in a respectable place like that. (*Government Member: Why did you not bring yours?*) I paid for it. I must enjoy what I have paid for. There is no carpet on the floor. They are inadequately furnished and not decorated. In fact, when we asked the Supervisor in charge of the reason, he said that there was no fund. I think the Minister of Home Affairs will look into them.

There are eight Rest Houses in the Western Region. I understand that you are opening one at Uromi and that it is to have a swimming pool. It is the only Catering Rest House in the Region that has a swimming pool. It will be good if swimming pools are attached to other Rest Houses.

The second point I want to confine myself to is the Western Region Festival of the Arts. People come from other parts of the Region to show Western Nigeria Arts. I think, Sir, that it is not enough to exhibit our arts only to Western Nigeria. We must advertise outside this country. To start with, we can go to other West African countries. The Minister of Home Affairs should concentrate his attention to that. The Chairman of the Festival of Arts also complained. I support.

Mr D. Ogundiran: My Friend from Ede-Ejigbo said that we are not encouraging the policemen. The policemen are quite aware that the Government makes provision for better facilities in every sense of the word. The hon. Member wants us to change the name of the Local Government Police to Western Nigeria Police. The Constitution of this country does not allow that. It will be a sad day for anybody, especially the

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Leader of the Opposition, to come to this place to exhibit greater ignorance. It is a very sorrowful point for an hon. Member not to know that Local Government Police, as such, is not under the control of the Western Nigerian Government, but under the councils. We subsidise local government councils in order to serve you.

Hon. Members opposite me will understand that the functions of the local government police are:—

- (1) to keep peace, to maintain law and order;
- (2) to deal with offenders and with rascals.

The hon. Member also said that the police are corrupt. I have said it on the floor of this House that if anybody can come forward with positive proof that the police are corrupt.....(*Opposition Benches: Nobody said that*)..... You said that corruption is found in.....(*Interruptions*). Men like you abuse this privilege. If you know anybody who is corrupt, I can always promise you that the police are always ready to help you. It is not always good for you to grumble.

My Friend from Ibadan Rural said that £140 has been provided for the upkeep of my quarters. Many people do not know that £1,840 is a grant to the Ibadan District Council. I can give you the background of that in a nutshell. When some people broke into Government quarters where Ministers live and removed some papers which my hon. Friend needed to.....(*Interruptions*).

I can assure you that the provision is made to protect the property of the Government. It will be a good thing if they try to learn and understand what they are talking about because everything you say is taken down. Now, you say the policemen are agents of the Government. Yes, the policemen are agents of the Government. To suppress riots, to keep law and order, to deal with people who will not respect law and order in this Region, are the primary aims of the Ministry.

I am grateful to my friend Chief Ajie when he said that some of my friends in Ibadan here are.....(*Interruptions*).

The question of law and order in this Region is concurrent and people will come here and do what this Government wants them to do.

The Hon. Member for Ibadan East Rural I wanted to suggest that local government policemen be paid as Nigeria Police. It

is always the way of the Opposition to say that in order to steal the show. I am not denying you that because policemen cannot be deceived. They know their friends.

On the question of training, I can say that it is a surprise that my hon. Friend does not know that we make the same qualifications applicable in the appointment of policemen—the Nigeria Police and the Local Government Police covering the same category. At present, a refresher school is built at Ibadan here where local government police go to do the same course.

Chief Odebiyi: On point of Order, Sir: Order No. 29 (4). If people are going to make interruptions, they should do so in undertones.

Mr Ogundiran: If there is anybody the Government will respect, it is Mr Oluwole. He has served the Government creditably. He has given good service to the Region.

The most detestable is the information received by my hon. Friend Oputa-Otutu. Oputa-Otutu said he was informed from a very reliable source that the Government of this Region issued a circular that Ministers will have £120 and that he received information that Ministers' vouchers should not be checked. I am surprised that he said that because.....(*Interruptions*).

Chief Oputa-Otutu: What I said, Sir, is that I was reliably informed that more than one hundred and ninety pounds are voted for travelling and housing allowances and that, Sir, there is a circular from the Treasury to all Government Departments with an instruction that Ministers' vouchers and bills should not be subjected to any scrutiny by the Audit Department. (*Government Benches: Where is the copy?*) I said that if this is true I am asking the Minister responsible to demand why there is any special privilege over such public funds.

Chief Odebiyi: Before the hon. Minister of Home Affairs continues his reply, I would like to comment on what has been said by the hon. Member for Aboh. The information which Members of the Opposition always disseminate round is nothing other than to bring Government into disrepute. It has been said that I, as Minister of Finance, would so descend as to give instructions that a circular should go round Government Departments stating that Ministers' vouchers and bills should not be checked, and that the Director of Audit was doing nothing about it. In all my life, Sir, my integrity has never been so

impugned as suggested by the hon. Member, and I think, Sir, that such a statement is most irresponsible, most dishonest, and can only come from a person who himself is a very doubtful character. (Cheers.)

Mr Ogundiran: To add to that, Sir, the same hon. Member for Aboh said that it is abominable to use Local Government Policemen to supervise elections. I can assure him that when the time comes policemen, whether they be Nigeria Police or Local Government Police, will be used in any capacity for which they are intended.

They are intended to keep law and order... (Opposition Member: You have said that before).....and if my hon. Friend will not behave well at elections Local Government Policemen will be sent there because he has not been able to convince me that there is a set of Policemen in this country who are not human beings. Whether they be Local Government policemen or they are Nigeria policemen, there is nobody who is an embodiment of impartiality. Everybody is a human being and like human beings they will behave (Hear, hear). If my hon. Friend is suggesting that Nigeria policemen are an embodiment of partiality he should think again. He told us that if we allow Local Government policemen to do their duty we are taking similar action to the North. I challenge my friend to go to the North and to the aid of their ally, the NEPU, whom they have brought into the predicament in which they are now, and see whether he will not be put in the cell for days by Local Government policemen.

In the Western Region here, where we have the best system of local government in the Federation, nobody ever used them for purposes other than the one laid down by law.

He also suggested that Local Government policemen should be placed under the Nigeria Police (Opposition Member: All over the Region). I can assure him that nothing of the sort will be done. (Cheers.)

My hon. Friend from Ibadan West Rural, Mr Adisa, insinuated that this Government prints ballot papers. As I said before, unfortunately when people make this sort of irresponsible suggestions they expect the public to take them seriously. My hon. Friend is not unaware of the fact that no single ballot paper is printed in this country (Hear, hear). Ballot papers are printed

outside this country, and in Britain, under security measures. (Opposition Member: That is what you say.)

I can sympathise with my hon. Friends because they have been on that side for too long, but I can assure them that "their kingdom will not come". Not in this Region. And as for my hon. Friends who are dwindling away now, when the Midwest is also created it shall be ruled by this Government. (Cheers.)

(Opposition Member: We will rule you. The Minister of Finance does not agree.)

It is no use going on suggesting that you are where you are because some people are against you. You are where you are because you stand on what you stand, and the people of this Region will never entrust their destiny with people who are not sure of themselves. (Cheers.)

My hon. Friend from Benin Central, hon. Oviasu, said that there are not enough supplies of material in Catering Rest Houses. I can assure him that these things will be looked into.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived..

Question put that the sum of £377,420 for Head 331—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 727.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed, that the sum of £30,330 for Head 727—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Committee report Progress; to sit again this morning.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed, That the House do now adjourn until 10 o'clock (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.10 a.m. until 10.00 a.m. the same day, Wednesday, 12th April, 1961.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 12TH APRIL, 1961

(The House met at 10.15 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Tarring of Owo-Odeomu-Ipetumodu Road

10/86. Mr Y. L. Ogunleye asked the Minister of Works and Transport when the Regional Government would undertake the tarring of the Owo-Odeomu-Ipetumodu road in view of the fact that this road constitutes a great asset to the commercial life of the Region as a whole.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief S. O. Sogbein): The tarring of Owo-Odeomu-Ipetumodu road will be considered along with others when the next road development programme is being drawn up.

Mileage of roads tarred in Ede/Ejigbo North Constituency

10/102. Mr J. O. Kehinde asked the Minister of Works and Transport how many miles of road had been tarred by the Government in Ede/Ejigbo North Constituency.

Chief Sogbein: Approximately twenty-two miles of road have been tarred by the Government in Ede/Ejigbo North Constituency.

EDUCATION

Backward Area Scholarships awarded to Epe Division

10/125. Mr J. A. Odutuga asked the Minister of Education the number of Backward Area Scholarships awarded to Epe Division between 1956 and 1961, the names of the recipients and the Colleges where tenable.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Education (Mr J. O. Oye): Nine backward area scholarship awards were made in Epe Division between 1956 and 1961, details of which are shown below in tabular form—

1956—M. Tobun and H. Elemoro: tenable at Epe Divisional Grammar School, Epe, and C.M.S. Grammar School, Lagos, respectively.

1957—Y. Apará, S. Jegede: both tenable at Epe Divisional Grammar School, Epe.

1958—M. Agbaniaka and M. Kadiri: both tenable at Epe Divisional Grammar School, Epe.

1960—R. Amusa and M. Kasim: both tenable at Epe Divisional Grammar School, Epe; and

1961—F. Tobun: tenable at St. Anne's School, Ibadan.

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Electricity for Ekiadolor

10/153. Mr V. I. Amadasun asked the Minister of Works and Transport why Ekiadolor, the headquarters of Iyekuselu District Council in Benin Division has not yet been provided with electricity.

Chief Sogbein: The aim of Government is to provide electricity for as many towns as possible in the Region and Ekiadolor will no doubt be given due consideration in due course.

Rural Water Supply Scheme for Ijesha Division

10/172. Mr S. T. Adelegan asked the Minister of Works and Transport, what progress is being made in the Rural Water Supply Scheme for areas in Ijesha Division.

Chief Sogbein: The Rural Water Supply Programme for Ijesha Division is progressing satisfactorily. The following towns have been supplied with pipe borne water: Ifewara, Erioda and Erin Oke. Supplies for other towns in the Division scheduled for development are under investigation.

Tarring of Ipetu-Ile-Oluji road

10/173. Mr Adelegan asked the Minister of Works and Transport when the tarring of Ipetu-Ile-Oluji road will be begun.

Chief Sogbein: The tarring of Ipetu-Ile-Oluji road has already been let out on contract. Work is scheduled to start soon and will be completed, it is hoped, by December this year.

Village Scheme for Electricity Supply

10/179. Mr Adelegan asked the Minister of Works and Transport what success has been made of the Village Scheme for Electricity Supply and what plans are being made to extend such facilities to other deserving areas.

Chief Sogbein: The Ijero Pilot Scheme which was started in 1959 was completed last year and is working well. It is hoped to extend a similar scheme to other rural areas in the Region as soon as it is practicable.

LABOUR

Employment for Modern School Leavers

10/219. Mr A. Ajibola asked the Minister of Labour what opportunities for employment in the various Government Departments are open to Modern School Leavers.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour (Mr J. O. Odigie) The following posts are open to Secondary Modern School Leavers who succeed in the Civil Service Entrance Examination: Clerical Assistant, Assistant Storekeeper, Technical Assistant, Telephone Operator, Livestock Overseer, Photographic Attendant, Medical Field Units Assistant, Family Visitor, Assistant Supervision Officer, Field Overseers, Veterinary Inoculator, Fisheries Station Assistant, Enumerator, Dispensing Assistant, Student Nurse, Stenographer-in-Training and Bookbinding Assistant.

BUSINESS MOTION

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2).

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): I beg to second.

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): 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 J. O. Osuntokun: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICE OF BILL

Notice of the presentation of a Bill for a Law entitled The High Court (Amendment) Law, 1961 was given (pursuant to Standing Order 41 (1))—(Chief S. O. Ighodaro).

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF A PUBLIC BILL

The following Bill was read the First time; it was ordered to be read a Second time later in the Meeting:

“The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1961”. (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) 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. As

hon. Members will see from the Objects and Reasons of this Bill, the first object is to bring up to date the provisions of section 18 of the Law relating to qualifications of candidates for election to councils; a reference to “citizens of Nigeria” has been substituted for the reference to “British subject or a British protected person” in consonance with the independent status of the Federation of Nigeria; references to the Direct Taxation Ordinance have been deleted as this Ordinance was repealed and replaced by the Income Tax Law enacted in 1957; references to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue and the Federal Commissioner of Income Tax have been replaced by references to the Rating Authority for the area of the council or the Regional Tax Board, as the case may be, and by reference to the Federal Board of Inland Revenue respectively. Secondly, to enable any competent council to control, or regulate, and, if necessary, to prohibit, the establishment or maintenance of markets within its area of authority except in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the council. Thirdly, to enable precepting councils to issue precepts to Rating Authorities in respect of expenditure falling to be discharged from income tax allocated to Rating Authorities under the provisions of the Income Tax Law; and lastly; by providing a time limit of thirty days within which an appeal in respect of any decision or disallowance or surcharge by an auditor may be lodged by any person aggrieved by such decision, disallowance or surcharge, as the case may be.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Osuntokun: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, before I go into the depths of my debate on this very Bill which has been termed non-controversial by the Minister of Local Government, I would like to say that this Bill as presented to this honourable House of the Legislature is semi-controversial. By that I mean, Mr Speaker, Sir, that there are clauses which are entirely non-controversial and there are others that are hundred per cent controversial.

Now, according to the hon. Mover, one of the aims and objects of this very Bill is to see that the expression “British subject” or “British protected person” is deleted from the original Law. Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, we all could remember that in 1958 when the various leaders of the various political parties in this Federation were going to London for the last constitutional conference the NCNC...

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(*Government Benches: NCN!*).....said that Nigeria should be independent (*Mr Speaker: Order; It was NCNC then*). Mr Speaker, Sir, I know the Leader of the House is always interested when I am speaking and I ask for protection. The NCNC advocated independence before creation of States but the Action Group said States should be created first. If such a political activity had preceded independence would you have the effrontery to say that you want to delete "British protected person" for "Nigerian citizen"? You will see that it was because of the political activities of the NCNC (*Government Benches: No Cameroons!*)..... I say National Council of Nigerian Citizens. The achievement today is due to the efforts of Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe. (*"Cries of Zeek" from the Opposition Benches*).

Now, I am hitting towards the controversial section. In clause 2 mention is made of Rating Authority. In the Western Region today, Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no council that could be said to be a Rating Authority. Because in section 45 of the Income Tax Law it was written that before the Area Assessment Committee is appointed by the Minister of Local Government he should do it with the concurrence of, or in consultation with the, rating authority or the council, but today, Sir, we appoint in all parts of the Region, especially in areas controlled by the NCNC, especially in the Midwest area, the assessment committees or these committees that are responsible for raising and collecting of taxes.

Mr G. I. Oviasu; Point of order. Order No. 77. Strangers.

"Strangers shall be admitted to debates in the Chamber under such rules as Mr Speaker may make from time to time for that purpose, provided that if any Member takes notice that strangers be present, Mr Speaker, or in Committee the Chairman, shall put forthwith the question 'That strangers do withdraw', without permitting any debate or amendment. Notwithstanding anything in these Orders Mr Speaker, or the Chairman, may whenever he thinks fit, order the withdrawal of strangers from any part of the House".

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am submitting that there is a stranger in this House and that that stranger should be ejected. He is the hon. Member for Ife Illa South, Mr S. O. Akerele. I had it on good authority that he has resigned his membership of this House and it is reprehensible that he should take his seat

in this House. I appeal to you, Mr Speaker, Sir, to see to it that hon. S. O. Akerele is ejected from the House.

Mr Speaker: I am hearing about the resignation of the hon. Member for Ife Illa South, Mr Akerele, for the first time. As far as I am concerned, he has not resigned his membership of this House. (*Thunderous cheers from Government Benches.*)

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank God my debates are legitimate.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have said before, there is no council in the Western Region, especially the NCNC councils, that could be legitimately described as a Rating Authority, and I challenge the Minister of Local Government to cite such councils. Now, I am saying this for the first time ever. The Minister of Local Government has done something that is praiseworthy because when there was hue and cry about arbitrary tax assessment at Akure he went there and we were very happy but in his final decision, Mr Speaker, Sir, he made a certain statement and I want him to clarify that statement in connection with this Bill. This is in the *Daily Times* of 2nd February and, with your permission, I would like to read what Alhaji Adegbenro (*Chief Odebiyi: Minister of Local Government*) the Minister of Local Government (*Chief Odebiyi: That is better*) said about tax assessment. He said: "It was usual for NCNC supporters in Action Group controlled councils to complain of arbitrary assessment while the Action Group supporters in NCNC controlled council areas make similar allegations". What he said here is that in areas controlled by Action Group the supporters of NCNC complain of arbitrary assessment and in areas controlled by the NCNC the Action Group supporters also make similar complaints. I want him to make mention of areas controlled by the NCNC where Action Group supporters are clamouring. I thank God that he has the opportunity of saying something about the terror of this Minister in NCNC-controlled areas. We wish him to resign because we are not happy. Mr Speaker, Sir (*holding a paper in his hand*) this is a minute of 22nd June, 1960 of Nwode District Council. This council is entirely controlled by the NCNC. I think NCNC has forty seats and Action Group four. This council took a decision in respect of Area Assessment Committee. Now, what they did was that for every five committee members two go to the Action Group, but in a subsequent

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minute, Sir, a minute of 2nd November, 1960, a paper was sent to the Minister of Local Government from the Action Group quarters of that area. It contains six names for each of the eight wards and only one is NCNC; and how this paper went to the Ministry of Local Government nobody can tell. When we come to that stage I shall dilate seriously on this very commitment and, then the Minister of Local Government has to tell me and I have to tell the people at home where he got this very paper.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, the second reason for this Bill is that local government councils should be empowered to regulate or to make regulations in respect of the establishment, control and maintenance of markets. When I was a member of the Benin City Council we built a motor park for thousands of pounds but the Action Group told us the park will not function, and up to this day the park is bushy as any tropical forest. That was in 1959. Because of the activities of the Action Group in Benin this motor park is still no man's land and, secondly, Sir, there is a market built by an Action Group member in Benin at Ologbo road. He had the backing of the Government, and we hadn't the backing of the Government for the motor park. The market is there and being attended by Action Group men and women. After the forthcoming local council elections, as sure as I will live, and as sure as Christmas, the NCNC must still capture the Benin Council again, and if the proposed Midwest Region (which is equal to all other Regions in the Federation) is created, then we shall have no reason for sending any delegation or deputation to the Minister of Local Government.

Finally, Sir, you could now see why at the inception of my debate I said that this Bill is semi-controversial, semi-controversial in the clauses relating to Area Assessment Committees and Rating Authorities and non-controversial in respect of clause 2 where the expression "British subject" or "British protected person" is to be deleted and to be substituted with "Nigerian Citizen". I could remember, Sir, when I was studying Roman History in those old days, that it was a pride for a Roman to say, "I am a citizen of Rome"; it is a good thing to say we are citizens of Nigeria. This has been brought about by the political activities of the NCNC.

Mr O. O. Gbolahan: I rise to support the Bill. However, I have to point out that in Shaki Council the ratio of committee members is NCNC two, Action Group one, whereas we have eighteen members of the

Action Group in the Council against NCNC's twenty-two. We complained of arbitrary assessment and a tribunal was set up comprising twelve NCNC members and four Action Group members. Out of 300 cases no person won his case.

It is not correct therefore to say that the Action Group councils are molesting the NCNC members. No Action Group councils assess NCNC members arbitrarily. I beg to correct this false statement. It is not at all correct.

Mr F. H. Utomi: I have very few remarks on this Bill—a Law further to amend the Local Government Law. We on this side of the House have always been speaking about things coming from the Minister of Local Government. Bills coming from him are just Greek gifts. I have always suspected the Bills presented to this House by the Minister of Local Government. (*Laughter.*) His Bills have always been a kind of pretence to make things worse for the common man in the long run. His Bills pretend to show that they are good, only to come back to be seen that they are just pretence, as the Ministry comes back to victimise the people. With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to read a paragraph concerning this matter from the "*Daily Times*": "Alhaji Adegbenro said that it was usual for NCNC supporters in Action Group controlled council areas to complain of arbitrary assessment while the Action Group supporters in NCNC controlled council areas made similar allegations."

Mr Speaker: You are quoting from where?

Mr Utomi: From *Daily Times* of 2nd February, 1961. I call this a paradox, in that no council controlled by the NCNC assesses arbitrarily. In many councils in the Midwest, where we have NCNC majority, especially the Warri Urban Council, to give one example, the Action Group minority often gets a majority on the long-run to control the councils by injecting more supporters from outside. In the Warri Council, after we had made arrangements for the assessment of the people, we found that the seven Action Group members in the majority, plus other supporters who were injected, found themselves in control of the Council and the NCNC which formerly controlled the Council was thrown overboard. In another instance, there was a council which this very Minister dissolved without giving reasons for so doing announced in the air. We objected at the beginning of the year that the NCNC should be given a chance to take part in assessing

[MR UTOMI]

the people in the area where the NCNC had been voted to power in a democratic way. But he refused. This council, constituted by fifteen NCNC members and only six Action Group members, was dissolved on 1st October, 1959. The original Action Group members of the council were taken and eight more supporters added to the original seven, making fifteen members, and a Caretaker Committee was formed by these men. This year we appealed to the Minister in time that we would like to have a say in the assessment of the people. What did he do? (*Interruption: "Answer yourself"*.) We were told that the assessment committee is not a party business and that the Ministry was free to appoint anybody it liked. Behold again! What did we see? We found in the membership of the committee people of impeachable character: gaol birds, ex-convicts, etc. (*Shame, shame.*) We continued to protest still, and the next reply was that the NCNC..... (*Interruptions.*) We know the composition of the caretaker committee and the NCNC with its ideals.....(*Have you any ideals?*) We, with our ideals, we gave suggestions, but these suggestions were refused. We told them that most of the members of the committee were criminals. Even we told this to the Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Olusa, but they refused to heed to our cry. (*Fire them.*) What did we see later? Three months later the committee was dissolved and we said that it was high time an administrative officer was posted to the place to clear the mess. But what happened? We thought that the Minister would take our suggestions in good faith. But no, he would not. We know him very well. We know the type of business he does as far as these councils are concerned. We know him very well.

Mr Speaker: Order. You should not impute motives.

Mr Utomi: The Action Group tried to control the council but they failed again to do so at Asaba. There is an instance of the motor garage for the Asaba Urban District Council. The motor garage was built somewhere, but an individual, an individual for that matter, protested to his lords in Ibadan because he is a supporter of the Action Group. This motor garage was pulled down to satisfy the individual even though it was in opposition to the wishes of the majority, and the decision of the statutory council was thus set aside. (*Shame, shame.*) (*Government Benches: What year was that? Mention the year.*) Ask your Minister of Local Government. He knows the year.

(*Laughter.*) And it was this man, the pillar of the Action Group, who fought on the eve of the election to get Asaba for the Action Group. It was he who caused the trouble in Asaba.

We have always feared the Bills coming from the Minister of Local Government. (*You have said that many times.*) I have said this before and I shall continue to say it.

Mr S. O. Akerele: (*As he rose there were cries of "Shame! shame!" from the Opposition Benches, and cheers from the Government Benches.*) Are you afraid to hear from me? (*Laughter.*) However, I am very glad that I have now left the other side of the House because they are bad. The people on the other side of the House are devils. (*Hear, hear.*)

I rise to support this bill to amend the Local Government Law. The Illa District Council, since 1954, was controlled by the NCNC and with the intelligent people of that area. Since March 1961 I was asked to return to the best political party in the country—the Action Group—(*Hear, hear*) of which the present Minister of Local Government is a member.

Mr Amadasun: Point of Order. Order 30 (1). Relevancy in Debate. What the hon. Member from Illa Orangun is saying is irrelevant to this Debate and he should be ruled out of order.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member is speaking about Local Government and this Law is supposed to be a law which refers to Local Government. It appears he is bringing the bird out of the cage, so he should continue. (*Shame, shame.*)

Mr Akerele: All councils in this Region are controlled by the Minister of Local Government, and my own council, (*Have you any council?*) of which I am the chairman today, is under the control of the Minister of Local Government who prepares all these Bills. When I was on the other side of this House I was not speaking in opposition to the Ministry of Local Government because I have respect for the Minister and I knew that he was doing a good job, but the Members of the Opposition side used to talk against the Ministers just to talk. They used to criticise for the sake of doing so. They are not law-abiding citizens. (*Opposition Benches: What is the meaning of the word "law-abiding"?*) They are always afraid of the laws because they are not respect

to the laws. (Laughter.) (Opposition Benches: Bad grammar, "they are not respect to the laws?" What school did you attend?)

I do not see anything to be queried in it. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief Odebiyi: The Member for Benin Central said that the language of the South is the English language. He fails to tell us that when the hon. Member for Ife-Illa North was on the other side of the House he used to read his speech. Now he has learned to make his speech impromptu. (Laughter.)

Mr S. O. Oyewole: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to comment on this Amendment.

Mr Speaker: Order. Speak on the Amendment to the Law.

Mr Oyewole: In the first place, I have to point out that Clause 2 is to "enable any Council to regulate and if necessary to prohibit.....by the Council". In the Ibadan District Council here, I am sure that the Minister of Local Government..... (Interruptions). The Minister of Local Government, popularly called the Minister of Terror, this Minister will not be happy to hear me speaking this morning. It is true to say that this is terrorism Minister. In Ibadan here, I could remember, two years ago, Ibadan was controlled by the NCNC. At that time the Minister of Local Government instructed the Council to inject Action Group councillors into the Area Assessment Committee and due to the fact that the Council was by then controlled by the NCNC this instruction was carried out, and now when one of our people, Chief M. F. Agbaje, ran away, the Action Group started to control the Council. Since that time there is no peace in the town. I must speak the fact. In the year 1960, when the Area Assessment Committee was about to be formed, we wrote to the Minister of Local Government. We advised him strongly that he should allow some of our people to be members of the Area Assessment Committee, but the Minister was all the while deceiving us. (Government Benches: No point). He promised to do it but, at last, he failed to do it. We sent a petition to the Premier. I am speaking frankly here. We did everything possible in our power to see that we have representatives in that Area Assessment Committee. The Minister made it impossible. After all, all the Action Group members gathered themselves together in every board to give our people arbitrary assessment and this is one of the reasons why

Ibadan District Council is unable to collect the correct amount scheduled by the Government.

Now Sir, about the market. The Ibadan District Council has done the worst. In Ibadan today, we have one of our oldest markets, Iba market. In that market, the Ibadan District Council forced the women out and cleared their shed, cleared everything. After that they went to meet people in their houses telling them, "You are a woman; if you join the Action Group we shall give you a place to stay in the market; if you fail to do this you cannot come to this market any more". (Fire on, Fire on.) We wrote another petition to the Minister of Local Government. No reply.....(Interruptions). The promise was that they only cleared them because of independence; after the celebration of independence, they will return them to their places but since that time I can just say they do not give them a chance again. This was discussed in the Council. The Chairman of the Council said he has seen the Minister of Local Government and he said that there is nothing he can do about it. That is apart.

I can just say, Sir, that we Members of the Opposition here, we have already instructed our people that the duty of every good citizen is to pay his own tax in time (Government Benches: That is good) but the supporters of the Action Group in my ward today have never paid up till now. (Interruptions.) To continue, Sir, if this Law is amended according to the Bill here there is no objection so far. We do not want politics to be introduced to this very Bill so that it may be possible for everybody to enjoy his right. I beg to support.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to start with the last speaker. He has made a point that the Iba Market in Ibadan has been abolished and that women are not being allowed to market there as before. He said that a petition has been forwarded to me. I say quite frankly that I am not aware that this market has been abolished and that women have been driven out of this market. Furthermore, no petition has ever been made to me about it. I have been receiving delegations from market women in Ibadan on other matters, and in this case they have not brought it to my notice. He also complained that the Opposition in Ibadan District Council has not been given representation in the various Assessment Committees in Ibadan District. In my reply to the hon. Member for Ibadan East, hon. Adeoye Adisa, I mentioned

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that when I was about to appoint these Committees, he approached me and I promised that I would give due weight to any advice he gave me before I started my consultation. Unfortunately shortly before these appointments were made the NCNC Opposition in the Council broke up into several factions and it was very difficult for me to know which faction was the legitimate one. (*Government Benches: You hear that now.*)

Various points were made by my friend, from Benin South, hon. V. I. Amadasun, and also the Member from Asaba South East, Utomi. It is easy, Mr Speaker, for hon. Members on the Opposition Bench to continue to hammer on section 45 of the Income Tax Amendment Law. That is to say, the Hon. Minister of Local Government shall appoint members of Area Assessment Committees in consultation with the local government councils; but they have always very cleverly left out the proviso that the Minister of Local Government is not bound to accept the advice of the local councils. It is true that I gave an undertaking that in appropriate cases I would consult with local government councils. That has always been the case in the past, since 1952, and the hon. Member for Asaba South East was then here with us. He knew as a matter of fact that I have never had any time to wear the toga of oppression.

The thing that haunts my hon. Friends from the Midwest is that it is always difficult for them to come to the House and give praises where they are due. In his own Council, that is Aniocha, they have come to me on several occasions to complain. I have investigated their complaints and given due decisions. But in this particular instance, I refused to accept advice from the Council for one or two reasons. After passing the law, the NCNC Opposition, led by Mr Fani-Kayode, went all out to say that payment of rates and taxes would be abolished in this Region and that people will live free in comfort and enjoy amenities without paying for them at all. How, Sir, can you think that I will go to the level of consulting such a council? After all he is Leader of Opposition and the councils controlled by the NCNC are supposed to take instructions from him and abide by the policy which he lays down—he has laid down a policy of non-payment of taxes and rates to which we are opposed—and I regard that as sufficient consideration for me not even to consult these people at all.

Mr Speaker, Sir, that is the first reason why I think it will be safer for the masses of the rate-payers in this Region to leave things in the hands of people who are considered to be holding independent views and will be impartial in their views. As a matter of fact, I have always said it that Area Assessment Committees, under the Local Government Law, and particularly under the Income Tax Law, are not committees of councils. This is written in the Law. If they are committees of the council, section 48 of the Local Government law provides that political parties in the council shall be represented on committees of the council in accordance with the strength of the political parties in the council. I have always insisted that parties in the council should be given adequate representation on committees in accordance with their strength. That has not been disputed in this House. But as for assessment committees they are not committees of the council. The reason is obvious. It is a matter of high Governmental policy. On taxation, Government has to take initiative and responsibility on how taxes should be collected and how rates should be levied.

A point has been made by the Member for Asaba and the Member for Benin on what I said at Akure recently when I investigated a case of arbitrary assessment. I would like to say that that is one of the reasons why the Income Tax Amendment Law was brought to this House last year. For some years past, it was known by everybody in and outside this House that allegations and counter-allegations of arbitrary assessment had been very rampant in this Region. The Action Group members in NCNC controlled councils complained to me and NCNC members in Action Group controlled councils also complained and Government thought that a solution ought to be found to these complaints. Some allegations had been proved completely wrong and unfounded, and in some cases we found that I had to give directions to various assessment committees to review the assessments thus made. But what other method can I adopt in stopping these allegations and counter-allegations? The only course open to me, Mr Speaker, is to appoint independent persons, people who hold impartial views..... (*Opposition Benches: Where do you find them in the Western Region?*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, as an instance of the correctness of my method, I will go back to the case of the Ika District Council which has been cited by the hon. Member from Asaba South. He said that that Council was controlled by the NCNC and that no NCNC

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was on the assessment committee of that Council. In years gone by, that Council was notorious for its failure to collect rates and taxes. But with the recent appointments to the assessment committee, the estimated revenue in the Estimates for 1961-62 has been exceeded by thousands of pounds today. If you are in doubt, I ask my hon. Friend to go back home and make inquiries.

The hon. Member for Asaba South also cited the case of Asaba Divisional Council, controlled by the NCNC, opening a motor park and that a private person opened another and that that private person was allowed to run his motor park in place of that of the Council. Nothing is more grossly unfair and untrue. It is unfair to me and it is untrue to this House because when the Council was controlled by the NCNC, I gave a loan of £12,000 to that Council to establish a park and a motor park. (*Opposition Benches: Government gave the loan, not you.*) Mr Speaker, Sir, I know for a fact that I was responsible for the grant of that loan. I challenge my hon. Friends from the Midwest, especially from Asaba, to prove that it was not my Ministry which recommended the grant to the Regional Government for approval. Shortly, you will find that provision has been inserted in the current year's Estimates for the granting of loans to local authorities to establish markets and motor parks.

My Friend came here to say that the motor park was not allowed to run. It is grossly unfair, and I should have thought that an old Member of this honourable House like him should not have descended so low as to distort facts.

There was another malicious statement made by the hon. member for Asaba who spoke of the embezzlement of one thousand pounds by the Committee of Management in Asaba. Well, I will not go back to the history of the setting up of that Management Committee as this is well known to the House, but I will confine myself to the statement made by the hon. Member. It is not true that any embezzlement at all has occurred, and it is not true either that my Parliamentary Secretary then, Hon. R. A. Olusa, reported it and also that he raised a surcharge. I suppose, Sir, that it is the Director of Audit who has power under the Local Government Law to raise a surcharge.

The honourable Member for Asaba South approached me and told me these things. I advised him to refer the matter to the Police and I promised that I, on my part, will

refer the matter to the Director of Audit because neither myself nor officials in my Ministry are empowered under the Law to raise a surcharge. It is the Director of Audit who can raise a surcharge if he is satisfied that money has been misused and that an embezzlement has occurred. He will either go to court for prosecution or raise a surcharge. It is certainly unjust and certainly malicious for hon. Members of the calibre of hon. Utomi to come to this House and make a wild statement of this kind. I would like Members to be kind enough and to be honest enough to say things that are true, but not to make malicious falsehood on the floor of the House hiding under parliamentary privileges.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier on, the Bill is not a controversial one, and from the debate on it you will agree with me that the Bill is not controversial. Mr Speaker, Sir, I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and ordered for Committee immediately.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that clause 2, sub-clause (b), be amended as follows. The original definition of "Prescribed Authority" in this clause is as follows:

"Prescribed authority means, in relation to tax imposed under the Income Tax Law, the rating authority for the area of the council; or the Regional Tax Board as the case may be; in relation to Federal Income Tax, the Federal Board of Inland Revenue and in relation to a rate, the rating authority for the area of the council."

Wherever is written the expression "rating authority", I want the expression "area assessment committees" to be inserted. The reason for my doing so, Mr Chairman, is that even from the explanation of the Minister of Local Government, he has made the House to understand that the area assessment committees are not legally under the control of the various councils. Therefore, it means that if the area assessment committees do their work efficiently, then the council under which they work is very lucky, but if on the contrary the Area Assessment Committees do their work from a political view-point, then that council may either be dissolved for inability to collect rates according to the Law. For instance, in Uhunwonde District Council which I cited previously, the Area

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Assessment Committees would do a work that cries to heaven for vengeance.

For instance, to prove this allegation against that Council, a man whose income in 1959-60 was £60 and paid £3 5s as tax was said to have had an income of £2,500 in 1960-61 and was asked to pay Income Tax of £275 5s 8d.

There is another man. In 1959-60, his income was £53; he paid a rate of £2 7s 5d, but during the period of the Area Assessment Committee appointed by the Minister of Local Government, the man had a fantastic income for the year 1960 of £1,720 and was asked to pay £161 1s 8d.

I have submitted this matter to the Minister for Midwest Affairs and, for all I know, he is doing his work well and efficiently. (*Government Benches: The Premier of the Midwest State.*) I know he will never taste such an office when the Midwest State is created.

Mr Chairman, with these brief, clear, lucid and explanatory statements given by me in respect of this amendment, and from the fact that the Minister himself said in a clear expression, the expression that could be understood by the Government backbenchers, that these Area Assessment Committees are not legally under the control of the various councils, therefore Mr Chairman, I think my own amendment is not controversial.

Mr P. V. Okwesa: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am supporting the amendment by my hon. Friend the Opposition Chief Whip. As the Minister of Local Government has told us here in clear and understandable terms, these Area Assessment Committees are not committees of the councils. It stands to reason therefore that if they do their work well, the credit will go to them and not to the council; if they do their work badly the responsibility is theirs. It means therefore that whenever they fail to do their work correctly the council cannot be held responsible. Therefore there is no reason why this expression should remain in the Law. Where we have "Rating Authority", it should be changed to "Area Assessment Committee" because the Rating Authority may not be represented by the Area Assessment Committee.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the amendment.

Amendment proposed.

The Government Chief Whip (Mr N. A. B. Kotoye): Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose this amendment. In the first place this House ought to be reminded of the stand of the Opposition in regard to rate assessments

and payment of taxes. I would also warn the Government to be careful in considering the amendment which has been proposed to this House because I believe, knowing the NCNC as I do, that there is a lot of mischief involved in that amendment. (*Opposition Members: How do you know?*) (*Mr Chairman: You know them more than those of us who have been there!*) (*Laughter.*)

Now Sir, I believe that the aim of creating Area Assessment Committees is to take the collection of tax outside the realm of politics. It is a matter for regret that every time appointments to the Area Assessment Committees are made, not on the basis of party politics, (*Opposition Benches: It is.*) the Opposition comes round to insist that certain members of the NCNC must be on these Committees.

I would say, Sir, that if the Government is going to go by the pronouncement—public pronouncement—of the Opposition not only outside this House, but even in this House; and the Leader of Opposition when debating the Budget before this House repeated the stand of the Opposition that they will abolish tax—although he never said that in so many words; they will also make it impossible for Government to collect tax..... (*Opposition Members: Impossible; that is wrong; he never said so.*)..... Surely anybody who has been living in this Region within the past few years will appreciate the fact that the best endeavours of the Opposition have been used to make it impossible to realise the maximum collection of tax payable by the taxable adult population in this Region. I would say, Sir, that if that is the attitude of the Opposition; if they are not going to retract from their political manifesto to make it impossible for this Government to collect tax; if they will not retract from the stand which they have declared on the Budget Debate; certainly it will be wrong for the Government to be deprived of the power to manoeuvre on the question of those who will constitute the Rating Authority in this Region. Surely nobody will go to the extent of entrusting local councils—especially when they are NCNC-controlled—to collect tax. That is the more reason why one should be cautious of such an amendment coming from the side of Opposition, where the local councils have got to be dissolved for their irresponsibility.

I beg to oppose the amendment.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I beg to oppose this Amendment.

Members who have spoken on the other side appear not to have read the

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Law at all. They have known just for the first time that Area Assessment Committees are not committees of the council..... (Interruptions).

The Income Tax Law was passed in 1959 in this House and later amended in 1960..... (Opposition Members: We opposed it then). It is most irresponsible for Members of the Opposition side.....(Interruptions) to make sweeping statements and allegations without regard to what is provided in the law.

The other reason why I like to oppose the Amendment is that the Area Committees are not Rating Authorities—this is the big difference. The Rating Authority is the appropriate authority to collect rates and taxes; Area Assessment Committees cannot collect rates and taxes. It is the Rating Authority that will use this money from taxes and rates for the welfare of the people; not the Area Assessment Committees. Why then must we substitute Area Assessment Committee for the Rating Authority?

Amendment put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 30; Noes, 60.

DIVISION LIST

AYES

1. Adebessin, Mr K. S.
2. Adewumi, Mr M. A.
3. Adisa, Mr A.
4. Aghahowa, Mr W.
5. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.
6. Amadasun, Mr V. I.
7. Arowojolu, Mr E. B.
8. Atohengbe, Mr A.
9. Bello, Mr A. B.
10. Ebubedike, Mr F.
11. Elushade, Mr T. E.
12. Igugu, Mr T. E.
13. Imafidon, Mr E. O.
14. Lawal, Mr J. L.
15. Layonu, Mr S. A.
16. Obadara, Mr A. O.
17. Okunagba, Mr D. E.
18. Olaitan, Mr O.
19. Olamigoke, Mr C. O.
20. Omokowajo Mr J. O.
21. Oputa-Otutu, Chief F.
22. Osuhor, Mr F.
23. Oviasu, Mr G. I.
24. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.
25. Oyewole, Mr S. O.
26. Riemu, Mr J. A.
27. Somotan, Mr A. S.
28. Utorri, Mr F. H.

Tellers for the Ayes

29. Abiosun, Mr J. O.
30. Okwesa, Mr P. V.

NOES

1. Adegbenro, Alhaji D. S.
2. Adekunle, Mr Y.
3. Adelegan, Mr S. T.
4. Adelodun, Mr I. A.
5. Adenekan, Alhaji A. L.
6. Adeniya, Mr S. S. A.
7. Adeyemo, Mr J. O.
8. Adeyi, Chief A. O.
9. Adibi, Mr N. A.
10. Adigun, Chief J. O.
11. Aina, Mr E.
12. Ajibola, Mr A.
13. Akere, Mr C. I.
14. Akerele, Mr S. A.
15. Akingboye, Mr A. O.
16. Akintola, Chief S. L.
17. Akran, Oba C. D.
18. Aniyi, Mr I. O.
19. Anuku, Mr E.
20. Areola, Mr R. O.
21. Aruwajoye, Mr S. B.
22. Atie, Mr A.
23. Babatola, Chief J. E.
24. Edeki, Mr I.
25. Ewah, Mr B. G.
26. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.
27. Fawehinmi, Alhaji B. O.
28. Fetuga, Mr M. A.
29. Gbolahan, Mr O. O.
30. Idodo, Mr M. A.
31. Kehinde, Mr J. O.
32. Kotoye, Mr N. A. B.
33. Lana, Mr R. A.
34. Momoh, Mr K. S. Y.
35. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.
36. Odigie, Mr J. O.
37. Ogundiran, Mr D.
38. Ogunyele, Mr Y.
39. Oke, Mr E. O.
40. Okeya, Mr S. A.
41. Olaniyan, Mr B.
42. Olukoju, Mr I. A.
43. Olumofin, Mr D. K.
44. Olusa, Mr R. A.
45. Omitowoju, Dr. J. O.
46. Onasanya, Mr S.
47. Opaleye, Alhaji Z. A.
48. Orowole, Mr D. O.
49. Osagie, Mr B. E. O.
50. Osuntokun, Chief J. O.
51. Ositelu, Mr I. A.
52. Otobo, Mr J. E.
53. Otubanjo, Mr S. A.
54. Oye, Mr J. O.
55. Popoola, Mr D. A.
56. Sanni, Mr S. A.

57. Akerele, Mr S. O.
58. Williams, Mr C. A.

Tellers for the Noes

59. Awopeju, Mr J. O.
60. Odutuga, Mr J. A.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3, 4 and 5 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

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

Sitting suspended at 12.05 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.55 p.m.

THE 1961-62 APPROPRIATION BILL

(Third Allotted Day)

Considered in Committee of Supply

(House in Committee)

HEAD 337—MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Question proposed, that the sum of £1,169,830 for Head 337—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Chairman: I hope that hon. Gentlemen would at the same time take Heads 346, 733, 742 of this same Ministry along with 337.

Mr J. A. Riemu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the sum of £5 be deducted from the Estimates of the Ministry of Local Government. Every one in this Region is in constant fear of one kind or another.

Mr Kotoye: We are not.

Mr Riemu: Even Obas, Chiefs, Obis, civil servants and women, and even the unsophisticated bushman or woman are in constant fear of this Ministry of Local Government. If you will allow me to digress, a Bill has been passed to nominate our women to councils and, as far as we know, there is no council in this Region that will in future not be controlled by the Action Group because of the awkward method of injecting not only traditional members but women into councils. By God's grace, God will redeem us. I have said that there are true supporters of Obis and chiefs and traditional institutions, which any Government worth its salt should preserve, without politics. Those on the stool should be held dearly and with respect. These must be above politics. Since the time of the British the chiefs had been held in high esteem. I hope you understand what I mean by this. While the Minister of Local Government has threatened the stability of

this old-time institution by pushing it from one Ministry to the other, he wants to see that he not only subjected our chiefs to a sort of humiliation but also to disgrace. Today we can know what humiliation our chiefs have suffered. Yesterday we were told that they were under the Ministry of Local Government and today they are under the Ministry of Chieftaincy Affairs. (*Government Member: Have you a chief?*) If you look into the records in your Ministry you will know who is the chief in my place. We know our chiefs. Mr Chairman, we know quite well that there is no Oba in this Region who thrives well unless he is a member of the Action Group.

Government Benches: What of the Oba of Benin?

Opposition Member: He is a statesman.

Mr Riemu: It is all brought about by this pernicious Ministry. We all know that any Oba or chief in this Region who is not toeing the party line of this Government is either deposed or exiled. That is why I say that everybody in this Region, even Obas, are constantly in fear of this Government. By God's grace we have a consolation. The consolation is that we shall be moving away with the creation of the Midwest State.

No civil servant from the lowest to the highest in the Region is safe unless he is a party member of the Action Group. As for the unsophisticated farmers or bushmen in the remotest part of the Region, they are prisoners.

Mr Chairman: Membership of the Action Group is not relevant to the Ministry of Local Government.

Mr Riemu: What I have been told so far is that I must not refer to NCNC or Action Group in this House.

Mr Chairman: I never said so. Say something that is relevant to this Heading.

Mr Riemu: That is why I say that everybody is in constant fear and something should be done to see that some sort of mercy is meted out to the people of this Region. If there is law there must be mercy.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: Mr Chairman, Sir, we know time will not be too much, or, rather, that time spent on the debate on this particular Ministry, no matter how long it is, should not be considered wasted.

It is the practice of the Minister of Local Government to manipulate fraudulent legislation in this Region in order to give advantage

[MR OVIASU]

to the Action Group party in which he is. So you see, Sir, that since 1957 when they brought into this House the Local Government Law, 1957, the Local Government Law has been amended more than a thousand times. These fraudulent manipulations that I refer to are these.

For example, the same Minister brought into the floor of this House a legislation whereby it will be possible to further inject women into local councils. It stands to reason, Sir, that at this stage it will almost be impossible for the NCNC Opposition to control a council in this Region, because the Minister of Local Government, who is an architect of everything evil—so clever, he is clever in his own direction—does not only inject women into the councils; he will also inject traditional members into the councils. In my Division, Sir, in 1958, we won four and half councils (*Chief Odebiyi: Four and a half? four councils please*). Four and half because there was a tie—twenty, twenty. After the injection of traditional members, those members who were supporters of the Action Group, the balance tilted in favour of the Action Group, and even the control of the Divisional Council fell into the hands of the Action Group. This is a shameless rape on democracy. And that is the man who is responsible for all these evils, valiant type of mischiefs.

Well, I know what is called collective responsibility; but everyone has a portfolio. It is what he brings to the Cabinet that is debated. He was not ashamed to say this morning that the people he put in the Tax Assessment Committee were men of integrity (*Mr Amadasun: Oh dear!*). On the various Assessment Committees in my area I say that the type of people you find, as a Member on this side has said, are irresponsible, jobless people who have not paid tax beyond flat rate in their lives. Those are the people who sit in judgment to assess people who are better qualified than themselves. And all these members are members of the Action Group. Some of them are Field Secretaries. I think, Sir, that is very, very unfair; and it is very unfair for the Minister to come to say here that the people he appointed are men of integrity and that those are people who will conduct their business without fear or favour, who will not be biased. I tell you, Sir, the sort of people he appointed in the various Assessment Committees are people who toe the Action Group party line.

The Local Government Service Board is very nepotic in its ways. We find that

people who are appointed to that Board are usually (1) Action Group supporters and Customary Courts Judges, (2) Members of the "Ogboni" Society, that dreadful society; and I wonder if it reflects credit to the head of that commission. Even there are instances, Mr Chairman, where a local government staff committed a crime: he was guilty of embezzlement, speculation on public funds. This case was reported to the Ministry and he was not even interdicted. Today he is still working in Benin Divisional Council. Far from that, Sir, this particular Ministry has specialised in insidious ways of sucking into the buttress of politics the staff of the various District Councils. If these boys choose to be honest, doing their work in the proper way, in the line of rectitude, they are called NCNC supporters, but when they play the Action Group politics, oh! they are the "good boys". And all these things pass on to the Minister of Local Government; some have actually been reported to him and he takes no notice.

Then you have the dreadful dissolution of councils. Councils are dissolved without trial. Nearly all the local councils are dissolved without trial. The only reason usually given, Sir, for these dissolutions would appear to the unwary as cogent. I give instances of some councils recently dissolved.

At the height of his vendetta against Members of the Opposition the Minister of Local Government rose on the floor of this House a few days ago to launch unprecedented attacks on the Members of the Opposition, particularly on the person of the hon. Leader of the Opposition, and my own person. Among other things, he said that the Ife Divisional Council was dissolved because the Council was corrupt under the chairmanship of Hon. Fani-Kayode, hon. the Leader of the Opposition. He further went on to say that the Benin City District Council was also dissolved because of corrupt practices under the chairmanship(*Government Benches: "G. Oviyasu"*) of the hon. Member for Benin Central West, G. I. Oviyasu. (*Alhaji Adegbenro: "So I said."*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, the question of the dissolution of the Benin City District Council has been dragged to the Press and the Radio. But since the Ministry of Local Government chooses to use this forum again to hit below the belt, I think this should be the appropriate time for me to reply.

Sir, the Minister of Local Government said that the Benin City District Council was dissolved because the Chairman of the

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Council, hon. Oviasu, "awarded contracts of the council to himself to supply the Council with drugs, and not only drugs, but also such things that have nothing to do with drugs, like racks, shovels, beds, and so on. Before I reply, Sir, I have to tell you that all that the Minister of Local Government ought to have done was not to indulge in mud-slinging; he should have gone straight to the point.

We on this side of the House have been attacking Government measures and policies, but we have not mud-slinged any personality on that side of the House; but I think it is the good taste of parliamentary democracy. If these members choose to vent their spleen on us because we criticise actively Government measures (and when I asked them in private they said, "Well, you started it; we never stole £99,000; we never threw away £3,000,000 to the Nigerian Investment Properties Limited")—but you will note, Sir, that we were attacking measures, policies, and not personalities—when it comes to the attack of personalities too I tell you, Sir, that we on this side of the House are not weak in that game.

The Benin City District Council was not dissolved because of corrupt practices.

Chief Odebiyi: Who is to know better, the man who dissolved or the man whose council was dissolved?

Mr Oviasu: I was the Chairman of the Benin City District Council. I now want to give hon. Members on both sides of the House the facts of the case.

Before the dissolution of the Benin City District Council I knew of the dissolution four months in advance. It was a case of first of all getting conclusions before looking for minor and major premises. This is not logical. In pursuance of true premises, first of all look for your minor premises, then get your conclusions. If you have first of all to get your conclusions before you begin to sort out your minor and major premises, you are bound to bring up what is untrue. And that was precisely what happened in the case of Benin City District Council. As I said, I heard of the attempt to dissolve that council four months beforehand and so I came to Ibadan here and went, first of all, to the superior of this Minister of Local Government, that is, the Premier, and I told him that I understand my council is about to be dissolved. "Please, Sir, I don't say that you should not dissolve any council that is corrupt: I, myself, I do not stand for corruption," I put it to him, "but before you

dissolve that council make sure that there is a public commission of inquiry, and there should be no mercy for any culprit." After that I also went to the Minister of Local Government and told him all that I had been hearing that the council was to be dissolved.....(*Interruptions*). "We are not born to sue but to rule. I do not come to beg you not to dissolve that council, but if you feel that it is corrupt please ensure that you institute a Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of that council in order to afford the people concerned the opportunity to defend themselves." I tell you, Sir, that none of these things was done.

The only thing that was done was the surreptitious investigation; and how was it done, Sir? A member of the Local Government Service in Benin was asked to examine the expenditure of the Benin City Council for one year. I wonder whether you will call that a Commission of Inquiry, to investigate the expenditure of the Benin City District Council for one year. And what did they find? They found vouchers with which a pharmaceutical firm in Benin, with which I am connected, I agree,.....(*Shouts of "Shame, shame" from Government Benches*)..... supplied drugs to the Benin District Council. Because I am connected with that firm, the hon. Minister of Local Government is insinuating that I awarded contracts to myself. (*Government Member: Yes.*) If I did, Sir (I know I am more careful than that) it would mean that my interest was clashing with my public duties. But that did not happen in this case. (*Government Member: It did.*) That is a very dangerous insinuation. In fact, the Minister of Local Government prevaricated by saying that the Chairman of the Benin City District Council awarded a contract to himself. He did not tell this hon. House how the contract was awarded. He should have told this House how the contract was awarded. There are many ways of awarding contracts. You have the Tenders Board, which will call for a committee to give out the contract, or you can have a committee of a council to sit over such a contract and decide to give it out to one person. But was this the case with the Benin City District Council? Is the Minister of Local Government insinuating, saying that the Tenders Board, of which I am a member, awarded a contract to myself? (*Government Member: Yes, under your influence.*) In fact, what happened is this. In any progressive council there is a demarcating line between policy-making and execution. The councillors are responsible for policy-making and the staff are responsible for execution, and

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there is a clear demarcation line. I think it is unwarranted interference for the councillor to meddle with the work of the staff, and also *vice-versa*. It is the officers, not the councillors, that are responsible for the purchase of anything that the council uses, ranging from cement for building houses to drugs for the dispensaries, and it is a standing rule that these officers must call for quotation and get drugs, cement, or anything from the cheapest source (*Government Member: As directed by the Chairman*). What happened in this case was that after satisfying himself that the firm from which he bought was the cheapest source, this officer went to the establishment where I was connected and bought these things. I tell you, Sir, that they are purchasing at a range of £5 to £10 throughout the whole year. This crooked Minister combined the lump sum together and called it contract. It was, in fact, Sir, purchases which extended over a whole year which he misconstrued as contract.

Mr Kotoye: You are cleverer than the Minister of Local Government.

Mr Oviasu: He also went on to say that these things were sold at inflated prices. Although I am here now, the business is going on, hardly do I stay there. I am only connected with the business.

Well, I tell you what happened, Sir. After the dissolution of the Benin City District Council the Management Committee

Mr Kotoye: Point of information, Sir. We want to know who are the shareholders of this pharmaceutical firm.

Government Benches: Who are the shareholders?

Mr Oviasu: After the dissolution of the Council the Management Committee, made up exclusively of the Action Group members, went to investigate whether we sold at inflated prices. What did they find? They found that these prices were the most equitable before they agreed to pay. (*Government Benches: You begged.*) If I begged, the Minister of Local Government will come to prove it. I know my rights under the law. But if the Benin City District Council was corrupt and guilty of all the things that the Minister has complained of, why was it not subjected to a public inquiry to disgrace those people who are found guilty, as my party the NCNC did in Enugu Council?

We don't mind who is involved. If anybody is corrupt push him out; there are provisions under the law. (*Government Member: Not that way.*) There are provisions in the law under which you can get rid of corrupt persons in the Public Service, and that is by institution of public inquiry. Anybody who is surcharged, who is guilty of corruption, surcharged by the Director of Audit, you can declare his seat vacant for five years and he cannot contest elections. It is in the law. Why did the Minister of Local Government not avail himself of all these provisions? (*Government Member: You begged.*) You said I begged. When I come to him I said "Dissolve if you like, but you must appoint a Commission of Inquiry." I would like to reiterate that determination of expenditure for one year does not amount to Commission of Inquiry. Because they were conducting their surreptitious investigation, not a word was put before the Secretary of the Council or to the Chairman of the Council to explain certain things (*Government Benches: No point*) (*Opposition Benches: Tell them*).

Government Member: This is no Court of Appeal.

Mr Oviasu: Another point, Sir, which he made in his unwarranted attack was that that firm sold hoes and beds and some other things which have nothing to do with drugs. That shows his palpable ignorance.

If you go to Ikeja Medical Stores, a pharmacist is heading that place; a pharmacy enterprise should be able to equip any hospital and, of course, use beds and blankets, and tables and racks as well. (*Government Member: Where?*) There in Medical Stores, Ikeja. I wonder if he had ever had the goodness of going there to see for himself instead of him to show his palpable ignorance on the floor of this House.

I tell you, Sir, that the Benin City District Council was not dissolved because it was corrupt. The dissolution was motivated by political selfishness, and in this case the local Action Groupers in Benin always paid nocturnal visits to Ibadan to see these Ministers in their hide-outs in the night because they want to control the Benin City District Council, and it was for political reasons that that council was dissolved.

In my Press reply which, I am sorry, the NBC did not give sufficient publicity, and gave too much publicity to his own unwarranted attack,.....in my Press reply, thanks that the *Daily Times* which published it *in extenso*, I gave reasons, political reasons, why that Council was dissolved.

Government Member: Your reasons are watery.

Mr Oviasu: It is to people who are unintelligent the reasons are watery but to those who can think deeply the reasons are sound. It was to make it possible for the local Action Group supporters to control the Benin City District Council. If it was not so, Sir, why was it that after the dissolution all the members of the Management Committee were all Action Groupers, whereas in the original council we had only eight Action Group members and thirty-six NCNCers? I gave that, among other things, as one of my reasons why the Benin City District Council was dissolved in order to get the control of the Council to remain in the hands of the Action Group, and also to make it possible for the Action Group chiefs to win their way into the House of Chiefs. When I threw that reason as a bombshell at that Minister, Sir, for one week he was not able to answer. It was after a week he wriggled out that this was not the reason. (*Government Member: He was on tour when your reply came.*)

In Benin Division there are so many councils, and under the old electoral regulations for elections to the House of Chiefs, you know they used to go through electoral college; the number of councils controlled by the NCNC would have brought out about forty councillors to vote in the electoral college and in the electoral college there would have been only thirteen. By the dissolution of the Benin City District Council the number of Action Group members in the electoral college will now exceed that of the NCNC. When I gave this as a reason, it was a bombshell to the Minister of Local Government and for one week he could not reply. You will remember, Sir, that a new regulation had to be made in order to circumvent my reason for election into the House of Chiefs. That is one of the wicked devices of this Government. Every hon. Member in this House will remember that the regulations for their election into the House of Chiefs were published on the day of election. Many of our people did not get it.

Well, Sir, he called me a contractor, but anybody who lives honestly can be a contractor; he can be a nightsoil man, and if he does his work honestly, there is no shame in it. In England, Sir, doctors and pharmacists are contractors to the State. (*Government Benches: To be chairman and contractor at the same time?*) So that to refer to me as a contractor will be showing an appalling ignorance.

I think, Sir, that it is out of tune with parliamentary democracy, morally reprehensible, for any weakling to hide under the cloak of parliamentary privilege to launch unwarranted attacks on innocent people. I am honesty personified. (*Government Benches: Eh!*) I am honesty personified. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches.*) Under me any council where I serve, any committee which I control, there can never be any corrupt practices. This obedient moron of his party boos, this fanatic, this architect of evils, this character assassin, this machiavellian politician, this intellectual invalid, this political buffoon, this weakling who takes shelter under parliamentary privilege to launch unfair attacks on me, should take note and know that though I perambulate the glen of sepulchre dormitory, I shall not be perturbed by his evil machinations because the Omnipotent is with me. Everything I do as a christian is with the fear of God and I cannot therefore indulge in such unholy practices in which this intellectual invalid indulges.

Finally, Sir, I want to say in the words of Cecil Price that:

“Truth crushed to earth shall rise again
The eternal years of God are hers,
But error wounded writhes in pain
And dies with her worshippers”.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I rise to counter the remarks made by an hon. Member on the Opposition side about the Ministry and myself. When I rose, I caught the eyes of the Chairman in order to give a fitting reply. Whether the hon. Member likes it or not, he cannot run away from the fact that what I have to say will be recorded in the Hansard and also his colleagues on the other side will carry my message to him. He cannot speak to the gallery and get away as such without being exposed to the astounding revelations I made about him during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

When I made the remarks, I had not my diary and files of the Ministry which deal with the District Council in Benin City; I simply gave the three concrete reasons about his misuse of public funds and the dishonest practices on the part of the then Chairman of the Benin District Council.

With your permission, Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to read extracts from the findings of the Commission of Inquiry I instituted into the Council's affairs. Although Mr Oviasu said that “one officer made a surreptitious investigation”; yet that is untrue; in fact, I appointed two officers to carry out the inquiry.

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

Report sent to me on the 13th of May, 1960, reads as follows:

"Contravention of Financial Memoranda 82.....(*Interruption*). A payment voucher No. 43 of August, 1959: An entertainment allowance of £25 for July was paid to the Chairman of the Council hon. G. I. Oviasu, and yet he drew another entertainment allowance for the same month on payment voucher 31 of August, 1959.....(*Interruptions from Opposition Benches.*)

I promised that I would read only extracts but if Members are anxious to have copies of this report, I am prepared to furnish it. You all may then expect full text of the report. (*Shouts of "Bring it, we would like it!" from Opposition Benches.*)

Head 37 of the Ministry of Local Government Estimates 1959-60: payment voucher 75, and cheque No. 223/72233 for £64 19s 8d prepared on the instructions of the hon. the Minister of Local Government in payment of arrears due to one of the District Council employees. The Chairman refused to sign the voucher or countercheck.

Head 35: this Head and Item shows that the sum of £3,124 was paid for stationery and fittings and again another expenditure of £1,168 by the same Council.....(*Interruptions from Opposition Benches.*)

The amount spent on the same items by five other Councils in the Division, that is to say, in the Benin Division are compared as follows:

Iyekuselu District Council	£770;
Iyekovia District Council	£70
Iyekeowawon District Council	£150, Iwor
£510 and Benin Divisional Council,	which
is the largest and which comprises	all
the other six Councils in the Division,	spent
only £2,300 for that; while Benin	City
City Council spent a substantial figure	of
£3,174.	

Approval was obtained for the increase of the original allocation of £500 by £428. The original allocation under this Head was £500 but which was increased by £438. It would appear, however, that the item was intended to benefit mainly Karo Chemist whose managing director is the Chairman of the Benin City Council hon. G. I. Oviasu....." (*Jeers from Government Benches.*)

I am reading from the report of the officers who conducted this inquiry. Somebody went to the Karo Chemist on Thursday, 5th

May. A lady was in charge, I am not sure whether the lady is the other wife of Mr Oviasu but I know for certain, Sir, that hon. Oviasu's wife is a pharmacist in the General Hospital and also, at one time, she was a member of the Midwest Advisory Council on an average allowance of £40 to £50 a month.

Also, we compared Karo Chemist prices with Benin City Council prices and were convinced that the Council could easily have saved £50 by buying drugs, etc., from the Benin Divisional Council as well as beds, etc., from the appropriate places.

Truly, it is not easy to justify the rush with which £595 was spent in the last week of the financial year. Only rogues and people who have no moral standards to follow do this type of thing. Indeed, the Chairman of this Council would instruct that all the outstanding balance of revenue should be spent no matter whether they were actually spent or not.

Mr Adisa: Point of order. The word "rogue" should not be used on any hon. Member in this honourable House.

Mr Chairman: Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. If Opposition Members insist on throwing strong words across, it could not be helped if the Government side should return them.

(*Shouts of "Shame, shame," from Government Benches.*)

Alhaji Adegbenro: People who have no regard for public property.....(*Interruption*). One plausible argument advanced by the Chairman was that they were bought for the use of the new dispensaries and maternity centre at Oha but no satisfactory explanation could be offered for diverting to Uselu from Oka the sum of £105 worth of drugs intended for the proposed dispensary in Ward 10E, and that has been done by someone who had just left this House after stating that somebody is a character assassin; if I were a character assassin, I would not have saved the people of Benin City from the embarrassment of this type of thing. (*Laughter and jeers from Government Benches.*)

The concluding section of the report is in these words:

"To our mind, the foregoing form a strong chain of circumstantial evidence leading irresistibly to the fact that this is a glaring case of political jobbery contrary to Local Government Circular No. 14 of 1958 which reduced the award of contracts, not only to Council Members in person, but also to firms in which Council members are partners, directors or shareholders".

[ALHAJI ADEGBENRO]

Mr Chairman, Sir, I, in my capacity as Minister of Local Government, have always advised councillors and chairmen of councils to stand clear of anything that may besmear their character or their name, but it is unfortunate, Sir, particularly in Benin,..... and only until recently was I forced to apply the rod.....(*Cheers from Government Benches, "Minister of terror".....*) and for once, Benin now knows peace and quiet.

I can assure my Friend, Mr Oviasu, and Members will agree with me, that since I made the revelations in this House during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, he has been very, very unhappy. In fact, he has to be rehabilitated because he is very deep in the gutter of corruption, perversion of justice, misuse of power, abuse of privilege.

We, on this side of the House are morally honest.....(*Interruption: Who is not? Who, Who?*)

It is a point of duty on my part to own up if any Member came to see me about any matter in his area or constituency. I have always said so and hon. Members can bear me out that I have always co-operated when they come to consult me in matters of policy. It is true that Mr Oviasu came to me shortly before the dissolution of the Benin City Council but he never informed me that he had heard that the Council would be dissolved. He came to me on bended knees. It is a pity he is not in the House. If it is required I shall cause the report of the inquiry leading to the dissolution of the Benin City Council to be published *in extenso*, and it will expose this Benin blatant rogue which Benin City Council has harboured for three years.

Mr Adisa: Point of order. (*Shouts of "Sit down" from Government Benches*). Order 27, rules 5 and 6. The word rogue is most unparliamentary.

Mr Chairman: I still maintain that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones, and whenever a stone is thrown from this side I shall not hold back the hands of the people here.

Alhaji Adegbenro: I am brought up in a home where great regard and respect to the moral integrity of the individual is upheld. Mr Chairman, Sir, I am not used to the use of bad language.....(*Loud interruptions*): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think I will ask for your protection. Mr Chairman, Sir, I am not used to such language, and in this

House I have never stood on my legs to attack the person of anybody unduly and I have not on any occasion whatsoever poured indecent abuses on anybody and I still maintain that I am not brought up in that condition. Members of this House know me very well and I don't have to give him the way he has given me. But I will say this to be carried to my Friend Mr Oviasu. In the game of politics, it is true you can have your bricks and you can throw them and you must be careful because it may happen that you are throwing them at yourself. Whatever happens, by the Grace of God, I am what I am, not because Mr Oviasu comes from Benin or anywhere else. In this nervousness to defend the indefensible he went out of the way to attack my person. I will leave him for the people to judge whether he is a right person to be in the front bench of the Opposition.

There is one other point. He referred to the Ikeja Medical Stores to justify himself that chemists can sell bedspreads, cutlasses, etc., to councils. Mr Speaker, Sir, hon. Oviasu is a pharmacist. He is not a medical practitioner and the medical stores at Ikeja is supposed to serve all our medical practitioners in this Region. As it were, Mr Oviasu was involved in the award of a contract of over a thousand pounds to a firm in which he is the sole director from a council of which he was the chairman. The people on the other side have not thought of calling him aside and giving him a pat on the back that he is wrong this way. Instead of doing that they laugh and laugh. I am sure that this Region is really lucky that they are packing out of this place. (*Loud interruptions from the Opposition.*) Whether they are in Opposition, Members of the other side form part and parcel of this Government. But is this the way that the new State in the Midwest is going to be run? (*Government Benches: By crooks.*) By misappropriators of public funds, embezzlers, people who have no moral code. I think, Sir, that our people in the Midwest will be freed from the shackles and tentacles of men like Mr G. I. Oviasu.

Mr Adisa rose—

Chief J. O. Adigun: The question should not be opened again the Minister has replied.

Chief J. O. Osuntokun: I support that the question should not be opened again.

Amendment negatived.

Question that the sum of £1,169,830 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 £18,770 for Head 346—Local Government Service Board—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 733.—MINISTRY OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

Question proposed, that the sum of £1,850 for Head 733—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 742.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SERVICE BOARD

(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed, that the sum of £300 for Head 742—Local Government Service Board—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Chairman: This appears to be a convenient time for a long break and the committee will resume at 8 o'clock tonight.

Sitting suspended at 2.08 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 8.20 p.m.

Mr Chairman: We would have started with the Ministry of Justice, but as the Minister of Justice is not here we go to the Ministry of Information.

HEAD 332.—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed, that the sum of £161,000 under Head 332—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr F. Ebubedike: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to move an amendment that Head 332, Ministry of Information, be reduced by £5.

The Ministry of Information, Mr Chairman, really is not carrying out the work it is supposed to do. This Ministry really should have seen that all these vans it has placed in my constituency are used.....(*Government Benches: Sit down if you have no point*). This is not being done. We have a cinema van which is being carried about in my Division by this Ministry. This Ministry is supposed to stage cinema shows regularly in my area for school children. (*Government Benches: You are living in Lagos.*)

Mr Chairman, in proposing this amendment, I say that the Minister of Information should make it a policy that schools privileged to own television sets should not be schools owned only by Action Group members. In my constituency, we have got electricity and

secondary modern schools but we are not privileged to have television sets in Modern Schools.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with these observations, I beg to move. (*Government Benches: No point.*)

Mr T. E. Elusade: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. (*Government Benches: Good talk.*) I mean the Amendment.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Information is not rendering any useful service to the community. The main purpose of this Ministry, or one of the important duties of the Ministry, is the publication of *Western News*, which does not give any information at all but only publicises the Government party.

Mr Chairman, Sir, apart from that, it is a Ministry which should have been combined with the Ministry of Home Affairs and a lot of money would have been saved. I would say that when an economist was the head of the Government, this Government practised economy, but now that the Government is being headed by a lawyer, perhaps we still need a lawyer/economist to be at the head of the Government, and I can also assure hon. Members that lawyers are not squander-manias as such, but here we have tiny Ministries being given a Minister, a Regional Minister in the Ministry, and so on and so forth, with the paraphernalia of a Minister. These are evidence of waste of public funds.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the Amendment.

Amendment proposed.

Mr I. O. Aniyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the original Motion. I need to thank the Ministry of Information for the duties being performed in the Region, especially in my Division. The Ministry has amplified its activities in my area, the Oshun Division. The officer in charge of the cinema often goes round to schools in the evenings to make announcements and thus carries information to both men, women and children and gives first-hand information on the activities of Government.

But I wish the engine being used renewed because it often covers a vast area of the Division. For instance, a van reaches Aiyedade District Council, Iwo District Council, Ede District Council, and sometimes the van plies Ibadan and Oyo Provinces. If given a new car or machine, I am sure the service of the Ministry will be extended to more areas of the Region.

Mr J. O. Adeyemo: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Amendment proposed by the Member on the other side of the House. We on this side, Sir, are very grateful to Government for the activities of this Ministry. The hon. Member will agree with me that the television service of this Region is superb and really bears its name—"The First in Africa".

But I like to see the prices of television sets and radio sets controlled. Mr Chairman Sir, some of the foreign firms know that our people like information. To this end, they used to increase the prices of radio sets always. People who have sets in any one village will enable the activities of Government towards the progress and welfare of this Region to be widely and properly disseminated.

What I am trying to say, Sir, is that the Minister should see that the activities of this able and efficient Government be heard in every corner of the Region.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to oppose the Amendment.

Mr P. V. Okwesa: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment that the Ministry's vote be reduced by £5. In doing so, I bear in mind the fact that, at the moment, there seems to be no means of disseminating information to the people in my constituency.

The Government free cinema vans cannot travel to all parts of my constituency and the cinema barge which is said to have been provided by the Government, has never reached my constituency and a great majority of the school children in the Ndosimili area do not enjoy the Government free cinema made possible by the van or the barge, so that before we hear of any Government policy or measures the story has already become stale and second-hand.

I appeal to the Minister of Information to see to it that greater attention is paid to the riverine area of Aboh Division.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have often watched the television. The W.N.T.V. which the Government boasts of as being the first in the whole world.....(*Government Benches: First in Africa!*) I like to say, Sir, that more native pictures should be filmed. Scenes in the Region should have been depicted rather than scenes from Europe and America. We want more of our activities in the Region depicted rather than those which are very foreign and of no interest to us.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the Amendment.

Mr A. Atie: Mr Chairman, Sir, the Government has done everything possible to satisfy every section of this House. The Information Service of the Western Region is the best, I repeat, the best. It is the best in the whole Federation of Nigeria. One will realise that even though we budgeted £39 million the Federal Government is budgeting for £52 million, but I can assure you, Sir, that even the Federal Government is trying to bring television by copying from the Western Region.

In every Division in the Region the Information Officers do go about reporting Government activities to the people of the Region, and apart from that, Sir, I think that the only tribe left out in the Western news is the Ijaw tribe. I am urging the Minister of Information to include Ijaw news on the Western news. The Itsekiris have no particular language of expression in the Western news but they understand Yoruba and can benefit when the Yoruba news is relayed. We urge the Minister to include Ijaw news.

Apart from that Sir, I don't think that those who claim that the Western Region Information Service is not doing well are doing justice to themselves; if not they should have realised what the Ministry of Information is doing and should have congratulated the Minister; but instead of that they come here to oppose the Motion and support the Amendment without even one single item of information that will make us on this side of the House to feel satisfied. The Ministry of Information has done a lot and if they are sincere they should congratulate the Ministry and ought not to oppose that Ministry even though they might criticise other Ministries.

Mr Chairman, I know very well that in the Western Ijaw Division the Federal Government installed two telecommunication services. You will be surprised to hear that we have not spoken to one station outside the Ijaw Division. The telecommunication services are not working and I am urging the Minister of Information to urge the Federal Government to see that the communication services are... if for fancy sake... been there but i... spoken one wo... we of Western Ija... I don't think that... you people on the... We have three l... Division and we ha... Benin Division.....(

The Minister of Information (Chief E. A. A. Fadairo): The hon. Members on the other side who have spoken have talked about the amenities they want. My hon. Friend from Badagry, Mr Ebubedike, knows that his whole activities in finding schools all over the place will grossly make him not realise that we give television sets freely to only secondary grammar schools and not primary schools at Ajegunle. It is true that you may know your area but, so far, there is no secondary grammar school there, but I can assure him and the Minister of Economic Planning, Chief Oba C. D. Akran, that they will soon have one secondary school there and as soon as they have it we shall surely supply television set to the school.

Already as I have said, we supply not less than 300 sets to secondary grammar schools in this Region.

On the question of announcement of rates by our cinema vans, it is always difficult for the Opposition to realise when to draw a line between announcing local government activities and announcing their own party activities. As far as we are concerned in this Region we do give instructions to our cinema vans that they should help Government in announcing the collection of rates. What has been our experience is that our commentators have reported to us that the Opposition Members would like them to do what is against Government policy. If the hon. Members on the other side will co-operate with our field staff I assure them that the officers of the Ministry of Information will come to their aid.

With regard to cinema shows, these vans are equipped with all the equipment, the projectors, etc. They show cinema at public centres and market squares on documentary films; also films depicting the activities of the Government. If the hon. Member will only stay more in his constituency than at Lagos he would have seen them going round in Araromi, Ajegunle and Awori. I think the Government has built a very good road from Ajegunle to Awori and cinema vans have been plying the road.

It is not always easy when we do go out on this work. We have to pick out things which are of interest and in accord with the policy of Government.

Mr Elusade made an attack which he cannot prove. I understand he is a lawyer. I have never met him before. What I want to tell him is that I like him to draw a line between Government party and the Party in power.

Coming back to my Friend from Ndosimili. He is an old hand. As far as we are concerned, this our Television has got everything possible within the few months of its inception to show our custom and tradition in every possible way. Not only that; if you have ever watched the television you will see people from Ndosimili dancing on television. As soon as this House adjourns *sine die* you cannot come here. I say that your allegation that you do not see our cinema barges is not correct because I know what is obtaining in the Midwest. We have placed a cinema van at Kwale and we have a barge at Ashaka. Mr Chairman, in the Constituency of this hon. Member alone we have two, and instead of thanking the Government for educating the less educated masses in his area he has come here to complain. If only Members of the Opposition can go back and tell their people what the Government is doing for them, things will be well. My good Friend on this side, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Local Government, Mr Chairman, has mentioned the question of Radio Nigeria. I will hand him over to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to tell his people in Lagos to include Ijaw among the languages in Nigeria. We have a sound broadcasting system in the Western Nigeria Broadcasting Service which is the most powerful in Nigeria. As soon as we start on tribal languages I will see to it that we shall certainly consider the languages of the Region and Ijaw will be considered. As far as tele-communication is concerned, as soon as possible I will communicate through the usual channel to the Federal Government not to close up Western Ijaw. This Opposition come here every time and say they want special area. They have a tele-communication which has been closed down and they are the people who say they are fighting for the people of Ijaw. They are the people in the Federal Government.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £161,000 for Head 332—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 728—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed, that the sum of £28,080 for Head 728—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 333—MINISTRY OF MIDWEST AFFAIRS

Question proposed, that the sum of £24,030 for Head 333—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr T. E. Igugu: Mr Chairman, Sir, this is an independent Nigeria and anyone charged with any duty of public concern must have to work very hard. It is no question of bringing whisky or calling cocktail parties at public expense. Such a man must be prepared to place first and foremost the interest of the fortunes of this Region. Sir, the future of our natural rulers in the Midwest is at stake and something must be done to liberate them from the clutches of these unscrupulous politicians. For instance, in Urhobo Division, natural rulers are being tortured, molested and dragged into politics. The Minister of Midwest Affairs can bear me out if he is sincere. Local Action Group leaders in Urhobo Division collect money from the natural rulers with the pretence that they are coming to Ibadan to meet the Minister responsible so that they may be recognised as traditional rulers. Mr Chairman, sir, this is a very big shame on this Government.

Mr Chairman: Beg your pardon, the Action Group collected money or the Government?

Mr Igugu: Yes. Party agents of the Action Group.

Mr Chairman: It is a shame on the people who collected the money.

Mr Igugu: I say that if the Minister of Midwest Affairs can bear me out, I know what I am saying.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this Ministry should be declared redundant (*Opposition Benches: Hear, hear*), because it is serving no useful purpose for the people of the Midwest. Rather, Sir, this Ministry, working in concert with the Ministry of Local Government, is causing a lot of trouble in the Midwest. Mr Chairman, Sir, our mutual understanding, our social understanding, is also at stake. Something must be done.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I understand from a very reliable source (*Government Benches: Always reliable!*) and I am prepared to be responsible for the statement I am going to make. The Leader of the Opposition has alleged in this House that the sum of £600 has been collected from certain people in this Region. I would like to make it quite clear to this House.....(*Laughter*). You are laughing. (*Increased Laughter*.) I understand Sir, from a very reliable source that the Minister of Midwest Affairs went to Ikire to conduct an inquiry into the dispute between the Urhobos in Ikire and the Yorubas.

Sir, up till today the findings of the Report have not been published. (*Government Benches: Is that all you want to say?*) (*Interruptions.*)

The sum of £600 was sent down to this town, Ibadan here. The money was counted here and handed over to somebody here. (*Government Benches: To whom?*)

In the name of the Premier, a person acting on behalf of the Premier, said that he needs a ram for the Minister for eating what the Urhobos call "Ugodo", meaning porridge. The people were unable to get the ram on the spot and a sum of £3 was given to the person concerned for the Minister to feast. Why should this Ministry exist at all? Mr Chairman, I think this Government should take very serious step over this matter.

Mr Chairman: The ram or the £600? (*Laughter.*)

Mr Igugu: The relationship between the Yorubas and the Urhobos is about to be severed and something must be done. An inquiry must be instituted into this affair. The Premier's conduct might be exculpated from the affairs of this Ministry which I say is redundant. Thank you, Sir.

Mr J. A. Riemu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the Amendment that the sum of £5 be deducted from Head 333—Ministry of Midwest Affairs. With the establishment of this Ministry we thought that the terminology "extraneous matters", also associated with the Midwest, would be abrogated. (*Fire, Fire.*) One could have thought that this Ministry or this Minister would serve as a liaison between the Government of this Region and the Midwest as an entity in matters concerned with the development and raising of the standard of living of the people. But instead of these things, Mr Chairman, Sir, what do we find? The contrary. When other Ministers were fighting for good roads for their areas, water supply, industries, this Minister is complacent. We find that no rubber research station is to be established somewhere in Benin Province. We understand that one of the greatest achievements of this Minister so far is the erection of one Secretariat in Benin and up till now that Secretariat's foundation has not been raised beyond D.P.C. level.

Mr Chairman: Could you enlighten me; what is meant by D.P.C.?

Mr Riemu: I am not an architect. I know that D.P.C. is a level a little bit above the foundation. (*Laughter.*)

[MR RIEMU]

Mr Chairman, two people have had this Ministry at two different times. Mr Chairman, Sir, I hope you are listening. *(Laughter.* There was a time when the Minister who was in charge of Home Affairs was also responsible for the Midwest Affairs. At that time, as far as we could see, that Minister succeeded in bringing some amenities to his home town, because he managed to tar some roads in Ishan and Afenmai Divisions, but since this Minister has taken over the Ministry we have not seen anything that he has done. So much money is wasted by the Western Region for this Ministry and I would like to have a little review of the amount which has been spent on this Ministry. This "Wasting Region" of Nigeria, Mr Chairman, Sir, has voted a sum of £20,000 to what somebody has called a redundant Ministry. I would like to ask that if there is any time for the abolition of this particular Ministry it is now. Apart from that his personal emolument in this Ministry is questionable. Under Fixed Vehicle Allowances £2,900, Local Transport and Travelling £2,000, altogether £4,900,*(Government Benches: It is for the workers please.)*

Once again it is clear that the saying of the Opposition that the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries earn £75 as fixed vehicle allowance is incontrovertible as it is indisputable. *(fire, fire.)* Another allegation that auditors have been warned against queries of Ministers' vouchers cannot be dismissed with a clear conscience. No matter the degree of vehemence with which that allegation is defended, the more you deny it the more we believe it.

Mr Chairman, I support the Amendment.
Amendment proposed.

Mr Okumagba: I would with respect say, Sir, that this particular Ministry has outlived its usefulness and, whatever they say and whatever they do, the Midwest has come to stay. What is now necessary, Sir, is for the Government to scrap this Ministry after the passing of the Midwest Motion in the Federal Parliament. The Government has disregarded this area in the past and I see no reason why this Government should continue to deceive the people of the area.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the total expenditure for the Ministry of Midwest Affairs is £24,030. Of this, Personal Emolument is £11,380, and Other Charges £12,650, and this is an estimate stipulating what the Government would do for the area for the coming financial year. Do you think that

the sum of £12,650 would be sufficient for the provision of amenities for the Midwest Area?

However, Mr Chairman, Sir, I am happy that the Government of the Action Group of this Region supports the creation of the Midwest State.

If the Western Nigeria Government is sincere about the creation of the Midwest State, they ought to have done something reasonable for the development of the Midwest Area.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this Government ought to have come out with suggestions about how to develop the Midwest Area; the Ministry of Midwest Affairs should constitute a Committee of the House to examine the assets of this Government with a view to sharing them between Yoruba West and the Midwest when the new State had been created. *(Interruptions):*

Mr Chairman, the Minister for Midwest Affairs should agree with me that he has no statutory powers, and as things stand, his position is that of an adviser between the various Ministries and the Ministry of Midwest Affairs: he only has the power to recommend to the Ministries. For instance, Mr Chairman, he cannot control the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources about what developments are necessary in the Midwest Areas, nor can he control the Ministry of Works and Transport; his function is only to recommend.

Mr Chairman, Sir, as I have said earlier, the total expenditure for the Ministry of Midwest Affairs is £24,030, the personal emolument for that Ministry is £11,380, and the other charges for that Ministry is only £12,650. I am asking, Mr Chairman, Sir, what can be done with £24,000? We should not support the Ministry of Midwest Affairs as it stands and I think all hon. Members will agree with me that from the funds voted for the Ministry of Midwest Affairs there is no point supporting this vote because the creation of the Midwest State is now certain.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Midwest Affairs should not consider his salary and personal allowances or car allowances as part of the money for the development of the Midwest areas. If we should subtract the salary and allowances of the Minister from the vote for the Midwest Areas what remains is not sufficient to develop a Division.

Mr Chairman, if you consider the item or the Head that we are now considering, you see the provisions made for Roads and Bridges. The total estimate for this item in the whole

[MR OKUMAGBA]

Estimates is £5 million and the amount going to the Midwest is not up to £1 million, and that is not in proportion to the population of the Midwest area.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like the Minister for Midwest Affairs to answer all my criticisms in his rounding up.

The amount voted for the Midwest Area in regard to water supply is about £1,000(Interruptions).

It is the duty of the Minister of Midwest Affairs to defend the interests of his people, the Midwest people, at the Executive Council.

Mr Chairman: This is a personal matter between you and the Minister for Midwest Affairs.

Mr Okumagba: I am addressing the Minister of Midwest Affairs through you Sir.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the Amendment.

Mr J. O. Odigie:(Interruptions)..... And the production of oil is on now there. (Shame, shame.) An able man like Mr Asemota has personally conducted a survey of all the amenities going from here to the Midwest and he is quite satisfied that the people of the Midwest have received more than their fair share from the Government of this Region. Mr Chairman, Sir, I am sorry the Members of the Opposition have been given the privilege of criticism. The Western Region Government is too democratic. If not, you would have found yourselves in concentration camps. (Laughter from Government Benches). You cannot, for God's sake, continue to play the role of(Interruptions). You are very ungrateful. If you are in the position of the present Government you would have destroyed all towns. You are not helping the people of the country.

I happen to be a member of the Midwest Advisory Council. Facts and figures were placed before us. A full survey was conducted by us and we arrived at the conclusion that the people of the Midwest have never been neglected. If you take up the Estimates you will find therein the amount of money at present voted for Benin. That of Ishan is completely surveyed and is going on now. A sum of £90,000 has been ear-marked for Asaba. Road tarring is in progress in Ishan Division. This is between Ehor and Ekpan. What do you expect this Government to do? Instead of congratulating the Government, you try to fill the public with lies.

If you are really sincere in the creation of the Midwest State, you ought to have shown it in the passage of that Motion. And I want you to do so now. Pack yourselves, your books and everything. (Fire, fire.)

Mr Chairman, Sir, what is worrying the last speaker is lack of knowledge. He is an ungrateful person. If you are in the position of the Western Region Government, then you would have been satisfied yourselves.

Mr Chairman: Order. The hon. Gentleman is speaking to them through me.

Mr Odigie: In the field of Education you go to colleges, and modern schools springing up in the Midwest. Their children have received more than their share of education. Their children are in schools. You haven't got your children roaming in the streets.

You fail to realise that the Five-Year Development Plan has been so made that there.....(Interruptions). What do you expect this Government to do? When Government plans for the Region the Midwest is not excluded.

Concluding, Sir, I have to thank the Government for the good things being done to the people of the Midwest who never see any good in them.

Mr F. Osuhor: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the amendment that a sum of £5 be deducted from the allowances under Head 333, Item 2, appearing under the expenditure of the Ministry of Midwest Affairs. As far as I know, this Ministry is linked with all other Ministries and it is obvious that one of the duties of the Minister is to protect the interests of the Midwest people.

Mr Chairman: Order. But will the hon. Gentleman only refer to his notes instead of reading?

Mr Osuhor: But to the utter disappointment of the people of the Midwest this Ministry is nothing but a sheer waste of Government funds. (Government Benches: Put your notes down.)

Well, you have been reading all the time.

Mr Chairman, in the circumstances, it does not appear that the vehicle allowance under the above Head serves the purpose for which it is intended. The 'cut-down' of the allowance should be utilised in providing other amenities for the Midwest instead of paying it to the Minister concerned.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I don't want to continue to repeat what one or two of the hon. Members of the Opposition have spoken.

Otherwise, it would appear that we people from the Midwest just talk it over that we should oppose seriously the Minister of Midwest Affairs.

I beg to support the Amendment.

Mr I. Edeki: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Amendment. The Opposition in criticising the Regional Government have accused it of squandermania in handling its funds and discrimination against the Midwest Area in the allocation of amenities.

The first charge obviously springs from malice and the desire to criticise for the fun of it. The number of Ministers, Junior Ministers and Provincial Commissioners in Eastern Nigeria is much higher than the number of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in this Region. So that if any Government in the Federation can be charged with squandermania, it is the East Regional Government controlled by the NCNC.

Public funds have been put to unprofitable use over there and all the corporations the Eastern Government established at one time have collapsed. But here our industries are doing well, our economy is stable, and employment projects in the Region are encouraging. Our financial resources are being carefully husbanded by the Action Group Government. The financial policy of the Western Regional Government makes no room for waste and ever penny is made to go a long way. The Western Region can jolly well be proud of its Finance Minister in the person of Chief the hon. J. O. Odebiyi who does his work with a keen sense of duty and of mission.

The second charge is also false. The Midwest is not being discriminated against in the provision of amenities. It is not possible for all areas to be equally developed. Many parts of the Yoruba West are much less developed than some portions of the Midwest. I know that Midwesterners must ask for amenities and press to have them. But to allege that the Government is pursuing a discriminatory policy will not help their case. For instance, there are nine Government hospitals in the Midwest and fourteen in the Yoruba West which is twice the former in population. Over two-thirds of the Region's revenue is derived from the Yoruba West but yet over one-third of the Revenue is spent in the Midwest. Why then do you people shut your eyes to facts? Considering the Estimates, a lot has been set aside for the Midwest. Even roads have been tarred. There are many secondary schools in the area. Secondary Modern Schools have been

opened this year in spite of the fact that very few have been opened in the Yoruba West.

Midwesterners on the other side of the House always set up themselves as spokesmen for the area, whereas the people who are worthy of hearing as far as its affairs are concerned are on the Government Benches.

The establishment of the Ministry is a measure of the importance the Government has attached to the Midwest and we of the area ought to be proud of it. And we now realise that we are not discriminated against.

Mr A. Atohengbe: Mr Chairman, Sir, there is no true patriotism in any native or indigene of the Midwest area who would say that the Midwest area got more than her fair share of the Regional Government amenities, because a true patriot is he who does his work in both private and public life equally well.

Whenever we members of the NCNC complain that we are being discriminated against, members of the Government party used to retort. Now, Mr Chairman, Sir, in order to give a substantial proof I refer you to page 13 of the 1961-62 Estimates, Head 333. It is obvious that from the size of the newly established Heads 336 and 338, the Midwest has the least amount of allocation for services proposed in the whole Region. I am not quarrelling with the Minister concerned as such but with the Government generally because if he is provided with sufficient funds to execute substantial projects in the Midwest, he would have been in a position to carry out fully his task.

I refer you again, Mr Chairman, Sir, to page 87 of the Estimates where it is obvious that while the Government is preaching one thing, it is in fact doing another thing. Previously, the Minorities Commission which came to this country a few years back recommended that the Edo Minority Commission be set up. But instead of the Government doing this, it set up the Midwest Advisory Council.

Mr Chairman, I like to point out again that it had been said several times that the Midwest Secretariat had been proposed to be built by the Regional Government. Now somebody mentioned that the foundation stone was to be laid. I wonder how many years it will take to lay a foundation stone and put up a building for such an area which has got the interest of the Government at heart? I think the Midwest area is entitled to a fair share of the legacy of this Region to which she has contributed.

[MR ATOHENGBE]

Mr Chairman, Sir, as I have said earlier, I am not quarrelling with the Minister concerned either, but with the Government as a whole, because if the Minister is provided with adequate material he could have done his best for our area and we would have no need to cry that we are discriminated against.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the Amendment.

The Minister of Midwest Affairs (Mr J. E. Otobo): Mr Chairman, Sir, in opposing the Amendment, I wish to say that the Opposition criticisms can be divided into three parts; namely, first, the personal attack on me, secondly, the statement that the Ministry was redundant in view of the political position, and, thirdly, that sufficient amenities have not been given to the Midwest. *(Interruptions.)*

If I may, Sir, I have to say that while the Opposition Members were talking, I was silent. I therefore hope they will extend to me the same privilege.

Mr Chairman: I can assure you that they will be silent and I will see to that.

Mr Otobo: Regarding the first point of personal attacks on me, the hon. Member for Urhobo Central thought that that was the time to hit the limelight of repeating what had been said already on the floor of this House by the Leader of the Opposition when I was away from the House. I am happy to be present here and to hear the allegation again.

First of all, the hon. Member said that I, in my capacity as Minister of Midwest Affairs, went down to Ikire and conducted an inquiry into the dispute between Yorubas and Midwesterners.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I did not go to Ikire to conduct any inquiry, nor did the Premier send me there to do so. As a matter of fact, it could not be said that there was any dispute between the Yorubas and the Midwesterners in Ikire. As hon. Members are aware, the fact of the situation has been that for years now, the natives of Ikire had been grumbling under what they described as the yoke of oppression by settlers from the Midwest. What has been happening was that the people from the Midwest have had to advance money to natives of Ikire to acquire farm lands in that area and it reached such a stage where the natives were prepared to repay such loans as had been advanced to them by the Midwesterners but, unfortunately, they were unable to provide the fund. On

the other hand the people from the Midwest were prepared to take back their loans. That was the situation at the time I entered into the show, and I must say that this has been going on for several years before even I became the Minister of Midwest Affairs. The part I took in the negotiations at the time was merely to go there and ask the Midwesterners whether they were prepared to leave Ikire and take back their money. The first meeting we had was not a commission of inquiry and it gave us a satisfactory answer, and it was as a result that the Finance Corporation was prepared to offer loans to Yoruba cocoa farmers.

There has not in fact been any question of inquiry; there was never any question of £600 being passed to me. And if it was, what for? In order to induce the Finance Corporation to advance loans to the Yoruba farmers? I must say, Sir, that I was alarmed when the Leader of the Opposition raised such a point and I was even the more alarmed that a Member from the Midwest, and a person from Urhobo Division, had to assassinate my personal character thus. Apart from anything else, this hon. Member knows me very well from home and also knows the type of person I am even before I became a Minister, besides also knowing very well my family; and he cannot say that the Otobo family from which I come is a poor family. I take a very strong view of this.

I hope that he will be able to repeat this allegation outside this House because we now have come to a point where we should call a spade a spade. May I even go further, Mr Chairman, that if the hon. Member thinks that his facts are correct, I have no doubt that he knows where the Police are and apart from making a statement publicly outside this House tomorrow, I like him to report this allegation to the Police.

The hon. Member went further to allege that I was given £3 in lieu of a ram in order to feast the other Ministers with it. I ask you, Sir, that with my £250 a month, what have I to do with only £3 in lieu of ram with which to feast the Ministers? It is most amazing to think that a Minister will call his colleagues to feast them on a ram worth £3.

To imagine that a Minister in the Federation of Nigeria will descend so low as to solicit for a ram is very mean. I hope this will be confined to this House. Rascally indictments are no credit to the country at all and the earlier Members of the Opposition desist from such worthless, baseless and

[MR OTOBO]

confounded allegations and stick to working to get supporters along legitimate lines the better it will be for this House. Once again, on this issue of "£3 ram" I will warn the hon. Member again to repeat this outside the House tomorrow or go to the police. (*Government Benches: He is a coward.*) Mr Chairman, Sir, the more I look..... (*Thunderous cheers from the Opposition Benches as Mr Oviasu enters.*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have thrown the hon. Member two challenges which I hope he will take up tomorrow; I only wish to end this aspect by saying how very greatly worried I am over the prospects of a Government in the Midwest Region. (*Opposition Benches: Never mind.*) If rascally speeches come to feature in the Midwest Region, then I think, Sir, God must save us. In any case, by their performance they will never smell the Government. (*Cheers.*)

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member for Benin Central is not properly dressed. (*Laughter.*)

Mr Oviasu rose—

The Chairman: The hon. Gentleman is not properly dressed.

Mr Otobo: However, Sir, if the hon. Member fears that my activity will constitute a barrier to his future political career I can assure him rightaway that I will redouble my activities in that area.

Another hon. Member out of sheer enthusiasm made another allegation that money was being collected by local Action Group leaders in order to inject certain traditional members into various councils in Urhobo Division. But what are the facts? At present, in all the four District Councils in Urhobo, there are only traditional members in Sapele and Western Urhobo. Since I came into office no additions have been made. In respect of the other two councils, Central Urhobo District Council and Usoko District Council, there are at present no traditional members in those Councils. It is true that Government proposes at no distant date to have traditional members in these two Councils. I have no apologies for this remark because for years the hon. Member knows that traditional members in Urhobo have been cheated by people of his class who claim to be champions of the chiefs in the area. Because we have no traditional members in the Councils we have nobody representing us in the House of Chiefs. That exactly is the position which this

Government hopes to correct. (*Opposition Benches: Whose fault?*) (*Government Benches: Your fault.*)

I take next the question of amenities in respect of the Midwest. First of all let me say, Sir, that it is in fact unnecessary for me to give a detailed answer in respect of the points made by several Members on the other side. It will be recalled, Sir, that one Member did get up to say that a parliamentary delegation ought to visit the Midwest "in order to see the nice development projects in the area". That was the hon. Member for Warri East. (*Opposition Benches: That is irony.*) They are shifting ground. It is characteristic of them. Not only that; even the hon. Member for Benin Central, who was not here then, is prepared to stand up to say no. The serious allegation made, Sir, was in regard to water supply. It is said that only £10,000 has been provided in respect of these services and work in the Midwest. (*Government Benches: He said £1,000.*) I may say, Sir, that this is blatant and naked untruth. A reference to the Estimates will show that Asaba alone is allocated £89,000 in respect of this. Ishan alone £100,000. I have made reference to only two places.

Reference was also made to roads and bridges. In fact I am ashamed of the people on the other side about this because the hon. Member from Urhobo Division in particular ought to have seen the road built only three months ago from Okan Junction to Eku roundabout through Kwale to Usoko and from Umuale to Ole. In any event, Sir, what may not be obvious to the hon. Member is that out of the existing votes in respect of roads and bridges for the part of the remainder of the 1960-65 five-year programme the Midwest alone will get £1.73 million. (*Opposition Benches: We will not be here then.*) They say we will not be here. Tarring is now in progress in Urhobo Division. What guarantee, Sir, has the Midwest electorate of fake promises made by these people over the past years?

If I may now come to general remarks, a point one Member made that a cut in my salary will go a long way toward providing amenities for the Midwest. Well, Sir, it would appear to me that we have different views on this issue and it would appear that our sense of personal importance differs a good deal. If the whole of the Midwest will rely on my £3,000, well, there is nothing wrong with that. What is wrong is probably with some Members on the other side of the House.....

[MR OTOBO]

Mr Chairman, Sir, I like to say this as somebody who has consistently spearheaded the creation of this Midwest Region. One would have thought that if the Midwest is created next month, they might as well have packed over there and called for all amenities for their area. The second point is this: don't they think that the electorates have become wiser over the years? What is the misery? Since 1952, the Action Group strength in the Midwest has steadily risen from two to four to fifteen against their fifteen now. (*Cheers from Government Benches.*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, that is a sign of progress and that is a sign of confidence in the Action Group in the area and no confidence on the other party. I think they ought to meditate over that very carefully. That is the adequate answer to all these cries about Benin City, and so on.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I come to the third point that my Ministry is redundant. Some concern was also expressed in regard to the delay in the building of the Midwest Secretariat in Benin. This point is well taken. The delay has been due to the change in the original plan of the Secretariat. As Members are aware, there was a plan which was to accommodate a certain number of officials together with a hall and so on, and in view of the changes in recent years, and in view of the increasing interest which this Government takes in the welfare of the whole of the Midwest, we have had to alter that original plan drastically in order to make more room for officials and a meeting hall, and I have no doubt, Sir, that before we all pack to the Midwest Region, a substantial progress would have been made in the building of the Secretariat. (*Opposition Members: That is a promise.*)

One Member, Sir, expressed concern about the powers of the Midwest Advisory Council and Minority Council. This point again has arisen out of sheer ignorance. The Member might not be aware that the Midwest Advisory Council is still functioning. In any case, the Midwest Advisory Council has still one more memorandum which will be laid before this House. As soon as that job is completed they can go.....(*Opposition Benches: They can go for ever!*)

Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a transitional period. Transitional in the sense that we are now going to change over from a Midwest Advisory Council to a Midwest Minority Council and then on to a Midwest Region. Sir, a lot of talk seems to have permeated the

atmosphere of this honourable House in regard to the question as to whether my Ministry is redundant or not. Some Members said the Ministry is redundant in view of the passage of the Motion to create a new Midwest Region. The Motion has recently been passed in the Federal Legislature. Mr Chairman, Sir, if I may say so, I feel differently in this respect. First of all, Sir, I think it is a most unfortunate and mischievous feeling that this Ministry should be scrapped for no reason other than that the Motion has just been passed in the Federal Legislature.

The first reason is this. This Ministry is an institution by itself, an institution which recognises the problem of minorities in the Federation generally. As a matter of fact, the mere fact that the Ministry exists is a reminder that the minority problem in the Western Region as a whole has not been settled. To exterminate this Ministry is to exterminate the struggle for the creation of a Midwest State. (*Opposition Benches: The struggle has been won!*) The battle is still going on. I know the Members of the NCNC think the battle is not going on simply because they have been told that the Midwest Region is going to be created next month. What are the constitutional steps to be taken Sir? (*Government Benches: They don't know.*) (*Opposition Benches: We know.*) I attended two London Conferences as the chief spokesman for all the minorities in this country, including themselves.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the stages are these. The Motion is to be passed by a majority vote of two-thirds in the House of Representatives and again in the Senate. After that, the Motion is circulated to the East, North and West. After that, the people go in for a plebiscite at which there has to be an affirmative vote of 60 per cent of the registered voters in that area. Those are the stages yet to be overcome. The second point, Sir, is this: to sack this Ministry is to sack all the Members of the Midwest who are present in this House. (*Opposition Members: No, no.*) Therefore, Mr Chairman, the issue is very clear. If all the Members of the Opposition from the Midwest are prepared to resign tomorrow, I am prepared to resign also with all Members on this side from the Midwest. (*Opposition Benches: Resign, resign now.*) If you feel so strongly about this, resign tomorrow, and all of us here will follow. But if you feel you are not going to resign tomorrow, then for goodness sake keep quiet.

Sir, my Ministry is committed to seeing to its logical and final conclusion the completion

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of such processes as are necessary for the creation of a new Midwest Region. These may not be generally known to Members of the Opposition simply because, like a cock, they crow and crow without going into essentials. (*Opposition Benches: Finally, finally.*) Members of the Opposition think that it is only necessary to say, "Create a Midwest Region" and a Midwest Region is created. We are realistic enough to know that there are certain processes which are to be completed. These processes are, if they don't know, a Constitution has to be drawn up; where is the Constitution? (*Opposition Members: It is in the making.*) Fiscal and financial arrangements have to be brought into motion in order to ensure that the Government there will survive and in order to ensure that there is the necessary reallocation of funds between the present Government and the future Midwest Government. Certainly, Sir, we have to ensure that we are not going to enter into a vacuum in that place and we are not going to start a rascally Parliament in that place. We have to ensure that the necessary Civil Service structure is properly set up. We have to look for civil servants who will man the various Ministries. These are practical problems to be faced. It is true Members of the Opposition shouted simply "Midwest Region, Midwest Region"; while we too shout, we realise that to set up a Government needs more brain than are apparent to the other side. (*Cheers from Government Benches.*)

Finally, I wish to say that the future of the Midwest in relation to any proposed Midwest Region is, as I stated earlier on, based on two factors. Firstly, on the final attitude of the rank and file of the Action Group in the Midwest and, finally, on the type of propaganda and state of mind of the NCNC leaders in the Midwest. As far as I know, if the proposal is to succeed (I hope it will), it will need the full co-operation of both the NCNC and the Action Group.

I hope that the direction and type of NCNC propaganda and boast will be such as to enable the two-thirds support vote to be obtained in the referendum. So far as we know, the future of the Midwest Government lies in the Action Group. I would like them to meditate over this carefully. What it means is this: no Midwest Region can be created and no Midwest Government can exist without the Action Group. (*Cheers from Government Benches.*)

Amendment put and negatived.

Question that the sum of £24,030 for Head 333—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 729.—MINISTRY OF MIDWEST AFFAIRS

(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed that the sum of £500 for Head 729—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Sitting suspended at 10.40 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 11.40 p.m.

HEAD 334.—MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Question proposed, that the sum of £70,420 for Head 334—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr G. I. Oviasu: Mr Chairman, I beg to move that Head 334 be reduced by £5.

This Ministry is responsible for the administration of justice in this Region. Judging from what we see and hear, one wonders, if the Ministry is insulated from politics and the interference of politicians. It is not unusual to see Ministers in this Region trying to suck civil servants into politics. I consider it an unfair thing, Sir, that a Minister should summon a Judge in his house under the guise of giving him tea or friendship and try to talk to him to try to pervert the cause of justice. (*Interruptions.*) I have an instance at my command. (*Interruptions.*) While we are trying to expose facts, those responsible try to hide under the cloak of insults.

There is no hope for the common man if things of that type continue to happen: if Members of the Government continue to show in their behaviour that might is right. Any attempt to pervert the cause of justice is unfair.

For instance, in Benin there was a case of election petition. It was surprising that a Judge who is resident in Benin was not called upon to hear that case, but somebody from Akure or Ibadan was called to hear that case

Chief Odebiyi: Point of Order Sir.

Order 27 (8) "The conduct of.....Judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a Substantive Motion.....".

If the hon. Member is sure of his facts let him come to the House with a Substantive Motion to prove his allegations; otherwise he is a coward.

Mr Chairman: Order. All the time, I have been of the opinion that the hon. Gentleman is infringing this section of the Rules of Debate, but I could see that he has not crossed to that side yet. He did say that a Judge is being invited from another place to another place. It is not the conduct that is being queried here. (Cheers.)

Mr Oviasu: As I was saying, Sir, there was a resident Judge in Benin who could hear this election petition, but something happened and we were surprised that somebody was brought from another place to hear the petition. Does the Minister suggest that the resident Judge in Benin is not competent to hear the election petition? (Government Member: *Posting of Judges.*) Why was the Judge at Benin not allowed to carry on his work?

Mr Chairman Sir, if anybody is doing his work well and he is not promoted it means that his enthusiasm is being dampened. I see no reason why the present Chief Justice of the Western Region should be holding that post. Is he the most capable? Is he the most intelligent? Those are matters I want to hear from the responsible Minister.... (Interruptions).

Mr Chairman, I crave your indulgence to grant me your protection. (Mr Chairman: *Will the hon. Member Oviasu continue.*) I also feel, Sir, that this Ministry is not sufficiently active. I wonder why, with the array and galaxy of lawyers in that Ministry, no one is competent to go to court; rather they will go and brief Chief F. R. A. Williams. Is this Attorney-General not competent to go to court? (Interruptions.) Is the Minister of Justice and Attorney General not capable of going to court? We would like to know how much has been paid to Chief F. R. A. Williams for the cases he had handled on behalf of this Government. Mr Chairman, I like to warn this Government that the Ministry of Justice should refrain from acts which try to suck in civil servants into politics in this Region.

Mr T. E. Elusade: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Amendment. In supporting the Amendment, I specifically refer to Head 334—sub-head 5—1 Commissioner for Customary Courts, in the sum of £2,940. There is no good reason to justify the expenditure of this colossal sum of money under Head 334—sub-head 5 for the appointment of a Commissioner for Customary Courts. I would say it is merely an attempt to create a good job for one of the Government

supporters who display loyalty to the Government. If I am correct (Government Benches: *You are not correct*), the appointment of Customary Court Judges was formerly under the Judicial Service Commission. (Government Benches: *You are not correct.*) I do not see any reason for the transfer to a sole Commissioner. (Government Benches: *Are you a lawyer?*) At least the appointment of a sole Commissioner for Customary Courts is questionable until a good and proper reason can be given for it. That is that. (Interruptions).

My other criticism, Mr Chairman, is that Grade B Customary Court Judges should acquire as much as possible some legal training. In some cases, the Judges are merely half literate with the result that they make many mistakes which a literate judge will not make. Litigants in such courts, who almost invariably are illiterates, are at the mercy of the court clerks who report that proceedings, and if the record is correct the litigant will have a chance, if not he has had it. Oshun Division is a very wide area which includes Ede, Ejigbo, Aiyedade, Ikirun, Ogbomosho (*laughter*), Oshogbo, Ifelodun District, and it is surprising that there is not a President of a Grade B Court who is legally qualified. Western Nigeria is rich in lawyers. (Hear, hear.) If the Minister of Justice can make the pay attractive, legally trained lawyer—applicants will be forthcoming. The other point, Mr Chairman, is that, as far as practicable, Customary Court Judges should be made transferable from one Division to another. (Hear, hear.) Where a lawyer/judge of a Customary Court is not a native of the area, a panel of assessors can be arranged to help him in regard to the native law and custom peculiar to the area.

In the whole of Ife Division, we have only one Grade B Court, with the result that cases are piling up daily. We have a case for two years without any chance of its being heard. This is deplorable. Customary Courts are very popular these days (*Applause from Government Benches*). They are popular in this sense, that litigants prefer to take their cases there (*Interruptions*) because it is cheaper for them to sue in the Customary Courts than to go to the High Court. But their cases have no chance of being heard in time and at times before you finish a case you have got tired of it.

Now, Mr Chairman, I am referring to my Division again, that, is Ife. I heard from a very reliable source that a Grade A Customary Court has been approved for Ife Division but, up till now, I do not know, Mr Chairman,

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why this post has not been filled either by promotion or by direct appointment. (*Inter-ruptions.*) (*Government Benches: Are you applying?*) I am not applying. That is as far as Customary Courts are concerned.

I think Mr Attorney-General will agree with me that the pay of Senior Magistrates is inadequate. A labourer is worth his hire. Most of these Magistrates work between six to eight hours daily and I feel they should be amply compensated if they are expected to discharge their duties faithfully and efficiently and without fear or favour. I think, Mr Chairman, that £1,600 for Magistrates of five years post-call experience is not too much. If the Minister of Justice happens to fail to get elected to this House, I am quite sure he will not like to be a Magistrate.

Now, confining myself to my area as usual. Ogbomosho is too wide for a Magistrate. This should be broken into two. One Magistrate to cope with the cases in Ife and Ilesha and Oshogbo. Similarly, Ife, Oshogbo and Ilesha were formerly within the Ibadan Magisterial District but now we have only one Magistrate touring from Akure, Warri, Ado Ekiti, Okitipupa. It is just too much. I am asking the Minister of Justice to see to this.

I support the Amendment.

Amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I have noticed that the hon. Member for Benin Central has already taken his cap. He wants to go out. Even when he walks out, his colleagues will tell him what I have to say. Mr Chairman, Sir, it is unfortunate that one of the stock-in-trade of the NCNC (*Government Benches: NCN*) is to use parliamentary privilege to make what I call dishonest statements. It has been said by the hon. Member for Benin Central that there was an allegation of a Minister who invited a Judge to his house. By implication, he was suggesting that because a Judge had accepted the invitation of a Minister, that was a sure road to the perversion of justice. He went further to say that he would like to know why the present Chief Justice was appointed; whether he was the most senior. I think, Sir, that if the hon. Member has been honest to himself, and is sure of the statement he has made, he could have come to the floor of the House and by way of a substantive Motion he would have named the particular Judge and named the particular Minister and the whole thing would have been subjected

to a full-dress debate on the floor of this House. I think it is sheer cowardice on the part of the hon. Member to use the opportunity of parliamentary privilege to attack a Judge of the High Court.

Then he made a point that he saw no reason why, if a resident High Court Judge was already in a place, somebody else should be brought to that place to sit. After all, it is not the Minister of Justice who posts High Court Judges (*Hear, hear,*); it is the Chief Justice who posts them. The hon. Member says that the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court of Western Nigeria are under the influence of Ministers (*Opposition Benches: He did not say so*). I repeat, the hon. Member says that the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court of Western Nigeria are under the influence of Ministers. (*Government Benches: Shame, shame.*) I think, Sir, that if the hon. Member is not.....

Mr Oviasu: When I stood up to contribute to the debate, I never used the words attributed to me.

Chief Odebiyi: In any event, Sir, the Hansard Reporters heard you. I think, Sir, that people who have not got the courage to go outside either of the House, or to the Press or the Radio or political campaign meetings to make some of the statements they make here are mere cowards. If anybody had any reason to doubt or to impugn the integrity of any particular Judge he ought to go to the Press and do so.

The hon. Member said that we of the Action Group Party try to bring civil servants to party politics. By making mention of the Chief Justice and Members of the judiciary he has done incalculable damage to the course of justice in this Region. I should have thought that the hon. Leader of the Opposition, who himself is a reputable member of the Bar, should have called him to a halt on the character assassination which the hon. Member was presenting to the House. He was saying that a Minister invited a Judge to his house. Why did he not specify the name of the Minister? If I invite the hon. Member of the Opposition to my house does it mean he has become a member of the Action Group? I have been to Benin and the hon. Member has invited me to his House. If people develop this type of tactics one would be afraid to stand and talk to them because one cannot know what construction they will give to the discussion with them. I am sorry that the hon. Leader of the Opposition himself tried to defend the hon. Member who was trying to damnify and smear the

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character of people. If they are sure of their grounds, I say, Sir, that a man who can say one thing in private and is unable to say it in public is a coward. If the hon. Member is sure of what he has been saying he should go out and repeat it. The hon. Member has promised that he will come with a substantive Motion. We shall hold you down to it. If you like, tomorrow you can bring the Motion and it will be debated here. In any event, Sir, I am very happy about the performance of the Opposition in this debate. The whole country will know of what stuff they are made. Surely the electorate of the Western Region know better. They have never made a mistake and will not make a mistake to vote to power the people they know have no respect for truth, people who cannot discriminate between honesty and fraud and between sincere and corrupt nationalism.

In any event the other points which are peculiar to the Ministry of Justice will be adequately answered by the hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am most surprised to see the emotion of excitement of the Leader of the House. Even when he was making his own debate he did not show as much enthusiasm as he has done tonight. The Member for Benin Central said that a certain Minister made contact with a certain judge. The hon. Member did not say that the learned judge was misled.....(*Interruptions from Government benches*).

Mr Chairman: The hon. Member never said that the learned judge accepted the advice of the Minister. (*Applause from Opposition Benches.*)

Mr Fani-Kayode: I have told the hon. Member that he should bring a Motion to this House and mention the name of the Minister and it will be filed. It will not be filed against the judge because the Minister in question knows himself. The Minister in question shall be brought before the floor of this House and his actions shall be challenged and the hon. learned Judge shall be exculpable because there is no stain on his honour. We all know where the stain lies. We know that that stain will be left coloured by the vote of the electorate, but you may camouflage as much as you like; it shall remain as part of your record until this Government is rejected by the electorate of this Region. (*Interruptions*).....I am not given to vituperations. I leave it to those

very much learned in it. The Minister said that aspersions were cast on the Chief Justice of the Region. I think you will check on the Hansard tomorrow. What the man said was whether the Chief Justice was the most qualified. Why was he appointed? The Minister of Finance is very sensitive these days. He has been sensitive these days since we started talking about cocoa.....(*Shouts of "cocoa scandal" from Opposition Benches.*) The Minister should not try in any shape or form to make the Judiciary believe that we of the Opposition cast the slightest blemish on their character. If there is any criticism of any judge the right procedure is to bring a Motion to this House.

The hon. Minister also said that since the beginning of this Session, Members of the Opposition have been casting aspersions on the civil servants. It is because two names of civil servants were submitted before this House. Their names were mentioned and Hansard will testify to that. The Minister of Finance has started witch-hunting among civil servants, bull-dozing and brow-beating them. Every civil servant must be on his toes now as soon as the Minister of Finance is coming. They say the allegations were false; why probing leakage of facts? I think, Sir, that we of the Opposition will never attack the character of any judge or civil servant. If there are facts connected with them, their names will be brought to this House. I am saying that the hon. Member shall bring that Motion to this House in due course.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): The hon. Member for Benin said a lot about members of the Bench. The implication is that Members of the Government influence them, that, they always brought pressure to bear upon judges in the course of their duties. I shall illustrate that.

Mr Oviasu: I cited an instance. I have not mentioned names, and said that if allowed to continue there will be no hope for the common man. (*Sit down, sit down.*)

Chief Akintola: If the hon. Member will only bear with me, by the time I finish this statement he will be sure I am doing justice to him.

The Member for Benin went on to illustrate his point by saying that the Minister invited the judge to tea and the intention, I think, is to influence him to give decision in a manner in accord with the wishes of the Minister.....(*Mr Oviasu: I did not say tea*)...to the pending election petition.

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

If the allegation against the Judge were correct then I must say that the hon. Members on the other side were afraid of the Judge. *(Interruptions.)*

I would not like people to come only to accuse but to state their facts. It is wrong to attack the Judges of the High Court without the facts proved. May I say once more that we do not influence any Judge in any form whatsoever. Whatever be the case, justice must be done.

We cannot influence a Judge. As Members of the other side of the House have said that our acts depend on the Judges, merely because we are the Government in power, I am saying it, and I repeat, that I have never spoken to any Judge either here or anywhere in connection with any case, and nothing has been brought to my notice of any Minister trying to influence any Judge in any way or the other. My Government is seeking the welfare of the Opposition and of the individual throughout the Region.

Mr Chairman, Sir, it is wrong to mention that justice is done only to Action Group members and not to NCNC members as well. The purpose and object of our Government is to ensure that justice is done in this Region and I will appeal to Members of the Opposition that true statements are brought to the floor of this House, either in regard to the Chief Justice, or Governor, the Public Service Commission or the Judicial Service Commission. It would not be fair to any Judge of this Region to accuse him without making any substantial proof on the floor of this House.

Mr Chairman, Sir, because a Judge is invited, there is suspicion that the Judge is therefore corrupt. Nobody was present, if at all, when the Minister and the Judge were conversing, how much less to know the substance of their conversation.

Mr Chairman, Sir, may I say once more, that if any hon. Member will suggest that when a hon. Judge is invited to a party or to a dinner he has listened to the speech between the hon. Minister and the Judge and has found it to be a speech of influence, that will be a matter for the police to investigate. By the way, who listened to this conversation? What true evidence have you got? Why did you not cite their conversation? If anybody tries to influence justice, he is a true enemy to the progress of Nigeria, and it is a very serious offence. Politics must not be used in regard to justice and it is wrong to suggest that justice is being obtained by foul means in this Region; it is wrong to

say that judges can be influenced or that they are being dictated to by Members of the Government party. The Judges themselves must ensure that such situation does not arise.

Regarding the appointment of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Western Nigeria, the appointment was completely insulated from politics. They were, I mean the Judges, appointed, not by the Government party, but by the Judicial Service Commission, and the qualifications for appointment were provided for in the Nigerian Constitution, so that a Judge or a Chief Justice does not owe his office to the Government party, nor does he owe his office to the Members of the Government; and a Judge cannot be removed arbitrarily. His position and conditions of service are entrenched firmly in the Nigerian Constitution.....*(Interruptions.)*

Members talked about the promotion of Judges. I want the hon. Members to understand that the position of a Judge is a honourable appointment and that it has no promotion prospects. May I say that my hon. Friends will realise that when a Judge is appointed, it is an honourable career which has no promotion.

My good Friend from Benin criticised the appointment of the Chief Justice of Western Nigeria and said that he would like to know whether he was the most senior man in the Bar. Apart from the fact that his appointment is in accordance with the Constitution, he has the requisite qualification more than that laid down in the Constitution. *(Loud cheers.)*

According to the Constitution, a person shall be qualified to be appointed a judge of the High Court of a Region if he is, or has been, a judge of a court having unlimited jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters in some part of Her Majesty's dominions or a court having jurisdiction in appeals from any such court or he is qualified to practise as an advocate in such a court and he has been qualified for not less than ten years to practise as an advocate or solicitor in such a court and no other person shall be qualified to be so appointed; and I have to add that the Chief Justice of a Region shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of the Federation.

We all know, Sir, that apart from my having to appear before Judges in some court of Nigeria as a member of the Bar, I have never appeared on any charge of sedition before any court, but my good Friend, a regular customer of the courts can assess the qualifications of Judges.

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

As far as I am concerned, I can only rely on the report given to me and facts given by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

In regard to the appointment of Judges and Chief Justice, Mr Oviasu is not qualified to substantiate his allegations and, for that reason, I hope that in future before the hon. Member for Benin stands up to say anything about a Judge he will ensure that he has been properly briefed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. *(Cheers)*.

It is one of the signs of weakness on the part of the Opposition that they have never seen anything good in any Ministry or in any Minister or in the Government whatsoever. And yet as bad as you all are..... *(Opposition: Who?)* we ensure always that you receive your salaries regularly; we ensure that that is part of our responsibility. You don't know where your salaries come from. And the hon. Minister of Finance*(Interruptions)*. He does ensure that you get your money *(regularly)*. You, complain that the Government is no good. Here is the hon. Minister of Works who ensures that you get good roads through which you come here. And you haven't got a good Government! I think the time has come for you to develop a change of heart. And may I say that while speaking on that point, I believe that I have special qualifications to lecture Members of the Opposition.

Opposition Benches: On What?

Chief Akintola: I will tell you why. You know why. Many of you have only been on the Opposition side. By the grace of God and the will of the people I have had the experience of both. I have had the experience to be on the Government and also to be on the Opposition. And I know the secret of success of an Opposition. If perhaps the Leader of the Opposition had remained a little bit longer in our joint school, perhaps you will know the effectiveness of the Opposition. *(Laughter and applause.)*

Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Mr S. O. Ighodaro): Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. the Premier has adequately replied to the attacks on the independence of the Judiciary. Although the Member for Benin Central West tried to give the impression that he did not specifically attack the Government, it is quite obvious that when he started he made reference to the independence of the Judiciary, as a general proposition. And then he went to cite the instance

of the case of a Minister trying to influence a Judge. I think no worse attack can be made on the Judiciary of this Region than that made by the hon. Member of Benin Central West.

When I was coming to this House I was expecting the normal attacks—the repetition of oppression, victimisation, and the rest of it all. I must, however, congratulate the Opposition for avoiding that with me for the first time. But unfortunately, they went into a worse state. I am not going to attack the hon. Member for Benin Central West. I am not used to pouring vituperations on my opponents, especially when I know the psychological circumstances. In the morning we knew how very ruffled he was. And he was so ruffled that he could not face the battle of criticisms from the hon. the Minister of Local Government. I am not going to add to his burden by any means. But this I would really like to assure the hon. Member: the Judiciary of this Region is very independent. I do not think that you can get a higher class of judiciary anywhere in the Federation of Nigeria than what we have in the Region. *(Shouts of "In the world" from Government Benches.)*

Already somebody has spoken about the posting of Judges. The Minister of Justice has nothing to do with the posting of any Judge in this Region. The Judicial Service Commission is absolutely in control of the appointment, promotion and dismissal of Judges as well as Magistrates and the Presidents—legally qualified Presidents—of Grades A and B Courts. So that the Minister of Justice has nothing to do with it at all. It is never lodged on me nor any Minister to have anything to do with, or interfere with, the work of the Judges in this Region.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member for Benin West made a specific reference to my not appearing in court. I must confess that I am not loath to appearing in court. I am not afraid of appearing for Government in the cases. After all, Government cases are clean. There is no contortion, there is nothing to hide. It is a straight thing, and at the earliest opportunity, when I have finished my policy-making, I can assure you that I shall be appearing.....*(Interruptions)*.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member for Benin has not been very fair, or perhaps, may I say very honest in this particular matter. He has lodged a question with the Clerk of the House and I was fair enough this morning to indicate to him that I will be replying to

[MR IGHODARO]

his question tomorrow morning. The question relates to the briefing of Chief F. R. A. Williams, Q.C., in cases belonging to the Government. I have prepared a lengthy answer which will satisfy him and I have nothing to hide. And I therefore do not like to go into that now, as tomorrow morning I can assure you that I'll do justice to that question. But I must say that I have no apology for asking Chief F. R. A. Williams to do the cases for the Government. After all he is one of the very first Q.C.'s and most brilliant advocates that we have in this country. And we have lawyers of great reputation and lawyers of distinction. I mean a good lawyer normally does not speak ill of another great lawyer except pusillanimous souls.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to refer to the speech by the hon. Member for Ife South. He spoke about the Commissioner for Customary Courts. I am pleased that he made reference to it, because I can still remember the hon. Leader of the Opposition in his early speech he made reference to the Commissioner for Customary Courts. This officer has not been appointed. It is no case of political jobbery. We are looking desperately for the best man for that job. It is a very onerous one and the Judicial Service Commission is responsible for the appointment of the Commissioner for Customary Courts. He will work with the Ministry of Justice and he will help to co-ordinate the work of the Supervising Authorities and the Customary Court Presidents in various parts of Western Nigeria. And someone has said it is no use. It is of great use. After all, the North has got one and the East has got one. And we are not doing anything very spectacular by appointing this Commissioner for Customary Courts. I think it is to help hon. Members who might be in difficulties when they do not want to approach lawyers to help them in their cases.

With reference to Oshun, there are many Courts in Oshun Division—twelve Grade "B" Courts, sixteen Grade "C", eighteen Grade "D" and Divisional Courts. And the nineteen Divisional Courts at the earliest opportunity will reduce to Grade "D" Courts.

We have spoken about the need for considering the question of transferability of Presidents of Customary Courts. I must say that that is a very wise suggestion. We have started to work on that and we have actually accepted that principle. I was, however, very pleased to note that

customary courts are very popular these days. And it is because customary court judges and presidents are doing their very best.

Hon. Members will have the courtesy and the greatness to acknowledge their services to this Government. Ife Court—The Grade A Court is already established and nobody has been appointed to fill the post yet. As it is a lawyer that is wanted, he will have to be appointed by the Judicial Service Commission and not by the Minister of Justice. If the hon. Member is interested, I think he will know where he is to send his application, if he is a learned Member.

Somebody has attacked the pay of Magistrates. The Senior Magistrates in this Region get the pay of £1,840, and the Chief Magistrates £2,300. I am not dilating on that. I know there is always room for improvement but I can even refer you, by the way, to some other statements somewhere as far as Magistrates and Crown Counsel are concerned: "We in this Region", somebody speaking in the Eastern Region, "do not pay less than the Federation or the Northern Region." As a matter of fact, I think we pay more. Initially we pay more than the Eastern Region, but the West pays more in the end. In the end, I mean, we have not done anything unusual and the condition of course continues to be so. And, however, I would like to say that some amendments might come later on to show what increases are likely to take place in the establishment.

I am referring lastly to the Leader of the Opposition. He tried to extenuate—he tried to explain up all the attacks made by the hon. Member for Benin Central West. I must say that I am not at all impressed by his explanation. I thought that in this House he would have the courage and the courtesy to say how much I have even helped him in some of the complaints he has brought to me as Minister of Justice. But instead he refused to make comments on that line.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I like to digress to one important point—the question of complaints. I am very willing to listen to complaints from all hon. Members as long as these complaints are absolutely genuine. But again and again we receive frantic telegrams from Members—some hon. Members and some Secretaries—Organising Secretaries. I am not making mention of any names but I think it might be very edifying to Members of this House to see the sort of telegrams sometimes received. I will make some comments later on. This is the sort of electronic telegram sent to me, sent to Chief Okotie Eboh, sent to Broadcasting

[CHIEF IGHODARO]

Ibadan and Lagos. They were speaking—
 “We strongly suggest abolition customary courts Warri Division or replace Judges in them X Since establishment Customary Courts acted deliberately against political opponents of Action Group X Justice denied Nation-Co supporters charged to Court X Accused sentenced refused bail on Appeal by undue conditions X Option fines denied X Customary Courts procedure based on Action Group Doctrine X British Justice not in practice in Courts X Warri Customary Courts are Action Group institutions destined punish Nation-Co supporters X British protected persons nay Warri Citizens not used to this Unbritish Justice X Unless these Courts abolished we deem them communist institutions X Citizens not safe with Customary Courts still existing Warri X Aims of Customary Courts still misinterpreted in Warri X Nation-Co and all Citizens lost confidence and West Regional Government's name and good intention dragged in mud due primitive interpretation of Justice Customary Courts Warri Division X Minister Justice called upon take immediate action abolish or order enquiry X”

This is very typical of some of the telegrams. We know what kind of telegram this is. It was first referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the man was found guilty by the High Court, Warri, and it went to the Federal Supreme Court and accordingly the judgment was confirmed and the man had to go to jail for three months imprisonment with hard labour.

I had received telegrams like that from hon. Members and I have not referred them to the Director of Public Prosecutions but I think the right advice to you will be by letting you know that when in future I receive those which were made public by copying the Press, the best thing is that I will refer it to the Director of Public Prosecutions and Members will have to face the obvious consequences.

One thing I must say, Sir, is that we are not afraid of criticisms and Lord Hartley said:

“Justice is not a crystal virtue,

She must be allowed to suffer the scrutiny of ordinary men”.

I think it is a great statement which we are proud to abide by. We do not say you should not criticise us, but in doing so please criticise us constructively. The Minister of Justice is not here to sit over the

liquidation of Customary Court Judges. It is my position to see to the maintenance of the dignity of justice of the members of the Customary Courts of this Region.

Mr Chairman, I have taken time enough and I beg to oppose the Amendment.

Amendment negatived.

Question that the sum of £70,420 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 £29,040 for Head 342—Department of Public Prosecutions—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to propose an amendment regarding Head 342 for an increase in establishment and for provision under that Head to be increased by £9,900 to 38,940:

That the post of Crown Counsel under Sub-head 1, Item 5, be increased by 4 and provision by £4,080.

That the post of Senior Crown Counsel, Grade I, under Head 1, Item 3, be increased by 2 and provision by £4,600.

That the post of Stenographer be increased under Sub-head 1, Item 10, by 2 and provision by £480.

That the posts of Clerical Officers, under Head 1, Item 11, be increased by 1 and provision by £180.

That the post of Typist under Head 1, Item 13, be increased by 4 and provision by £560. Total provision being £38,940.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Amendment agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £38,940 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 £161,670 for Head 344—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that Head 344, Item 2, Sub-head 1 be increased by 2 and provision by £6,600.

That Head 1, Item 4, be increased by 4 and provision by £9,170, making a total of £170,840.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Amendment proposed.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode: There should be some regularity in the payment of Judicial Officers and Legal Officers throughout the

[MR FANI-KAYODE]

Federation. I think it will not be in the interest of the Civil Service and also it will not be in the men's best interest as well if they have their colleagues in one part of the Federation earning more than others in another part of the Federation. The Minister of Finance has overlooked this disparity in the salaries of the Directors of Public Prosecutions. In the Eastern Region, more money is paid, although the same qualification is provided by the Constitution.

Amendment agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £170,840 for Head 344—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 730.—MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

Question proposed, that the sum of £660 Head 730—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 738.—DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
PROSECUTIONS

OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

Question proposed that the sum of £380 for Head 738—Department of Public Prosecutions—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 335.—MINISTRY OF LANDS AND
HOUSING

Question proposed, that the sum of £314,890 for Head 335—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. A. Layonu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment that the sum of £5 be reduced from this Head. In doing so Sir, I will have to speak mainly on the system of land acquisition in Western Region. We all know, Sir, that at present the main system of acquiring land by the Government is mainly by giving notices in the Gazettes. Definitely most of our farmers and land owners are illiterates who cannot read the Gazette or read the newspapers. Another point, Sir, is that when these notices are issued out many of them do not know until the notices expire. I will give you an instance, Sir, when on the 24th of February, 1960 pieces of land in Oshogbo and Ede were compulsorily acquired by the Government; the owners of the land did not know about this acquisition until after about nine months when I personally had to take the matter up in the Ministry of Lands, and up till now, Sir, nothing has been done.

A Government Bencher: Mr Chairman, Sir, point of order. One member opposite is sleeping.

Mr Chairman: The gentleman is not sleeping. His glasses only reflected. *(Laughter.)*

Mr Layonu: Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious point to which I would like the Minister of Lands and Housing to give careful consideration. In the first place, we must know that we all gather to protect the interests of the masses who could neither read nor write and we must not try to compare the mentality of many of our farmers with ours; and another point is that it is very, very easy to say that we always give notice through the Gazette, in the papers and so on, but the point is—how are farmers or land owners going to easily understand or know when such notices are given? I am quite sure that on the part of the Members sitting on the opposite side they have cloudy thinking, with the result that when we get up to speak in the interest of people who voted them in they will not listen. How can you help the farmers when you don't listen? Your Premier and even your Ministers have appealed to us that we should always try to give you constructive criticism so that you can do useful work for people who have voted you in here. When somebody gets up, you begin to heckle. I advise you to read the Hansard of the Eastern Region which was given to you today.

In Head 731 you have £400,000 for land acquisition and £3,600 for vehicles. Now I would advise the Government that whenever Government is going to acquire any land, instead of spending so much on vehicles they should spend it more usefully in order to contact and convey the people to the area of acquisition so that people may not say that they are not aware when their land is being acquired. The Government should not only depend on the notices in the Gazette but should always try as much as possible to broadcast it on the air so that they may be able to know that pieces of land are going to be acquired.

Now, Sir, when the Minister of Lands and Housing was giving his reply about acquisition of land he said that before land is acquired chiefs and councillors would be informed and so on. But I would like him to note that it is not possible for many of the chiefs and councillors to go round and tell farmers when pieces of land are being acquired. There is always a great deal of dispute over ownership by various people.

[MR LAYONU]

The other suggestion that I would give to the Minister of Lands and Housing is that whenever the Government is acquiring a piece of land they should try to survey the land, put pillars in the four corners of the land and invite the owners of the land to differentiate their own portion of the land acquired, so that there will be no difficulty when compensation is being paid to owners. I say so because farmers always find it difficult to get their claims on land.

Another point I would like to bring out is that Government should realise that it is always very difficult for a land owner to give out his piece of land. The most serious thing is that in Western Region today, in the acquisition of land, politics is played tremendously. I give you an instance in Ede, where land owners are not at all happy, about the present situation over the acquisition of land. I would like you to pity the conditions of many land owners, in that much of their energy is wasted, their time is wasted, and the money spent in going up and down in court cases as such is also wasted.

Finally, Sir, I feel that we all assembled here to protect the interest of farmers and we should do this earnestly and carefully.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. A. Riemu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the Amendment. In doing this I would confine myself to that portion of the Ministry which deals with Trustees and Town Planning.

Those of us who are perhaps from towns know the evil effect of this Town Planning Authority under this very Ministry. We know how it works!

Everywhere in the Region this Ministry has employed diverse means to deprive land owners of their rights to their lands. In the Midwest it established two notorious bodies known as Land Trustees and Town Planning Authorities. A member of one is invariably a member of the other; that is, all Members of these bodies are hundred per cent Action Group members. This is done in order to victimise political opponents.

As trustees in Sapele they pounce on family lands which were leased out to them many years ago and get them released to the highest bidder, deliberately deviating from the rights vested in them by the instrument establishing the trust.

This Minister's office has been inundated with petitions, personal representations have been made, and here again he has been

complacent like the other Ministers over these grave issues. Now, there is no trustee in Sapele who has not erected a magnificent storey building costing not less than £4,000 by commercialising on the people's lands. As a result there are many land cases in Sapele to which the Minister is not prepared to heed.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the instrument provided for Okpe Trust Fund is never audited, and the report given to the representative committee, and, in fact, there is nothing like representative committee, and we therefore have no reason to believe that there is any money in the fund for the Okpes.

Recently these same people applied to the Minister of Lands and Housing for a wider scope of jurisdiction which has caused the institution of the Lawani Boundary Commission, and here I must warn sternly that if the Ministry is unscrupulous over the granting of this request, the Obosi-Onitsha incident is bound to repeat itself in Sapele, which will be the last straw which breaks the camel's back.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Amendment proposed.

Mr D. E. Okumagba: Mr Chairman, I have filed two notices but I ask your leave to speak generally here. In the meantime, I shall concern myself with the subject of the debate.

I know no one will quarrel with the plan of this Ministry to introduce town planning authorities all over the Region. The Western Regional Government should be praised for having the foresight and looking ahead that the villages, as they are, ought to be developed and that they should look like the present townships that we have.

Mr Layonu: Point of Order, Sir. The hon. Member on the back seat is sleeping.

Mr Chairman: If the hon. Gentleman is sleeping, that is no point of order (*Laughter*).

Mr Okumagba: I agree that one of the chief purposes of this Government for introducing these town planning authorities in the villages is to ensure that our rural areas do not put up appearances that we don't like. But if this matter is carefully considered we would realise that town planning could lead to very serious consequences in various places in the Region.

Well, there are only two ways of executing schemes of town planning authorities. The authority may decide to plan the area and leave it to the owners of the land to build

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and use the land in accordance with the plans of the authority. That system will not easily lead to trouble because the natives would realise that their land will not be transferred to anybody. The only concern of the authority is to see that all houses are built in accordance with approved plans. They will also see for themselves that the playgrounds are sited in the correct places. But where the authority decides to acquire the land compulsorily and takes over the control, there could be serious trouble in many places in the Region.

You will agree that in various parts of the Region there are cases of land disputes. A great number of cases that are in courts are land cases. Members of this honourable House would have heard of cases as such between this section and that section of people. If there is a town planning authority in an area like that and the town planning authority decides to acquire such land, complications are bound to arise. If the authority actually takes the necessary steps to acquire the land and the owners of the land realise that the control of their land is being transferred to another body, they must object.

You will find that if you take a number of these town planning authorities already approved, there are complaints from various quarters that this section is not represented and that people there are not represented in the authorities. If my land has been acquired, whatever is paid is paid to me outright and from now on I must look on the town planning authority developing the land and sub-letting it. If you are affected in such a way, you will realise that they are matters that can lead to very serious trouble.

The advice I have for this Government is this. Before any town planning authority is appointed the Government must take steps to investigate thoroughly and be sure that the people who are interested in the land are adequately represented in the authority. There are cases in many parts of the Region at the moment where there are complaints from many land-owners that they are not represented in various town planning authorities already approved by the Government of the Western Region. So, I think it is a vital point for the consideration of the Executive Council of this Region that before any town planning authority is approved Government must satisfy itself that all people who have interest in the land are all represented in the authority. (*Government Benches: No point*).

Now, another point about which I think the Government of the Western Region ought to be warned is this. Now, let it not happen that what someone cannot get through the law courts is given to him through the Executive Council. (*Interruptions.*)

I will illustrate this point very clearly to the Ministers of the Government. Take that clerk's table as a piece of land which is in dispute between villages on this side and those on the other side. Now, if in the appointment of the members of the town planning authority people on this side are represented in the authority and the villages on the other side are not represented on the authority, it is obvious that only one section will now control the use of the land. That dispute could be settled in a court of law but the action of the Executive Council cannot be questioned in any court of law. (*Interruptions.*) Let it not happen that what you cannot get from me in a court of law is handed over to you by the Executive Council. So, it is a matter for consideration by the Government of the Western Region. We agree that there is no harm in approving town planning authorities in various parts of the Region, but it is possible in our dirty politics nowadays in this country to oppress people by it. (*Several Government Benches: You do dirty politics.*)

I take another point. I have noticed that most town planning authorities embarrass land owners. In some places in the Region every available land is declared a town planning area, not for any reason, but to embarrass the owners of the land.

Now, it is necessary to plan these townships well, but you will agree with me that it will not be right for the town planning authority approved for Ibadan district to declare every available land between Oyo and Ibadan, between Ibadan and Abeokuta, and between Ibadan and Ilesha as planning areas. No Minister will quarrel if he finds a plan attached to an application by any town planning authority asking for declaration that an area be declared a town planning area; but the Minister is not in a position to know that the area is necessary to be so declared. He doesn't know that by signing the application of the town planning authority for the area he is injuring the interests of the people of the area.

I have these three points to commend to the Government. That before any town planning authority is approved for any area Government should take steps to see that all people who are supposed to have any interest in the land are represented in the

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authority. Before any area is declared a town planning area Government should satisfy itself that there is necessity to declare that area a town planning area for the time being so that farmers will not be embarrassed by declaring their farm lands town planning areas.

The third point and the most important point to me is that the Executive Council should refrain from handing over any land to any group of villagers in a particular area through town planning authorities instead of allowing the people to settle their matters in a court of law.

Mr Chairman, I support the Amendment.

Mr O. Olaitan: Mr Chairman, I will be very brief in support of this Amendment. I like to make a particular reference to Ilesha. Well, it is difficult for the Minister sitting in Ibadan to make a policy for all areas. The policy might be very genuine but most of the policies of the Ministers of this Region are carried out in bad form in the divisions.

In Ilesha, when a town planning authority was established, everyone felt very happy that it was established, but what we have seen in Ilesha is that the Chairman of the town planning authority, who is the Owa, is trying to use the town planning authority as a political instrument. In Ilesha, for example, last year, there was an occasion when a woman who got a plan for a house and paid five guineas for that building was, a few months after she had completed the building, because that woman is an NCNC member, asked to demolish her house. I know the Premier of the Region will not like the idea; a woman of about seventy years building a house and you asking her to demolish it. (*Government Benches: comply with the regulations.*) But that woman paid five guineas for the land and it is the duty of the..... (*Interruptions from Government Benches*).

I don't like to pick quarrels or come here to accuse Ministers unjustly. I told the Minister about this and he said he would look into it. (*Government Benches: Then why bring it here?*) I shall appeal to the Minister to take appropriate action to see that the good policy he has is not spoilt by some people who, for their personal gains in the area, like to use it as an instrument of politics.

About the question of land acquisition, everybody feels happy that the Western Government wants to develop this Region to a certain extent, and I am not the type of person who will not see good where good actually lies, but I would like to point out to

the Minister of Lands and Housing that where land is acquired, there is adequate payment of compensation, and I would like the Minister to take appropriate steps to see that when farmers are deprived of their land, especially with cocoa, effective means should be taken to see that they are paid compensation as early as possible so that they may buy land elsewhere or spend the money for other purposes.

With these few remarks, I support the Amendment.

Mr F. Ebubedike: Mr Chairman, in supporting this Amendment I have to say that in my place.....(*Several hon. Members: Where is your place?*) Ajeromi in Colony Province. (*Some Opposition Members: why did you tell them?*) The place was earmarked as industrial area. In 1959 the former Premier said at Badagry that Ajeromi should be made a greater Lagos, though the greater Lagos that Ajeromi was made was only a sign board with inscription "Western Nigeria".

I have to point out to the Minister of Lands that the Town Planning Authority is trying to deprive many local councils of their source of revenue of Building Plans. Many local councils have been approving Building Plans and made it their source of revenue but with the introduction of the Town Planning Authority they are deprived of this source of revenue. (*Government Benches: Mention them.*) Ikeja, Mushin, Agege. The Town Planning Authority in the Colony Province is depriving poor architects of their means of livelihood by the production of the plans by the Town Planning Authority itself. They prepare the plans and sell it to the public instead of allowing the architects to make their living by their profession.

Another thing is that where they say that they are acquiring land they fail to mark out these areas so that those who want to get lands in that area will know. But when some people have acquired the land and built their houses, the Town Planning Authority will go there and demolish the houses.

The Town Planning Authority is supposed to be helping owners of the land. In many places the Town Planning Authority approve three to four single plots at the same time. The protection they are supposed to give to the owners of the land is not forthcoming. I feel that the Minister of Lands and Housing should take note of this and rectify the mistake.

With these, Mr Chairman, I support the Amendment.

The Minister of Lands and Housing (Chief J. O. Adigun): Mr Chairman, as hon. Members of the Opposition are somewhat friendly to my Ministry I don't intend therefore to worry them too because those of them who have spoken have brought forward suggestions. I notice that some of these suggestions are what are really being carried out in the Ministry already. But I must say that I am grateful to them for making the suggestions.

Some of them have made some remarks which call for comments from me. My Friend from Ede-Ejigbo criticised the system of land acquisition. He said that we normally don't give sufficient notice or publicity of acquisition of land. I remember I raised this point when another Head of the Estimates was being debated. I explained to him what processes Government usually undergoes in acquiring land. I told him then that apart from Gazette Notices Government always gives the widest publicity for such acquisition. We arrange posters in the area of acquisition and we also make announcements in the papers and over the air. In addition to that, we send Land Officers round to keep the land owners informed that the areas are to be acquired and I think that the publicity which we are giving at present will be sufficient because if we are not careful we only encourage people who have no genuine claims to put up counterfeit claims and they will confuse the issue. I am sure that so far Government has not had any difficulty and if a specific case is brought to my notice, of land acquired without the owners of the land knowing of this acquisition, certainly I will be prepared to look into such a case.

Hon. Layonu, who has described himself as the custodian of wisdom, made efforts to bring forward some pieces of advice. He said that the money to be used in buying vehicles should be used in making propaganda where land is to be acquired. I have explained that efforts are being made to make people know that their lands are being acquired, so that his suggestions along this line are most uncalled for.

He also suggested that the area should be surveyed. I must say that that is what Government is doing. Before we give notice of acquisition, we must survey the area and get the pillars round the areas to be acquired. It is with the pillar numbers that notices of acquisition are published. What my hon.

Friend has suggested is what Government is doing.

It is being suggested that we should sympathise with the land owners. Government has the greatest sympathy for land owners, but when it comes to giving priority, certainly individual interests will have to give way to public interests, and that is what is happening in this Region. But Government has made it a policy that economic crops on such lands are paid for and, excepting there is dispute, as soon as we know the owners of the economic crops, Government always make it a point to pay compensation.

My Friend from Urhobo Rural I, Mr Riemu, spoke about Sapele Town Planning Authority and the setting up of Communal Trustees. He suggested that these trustees are acquiring private lands and the purpose of this acquisition is to victimise their political opponents. I like to assure him that it is not the intention of the Town Planning Authority to victimise political opponents at all. As a matter of fact, in these Town Planning Authorities we have a number of representatives of commercial interests and some important businessmen who have no interest in the land and these people by no means can be described as members of a political party. Invariably, some of them are Europeans and independent persons who make sure that the area is well planned. There is no intention of victimising their political opponents. He mentioned that the committees are set up to advise communal land trustees. That is true. Invariably members of this committee are not appointed because of their political affiliation; they are appointed by the local people in their areas. It does not matter whether they are NCNC, Action Group or any other political party (*Mr Riemu: I was nominated but I was rejected, my seat is still vacant there*).

My Friend mentioned the possibility of a riot. I want to assure him that Government is not scared at all. In fact the hon. Member has given us notice of a riot. If there is a riot Government will take effective measures to see that the riot is brought under control.

On petitions. Yes, there are petitions due to disputes between conflicting claimants. There are a number of areas where on a piece of land we have about three to four claimants. It is not our duty to decide who is the right owner. It is the duty of the court to decide that. Most of these petitions in my office are thrown into the waste-paper basket because they are not fit to come to me at all.

He has mentioned the Lawani Commission. That Commission was not set up to decide

the owners of land. It was set up to decide the area of jurisdiction of the expansion of Sapele Urban District Council. (*Interruptions.*)

It is the duty of a checker to check the figures. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr Chairman: I only want to hear the Minister of Lands and Housing.

Chief Adigun: My Friend, the hon. Member for Warri East, mentioned complications where a piece of land which has been under dispute is acquired by the Town Planning Authority. Invariably Town Planning Authorities do not acquire land on their own. It is Government who acquires the land and hands over the land to Planning Authorities. What the Government does is, if there is an area of land to be acquired, notices are given and if there are claimants each claimant is considered on his own merits. If there are conflicting claims the cases are referred to the court. I do not know which particular land my Friend is referring to. He also mentioned a group of people who were not able to get a piece of land and who went through Executive Council. Unless a particular case is brought to my notice no action can be taken. He said that Town Planning Authorities usually declare any area Crown Land. Now, Sir, it is within the competence of a Town Planning Authority to develop an area which it likes to develop. It may be six miles outside the township; it may be the whole Council area. If they want to exercise their right I do not think there is anything we can do.

My Friend from Ilesha Central mentioned that the Ministry has a very good policy but that the local people used to misinterpret Government's intentions. (*Interruptions.*) He cited the case of a woman who paid certain fees for the approval of her plan and who had completed the building before she was asked to pull down the building. I have checked up this allegation because he mentioned it to me sometime ago. He also mentioned that it was discovered that the plan was approved. The plan approved was that the foundation should be 1½ feet deep. In actual fact the woman made a foundation of 1 foot; in addition the woman built more than was approved for her. Six rooms were approved for her but she put up more than six rooms and that contravened the town planning regulations too, and that was why the building was pulled down. I do not think the Town Planning Authority has gone beyond its powers, but if the

woman thinks that injustice has been done, I think the remedy is in the courts. He also mentioned alleged delays in the paying of compensation, whereas Government cannot do anything until the rightful owners are decided by a court of law. I held a meeting with the representatives of different councils within the area of the Ikeja Town Planning Authority at which this point was raised and, right now, we are considering what steps to take so that we will be in full co-operation with the councils in the different areas. I assured the representatives of the different councils that necessary adjustments would be made so that part of the rights may be passed on to the councils. It may be that the plan will have to go through the council to the Planning Authority and from the Town Planning Authority to the owners of the building, in which case the council will be in a position to charge something for the service rendered.

One member also mentioned that the Authorities sell plans and thereby deprive architects of their means of livelihood. Well, I do not think members of the public who want to put up buildings are forced to buy plans from the Town Planning Authority. They have a right to go to the architect, if they so desire, and if they want to get standard building plans from the Authorities I do not think anybody can prevent them from doing so. It is not true that the Authorities are depriving architects of their livelihood.

Well, Mr Chairman, that is all about the points mentioned. I would like to add, for the information of Members, that at present we have twenty Town Planning Authorities in the Region and, right now, more applications are coming in for the establishment of more Authorities. Those we have at present are at Ikeja, Sapele, Warri, Ibadan, Ijebu-Ode, Abeokuta, Shagamu, Ikenne/Ilishan, Ife, Ilesha, Epe, Efon-Alaye, Akure, Ondo, Ijero, Okemesi, Ajowa and Ikerre. These Authorities have been given financial assistance to enable them establish properly and to train staff. In the present Five-Year Development Plan, the sum of £200,000 has been reserved for grants to the different Authorities and the sum of £2,000,000 has been set aside as loans to these Authorities. The following Authorities have got approved Planning Schemes: Ikeja Planning Authority has the Shomolu and Ilupeju scheme, the Warri Planning Authority has the Igboju Scheme, the Ikorodu Scheme has one and Ikenne/Ilishan has one. Abeokuta has one and Sapele has its own. Of the five

[CHIEF ADIGUN]

Schemes, two are in the Midwest and these two are functioning very well. (*Government Benches: When is Benin going to apply?*) Mr Chairman, Sir, I have only mentioned these to let Members know that these Planning Authorities are very popular in the Region. Where we have established them we discover that they are rendering very useful service to the Community. As more funds are available we hope to encourage other areas to establish such Authorities.

Amendment negatived.

Question that the sum of £314,890 for Head 335—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 £419,570 for Head 731—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment that a new sub-head 6 entitled "Aerial Photography for Town Mapping" be inserted with a provision of £50,000, thus increasing that provision to £469,570.

The Federal Government, Sir, invited a group of Technicians to the country to help them carry out a certain aerial survey in parts of Nigeria, and the Regional Government felt that since it would be more expensive to bring these people here on their own for the purpose of carrying out aerial photographs of certain parts of the Region for the purpose of development, we might as well seize the opportunity of making use of these experts whilst they are here. That is why we are making this amendment.

Chief Adigun: I beg to second.

Amendment agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £469,570 for Head 731—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Mr Chairman: This appears to be another convenient time for a short break.

Sitting suspended at 2.25 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 2.55 a.m.

HEAD 336.—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Question proposed, that the sum of £14,220 for Head 336—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr P. V. Okwesa: Mr Chairman, Sir, I move that a sum of £5 be deducted from Head 336. I am suggesting this reduction Sir, because of dissatisfaction in this Ministry of Labour. In the first place, this horrible monster of discrimination rears its head in this Ministry. I have noticed to my dissatisfaction and to the dissatisfaction of workers from the Midwest that a great deal of discrimination is pursued by the heads of departments in this Region. We have very clever.....(*Interruptions*). Listen.....(*If you talk sense*). I am talking sense. I find that as a matter of fact we have people from the Midwest who are very clever and hard working, but most of them are not allowed to be on top. Almost invariably we find that people from Yoruba West are placed above the Midwesterners. We have complained. This state of affairs is very bad. We think that there is a point for reorganisation.

Again the Minister of Labour is to give us reasons why there is mass retrenchment going on in the Ministry of Works and Transport. I do know that the funds of the Western Region Government are rapidly being liquidated, and that may be the reason for mass retrenchment. I do not doubt it from what I have observed. But what has happened to the vote made for this Ministry during the last financial year?

Mr Chairman, Sir, the pace of Nigerianisation is slow. (*Where? where?*). In the Army.

Government Benches: Army is a Federal matter.

Mr Chairman: Army is a Federal subject. (*Government Benches: Shame, shame; he was asleep!*) (*Laughter.*)

Mr Okwesa: You can persuade the Federal Government to speed up Nigerianisation of the Army. (*"You better sit down"*)

Mr Chairman: I am going to overrule on that point. Army and the Air Force are not subjects under this Head. It should be raised in the Federal Parliament, not here.

Mr Okwesa: I just appealed to this Government to urge the Federal Government. After all, we are one Nigeria. What affects the Regional Governments also affects the Federal Government. If you persuade them they will listen to you. (*Sit down, sit down*).

Again, Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to ask the Minister of Labour how much he has done in the way of improving or trying to improve the conditions of service of our people in Fernando Po. (*Government Benches: Ah, ah, ah!*)

Mr Chairman: Our people mean the people of Western Region, not Fernando Po.

Mr Okwesa: I am directing this to the Minister of Labour. Does he take any interest in the labour matters of the people? Mr Chairman, I move that the sum of £5 be deducted from this Head.

Mr S. A. Layonu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support the Amendment. In doing so, Sir, I want to.....(*Interruptions*).

Mr Chairman: You should also listen to a lone voice in the wilderness. (*Laughter*.)

Mr Layonu: The Ministry is redundant, very inefficient, and it is a sorry place for the expeditions of school leavers. I wonder on what ladder the Minister of Labour is putting school leavers. 91,000 school leavers with different qualifications are without employment at present and the Ministry of Labour is not having any plan of how this problem of unemployment should be solved. This is an important matter for this Ministry so that our children or school leavers should not become drawers of water and hewers of wood.

Having gone through the Estimates, I notice there is no provision for Labour Officer. When there is no Labour Officer how would you care for the well-being of school leavers, and how can they get employment when there is no Labour Officer? I notice that many people in this Region are jobless.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Amendment proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I only want to deal with that aspect of the remarks made by the hon. Member for Aboh. The hon. Minister of Labour will deal with other aspects which pertain to his Ministry. It has been suggested, Sir, by the hon. Member that Midwesterners are being discriminated against on the question of appointments and promotions. I think, Sir, that it is a pity that the hon. Member has brought this question up. Every one knows that the question of appointment and promotion is determined wholly and solely by the Public Service Commission and what the Government of the day does is to lay down definite policy, and both Opposition and Government are agreed on the policy of Nigerianisation; and if there is any Government in the Federation which has carried out this policy up to the letter, it is the Government of Western Nigeria. It is only in this Region that all Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Divisions are Nigerians. (*Hear, hear.*) It is not so in the

North, it is not so in the East, and it is not so in the Federation.

Mr Chairman, Sir, an hon. Member also alleged that Midwesterners were being discriminated against. One of the most able men we have got in the Treasury is a Midwesterner and he is in the person of Mr Ejueyitchie and he holds Permanent Secretary status; and, secondly, is Mr A. I. Wilson, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development; he is also a Midwesterner. Another able administrator is Mr J. E. Imoukhuede, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education. The Chief Information Officer is Mr A. Y. Eke; he is also from the Midwest; and here, in the Official Box, is Mr A. D. Obiogun, an Acting Administrative Officer, Class II.

Mr Chairman, Sir, also in the Legal Department we have Mr Omo-Eboh. Another man is Mr Amadi Emina, formerly Government Statistician, and now Senior Assistant Secretary. The Divisional Head in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Chief Conservator of Forests, is a Midwesterner. I think I must say, Sir, that by virtue of the fact that Benin is noted for its huge forests, it is not by accident that Mr Olu Akpata, a Midwesterner, is the Chief Conservator of Forests. Also, in the Ministry of Education we have Mr Enobakhare and Mr Ekperigin; they are also Midwesterners. I see no reason, Sir, why people and hon. Members from the Midwest should criticise this Government of discriminating against Midwesterners.

Mr Chairman, Sir, in the Cabinet of this Region, we have seven Ministers from the Midwest; in the Federal Government, where the NCNC is in coalition and in large number, there are only one and a half Ministers, I repeat, only one and a half Ministers. (*Shame, shame.*) Mr Chairman, Sir, they are the Federal Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, and Chief H. Omo Osagie, who is a Minister without Cabinet Rank. And this, Mr Chairman, Sir, is by the definition of the Members of the Opposition on the question of the Midwest, which according to them include Akoko/Oke and Warri Division.

Mr Chairman, Sir, they have even some people in the Corporations; an energetic and able Chairman of the Western Nigeria Development Corporation is Mr Rewane; you have also got somebody at the Local Government Service Board in the person of Mr Ekerife and, until recently, in the W.N.T.V. we have Mr Akpofure.

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In regard to appointments and promotions, it should be said that all promotions and appointments are based on the principles laid down in the Region. One of the reasons why today in the Western Region we have more Yorubas in the Public Service is the fact that for many years the Yorubas, some businessmen and organisations, sent their own children to the United Kingdom for further training, and as a result we have got a large number of them in the Civil Service as against that of any other tribe; even though such a situation might have arisen in the Midwest, it was not until this Government introduced its Scholarships Policy that a large number of people in the Midwest had the opportunity of University education. A large number of scholarships go to Asaba and Benin Divisions.

I think that it is a pity, Sir, that the hon. Member from the Midwest area should have raised this question. Until the Midwest State is created, Western Nigeria is one and indivisible, and to say that we are discriminating against Midwesterners is totally untrue. You are provided with modern amenities in the Midwest. I can assure them that, as far as we are concerned on this side of the House, no Member of this House ever interfered with appointments and promotions in the Civil Service, as this is a matter within the competence of the Public Service Commission, and there are regulations which govern all these appointments.

I think, Sir, that the hon. Member is already satisfied with the points I have made.

Mr Chairman: Perhaps the hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the House would like to have a say before the Minister of Labour winds up.

The Minister of Labour (Mr K. S. Y. Momoh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I can't say how grateful I am about the able speech made by the Minister of Finance about appointments and promotions in the Civil Service as it affects the Midwesterners, in reply to an accusation levelled by the Member for Aboh. Therefore, I would only deal with the other points raised by Members as well as the other hon. Gentleman from Ede/Ejigbo.

Mr Chairman, a Member accused this Government of mass retrenchment; may I say or ask what type of retrenchment was carried out? In what type of employment and in what institutions does this mass retrenchment abound? I don't know, Sir, if the hon. Gentleman is referring to some workers who have been laid off in the Ministry

of Works and Transport, and if so, Sir, is that a strange thing? If people are employed on temporary appointments, and the work for which they are employed is done and there is no more work for them at the present time, no one can blame the employer for terminating the appointments of such people or to lay them off as the hon. Gentleman has said. If such people were kept, that would be doing injustice to the people of this Region and that should be regarded as squandermania. Therefore, as an ordinary businessman would do, the Government retrenches people when the job for which they are employed is done, and I think, Sir, that that only happens in the Ministry of Works and Transport.

He also referred, Sir, to the welfare of workers in Fernando Po. Having listened, Sir, to this Gentleman for some time in this honourable House I was of the opinion that he was conversant with the Constitution of this country. For a man, an honourable man, to get up on the floor of this House and charge the Government for failing to care for workers in Fernando Po is just as ignorant and irresponsible and even ignorance of the Constitution under which we assemble in this honourable House. I think everybody knows that workers are recruited to Fernando Po from the Eastern Region and, in any case, it is not even done by the Eastern Region Government: it is the responsibility of the Federal Government; it is for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I cannot therefore be competent to answer any charges for which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be responsible. Therefore the only advice I will give to my hon. Friend is to get his counterparts in Lagos and ask them to find out what is happening in Fernando Po.

The hon. Member for Ede/Ejigbo suggests that there are 19,000 school leavers who are unemployed. How he gets about the figure I don't know. I know for certain that even the Federal Ministry of Labour is having the services of I.L.O. to survey the number of employed people in this country, and no one can say at present how many people are employed or unemployed in any Region. Even, Sir, the Government has Industrial Promotions Commission which explores all possible avenues of finding industries to establish in this Region and thereby finding the means of employment for our people. Not only that; we have the Farm Institutes and Farm Settlements, and the whole idea is to enable our young school leavers who are unable to do anything to find employment therein.

[MR MOMOH]

And with all these, somebody suggests that the Government has no effective policy. Looking at the Estimates it would not appear that the Government is not in a position to cater for the welfare of the workers. Again, I sympathise with the hon. Gentleman because he surely does not know that labour is a concurrent subject and that the staff is provided by the Federal Government, and until the Federal Government is not prepared or we are not satisfied with the service given by the Federal Government, we will continue to use their staff.

All the Labour Officers in the Western Region are at our disposal and it is not necessary for us to make further provision in the Estimates for duplication. If the hon. Member on the other side had said, Sir..... (Interruptions). I am afraid that nothing has been said that would make us desist from the policy.

Amendment negatived.

Question that the sum of £14,220 for Head 336—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 338.—MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS

Question proposed, that the sum of £10,590 for Head 338—Ministry of Chieftaincy Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an Amendment that a new item for a post of one Chairman of the Council of Obas and Chiefs be inserted under sub-head 1 with a provision of £2,410. The need for creating this post is that Government does not necessarily guide the meeting of the Council of Obas.

Dr J. O. Omitowoju: I beg to second. *Amendment proposed.*

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode: Mr Chairman, the hon. the Premier is not satisfied with how many Ministers there are in the Ministries. We have Parliamentary Secretaries, Assistant Parliamentary Secretaries, Deputy Premiers and all others. In the House of Chiefs we have the President, Deputy President and all kinds of Ministers. Not satisfied with that he is now asking Parliament to approve a sum of £2,410 for the creation of a new post. I think that if the hon. the Minister of Finance is not sorry for the country, he should at least be sorry for himself. He found very great difficulty in balancing his Budget. The same man, Mr Chairman, who tells us the story of woe comes now to want more money to be thrown away for the creation of another

Organising Secretary for the Action Group. I am saying, Sir, that if they are going to treat our rulers in this respect, they can enhance their salaries in their respective offices.

I must say, Sir, Mr Chairman, that it is quite possible for this Government to make Obas independent of Government without having to throw to them bits and pieces of food from their own table as offered.

The Government should realise that a panel of Chiefs should be appointed to whom the Obas should be responsible entirely. (Interruptions from Government Benches.) I am satisfied there are some people here who never smelt the school room. Surely there is a difference. And one which is executive in nature. It does not require much schooling to know the difference. And I am saying that one should be created to whom the Obas would be responsible, so that the hon. the Premier cannot one day look round and say this Oba is very good and make him so. They will be vying to fill these places. When they are given about £20 allowance, who won't aspire to get to £2,000 a year. And then, indirectly, you will be bringing economic pressure to bear on the Government.

I am saying, Sir, that under this Head the Minister is not justified in asking us for a penny. I think, Sir, that the hon. the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs' salary should have been the first to be reduced.....(Interruptions).

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): I would have thought that a provision like this would receive unanimous support of the Members of the Opposition and, in particular, the Leader of the Opposition himself. I remember that when it was said, that the affairs of the Chiefs should be left in the hands of a panel of persons elected by them and also to be responsible for discipline or for questions relating to the welfare of the Obas generally, they supported the idea.

But what has been done here is to set up the Council of Obas which will be independent as the hon. Leader of the Opposition has mentioned.

The function of disciplining their members and of considering any issue or allegations against any Oba should be reported to them. There are matters that they are dealing with at the moment. And apart from that, they represent the tradition of Western Nigeria and the custom of this Region. I think this provision deserves every respect for the welfare of the destiny of the people. The hon. the Leader of Opposition knows. He

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himself has been instrumental, either in trying to settle some of these troubles or in trying to forment them, or in trying to reconcile them.

One of the leading Obas who is held in high esteem by every Yoruba man is Oba Ladigbolu, the Alafin of Oyo, who has been appointed to be Chairman of the Council of Obas. The position of the Alafin is such, and I am sure the Leader of the Opposition would agree with me, that the Alafin is one of the leading Obas in the whole of Western Nigeria. If you consider that £2,000 odd would be too big for the Alafin of Oyo, I don't think, Sir, the Chairman of the Council of Obas.....(*Interruptions from the Opposition Bench*).

The hon. Member has made much of his characteristic inaccuracies... He said that there are so many projects not completed, without naming them. Where are those projects not completed? Where are they? Again he said that the Budget cannot balance. There are many of us like himself who might never have been to school. Perhaps I have never been to school myself, but I know that when your expenditure is not as high as your revenue, nobody can accuse you of unbalanced Budget. These days, the revenue expected is in excess of the expenditure proposed. If that is not a balanced Budget I do not know what is a balanced Budget! It may be that when my learned Friend goes back to school he may take me along. But arithmetically I think this is a balanced Budget.....

Mr Fani-Kayode: I shall do so with pleasure.

Chief Akintola: Thank you. If we happen to meet His Highness the Alafin of Oyo on the road, you doff your hat and bow low.....

Mr Fani-Kayode; And prostrate.

Chief Akintola: Certainly! That is what our fathers used to do. You ought to do so.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Yes.

Chief Akintola: Why not do so? Your father did it.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Yours and mine did it.

Chief Akintola: And that is why we make this provision for the Alafin of Oyo.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Not for the Alafin, but for the Chairman.

Chief Akintola: In this particular case, this is for the Alafin.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Provision for his salary.

Chief Akintola: This has nothing to do with salary; it is provision made for custodians of the traditions of Chiefs and Obas of the Western Region. We on this side of the House believe in tradition and we believe in the invincibility of that tradition. And why do you cry when £2,000 is to be spent to preserve that tradition? After all, this tradition is as valuable as most of the traditions of others on which millions of pounds are being spent every year. If you want to preserve this tradition, don't grudge anything.

The hon. Member refers to a type of Chieftaincy Committee, a panel independent of Government. Have you ever heard of such a thing? Do you propose to have two Governments in the same country, having two Governments in the same Region? And from where are they going to derive their authority? From what Constitution? You want to set up a Chieftaincy Committee which will not be responsible in one way or the other to the Government, which will not even be an advisory body to the Government of the day. If that were so, why didn't the NCNC start the experiment with the Obas and Chiefs in the Eastern Region?

Mr Fani-Kayode: What of the Judicial Service Commission? "First in Africa". Let us start it here.

Chief Akintola: Not "First in Africa" but "First in Casablanca".....(*Laughter from both sides of the House*). We always start what is good here. What is remunerating, what enhances prestige, and what preserves tradition. We are not starting anything that will destroy our tradition here. How does the NCNC treat Oba Adele of Lagos? By paying him, or by giving him power, does he too become a glorified secretary of the NCNC? Or if you pay the Obi of Onitsha, does he too become a glorified secretary of the NCNC? Or if the Emir of Kano is being paid, does it make him a secretary of the NPC? Why is it that what you condone and praise in other places cannot win your respect? What sin have we committed by making life more attractive for some of the rulers of this Region? My hon. Leader of the Opposition would have to be consistent with himself.

For goodness sake, changing sides does not mean changing your inner identity. Do not let both go together. It is the same Kayode we have always known, and in matters

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like this.....(The Premier pauses)..... you had better be careful. I know more, but I won't say it now.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Say it now. (Cheers and applause from both sides of the House.)

Dr Omitowoju: I beg to oppose the Amendment by the Opposition. When a man in his position referred to the Chairman of the Council of Obas and Chiefs..... (Interruptions).

Mr Chairman: I am afraid, there has been no Amendment by the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition has just made some statement or remarks. It is the Minister of Finance that has moved an Amendment.

Chief Odebiyi: May I add, Mr Chairman, Sir, that even though the provision stands at £2,410 in the Estimates, the salary proposed for the holder of the post is £1,800 and £610 in respect of arrears which he ought to have got since he was appointed. That is what makes it a total of £2,410.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Will the hon. Minister of Finance make that £2,410, the salary of the Alafin of Oyo, as fixed salary for him as Chairman.

Chief Osuntokun: It is the Local Government Council which fixes salaries.
Amendment agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £13,000 for Head 338—Ministry of Chieftaincy Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 339.—MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Question proposed; that the sum of £451,470 for Head 339—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Chairman, I just like to make a very brief statement on the Ministry of Trade and Industry in moving the Amendment that this item be reduced by £5.

First and foremost, the Minister gave no assurance and the Government gave none that an investigation will be made before further funds are re-invested by the agencies of Government in the National Bank as demanded by the Opposition.

Secondly, Sir, no answer was given by the Minister to the question of the investigation of the statement of viability made by the Director of the National Bank at the time of nationalisation.

Thirdly, no answer was given by the Minister to the request of the Opposition for a report dealing with the financial position of the Marketing Board since 1954.

Fourthly, the mere fact that some licensed buying agents have been sending reports which have been suspected, requires investigation for attempted fraud, and the Minister has given no answer to the allegation.

The Minister spoke of Opposition seeking information from Government. This may be right, Mr Chairman, under normal circumstances, but where a Government Office agency is charged with maladministration of public funds, it is puerile and absurd for Government to withhold facts.

The suggestion of Opposition learning of the proposed inquiry by Government other than the one contained in the Opposition statement on the misappropriation of £97,000 is completely untrue. Let the Government leave the civil servants out of its trouble. If the Government desires to find the source of leakage, let it search among its own rank and file.

Mr Chairman, I am not very interested in the volume of vituperations and insults and personal attacks levied by the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry. But, Sir, I will not allow these matters to becloud the issue. It is no use saying that certain statements are irresponsible or that they are made without good sense. All these should be brushed aside, and let us look into the facts.

On the first issue, Sir, I say that when the hon. Premier made the statement from the House, which I accepted, that he was not informed that the National Bank was not viable at the time of the investment which resulted in nationalisation, the statement from the Premier of the Region was accepted. And if that is the case, Sir, it meant that the persons who made the declaration to him of the viability to the bank at that particular moment must have given an untrue statement, because at the time of the investment a report existed to the knowledge of these Directors that the bank was not viable. The report existing at the time was made, and if that is so, it is a case where Government must make an inquiry.

Secondly, Sir, the Government has always said I think the Minister of Finance loves it very much "the Premier has always stretched out his hand of fellowship to the Opposition and will always afford the Opposition an opportunity of learning the facts. If the Leader of the Opposition just walks up to the Premier, he will get all the facts". Mr Chairman, if you are going to

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charge anybody who has stolen anything, for example, charge him for stealing this red flask,.....Let us say the Chief Whip has pinched it. The best thing I should do, Sir, is to walk up to the Chief Whip and say "Now, Chief Whip, could you kindly give me the facts to convict you of stealing this red flask? This is impossible. Nobody with his right senses will give facts that will lead to his own condemnation and surely, Sir, I don't think the Government will ask anybody to rely very seriously to any extent on this right hand of fellowship to give out facts. I know no Government will give it out, and I won't blame them if they refuse to give it out, and I don't even expect to get such facts from them.

I hope, Sir, that there should be no difficulty at all in the demand of the Opposition for a White Paper on the financial activities of the Cocoa Marketing Board since 1954. On this point, Sir, I don't like to reiterate the short points I have made, but I would like to conclude on the issue of the defence raised by the Minister of Trade and Industry on this inquiry proposed by Government.

The Minister said that it has been detected that a few licensed buying agents sent in returns showing that they had more cocoa in stock at the time of cut in cocoa price much more than they normally had. If I am not right, Sir, I stand corrected he said there were some licensed buying agents who normally had ten tons and at the particular time sent in returns showing twenty tons. This brought out suspicions on the part of Government, and Government proposed to make investigations about it. That is fair enough, but that does not preclude the mere fact that certain people are about to defraud, and if they have not in fact defrauded, might have defrauded. Why are you asking a judge to look into one aspect of the inquiry? It is the people you suspect of sending in false returns. I am not interested in the people you suspect; we are interested in the people we suspect, and that is the Board itself. (*The Premier: You suspect the Board?*) He knows what I mean. (*The Premier: You say you suspect members of the Board?*) The members of the Board. The allegation we made before was that few members of the Cocoa Marketing Board must have been involved. There is no use telling us from the floor of this House that they are going to investigate the acceptability of the returns brought in by certain licensed agents. Which means that that is not

the line of investigation that we are asking for from Government.

That is all I am going to say, Mr Chairman, on this Head.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): After the statement that I propose to make in reply to the last speaker, it is my intention to regard this matter, from my own point of view, as closed and that whatever is left of it should be left completely to the Commission of Inquiry to be appointed. May I appeal to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that if he suspects anybody and he has got grounds to suspect anybody, we have nothing to hide. A Commission of Inquiry has been appointed, and let him lay all the facts before that inquiry (*Hear, hear*). My only interest in this administration is that it should not only be clean but that it should appear to be clean. Anyone who honestly believes that anybody is corrupt, or anybody is defrauded, in connection with the Cocoa Marketing Board, let him make his case before the appropriate authority.

May I assure that we are, by the Grace of God and the will of the people, the Government of this Region, and we will run the Region according to dictates of our conscience, not according to yours.

The type of Commission we are going to establish we have already announced, and the Commission that will look into it. If you are not satisfied with what the Commission says, or you want to have an alternative, you still have other alternatives apart from the Commission. If you suspect anybody that stole any public money you can go to the Police. We are not going to stand for any member of the Marketing Board if it is true that anybody has stolen public money (*Hear, hear*). We have nothing to hide. But it is a matter which is so important because the good name of the whole Western Region is involved and the good name of the whole Federation of Nigeria is involved. If a man is fraudulent and if you have good reasons to suspect fraud, by all means, say it. But if you continue to bark this question of corruption, of fraud, of stealing, of conversion, against public men, and you are doing that unjustly, it will be a betrayal of the whole of Nigeria. For by so doing you will be giving Nigeria a bad name abroad, and I do think that is unbecoming of a true nationalist. Whatever further insinuations you have to level, kindly reserve your comments until the actual fight starts. I challenge you to go before that Board, to go before the Commission of Inquiry.

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If something is stolen, if somebody is defrauded, and in spite of all we heard here, no one has been courageous enough to go to the Police Station to report.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition spoke about getting information from some people and asked why he should come to me, to meet the person to be accused, to say "bring the facts, you are going to be accused, and I am going to convict you". I have never personally regarded the relationship between Opposition and the Government as one between prosecutor and accused. I have never regarded the relationship as such. I have regarded our relationship as one of partnership in which both of us are interested in the good government of this Region and that if you come to us to seek information you are not necessarily bound to accept whatever facts are given to you.

Now, about the National Bank, we are in consultation with the Central Bank in Lagos and we have reached some measure of agreement whereby they will give us an expert who will assist in the organisation of the Bank and further steps that will be taken will depend on whatever line that organisation takes. I have already given him that assurance. Just like the the Opposition, because the Bank is indigenous, there must be nothing good in it; we must crucify everybody in it and never allow them to rise even on the resurrection day. Anything we do, because it is an indigenous institution there is nothing good in it. Every assistance given to any indigenous institution is distorted by the Opposition. Are we to fold up and is there no more freedom for the black man? It is because the people trust us that we are here for they know we are more dependable than you are. (*Cheers.*) All these stories are not new; all these stories of oppression, persecution. In spite of all that, people of this Region continue to repose confidence in us. We do not believe in destroying the reputation of other people. We believe in honesty as a good policy. If you continue with this type of story you are doing damage to your own reputation and the name of Nigeria. I am appealing to you for a change of heart. As far as the National Bank is concerned, we have taken our decision. The bank has been nationalised. It has become your own bank. If you put reasonable suggestions to the Government they will be acted upon. Opposing it vigorously and thinking that you are going to embarrass these people will serve no useful purpose. I am sure the hon. Leader of Opposition knows the stuff of the people on this side of the House. You always fail to see the good

side of your opponents. You think that everything we do in this Region is bad, in spite of all that you partake in the good things resulting in the efforts of this Government. In this Region your children go to free primary schools established not by paragons of perfection. Your children do not go to any other school. Everything is poor, everything is black merely because it is done by the Action Group, and none of you have the courage to remove your children to the Eastern Region. They are not deceiving anybody; they are only deceiving themselves.

Some of them enjoy the best fruits of the labours of the Government of this Region and you have some of them in this House who are not even known in their homes. Some are known on the eve of elections. Electoral citizens! Citizens on election day! One man said he came from Oshun. I know every nook and corner of Oshun but I never knew him there. He says that there is no development in Oshun. Ten years ago there was no electricity in Ede; eight years ago there was no tarred road leading to Ede; seven years ago no water supply in Ede; you have all these things today; you have secondary schools, teacher training colleges; and all by the good efforts of this Government. They follow the example of their leaders to thwart our efforts. That can never attain success because the people of this Region know much better.

As far as we are concerned, anybody who is not satisfied with what we are doing either about the Marketing Board or about the National Bank, may I say I am very sorry for such a man because what we do is the will of the people of this Region. The Leader of the Opposition asked about a White Paper on the Marketing Board. I am sure if he meets the Minister of Trade and Industry he will be prepared to help him. (*Cheers.*) He was so busy that he had no time to visit his home town until about the age of thirty-five. He knew his home town on the eve of the election and I won't blame him if he has no time to read the Annual Reports on the Marketing Board. The Leader of the Opposition said that the Cocoa Marketing Board stocked a quantity of cocoa on the day the price of cocoa was reduced. The Board stocked the quantity to benefit whom? If there is any stealing, I am yet to know that a man can steal his own property. If you keep £4 in your safe, the £4 will not multiply by 4; what you will still have is £4. No member of the Board is entitled to draw allowances from the reserve of the Board. Members of the Board themselves

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

have practically nothing to do with the administrative side of the Board's activities. They don't take part at all in the administration, and it is unfair to accuse and insinuate against members of the Board who cannot defend themselves here. I want you to watch the Leader of the Opposition since he started his attack; he has been missing his points all the time. He started a different thing some time ago and now he is starting what he has never started and by tomorrow the next stage will be the pages of the *Pilot* and by the grace of the editor he will meet me there.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Chief A. O. Adeyi): The hon. the Premier has so ably handled the situation, so much so that I have nothing to add.

Mr Kotoye: I beg to move that the question be now put.

Alhaji Opaleye: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the sum of £451,470 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 £5,720 for Head 735—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 340.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND
TRANSPORT

Question proposed, that the sum of £1,808,250 for Head 340—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. A. Riemu: Mr Chairman, Sir, in 1955-60 the vote for urban works was given a place in the Development Plan.....
(Prolonged interruptions).

Mr Chairman, Sir, so many towns have enjoyed water supply and extensions. But Sapele is one of those towns which.....
(Prolonged interruptions from the Government Benches). Mr Chairman, Sir, anybody who sees Sapele will form the impression that.....
(Government Benches: Who wrote that for you?) I wrote this myself. *(Shouts of "Machine Ororo" from Government Benches).*

Mr Chairman, Sir, anybody reading this very report outside this Region or any-

where in the Region will go with the impression that Sapele is already enjoying pipe-borne water which in fact is needing.....
(Government Benches: Finally, in conclusion, finally).

May I repeat Mr Chairman.....I will wait until you are prepared to listen. *(Pause).*

Mr Chairman: Your time is going fast. You better go on instead of waiting.

Mr Riemu: I hope they will allow me to speak. *(Prolonged interruptions from the Government Benches.)*

Mr Chairman, Sir, the fact is that there is only one pipe in Sapele to serve the hospital. You have deceived not only Sapele people but the Western Region that you have earmarked £100,000 for Sapele. The capacity of the tank there is ten gallons.

Chief Odebiyi: Which one has a capacity of ten gallons?

Mr Riemu: Bore hole pump.

Chief Odebiyi: How deep?

Mr Riemu: These people are wasting the Region's Government money. *(Interruptions from Government Benches.)*

Chief Odebiyi: How long does it take you to prepare that?

Mr Riemu: Mr Speaker, Sir. *(Government Benches: Mr Chairman.)* I don't know when he is Mr Chairman? *(Chief Odebiyi: When he is up he is Mr Speaker; when he is down, he is Mr Chairman.) (Laughter)*

Mr Riemu: Mr Chairman, Sir, if the Government has good intention of treating everyone with fairplay and equity, if it does not intend to discriminate in offering amenities, it should know that Sapele as a township, with its geographical and industrial importance, will be one of the towns to be on the top of the list of supply of water and electricity.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the rate of infant mortality and daily congestion in the premises of Sapele General Hospital is evidence of diverse diseases contacted by the people through bad water, and if the Government is not prepared to relieve the people of this trouble it should desist from making noise about raising the standard of living of the people.

Mr S. A. Akerele: Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the amount voted for the Ministry of Works and Transport.

[MR AKERELE]

On behalf of my own people (*Opposition Benches: from where?*).....I must be grateful to the West Government. Nowadays, almost every nook and corner of Ekiti District has been tarred. Not that alone. We also enjoy pipe-borne water in very many towns. The Action Group has already tarred well over two thousand miles of road in the Western Region and you could compare the amount of money spent on tarring and repairing these roads. In 1954-55, £190,709 was spent on roads and repairing of roads. This rose to £3,000,000 in the year 1960-61. In my own constituency(*Opposition Members: Where is your constituency?*).....Ekiti North-East I, towns in this area have enjoyed tarred roads. We have no more guinea-worms. We have good water now. Iddo has been connected with Oye and Oye with Aiyede. All these places have been connected with tarred roads. But we have some other important roads which I will put before the Ministry of Works and Transport to please consider in the appropriate time for tarring. These roads are between Iddo and Egage through Igbole and so on. It is a distance of eleven miles including adjacent roads of one mile between Ekusi and Aiyede and the whole of this is only twelve miles. We have another which connects Issue and Idobbo which is only a mile. The tarring of the total length of the twelve miles in Ekiti North-East constituency becomes especially imperative in view of the importance of the townships connected and those of commercial importance.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to support.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lands and Housing (Mr C. A. Williams): Mr Chairman, Sir, I take this opportunity to express, on the floor of this House, the gratitude of Members of Epe Community for this Government setting aside a sum of £40,000 on page 177, Head 703, sub-head 17, for the supply of urban water.

In the past, people in this ancient town thought that urban water supply was entirely a monopoly of Lagos and this form of amenity was too good for Epe.

Why people in Epe are so grateful to this Government is because it is very prompt in attending the hue and cry of people it governs. For over a period of fifty years that Epe was administered by the Commissioner of the Colony in Lagos, no attention was paid to the cry or complaint of the inhabitants in

connection with the disease of bilhazia which people in this place suffer, but within this short span of time that it became part of the Western Region, prompt attention is paid to the question of this water-borne disease.

With the supply of urban water the battle to eradicate this menace is half won.

Although, like guinea-worm or other water borne diseases, bilhazia is not contacted by drinking from infected water, yet it is got by either swimming or trekking on damp area adjoining the foreshore of an infected river or lagoon.

By the supply of urban water, it will be easy to erect a swimming pool at Epe where people or children will go when they feel to swim and it will be easy to build washing platforms for women or laundry men to carry on their duty without any fear of contacting bilhazia.

Hon. Members on both sides of the House will be very, very sorry to learn that 100 per cent of school children suffer from this plague now, and not less than 60 per cent of the women in Epe are barren as a result of this disease.

Mr Chairman, perhaps by this time next year, all being well, with the mode of prevention mentioned above, this plague in Epe might be completely controlled.

Mr Kotoye: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the question be now put.

Alhaji Opaleye: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the sum of £1,808,250 for Head 340—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 701.—BUILDINGS

Question proposed that the sum of £4,101,220 for Head 701—Buildings—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 702.—ROADS AND BRIDGES

Question proposed that, the sum of £5,464,410 for Head 702—Roads and Bridges—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment to Sub-head 24 to read £100,000 for Sabomi-Igbotu Embankment.

Tarring of roads—Okitipupa-Igbokoda—£35,000.

Dredging of Mahin-Eruna Creek—£25,000.

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

There is no increase in the provision; only splitting up.

Sub-head 44.

Add the following: Bituminous surfacing of:

Ifon-Sabongidda;
Moniya-Ijaiye;
Benin-Ekpoma;
Benin-Igoriaki;
Agoro-Ososa-Ala;
Ughelli-Ewu-Oduohire-Patani-Pahama
and other roads and the reconstruction of—
Ibeshe-Komi-Oba;
Ifo-Igbogun-Ipake-Iwoye;
Kila-Akonko and other roads—£400,000.

Page 233—Appendix “D”—Roads and Bridges.

(ii) Substitute the provision of £284,500 on Ago-Iwoye-Ijesha Road with the following:—

- (a) Ago-Iwoye-Ijesha Road—£234,500;
(b) Odoye-Ishara Road—£50,000.

Chief Sogbein: I beg to second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended sum of £5,864,410 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 £1,701,570 for Head 703—Urban Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 704—RURAL WATER SUPPLIES

Question proposed, that the sum of £964,170 for Head 704—Rural Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 708—ELECTRICITY DEVELOPMENT

Question proposed, that the sum of £412,100 for Head 708—Electricity Development—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

HEAD 736—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

(OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE)

Question proposed that the sum of £112,260 for Head 736—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

TOTALS—FIRST AND SECOND SCHEDULES

Question proposed, that the Total for the First and Second Schedules, i.e., £19,132,510

and £19,344,570 respectively; stand part of the Schedules.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that the totals for the First and Second Schedules be amended to read £19,153,990 and £20,994,570 respectively.

Chief Osuntokun: I beg to second.

Amendment proposed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question that the amended totals of £19,153,90 and £20,994,570 for the First and Second Schedules stand part of the Schedules, put and agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Question proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that the sign and figures £19,132,510 occurring at the marginal notes should read £19,153,990.

Chief Osuntokun: I beg to second.

Amendment proposed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to propose a further amendment that the words “nineteen million, one hundred and thirty-two thousand, five hundred and ten” be deleted from the Clause and the following words substituted:— “nineteen million, one hundred and fifty-three thousand, nine hundred and ninety.”

Chief Osuntokun: I beg to second.

Amendment proposed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 2 as amended agreed to.

Clause 3:

Question proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move an amendment that the sign and figures “£19,344,570” occurring in the marginal notes should be deleted and “£20,994,570” substituted therefor.

Chief Osuntokun: I beg to second.

Amendment proposed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that Clause 3 be further amended as follows: That the words “nineteen”, “three” and “forty” occurring in the first line be deleted and the words “twenty”, “nine” and “ninety” substituted respectively.

Chief Osuntokun: I beg to second.
Amendment proposed.
Amendment put and agreed to.
Clause 3 as amended agreed to.
Preamble.
Question proposed.

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move an amendment to the Preamble: That the words ".....AND THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED AND TEN POUNDS FOR RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AND NINETEEN MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR" appearing in lines 2, 3 and 4 of the Preamble be deleted and the following substituted therefor:—

"AND FIFTY-THREE THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY POUNDS FOR RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AND TWENTY

MILLION, NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOUR".

Chief Osuntokun: I beg to second.
Amendment proposed.
Amendment put and agreed to.
Preamble as amended agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported with amendments, read the Third time and passed.

(Loud applause from both sides of the House).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed—That the House do now adjourn till 10 o'clock this morning—(Chief Osuntokun):

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 5.00 a.m. on Thursday, 13th April, 1961, until 10.00 a.m. the same day.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 13TH APRIL, 1961

(The House met at 10.25 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION—REPORT

Mr Speaker reported that the following members had been appointed on Committees of the Tenth Session:

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 J. O. Fadahunsi	Member

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House	Member
3. Mr J. O. Awopeju	Member
4. Mr S. T. Adelegan	Member
5. 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 A. Adelodun	Member
6. Mr M. O. Ijic	Member
7. Mr I. A. Olukoju	Member
8. Mr B. I. G. Ewah	Member
9. Mr A. B. Bello	Member
10. 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 S. Onasanya	Member
3. Mr J. U. E. Agbaza	Member
4. Mr A. Ajibola	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 V. I. Amadasun	Member
10. Mr P. K. Tabiowo	Member
11. Mr R. A. Akinyemi	Member
12. Chief J. O. Fadahunsi	Member

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Accidents

10/53. **Mr N. A. Adibi** asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare to state—

(a) the number of accidents in the last six months of 1960 in the Western Region;

(b) the number of persons fatally wounded; and

(c) the number of persons permanently maimed.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to remind the hon. Member that the question which he has raised does not fall within my portfolio (*laughter*).

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Capital for Industrial Development

10/71. **Mr Adibi** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry what efforts had been made by Government to attract foreign (or even local) capital for the industrial development of the Region.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Chief A. O. Adeyi): As it is well known, the attraction of overseas capital and technical experts forms a cardinal element of this Government's policy on industrialisation. Foremost of the essential requirements in the attraction of foreign capital into an under-developed country is the maintenance of the correct type of political atmosphere which would enable investments to flourish. In this, all the Governments of the Federation have considerable responsibility to shoulder. There must be peaceful Government, capable of maintaining law and order impartially, and there must be a stable and democratic Government. Hon. Members will agree with me that this Government is second to none in creating the right type of atmosphere. (*Hear, hear*). (*Opposition Benches: You are not deceiving us you are deceiving yourselves*). (*Laughter*).

In order to encourage overseas investment in industries still further, the Federal Government offers a number of essential inducements to investors. The pioneer "certificate" grants relief from Company Tax for a period of years ranging from two to five. There is also the possibility of tariff protection for finished products where a convincing case can be established to show that an essential industry would find utmost difficulty in being viable unless it was protected in its

first few years. Where it is also proved that the raw materials on which the industry is based are not available in the right quantity, relief from import duty on the raw material can also be granted. This Government, in particular, my Ministry, co-operates very fully in the administration of these fiscal concessions designed to attract overseas investment.

In addition to the above concessions jointly operated by the Federal and Regional Governments, this Government has also established industrial estates which have proved of significant importance in attracting foreign investments. In these estates, provisions are made for water, electricity, telecommunications, access roads and where necessary, railway sidings and residential plots. Apart from the Ikeja and Mushin Estates, Government has under consideration the establishment of additional estates in various parts of the Region as soon as the funds to do so are available.

It is fully realised that apart from the provision of these industrial amenities and the fiscal concessions referred to, it is essential to maintain continuous contacts with various industrial countries where investments can be expected. These contacts are maintained through the promotion of Trade or Industrial Missions or Economic Missions like the one now being organised on a Nigeria-wide level. The office of the Agent-General of the Western Region in London is also keenly concerned with seeking contacts with Investment and Financial Houses in the United Kingdom. The Industrial Promotions Commission, which was established in late 1959, has also proved very useful in attracting foreign capital for investments in the Region. The Chairman of the Commission has undertaken tours of several countries in West Africa, Europe and the United States for this purpose.

Turning to the efforts made to attract local capital, it should be realised that the supply of local capital for industrial investment is not yet plentiful. As the living standards rise and our community develops the habit of savings, more successes will attend our efforts in this direction. For the present, investment clubs are being encouraged in our various towns and villages which will spearhead the savings efforts of their communities. In this respect, I can only appeal to the members of the public through the honourable House to form this club and to get in touch with my Ministry for such technical assistance as may be required. (*Hear, hear*).

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Pipe-borne Water

10/75. **Mr Adibi** asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare to indicate (a) the number and (b) the names of towns which have so far been supplied with pipe-borne water in the Region and at what cost to Government.

Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to remind the hon. Member that this subject does not fall within my portfolio.

Juvenile Delinquency

10/76. **Mr Adibi** asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare the total number of children at present in the Region's Remand Homes; also to state what efforts were being made by the Government to minimise juvenile delinquency in this Region.

Mr Ogunmuyiwa: In view of the fact that the question seems to assume that a Remand Home is an Approved School, it is necessary for me to clarify some points. A Remand Home is a place provided by the Government for the safe custody of children and young persons who, having been charged with crimes and offences, are awaiting trial before a Juvenile Court. A Remand Home is not an Approved School.

A Remand Home is also a place in which children and young persons are temporarily lodged for study and observation. Without a Remand Home, usually a place of refuge, the character and behaviour of children brought before a Juvenile Court cannot be understood and observed sufficiently for diagnosis to be made as to their conditions, needs and care. During detention in a Remand Home much can be learned about children and young persons that may be of value to the court in deciding how they should be treated. The educational activities of a Remand Home necessarily fluctuates as it is only a temporary residence for children in trouble.

The primary function of the Welfare Division is the control of Juvenile delinquency in Western Nigeria through the use of Juvenile Courts, Remand Homes, the Probation System and Approved Schools. Every year, the juvenile delinquency statistics show a striking rise in the number of children and young persons charged with criminal offences. As Minister responsible for Social Welfare, I must say that I take a very serious view of this disturbing situation.

The changing conditions of modern life have been affecting our family structure. To a great extent the family in this Region has been losing its emotional values and it has in many instances ceased to function as the natural School of Religion and Morals for young people. As a result of this situation, and the resultant instability of family life, young people generally are without restraint due to lack of parental control and protection.

Prior to 1955, Juvenile offenders were brought before Native Courts or Magistrates' Courts, but now, Juvenile Courts have been established in Ibadan, Abeokuta, Ijebu-Ode, Sapele, Warri, Benin City and Ikeja; unlike the ordinary court, the Juvenile Court is purely a family court where effort is made to understand the problems of children. The court takes the place of parents who are unable to understand their children. Before the application of the Children and Young Persons Ordinance to Western Nigeria, no statistics were available about the number of juvenile cases dealt with. But since 1956, it has been evident that there is a sharp rise every year in the number of children and young persons charged with crimes and offences. In 1956-57, the number was 294. In the following year, 1957-58, it was 488. In 1958-59, 639 cases were handled. In 1959-60, 1,295 cases came before the Juvenile Court—more than double the previous year's figure.

The cases of juvenile delinquency are multiple in character. For one thing, disharmony between husbands and wives is a principal cause. It is for this reason that my Ministry has always endeavoured to preserve the sanctity of family life and to ensure that maladjusted husbands and wives resolve their differences and live happily together for the well-being and progress of their children. Another method of approach will be for us to teach self-reliance and self-help to our children and young ones, encourage the creation of a Regional *esprit de corps*, and widen the basis of family and tribal loyalties, by creating the awareness of common citizenship in the young.

Mr Adibi: I wish to ask a supplementary question—to ask the Minister how soon will the Government provide Benin City with a Remand Home? He mentioned this point in the answer. It is necessary to know how soon the Remand Home will be established.

Mr Ogunmuyiwa: Give us notice of that question.

Mr Speaker: The Minister requires a notice of your question.

Mr O. Olaitan: On point of correction, Sir, there is a Standing Order which says that oral questions shall not be taken after 10.30 a.m. But why is it being taken today? (*Government Benches: Sit down; you are a late comer. You were not here before to know what happened. Sit down.*)

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member just wants to know whether a decision has been made.

Mr Olaitan: Yes, I feel it should be with the general consent of the House that the questions should continue to be taken. We here are opposed to it but we are surprised to see that it is continued.

Mr Speaker: It is my duty to decide and I have decided in favour of it. (*Hear, hear.*)

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Electricity for Egbedore and Aiyedade

10/83. **Mr Y. L. Ogunyele** asked the Minister of Works and Transport when, in view of the increasing development programmes now being undertaken in Nigeria, the Regional Government would instal electricity at Egbedore and Aiyedade.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief S. O. Sogbein): My Government has all these things in hand and we are following the development programmes which include facilities of all types for every part of the Region.

Mr J. O. Owonikoko: I wish to ask a supplementary question: to ask the Minister what conditions are required for the installation of electricity in towns.

Chief Sogbein: I refer you to the E.C.N. for an answer to your question (*Laughter*).

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Rural Health Centre for Egbedore

10/87. **Mr Y. L. Ogunyele** asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare whether the Regional Government proposed to build one Rural Health Centre at Egbedore District in view of the tremendous amount of work being undertaken by the Maternity centres in the area.

Mr Ogunmuyiwa: The Government will give thought to establishing a Rural Health Centre in Egbedore District in the next Five-Year Development Programme. At present, Local Government dispensary facilities are available at Gbogan, Ode-Omu, Tonkere, Wajaiye and at Akiriboto. In addition, a new dispensary, built under the

special Health Development Programme, is due to open shortly at Adeyinda. Local Government maternity facilities are available at Gbongan and Ode-Omu. These Local Government dispensaries and maternity centres are all sponsored by Government, and the usual grants are paid.

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Electricity for Oka, Irekari and Ekamarun District Council area

10/97. **Mr I. A. Olukoju** asked the Minister of Works and Transport whether or when Government would provide electricity for Oka, Irekari and Ekamarun District Council areas as is now being done for towns of similar size in the Region.

Chief Sogbein: My Government is doing its best in this regard and consideration is given to towns in the five-year development programme.

TREASURY

Measures to increase Revenue

10/122. **Mr R. O. Areola** asked the Minister of Finance what steps were being taken by Government to increase revenue and prevent trade depression in view of the recent cut in cocoa prices, and of the reduction in taxes.

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): I have already referred to this question in my last Budget Speech but at the risk of repeating myself, it should be said that in our present stage of development and in consequence of the Revenue Allocation arrangements which form part of our Constitution, there is very little any one Region can do to increase its revenue. About eighty per cent of the revenue of the Federation as a whole comes from indirect taxes (*i.e.*, export duties, import and excise duties) which are levied and collected by the Federal Government. Export duties and some items in the Import and Excise List are returned one hundred per cent to Regional Governments on the basis of derivation. In addition, shares of import duties on general imports are received by the Regional Governments. The problems facing us at present is that of trying to reduce the proportion of this country's revenue which comes from sources not entirely within the country's control. Part of the answer to this lies in industrialisation; I am sure that no one will deny the fact that this Region is already making great strides in this direction. More and more industries are being established in this Region, and it is hoped that the incomes which will be generated from employments offered by these industries will

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

broaden the base available to Government for income tax purposes. In conclusion, I should like to say that my Ministry, *i.e.*, the Treasury, will do all its best to ensure that all sources of revenue available to this Government at any time are fully tapped. (*Hear, hear*).

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Unemployment

10/137. **Mr E. O. Oke** asked the Minister of Trade and Industry whether the Government would consider the advisability of establishing more factories in the Region in order to help solve the growing problem of unemployment.

The Regional Minister in the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Chief G. Ekuejunor-Etchie): Government is alive to the necessity of providing full employment in the Region. To this end it has speeded up the industrialisation programme of the Region, partly as an answer to the growing unemployment problem and partly in the Government's endeavour to diversify the Region's economy. The Government is therefore seriously dedicated to the industrialisation of the Region.

A number of industrial ventures have been established in the Region either wholly by the Western Nigeria Development Corporation or in partnership with overseas investors. These ventures have increased employment opportunities available in the Region and a few of them are as follows:

(i) The Nigeria Water Resources Development Limited with a labour force of over 3,000;

(ii) The Nigersol Construction Company Limited with a labour force of 2,900;

(iii) The West African Portland Cement Company Limited which employs about 300 workers;

(iv) The Asbestos Cement Products Limited which employs about 230 workers;

(v) The Pepsi-Cola Bottling Plant with a labour force of about 220;

(vi) The Tower Aluminium Company with a labour force of about 90; and

(vii) The Vono (West Africa) Limited which employs about thirty workers.

In the Speech from the Throne delivered by His Excellency the Governor on 22nd March, 1961, reference was made to Government's plan to increase employment opportunities throughout the Region and expand Employment Exchange Services so that the employment opportunities available in these factories will be brought closer to the notice of those seeking employment.

An Industrial Promotion Commission has been established with a view to attracting overseas capital and technical skill needed in encouraging the growth of more factories, while substantial financial provisions are included in the current Draft Estimates to enable quasi-Governmental agencies to participate with overseas capital in establishing suitable industries.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Hospital and Maternity Centres

10/218. **Mr A. Ajibola** asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare to state how many Government hospitals are in each division of the Region and what arrangements are being made by Government to provide the small towns and villages with Maternity centres and dispensaries.

Mr Ogunmuyiwa: There are in each division of the Region at least one General Hospital, either Mission or Government owned, and in some divisions there are more than one. In the one or two divisions where only Mission Hospitals are available these are heavily subsidised by Government. Attached herewith is a list showing the hospitals in each division of the Region.

Province	Division	Name of Institution	Name of Agency	Government Hospitals under Construction
ABEOKUTA	Egba	General Hospital, Abeokuta	Government	—
		Aro Hospital, Abeokuta	Government	—
		Lantoro Mental Institution, Abeokuta	Government	—
BENIN	Egbado	General Hospital, Ilaro...	Government	—
	Asaba	General Hospital, Agbor	Government	General Hospital, Asaba
		Leper Settlement, Osio	Government	—
	Benin	General Hospital, Benin-City	Government	—
COLONY...	Ishan	General Hospital, Auch	Government	General Hospital, Uromi
	Afenmai	General Hospital, Auch	Government	—
	Badagry	General Hospital, Badagry	Government	—
DELTA	Epe	General Hospital, Epe	Government	—
	Ikeja	General Hospital, Ikeja	Government	—
	Aboh	General Hospital, Kwale	Government	—
	Warri	General Hospital, Warri	Government	—
IBADAN	Ibadan...	General Hospital, Forcados	Government	—
		General Hospital, Sapele	Government	—
		Jericho Nursing Home, Ibadan	Government	—
	Oshun	Adeoyo Hospital, Ibadan	Government	—
		Government Chest Clinic, Ibadan	Government	—
IJBEBU	Ijebu-Ode	General Hospital, Iwo	Government	—
		General Hospital, Oshogbo	Government	—
		General Hospital, Ogbomosho	Government	—
ONDO	Ondo	General Hospital, Ijebu-Ode	Government	General Hospital, Ibiade
		General Hospital, Shagamu	Government	—
OYO	Oyo	General Hospital, Iddo-Ekiti	Government	—
		General Hospital, Ondo	Government	—
		General Hospital, Akure	Government	—
OYO	Ife	General Hospital, Okitipupa	Government	—
		General Hospital, Oyo	Government	General Hospital, Igbeti General Hospital, Ife

LIST OF MISSION HOSPITALS IN THE WESTERN REGION

ABEOKUTA	Egba	Sacred Heart Hospital, Abeokuta	Roman Catholic Mission	
BENIN	Benin	St Philomena's Hospital, Benin-City	Roman Catholic Mission	
		St Joseph's Maternity Hospital, Asaba	Roman Catholic Mission	
	Asaba	St Mary's Catholic Hospital, Ogwashi-Uku	Roman Catholic Mission	
DELTA	Ishan	St Camillus Hospital, Uromi	Roman Catholic Mission	
		Baptist Hospital, Eku	Baptist Mission	
IBADAN	Ibadan...	Catholic Mission Hospital Oke-Offa, Ibadan	Roman Catholic Mission	
		Baptist Mission Hospital, Ogbomosho	Baptist Mission	
IJBEBU	Ijebu	Roman Catholic Maternity Hospital Ijebu-Igbo	Roman Catholic Mission	
OYO	Ife	Seventh-Day Adventist Hospital, Ile-Ife	Seventh-Day Adventist Mission	
		Ilesha	Wesley Guild Hospital, Ilesha	Methodist Mission
ONDO	Oyo	Baptist Hospital, Shaki	Baptist Mission	
		Owo	St Mary's Catholic Hospital, Owo	Roman Catholic Mission
		Ekiti	Maria Assumpta Maternity Hospital, Ado-Ekiti	Roman Catholic Mission
		Ile-Aiye Maternity Hospital, Ado-Ekiti	C.M.S. Mission	

Mr T. E. Igugu: I wish to ask a Supplementary Question—to ask the Minister what arrangements his Government is making to raise the Health Centre at Ughelli to the status of a General Hospital.

Mr Ogunmuyiwa: The hon. Member should give me a notice of that question.

JUSTICE

Government briefs for Chief Williams

10/230. **Mr Oviasu** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice why Chief F. R. A. Williams, Q.C., a private legal practitioner is generally briefed by the Western Regional Government in her cases while the Government paid officers of the Ministry of Justice are left out.

Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): Chief F. R. A. Williams, Q.C., M.A., has held a number of briefs for the Government of this Region, but it is not correct to say that he "is generally briefed by the Western Regional Government in her cases while the Government paid officers of the Ministry of Justice are left out."

The number of High Court and Federal Supreme Court civil cases handled by my Ministry at any time during the past eighteen months has rarely fallen below 40, including cases in Benin and Warri High Courts which have to be handled from Ibadan. This number does not include cases in the Magistrates' Courts. Further, the volume of civil cases in which the Government has to be represented has been steadily increasing. The legal duties of my Ministry include, in addition to representing the Government in civil cases, giving legal advice to *all* Ministries and Departments, drafting and examination of *all* legislation, including subsidiary legislation, law revision, law reporting, and setting and correcting papers for law examinations for administrative officers. Besides, the Ministry discharges administrative duties in relation to all matters falling within my portfolio, including customary courts, of which there are over 600 in the Region.

Whilst Counsel in my Ministry can deal with a large number of the cases in which the Government has to be represented, they are not so numerous as to be able to appear in every civil case in every part of the Region, besides having to deal with all the other work of the Ministry.

It has always been the practice to brief private legal practitioners for certain Government cases and Chief Williams is only one of a number of Counsel briefed by my Ministry from time to time. This practice is certainly

not peculiar to this Government, and it obtains not only in Nigeria but also in Britain and other Commonwealth countries. It is open to any Government, as it is to any large organisation or company or to any person who can afford it, to brief the best legal talent available to represent it in litigation. This Government is fortunate in having at its disposal the services of a brilliant Nigerian Queen's Counsel, in the person of Chief F. R. A. Williams, Q.C., right here in this country.

An officer of my Ministry invariably appears with him as his junior in these cases and thereby gains invaluable experience in advocacy.

In the circumstances, therefore, it cannot be correct to say that Chief Williams is generally briefed by the Western Regional Government in her cases while the Government paid officers of the Ministry are left out.

I have answered this question at some length so that the true position may be generally known.

Mr Oviasu: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the second portion of this Question is not even in the Order Paper. You know what I want: the amount he has been paid.

Chief Ighodaro: During the financial year 1959-60 the fees paid to Chief Williams for Government briefs held by him amounted to £2,467 10s. During the financial year 1960-61 the fees paid to him amounted to £1,050. It must be mentioned, however, that in these cases substantial costs amounting to nearly £1,000 have so far been awarded to the Government.

It is considered that the fees paid to Chief Williams for these briefs are very moderate indeed, especially when compared with the fees charged by English Queen's Counsel brought out time and again by our friends on the Opposite of this House and their fellow travellers. It is common knowledge that an English Queen's Counsel was recently paid well over £2,000 by them for one case alone.

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Midwest Secretariat

10/231. **Mr Oviasu** asked the Minister of Works and Transport why the construction of the Midwest Secretariat at Benin (for which over £140,000 was provided in the 1959-60 Estimates) has not advanced beyond the stage of the foundation stone laying since a year ago.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Chief S. O. Sogbein): The delay in starting work on the proposed Midwest Secretariat has been due to the fact that it was decided to provide more office accommodation than was formerly planned. Consequently the original drawings had to be cancelled. Working drawings have now been completed and it is hoped to start on the work sometime this year.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Blood Banks in Western Region Hospitals

10/237 **Mr Oviasu** asked the Minister of Health and Social Welfare if he was aware of the deplorable situation of the absence of Blood Banks in any of the Western Region Hospitals and to know what measures Government proposes to take to remedy the situation.

Mr Ogunmuyiwa: Although there are no blood banks in any of our hospitals at present it is not true that this has resulted in a deplorable situation, as other substitutes are available for use in the absence of stored blood. A blood bank is a very useful thing to have but it could also be a very dangerous one if not properly organised. At present, owing to lack of trained professional staff, we are unable to provide this highly technical and difficult service, but we shall do so as soon as we are able to recruit the required staff.

JUSTICE

Customary Court Judges in Urhobo Division

10/242. **Mr T. E. Igugu** asked the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General why the Government has increased the number of Customary Court Judges in Urhobo from three to nine.

Chief Ighodaro: The increase in the membership of the customary courts in Urhobo Division was due to representations made by the competent councils to the effect that members should be drawn from the various clans in the area of jurisdiction of each customary court.

Customary Court for Okurekpo in Urhobo Division

10/243. **Mr Igugu** asked the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General to state why another Customary Court was established at Okurekpo when the Usikoro Customary Court was intended to serve the people of Agbon Clan in Urhobo Division.

Chief Ighodaro: On 1st April, 1959, the Western Urhobo District Council as the Competent Council, passed a resolution praying the hon. Minister of Justice to establish two customary courts to replace the Agbon Grade C Customary Court. The reason for this was that the area covered by the Agbon Clan was too large to be adequately served by one customary court. Between 1st July and 31st December, 1959, a period of six months, the Agbon Grade C Customary Court disposed of 274 civil and criminal cases. This figure is very close to 300 which is the specified figure of cases which a customary court may be expected to deal with during a period of twelve months. It was quite apparent that the Agbon Grade C Customary Court was congested and that such a state of affairs was undesirable.

In view, therefore, of the volume of cases coming before it, the Agbon Grade C Customary Court was replaced by the Isiokolo Grade C Customary Court and the Okurekpo Grade C Customary Court. The former serves Kokori, Orokpo and Eku towns, while the latter serves Okpara, Ovu and Igun towns, all in Agbon Clan.

Mr Igugu: I wish to ask the Minister why the Presidentship of Grade C Courts is taken in rotation?

Chief Ighodaro: I should require notice of that question.

Alhaji Opaleye: I wish to ask the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General whether he is aware that the efficiency of the Customary Courts in the Region is known all over the world.

Chief Ighodaro: Yes. During the last twelve months several scholars have come from various parts of the world to study the Customary Court system in the Western Region. If any hon. Member is in doubt he can call in my Ministry at any time and I will give all possible instances of what I have said.

Mr S. O. Oyewole: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General what are the duties of assessors in customary courts?

Mr Speaker: That is not a Supplementary Question. You have to give notice.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

University of Ife

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, a short while ago, a Parliamentary Advisory Committee was set up on the University of Ife under

[DR ONABAMIRO]
the Chairmanship of the Deputy Speaker. The terms of reference of this Parliamentary Advisory Committee are as follows:

“To advise the Minister of Education on general policy relating to the University of Ife and subsequent issues as the Minister of Education may refer to the Committee from time to time!” (*Hear, hear*).

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (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 Regional Minister in the Ministry of Local Government (Chief S. A. Tinubu): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjournment Sine Die

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, 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.

The Leader of Opposition (Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode): Mr Speaker, Sir, on point of Order. Order 77. I understand that my hon. Friend, Mr Oviasu, raised this point yesterday but unfortunately the Speaker said that he had not received any letter of resignation in respect of the Member for Ife/Ila. On investigation in the Registry of this Legislature, we understand that such a letter has in fact arrived, and on further investigation from the Clerk of the House we understand that the letter has reached the Clerk. I am so surprised that such an important letter has not been passed from the Clerk to the Speaker. I wonder if that omission has not been remedied. If that were so, under Standing Order 77, Mr Akerele should be asked to vacate his seat in this House.

Mr Speaker: I have not received such a letter. Mr Akerele still remains a Member of this House if he desires, and as such he is not a Stranger under Order 77.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am asking that the Clerk of the House, who

has informed me that he has received such a letter, should now, Sir, I repeat, now, Sir, pass that letter to the Speaker because the Standing Orders of this House are meant to be obeyed and we are here, Sir, in a democratic institution, and we have to follow certain precedents, and since the Clerk has informed me on investigation and inquiry that such a letter has been received, not yesterday, not the day before yesterday, but about three days ago, now Sir, it is incumbent on the Clerk, and I am asking him to produce this letter and pass it to the Speaker.

Mr Speaker: It is not the procedure in the Office of the Clerk or the Office of the Speaker that letters and correspondence be passed inside this Chamber as suggested by the hon. Leader of Opposition. (*Shouts of Shame, shame from Government Benches*).

PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF A PUBLIC BILL

The following Bill was read the First time; it was ordered to be read a Second time later in the day —“The High Court (Amendment Bill, 1961”’. (*Chief Ighodaro*).

ORDER OF THE DAY

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move that “A Bill for a Law to amend the Income Tax Law” be read a Second time.

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 main purpose of the Bill is two-fold: first it seeks legislative sanction for the introduction of the PAY AS YOU EARN system for the payment of tax on emoluments from all employments, offices and pensions in the Region with effect from 1st April this year. Secondly, the Bill is also designed to bring non-Africans resident in the Region within the income tax jurisdiction of this Government with effect from 1st April this year. By way of explanation, I should now wish to deal with these two points one after the other and I can say that in view of the fact that the Pay as You Earn System has not been introduced prior to now, we will be able to introduce it by the 1st of July.

First, the PAY AS YOU EARN system. The essence of this system is that an individual in receipt of income from employment

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

or office or under any pension scheme in the Region will now be required to pay tax on his current earnings in the form of deductions to be made by his employer. These deductions will be made to spread over the whole year. The proposed scheme therefore differs from the existing method of tax collection in that the proposed scheme aims at spreading the burden of an individual's liability to tax by making it possible for the amount of tax due to be paid instalmentally on a monthly basis over the whole year. The new scheme is therefore a progressive one. There is another aspect in which this scheme differs from the present one and that is that the management of the new scheme will be undertaken by the Regional Tax Board. The Area Assessment Committees and Rating Authorities will now be responsible only for the assessment and collection of tax from incomes other than those from employments, offices and pensions in the Region. Owing to administrative arrangements which will be required it will not be possible to make the first deductions under the PAY AS YOU EARN Scheme this April; it is expected that they will be made in July.

I should now like to say a few words about taxation of non-Africans to which I referred earlier. In accordance with the Constitution it is now proposed to bring non-Africans resident in the Region within the income tax jurisdiction of this Government with effect from the 1st of April this year. Hitherto the assessment and collection of income tax from non-Africans have been undertaken on behalf of this Government by the Federal Government; although the proceeds therefrom have been allocated in full to this Government. It is not expected, however, that the proposed change-over will result immediately in any increase in revenue from this source but it is hoped that as more and more non-Africans become liable to tax, the revenue yield from this source is bound to rise.

There are other features of this Bill to which I would now refer. Provision is made in the Bill for increase in certain allowances that may be claimed by qualified tax-payers under the Law. These increases may be summarised as follows:

(i) Marriage allowance will now go up from £100 to £200. This deduction will be given to a husband maintaining a wife but will not apply, as at present, as if the wife claimed for is separately assessed. The deduction is consequently applicable only where—

(a) the wife claimed for has no income; or

(b) the wife claimed for has income but there is an application for joint assessment (which gives a financial benefit only where the wife's assessable income is relatively small).

(ii) The maximum allowance which may now be claimed by a tax-payer for the maintenance and education of a maximum of four children outside Nigeria will now be increased from £420 to £840.

(iii) The maximum allowance which may now be claimed for life assurance will now be increased from one fifth of the income or £100 whichever is the less, to one fifth of the income or £250 whichever is the less in the case of a single person or a husband and wife separately; in the case of a husband and wife jointly assessed the maximum allowance which may now be claimed is one fifth of the income of the couple or £500, whichever is the less.

The Bill also makes provision for the introduction for the first time of certain new allowances that may be claimed by qualified tax-payers as follows:

(i) tuition (excluding boarding) expenses for the education of children in Nigeria up to a maximum of £160 for each child subject to a maximum of four children; and

(ii) expenses up to a maximum of £50 for the maintenance of a dependent parent incapacitated by old age or infirmity.

Lastly, the Bill seeks to give legislative effect to certain tax matters in regard to which agreement has been reached with the other Governments in the Federation to secure uniformity of treatment throughout the Federation. To cite one example, it is now proposed to make residence in the Region and the fact that income accrues in, is derived from, brought into or received in the Region the basis of liability to pay tax.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill which has been ably moved by the hon. the Minister of Finance. At the inception of my speech, Sir, I will say that Her Majesty's Opposition is not opposed to this very Bill because we have been warned, when His Excellency was

[MR AMADASUN]

speaking from the Throne, that legislation of this nature would be presented to this honourable House for passing.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is the Speech of His Excellency in page 1, paragraph 5:

"During this Session, my Government intends to introduce legislation which will provide, in accordance with the Independence Constitution, for the collection of Income Tax from non-Africans resident in the Region. As soon as the necessary preliminary arrangements have been completed, the "Pay As You Earn" system of Income Tax will be introduced in this Region in respect of persons who are in regular employment".

Because of this injunction from a man of no mean personality than His Excellency, Sir Adesoji, the first African Governor of the Western Region, I say emphatically that we are supporting this very Bill. (*Hear, hear*).

But there is a warning, Sir. We heard of various atrocities committed at Akure when the application of the original Law was in operation there. The reason for these atrocities is that the people were not made to study the assessment table, with the result that some of the tax-payers there were told to pay even up to £500.

In respect of non-Africans, whatever we tend to do is due to the good naturedness of the British people by teaching us the way to tackle parliamentary Government. This very Bill is hundred per cent applicable to non-Africans in the Western Region. Therefore, Mr Speaker, it is necessary that before the implementation of this Bill the non-Africans should be given the opportunity to study the Assessment Table, so that everyone of them must be sure that the Regional Tax Board is not cheating them, because we have had many cheatings from all these unnecessary Tax Boards.

Secondly, Sir, the table of allowances should be published and circulated to all Africans and non-Africans in the Western Region. It is only by doing so that the purity of this Bill can ever be enjoyed by non-Africans in this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have said before, it is a non-controversial Bill.

I beg to support.

Mr A. T. Rerri: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this very important Bill. As hon. Amadasun has said, this Opposition side has no objection fundamentally to the Bill, because the Bill seeks relief for tax-payers and seeks to protect those who are to be protected.

My only advice to the hon. Minister is that we have had many, many such Bills put up genuinely on the floor of this House but have turned out to be a menagerie to certain towns and were made instruments of banishing those who do not hold the political view of the Government party. For instances I am referring to Customary Courts. On the face of this I do not know whether it will be better for Customary Courts in native areas, because these instruments have been used to make life not worth living by those who are their agents. It is no use the Minister saying what he has said now on the floor of this House, and quite a different thing happens. We are not specimens of our brothers and sisters at home. We are like lecturers and professors. They have their programmes. The point I am raising is that though the Bill is a very good Bill, I do not want Government to use their agents in the constituencies to give us bad colouring and so make an apparently harmless Bill to be abhorred.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Bill.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I cannot say how grateful I am to Members of the Opposition who have spoken in support of this Bill. As it is very well known, it is the Regional Tax Board that is going to administer the "Pay As You Earn" system and I would say this, that if there are genuine cases of hardship on the part of any taxpayer, he is at liberty to appeal against the tax he has to pay. That is one of the reasons why Government decided to reduce the amount of tax payable by an appellant when he launches his appeal, so that he will not suffer any hardship.

I can assure the hon. Members on the other side, Sir, that provided that there is a genuine spirit of cooperation and desire to make the new Income Tax Law work well, if any complaints are made to me I shall refer them to the Regional Tax Board for consideration.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Bill immediately considered in the Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clauses 1 to 36 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendments read the Third time and passed.

**HIGH COURT (AMENDMENT)
BILL—SECOND READING**

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker Sir, since the Independence Constitution came into force it has been necessary to make certain amendments to the High Court Law. This Bill is designed to make a number of such amendments.

Firstly, it is proposed, in compliance with section 48 of the Constitution of the Region, to prescribe a number of Judges who should be appointed to the High Court of the Region. The number to be prescribed for the time being is twelve. It is proposed further, in compliance with section 50 of the Constitution, to prescribe the retiring age of the Judges of the High Court of the Region. Under the provisions of the Constitution in force before Independence, the retiring age of judges was fixed at 62 years. This Bill seeks to fix the same age limit.

There used to be a right of appeal against interlocutory decisions in civil proceedings in the High Court but a Federal adaptation order abolished or purported to abolish this right of appeal. This Bill seeks to insert a new provision in the High Court Law to provide for a right of appeal in such matters to be exercised either by the leave of the High Court or of the Federal Supreme Court. Provision is also made to enable the High Court to grant bail to an accused person pending an appeal by him to the Federal Supreme Court and to order a stay of execution pending an appeal in civil proceedings.

The absence of a right of appeal against the acquittal or discharge of an accused person by a Judge of the High Court prevents the prosecutor from testing the legal correctness of the acquittal or discharge, and it is proposed that a right of appeal should be given to the Director of Public Prosecutions or any prosecutor aggrieved by the decision to enable an appeal to be made to the Federal Supreme Court on the ground that the acquittal or discharge is erroneous in law. There already exists statutory provision whereby a prosecutor may appeal against an acquittal by a Magistrate in similar circumstances.

Opportunity has been taken to make a number of minor amendments consequential on constitutional changes. For example, the existing Long Title of the Law is no longer appropriate since the High Court is now established by the Constitution and not under the High Court Law. Provision is also made for the alteration of the inscription on the seal of the Court from "The High Court of the Western Region" to "The High Court of Western Nigeria". This provision will, however, not have

effect until the seal bearing the new inscription is ready for use and the Chief Justice will be authorised to fix a date from which the new seal bearing the new inscription will be used.

As Members will observe, this Bill is designed to effect necessary amendments due to recent constitutional changes and is also designed to effect improvements in the administration of justice.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is not a controversial Bill and I trust that it will receive the blessing of the Government and the Opposition.

I beg to move.

Alhaji Opaleye: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you. Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill that is presented by the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General is a very delicate Bill and consequently, Sir, it has to be debated strongly by the Members on this side. It is true, Sir, that some amendments in this very Bill are resultant on the constitutional changes to which Nigeria has been subjected. But, Sir, you could see that with the High Court Judges of Western Region, the policy of Nigerianisation has not got one hundred per cent blessing from the Region and from the Government.

I remember vividly that in 1952 this very Western Regional Government set up a Commission, and that Commission, Mr Speaker, Sir, was called Phillipson/Adebo Commission. The object of that Commission was to see that, as far as practicable, all the departments of Western Regional Government are Nigerianised and even, Sir, when I read their Report some years ago I took the trouble to memorise the definition which these gentlemen attributed to Nigerianisation. They described Nigerianisation as a reduction and ultimately the ending of expatriate predominance in the higher level of the Western Region Civil Service. And today, Sir, I stand corrected whether the highest level of these High Court Judges has been Nigerianised. As we have in the Federation, Sir, the highest Judge is a Nigerian but in the Western Region it is not. If this had been done they will say that they are second to none in the whole world and in the whole of the Federation.

Now, Sir, as far back as 1957, to support the argument I have ventilated in this House about the default in this Nigerianisation, there was an agreement called "The Special

[MR AMADASUN]

List Agreement" signed by Mr Alan Lennox-Boyd and Chief Obafemi Awolowo in respect of employment and service conditions of overseas civil servants; in other words, in that list, there were certain posts reserved for Nigerians, for instance, the posts of Secretary to the Executive Council—thank God the man there is a Nigerian—Senior Magistrate, Magistrate, Chief Magistrate. That is as far back as 1957 and in this present era of 1961 you have still a non-Nigerian at the top of this branch of the Ministry.

This Bill is a highly controversial one in some respects. I am going to read the section, and I want the Attorney-General to explain lucidly and convincingly to this House that the Bill is not intended for NCNC top-notchers in this country. Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, look at the Clause 19 (a)—

"Where an accused person has been acquitted or discharged by a Judge, the Director of Public Prosecutions, or any prosecutor aggrieved by the decision of the Judge to acquit or discharge the accused person, may appeal as of right to the Federal Supreme Court from the decision on the ground that it is erroneous in law".

Now, what is the business of the Director of Public Prosecutions? To appeal himself? For instance, I will make a very clear illustration. If Mr Amadasun is found guilty in the High Court and the Judge is very good, the Judge may discharge and acquit me, but some people will come to the Director of Public Prosecutions to say, "Amadasun has been discharged and acquitted; you better lodge appeal in this case to the Federal Supreme Court."

I remember, Sir, that in November 1959, the leader of the Otu-Edo, Chief Omo-Osagie, Mr Omafidon and Oronsa went to a village to campaign, but it happened that the candidate of the Action Group went to that very place; as they were campaigning, some of the ruffians of the NCNC caused some trouble. What happened? There was a directive from Ibadan that Chief Omo-Osagie should be charged to the Magistrate's Court. They were found guilty of assaulting the Action Group candidate and they were fined £50 or six months imprisonment. From my investigation, this very case is intended to be taken to the Federal Supreme Court by the Director of Public Prosecutions; it is because this Bill has not been passed. *An hon. member: How do you know?* You have no say to it; it is the Attorney-General only who understands me.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, if you go through all these things you will see that the Western Region is notorious for imprisoning the top-notchers of NCNC. Recently, Sir Chief Okotie-Eboh was sentenced.....(*Interruptions, and shouts of "Point of order, point of order"*). Let me leave that, you know it much better than myself.

Even in the Western Region, Sir, the High Court is divided into two categories; one for the trying of election petitions and another for the trying of civil cases. A Judge was sent from the Yoruba West to go and try an election petition in Benin whereas a Judge is at Benin.....(*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to be protected.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, we are not going to take all that the Attorney-General has said about this Bill. It is a highly controversial Bill and I challenge him to state that the present Bill is not meant for the imprisonment of Chief Omo-Osagie and others.

Mr Speaker: May I call the attention of the hon. Gentleman to Standing Order 27 (6) No Member shall impute improper motive to any other Member. So that the Minister who has presented this Bill, I should say presented it in good faith.

Government Benches: Withdraw..... withdraw.

Mr Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General.. (*Withdraw, withdraw*)..... What is wrong with you?

I agree, Sir, that he has presented it in good faith.

Mr Speaker, Sir, these are my comments.

Mr J. A. Ajuwon: Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to refer this House to the first paragraph of clause 19 (c)—

"and any time during which the appellant is so admitted to bail shall not count a part of the term of imprisonment to which he was sentenced".

This paragraph, Sir, deserves the serious reconsideration by the Government. (*Low laughter from Government Benches*).....

Government back-benchers: Are you on bail?

Mr Speaker: There is nothing to show that he is on bail. (*Laughter*).

Mr Ajuwon: If a man is sentenced to three years imprisonment and granted bail after a period of three months,...in Ibadan here we used to see people granted bail after three months; do you mean that after the man

[MR AJUWON]

has been granted bail he should start the case from the beginning in the court? About three months ago, Sir, I had a similar case..... (*Prolonged laughter*) (*Listen, listen*)..... I am not a tyrant. The man put up application to a judge and I am surprised, Sir, that this judge refused the application of the accused man. I am saying this is the reason why this Government inserted paragraph 19A:

“Where an accused person has been acquitted or discharged by a judge, the Director of Public Prosecutions, or any prosecutor aggrieved by the decision of the judge to acquit or discharge the accused person, may appeal as of right to the Federal Supreme Court from the decision on the ground that it is erroneous in law”.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is part and parcel of this Government. (*Shouts of No, no, no,* from Government Benches and of *Yes, yes, yes* from Opposition). They are all Members of the Action Group. They will do the wishes of the people who appoint them.

Mr Speaker: The Director of Public Prosecutions is not under the Government at all. It is an independent institution.

Mr Ajuwon: It is not in practice. Mr Speaker, Sir, I say again that the Government should seriously consider section 19 (c) so that both sides who are aggrieved can put an appeal and not the Director of Public Prosecutions. Therefore, I beg to support the last speaker.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill.

Mr N. A. B. Kotoye: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Although the hon. Member for Benin Central has said that this Bill is controversial, I am sure that those who are well informed on the subject will agree that it is clearly non-controversial.

My contribution to this debate is really to express the appreciation of the people of this Region to the Government of Western Region of Nigeria for all it is doing to enhance the status, dignity and independence of the Judiciary in Western Nigeria. It is not uncommon these days to find people, particularly Members of the Opposition, trying to justify all excessive acts of over-zealousness on the grounds of Fundamental Human Rights. Very often, I wondered how many people in this Region, and indeed in this country, realise the extent to which the Fundamental Human Rights which are entrenched in the Constitution are safeguarded by the institution of High Court

Judges posted in the various parts of the Region. Judges, and I mean High Court Judges, in this case, are the great preservers of the rights and liberties of the life of the people. In a community like ours in the Western Region, it is the High Court Judges posted at the various points of the Region who deserve much congratulation for the observance and enforcement of Fundamental Human Rights. It is perhaps not generally realised that the Western Region has the highest number of High Court Judges of any Region in the whole of the Federation. For a population of about six million, there are now going to be twelve High Court Judges. The vast area of the Northern Region of Nigeria with a population of over seventeen million has only six High Court Judges. East with a population of nearly eight million has only eight High Court Judges. The point I want to make here is that, here in Western Nigeria, we have guaranteed people's freedom to the extent that no one has got to travel more than fifty miles in order to meet a High Court Judge to protect, and if necessary, enforce his fundamental human rights.

The importance of this point will be appreciated when it is realised that in other parts of this Federation ordinary citizens have got to travel more than 350 miles from their homes in order to meet a High Court Judge, to protect their Fundamental Human Rights. Hon. Members on the other side might, perhaps, not realise that the distance from Sokoto to Kano is 350 miles. In that vast area of Sokoto, with over one and a half million people residing there, there is no single High Court Judge to protect or safeguard Fundamental Human Rights. It is for this reason that we in this Region are proud of the fact that freedom is not only guaranteed here but its continued existence is ensured by High Court Judges, distributed in the various parts of this Region. We are also happy to note that this Government has done far more than any other Government of the Federation to ensure that Fundamental Human Rights in the Constitution are not violated in any shape or form.

We are aware that the Leader of the Opposition in this Region can move freely. Only the other day, when one of his leading supporters crossed to this side of the House he was able to leave here and go straight to Ife-Ila to win supporters. In other places such an adventure would have earned him, eighty strokes on his bare buttocks without any redress. We are aware also that the Leader of the Opposition and Members of the

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other side of the House can libel and slander Members of this Government and indeed, others. (*Loud cheers from Members of the Opposition as Mr Fani-Kayode walked into the Chambers of the House*). We are aware that as Leader of the Opposition, his house has not been broken down in broad daylight. Do you know that in some parts of the Federation where lipservice is being paid to fundamental human rights, such is not the case?

It will be appropriate for me to pay tribute to the excellent performance which the High Court Judges in this Region are rendering to the large number of case law.

It is not perhaps realised that it is only in this Region that the slightest decision or order of the Government can be freely taken to court and Queen's Counsel could be briefed overseas, even though there may be Queen's Counsel amongst the Opposition. Our High Court Judges are men of great ability and integrity. It is a matter of great pride to us, and indeed to His Excellency the Governor, who is responsible for their appointment, that the two African Judges in the Federal Supreme Court are Judges who were originally appointed Judges in this Region. It is only from this Region that promotion from High Court Judges have been made to the Federal Supreme Court.

There is another aspect about which I should like to comment. Clause 19 (a) which provides for the right of appeal in cases in which an accused person has been discharged and acquitted by a High Court Judge. Many times in this House Members of the other side have expressed their great confidence in the Federal Supreme Court. Clause 19 (a) provides a right of appeal to the Federal Supreme Court. If you have confidence in the Federal Supreme Court there is no reason why you should be afraid that the Director of Public Prosecutions an independent person himself, should be able to.....
Interruptions: that is not, in practice).....

It has been suggested that the Judiciary of this Region is not Nigerianised. I believe we are the only Region in the Federation that took bold and courageous step to Nigerianise all the top posts in the Region.

There is only one comforting aspect of this matter. And that is that the integrity of our High Court Judges has been found unequalled in this Country. I am in sympathy with the hon. the Leader of the Opposition who should have shown a very responsible appreciation of the quality of High Court Judges in this Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Bill.

Mr K. O. Owonikoko: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to make my comments as regards the Bill. It is always very easy to bring Bills to this House for the purpose of passing them. But the general application of all these Laws lies on the.....(*Interruptions*). It is very easy to bring a Bill to the House for approval. But the application lies on the executors.

Mr Speaker, Sir, how can we believe that the rule of law exists in Western Nigeria? When a Member of the NCNC has a case in the court, he is sentenced to a term of imprisonment with the fear of the Action Group. Many people, especially members of the Action Group, claim that the courts belong to their party and they threaten the masses.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the Ministry of Justice will be doing justice to all Members of every division in the Western Region to see that they all receive fair play in any court of law.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these my few remarks, I think that now that the Government is now in the hands of Nigerians, we should not expect that we should be in perpetual fear. After all, Judges are doing their work as assigned to them. But members of the Action Group, especially in my area, are used to this sort of thing—victimisation.

(Government Benches: Where is your area Is there any High Court in your area?)

Yes, there is. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Members of the Action Group should try to desist from putting other members of the Opposition to fear that the courts belong to them.

With these remarks, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mr J. O. Abiosun: It is only in the Western Region that members of the Government party take the law into their own hands. Of recent we all know what happened in the Western Region. We know the man who is at the head of affairs and we know what happened. We know how members of the Action Group pervert the course of justice, how they pay nocturnal visits to Judges, And is it not true that of recent Chief Okotie-Eboh was fined?

Mr Speaker: Order. May I remind you that the case of Okotie-Eboh should not be brought to the floor of this House except

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by way of a substantive Motion. And secondly you are referring to the case of Okotie-Eboh and, to the best of my knowledge, it is not to be.....(Laughter).

Mr Abioshun: Mr Speaker, Sir, we all know what is happening in Ibadan and in other places. If a member of the NCNC has a case in the court, in any of the courts, and you know how to go about it, you will go to the Judge and go to the fellow.....

Mr Speaker: You are ruled out of order, please. I shall call the next speaker.

Mr O. Olaitan: Mr Speaker, Sir, I like to request that Members on this side of the House will be supporting this Bill. As a lawyer, I know that none of the sections is controversial. If the Magistrate's Court is in co-operation, I see nothing bad at all in the application of the law. Now, the Chief Whip of Government, in replying, mentioned that Western Nigeria has tried in a way to improve efficiency in administering justice in Western Nigeria. That is true. In this Region—this Yoruba West is a very big area and any reference to a Region which is not so progressive as our Region here should not be made a standard. We are by nature and by birth.

I believe, Sir that in my Division, Ilesha Division, litigants are still suffering due to long distances they have to travel. I like to make mention of one Division—Oshun Division. And as explained, in Oshun Division, there are no High Courts. So somebody in Ogbomosho has got to travel from that place to the High Court here in Ibadan. So I will be appealing to the Attorney-General to consider the possibility of not suffering the Oshun Division and Ife Division, so that litigants would not have to travel to Ibadan to hear their cases here.

I would strongly recommend that the place to have a High Court should be Ilesha. I have been saying too about customary courts, about the appeals from them. And I would like the Minister to make a statement that when appeals are lodged from any customary court to a High Court the High Court should take the appeal as quickly as possible. We lodge our appeals to the High Court here, and sometimes the appeals are not heard until after nine months. There was a case of an appeal to the High Court. A copy of the appeal was not received by us, and that man had to suffer the term of imprisonment without the appeal being heard at all.

When an appeal is lodged in the High Court every action should be taken to see that the appeal is served.

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring this compliment to the last speaker for the very constructive suggestion he has made and the statement made by the hon. the Members of the Opposition. I can assure him that I am taking note of the points relating to appeals from a court to the High Court. That is necessary.

Now, I go to the main point. Somebody, I think, has made mention of the Nigerianisation policy. Because we have a Chief Justice who is not a Nigerian, therefore it is not Nigerianisation policy. I think it is a *non sequitur*. The present holder of that post is a man of legal learning, a man of great training, and, by every standard, he stands high in the Federation and in the Commonwealth. And you might say, too, that because we have a Solicitor-General who comes from the West Indies—that does make the Nigerianisation policy a farce in the Ministry of Justice.

If you can say that because in the Judiciary and in the Ministry of Justice you have a Ghanaian as Chief Justice and a Solicitor-General who is a West Indian, you could also go to the point that in the Ministry of Justice you have a Midwesterner as Minister of Justice and Attorney-General: therefore, the Ministry is not Nigerianised. In fact, if the hon. Member wants to give credit to this Government, he would admit the great value, liberality of outlook, of the judicial system of this Region. It is after all an evidence of the breadth of outlook of this Government that has brought this excellent material from various parts of the world. After all we are all Africans. I am just trying to put this idea right, because I do not like any unpleasant insinuations at all. If you are going to hold a brief for a private friend somewhere, well, you can come out with it. But it is certainly wrong to come and speak about Nigerianisation here. That is not all. The Administrator-General is a Nigerian, the Parliamentary Draftsman and the Legal Draftsman are Nigerians, as well as are the Director of Public Prosecutions and several Magistrates, Crown Counsel and Judges. What more do you want? That is Nigerianisation at its best.

Even apart from that, if you went to examine the Judicial Service Commission, that is, those who appoint these men, they are Nigerians, so that you really cannot say anything by way of criticism of the

[CHIEF IGHODARO]

Nigerianisation policy of this Government or with any particular reference to the Ministry of Justice. Nigerianisation policy, as it is, in the Ministry of Justice is in order. It is working perfectly well.

Somebody has referred again to the appointment of Judges to sit over election petitions. It is not unusual, Mr Speaker, Sir, for the Chief Justice of any place to appoint a Judge or two to take election cases. Hon. Members know that they hold a special position of priority in the Courts because you know the anxiety and agony that an hon. Member could suffer when his case is in court and is not treated in time and that is why, in order to expedite court business, the Chief Justice is properly entitled to ask a Judge who is free to go round and undertake any election petition. There is nothing strange in that and I thought I had better make that clear because, last year, an hon. Member of the Opposition did make that criticism.

Mr Speaker, Sir, an hon. Member, I think Mr Amadasun, spoke about one particular section of the Bill. It is only one point that is giving some difficulty to some people—appealing against acquittal or discharge. Especially the Director of Public Prosecutions ought to have the right. Not only the Director of Public Prosecutions but also anybody who is called the prosecutor. You can appeal too and, actually, it is something which safeguards all persons. It is useful to the Action Group, and the NCNC. After all it makes it possible to secure adequate justice for all: rich and poor, high and low, educated and illiterate. I do not think there is anything wrong in that.

The hon. Member from Benin was really making an unpleasant insinuation. After all, Members from this side of the House are not all that wicked. Psychologists talk of projection. I think the hon. Member was suffering from a case of psychological projection. What he would have done if he were in our position is to punish his adversaries. We have not got that intention at all. In fact, this law has not got any retrospective effect. I think hon. Members ought to examine certain clauses analytically. I do not think it is fair for somebody just to get up and say, well, this has been definitely levelled by the Regional Government against the Members of the Opposition. Rather, all these things are applicable generally, for the Action Group have representatives in the North, East, and so on; so that it is applicable to all citizens. There is therefore no point to fear.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think this country really should be very proud of the excellent men we have as Judges, and in the Western Region we have very great cause to be proud of the men who are occupying the Benches. I personally feel that in this country the future salvation, as well as stability, perhaps rests more upon the judiciary than perhaps on any other single factor. This is my honest view.

We have been speaking of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Only this morning was something mentioned in the daily newspapers about it. The Director of Public Prosecutions is a man of great learning. Somebody who has done not less than ten years, of equivalent status as a Judge. He has gigantic powers; he can initiate prosecution, discontinue it at any stage before judgment, and he can just step in and say it is discontinued. According to the Constitution, that right is exercisable by himself alone and not under the direction or control of anyone, not even the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. That is the position, as entrenched in the Constitution, in the North, East and West. I happened to be present at a Conference in Lagos recently when we were discussing the role of the Director of Public Prosecutions which took two days to decide what was to be done because most of our political parties were very suspicious of one another and thought it was necessary that the prosecutor should have nothing to do with the politicians.

In the Western Region, the Department of Public Prosecutions is not Ministerial. I have brought this to clarify the present position.

What if the present Bill that is now in the Federal Legislature were brought here? Then there will be a hue and cry by the Opposition that the Government is going to send every NCNC man into the prison. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am only telling you that all the points brought up are actually not controversial.

I would not like to take up more of your time, but I would like to assure hon. Members that the rule of law in this Region is absolutely secure; justice administered to all, rich and poor; in fact every man is equal before the law of this Region, and the independence of the judiciary is assured and is as sound as ever, while there is nothing to fear about justice in this Region. The Opposition has nothing to fear; what we have brought is a perfectly harmless Bill, Mr Speaker, Sir.

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 1-12 agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without amendments read the Third time and passed.

(Cheers and applause from Government Benches).

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

Motion made and question proposed "That the House do now adjourn sine die—(Chief Odebiyi).

The Creation of the Midwest Region

Mr A. Atohengbe: Mr Speaker, Sir, having listened to various expressed and implied statements, and having observed the movements of certain persons and groups of persons here and outside Nigeria in connection with the Motion unanimously passed a week ago by the Federal Parliament about the creation of the Midwest Region, and considering my position as a representative of 21,000 electorates in a section of that proposed Midwest Region, I take this opportunity to offer an appeal to all such persons or groups of persons directly or indirectly affected by the resolution to co-operate peacefully and constitutionally thereupon.

Both the NCNC and the NPC Coalition Government of the Federation, as well as the Action Group Opposition, should be congratulated for their contribution to the passing of the Motion.

History has it on record, true or false, that before the advent of the white man in this country there was the Benin Kingdom owned by the Edo people whose area of governmental authority extended to the River Niger on the East, to the Dahomey frontiers on the West, to the Sudan on the North and to the Atlantic Ocean on the South. Later came the Yoruba Kingdom which sprang up within the area of the Benin Kingdom. In effect, it could be implied that the Yoruba Kingdom was either overshadowed earlier on by the influence of the powerful Benin Kingdom or its people may have migrated from another area later on. Therefore, if either by chance or luck or by whatever forces responsible for the Yoruba Kingdom overshadowing the Binis for some time, it is sufficient reason that we must not, now that we are able to stand on our own, refuse for selfish political reasons to sell our rights for a mess of pottage. Let us come together for,

East, West, North and South, home is the best.

As I have said earlier on, this is an appeal to all concerned to co-operate and pull their resources together towards the creation of the Midwest Region. This is highly above politics.

This I very much emphasise, especially to the Midwest legislators of this honourable House, because our brothers in the Federal Parliament have taken the lead for us to follow, devoid of political differences.

I noticed that some of us have been tempted to ask why it must be that the Western Region, irrespective of its size, being the smallest compared with other Regions of Nigeria, should be split into bits.

This question seems belated and highly above our influence for the following reasons:—

(i) The several Constitutional Conferences held in London and Nigeria respectively have concluded adoptive procedure on this issue.

(ii) It is not on record that leaders from this part of the Region opposed the idea of creating new Regions from the existing ones or extending Lagos boundary at the Conference Table.

(iii) Could it be accepted as a fact that our leaders have no geographical knowledge to know that Lagos was bounded on the South by the Atlantic Ocean which could never be reclaimed in order to extend her boundary?

(iv) Was it to their knowledge, contemplated at any time that the Dahomeans would on any day pack away to dwell in the Atomic Area of the Sahara Desert to enable Lagos boundary to be extended?

(v) Were they not aware that Lagos was bounded on the other sides by the area of the Western Region over which the proposed boundary extension would affect? Countrymen, let us concern ourselves with that which concerns us. The passing of the Motion is likened to the presentation of Christ when the Holy Aged Simeon said—

“Lord, now, lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word: For my eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to lighten the gentiles, and the Glory of thy people Israel”.

Let us seize this opportunity to struggle and make the creation of the Midwest Region a reality so that we may live equally in

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happiness as neighbours with other Regions of Nigeria and bring to our beloved people life more abundant for all.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am indeed grateful for the opportunity given me to make this appeal to my co-legislators of this honourable House.

The Minister of Labour (Mr K. Y. S. Momoh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I like to express the satisfaction of those of us who belong to the Action Group Party in my area. We believe that, in principle, the Midwest Region ought to be created; that not only should the Midwest Region be created, but that other Regions also ought to be created. I am not, however, saying that, because whatever may be the reason why the Federal Parliament did not pass the creation of the other States simultaneously, we are not supporting the creation of the Midwest Region. We will insist on the creation of a Midwest Region because we believe that the creation of a Midwest Region will give an expression to our agitation all along for the creation of more States, but I like to make it clear, Sir, that it may be true that many centuries ago there was a kingdom known as the Benin Kingdom which ruled some parts of Nigeria. If that is the reason why the hon. Member on the other side and those who belong to the same school of thought think we should have a Midwest Region, we should begin to wonder whether we ought not to draw a line between freedom and independence. We want to be independent but at the same time we want to ensure that nothing shall be subtracted from the freedom we have. If the freedom of the Midwest will mean that somebody will sit down and lord it over all others, those of us on this side and the people we represent must think twice. In any case, Sir, I like to mention that since the Motion for the creation of a Midwest Region was passed by the Federal Parliament we have already heard that Governors have been nominated and that other officers have been selected. Well, as my hon. Colleague, the Minister for Midwest Affairs, rightly pointed out yesterday, there is not a single party in this House or outside which can ensure the creation of a Midwest State without the Action Group, and if before the State is created we are told that all of us will be deported and that all of us will be made objects of ridicule, then there is one assurance which we must have and must have before we proceed with the creation of the Midwest Region, and that assurance is this; we must know what the Constitution of the future

Midwest Region will be. We are not going to sign a blank cheque. We must ensure that the Constitution, at least on the face of it, will ensure the continued freedom of our people.

With this short warning, I accept the offer of the Member on the other side—Member for Benin North-East—that we are ready to co-operate to the fullest, provided we are not going to sign our death warrants.

Mr Speaker: The information I have is that the Oba of Benin migrated from Ife. *(Laughter)*.

Extension of Lagos Boundary

Mr C. A. Williams: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am asked by the entire people of my Constituency to express on the floor of this honourable House our protest against the proposed extension of Lagos area to our Division. From time immemorial, Epe Division has nothing practically to do with Lagos and we share no territorial boundary with Lagos. Mr Speaker, Sir, Epe Division is Ijebu and it belongs to the Awujale, and we have no regard for any chief from Lagos or for any Oba of Lagos. We have never, however, at any time paid homage to any Lagos chief. We are directly under the Oba of Ijebu-Ode. We shall resist with all the forces at our command if any attempt is made to extend the territory of Lagos to Epe Division.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. *(Cheers from Government Benches)*.

Warri Crown Lessees

Mr D. E. Okumagba: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am placing before this honourable House this morning the complaint of Warri former Crown Lessees. There has been a long standing dispute between the Warri Crown lessees and the Itsekiri land trustees for some time now. For the information of hon. Members, I am giving the background of their complaint. A portion of Warri land was leased to the Crown by Warri chiefs many years ago. The Crown in turn sublet this portion of land to people who became Crown lessees. In 1958, this Government assigned their interest to the Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees with a provision that they should negotiate fresh lessees with the former Crown lessees for a term of ninety-nine years on the same conditions as those of the former Crown lessees. If I may put it in a way that everybody here will understand—Government sublet this land to a number of people: Yoruba people had land there, Ibos got land there, Urhobos and Hausas and other people

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from every part of the country got land there. The Crown assigned their interest to Itsekiri Land Trustees in 1958 and before then the Government gave assurance that the conditions of the fresh leases to be negotiated between the Itsekiri Land Trustees and the former Crown lessees would be exactly on the same lines as the former one. The fact now is that the Itsekiri Land Trustees are not in anyway trying to fulfil this condition given by Government in 1958. The conditions now offered to the former Warri Crown lessees are intolerable. The first is the absence of the renewal clause in the proposed leases.

In the former Crown lease there was a provision in the lease that at the end or expiration of the term of the lease it would be renewed. The fear of the present lessees is this: Most of them have got their buildings on the land; they had built their houses. Suppose you built on a Crown land which you got from Government and that this land had been assigned to a different body with whom you were required to sign a different lease. Would you agree to sign in the new lease that after the term of ninety-nine years you had to surrender your land and the property on it to the lessor? This is the greatest complaint of the former Crown leases; this is their greatest fear. They agreed to build on the land because there was an assurance by Government that the lease would be subjected to renewal after the expiration of its term. But they were now being required to sign a fresh undertaking that at the expiration of the new term of ninety-nine years they should surrender both the land and the property on it to the lessors. This is one of the objectionable clauses now being proposed by the Itsekiri Land Trustees.

Another clause in the lease proposed by the Trustees is that if at the end of the year you fail to pay your rent within twenty-one days, you are deemed to have defaulted and your land reverts back to the lessors.

Government responsibility in this matter must be made clear. There was a sort of contract between the former Crown lessees and the Government. They agreed to build because they were given the condition that their lease would be subject to renewal. If it is true that this condition would not be in the fresh leases it would be Government's responsibility to redeem the pledge which it gave to the people in 1958 that their fears would be allayed in that they would insist that

the Warri Communal Land Trustees must include that the leases should be subject to renewal at the expiration of the term of ninety-nine years.

Mr Speaker, Warri former Crown lessees have taken up this matter with the Government. On the 6th of April, 1960, they addressed a letter to the Regional Government in which they listed their complaints and the clauses which they would not tolerate. When they waited for a reply and it was not forthcoming they sent several reminders, one was dated 24th September, 1960 and the other 9th November, 1960. The replies were not forthcoming until Government was obliged to send this reply to the petitioners in Warri. With your permission Mr Speaker, I will read the letter:

"I am directed by the Minister of Lands to acknowledge receipt of your petition dated 6th April and to inform you that a copy of this has been forwarded to the Secretary of the Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees, for the comments of the Trustees thereon. When these have been received and the Minister has studied them, he will be happy to grant your delegates an interview for a discussion on the points which you have raised."

Mr D. K. Olumofin: Point of Order Sir. Standing Order 6 (1). The quorum of the House shall be twenty-five; there is no quorum, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Order 6 (1) has been overtaken by the new Constitution which provides that if there shall be twenty with the Speaker, making twenty-one, a quorum is formed.

Mr Okumagba: This was a letter dated 7th May, 1960 sent to the petitioners by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Lands and Housing.

Alhaji Opaleye: Point of Order Sir. The number of people in the House is dwindling. Plus the Speaker, there is no quorum.

Mr Speaker: As a matter of fact we are not voting now. Could the hon. Gentleman continue his speech.

Mr Okumagba: The petitioners are still now waiting for a reply. It appears the Government is trying to evade the issue.

Recently the Government made, as a result of pressure being brought by the petitioners, an attempt to write another letter that the petitioners should come for an interview in Ibadan. The interview was fixed for 15th

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March but before the humble petitioners had made up their minds the Minister sent a telegram that they should not come. The telegram was dated 11th March and was sent to the petitioners in Warri through Dr Esiri, Secretary of the Itsekiri Communal Land Trustees, for the comments of the Trustees thereon. When these have been received, and the Minister has studied them, he will be happy to grant your delegates an interview for a discussion on the points which you have raised.

Alhaji Opaleye: Mr Speaker, Sir, a quorum is not formed.

Notice taken that a quorum was not formed.

Members summoned and counted, and as less than one-sixth of all the Members of the House were present at the expiration of five minutes—

Mr Speaker adjourned the House without question put, pursuant to Standing Order 6 (2).

Adjourned accordingly sine die at 1.05 p.m. pursuant to the resolution of the House this day.

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ABBREVIATIONS:

1R, 2R, 3R = read First, Second, Third time.
Am = Amendment M = Motion

Com. = Committee
Q = Question

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