



GOVERNMENT OF THE WESTERN REGION OF NIGERIA

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT

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WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 3RD AUGUST, 1955

The House met at 10.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

The following Members took and subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance as Members of the House :—

Lady O. M. Abayomi (Special Member)

Mr E. C. Judd (Special Member)

PAPERS LAID

The following Papers were laid on the Table of the House by the Premier, Chief Obafemi Awolowo :—

1. Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1955 :—

The Duties and Functions of Administrative Officers in the Western Region of Nigeria.

2. Sessional Papers Nos. 2 and 2 (a) of 1955 :—

Conclusions and Supplement thereto, of the Government of the Western Region on the Report of the Commission on the Public Services in the Federation of Nigeria by Mr L. H. Gorsuch.

The Minister of Development (Chief C. D. Akran) laid the following Paper on the Table of the House on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture :—

Produce Inspection Ordinance, 1950 (Ordinance 24 of 1950) Cocoa (Inspection for Export) (Temporary Relaxation) Regulations, 1955.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

Cocoa officers

*3/55. **Mr J. A. Oroge** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources how many cocoa officers are in the Western Region now; how many of them are Europeans giving their qualifications and how they compare with those of the Nigerian cocoa officers.

Chief Akran for the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources :

There are now two senior cocoa officers and six cocoa officers in the Western Region. One senior cocoa officer is a European and

[CHIEF AKRAN]

one is a Nigerian. Neither have any technical qualifications.

Three cocoa officers are Europeans and three are Nigerians. All three Nigerians have had training and experience as agricultural assistants and two have had further experience as assistant cocoa survey officers. One European has a degree in Agriculture and has had general experience in Eastern and Northern Nigeria. A second European has had twenty-eight years of experience of tropical and semi-tropical agricultural work with particular reference to nurseries and plant propagation. The third has had considerable experience of handling men and planning the sort of campaign which the Cocoa Division engages in. He has also had considerable experience of training Indians in the use of modern scientific equipment. It would be very difficult to state which of these six men is the best qualified. Each is well fitted for his job.

Promotions to Cocoa Officer Grade

*4/55. **Mr Oroge** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources how many Nigerians have been promoted to the cocoa officer grade and what are the qualifications required for promotion to this grade.

Chief Akran : The answer to that question is not yet ready.

Students in the School of Agriculture

*5/55. **Mr Oroge** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources how many students are in the School of Agriculture; what is the qualification required for admission into this school and how many pupils have passed out of the school and what posts do they hold.

Chief Akran : As the reply to the hon. Member's question contains many figures, I have arranged for it to be included in the Supplement to the Votes and Proceedings.

Visits of Rural Medical Officer

*91/55. **Chief Arthur Prest** asked the Minister of Public Health how many times has a rural medical officer visited the Benin River and the Gborodo Districts of the Warri Division during the last twelve months and whether he will consider posting an additional medical officer to this Division to enable one of them to tour the Division at least once a month.

The Minister of Public Health (Mr S. O. Ighodaro) : During the last twelve months, four visits were paid by rural medical officers to the Benin River and Gborodo Districts. It is understood that in the last few months there have been some difficulties in the allocation of a launch for the use of the medical officers and it has not always been convenient for them to make use of the launch when made available at very short notice. I regret that until the recruiting position improves very considerably there is no possibility of posting an additional medical officer to the Division.

Crown Lands

*97/55. **Chief Arthur Prest** asked the Minister of Lands how much of the Crown land rents collected in Warri Township is retained by the Regional Government ; now that the Local Government Law will shortly be introduced in Warri Division whether the Minister will give an undertaking that all rents, etc., accruing from lands in the Warri Township will be surrendered to the Warri Divisional Local Government Authority.

The Minister of Lands (Mr J. F. Odunjo) : The Regional Government retains one quarter of such rents. A further quarter goes to the Itsekiri Native Treasury and the balance of one-half to the Warri Township.

No such undertaking can be given ; it must be appreciated that the Regional Government is put to very considerable expense in the administration of these lands. An office and appropriate staff is maintained from Government funds at Warri for the preservation of boundaries, prevention of breaches of covenant and collection of rents, etc., and the small proportion of rents retained is meant to cover a part of such expense.

Government Publicity

*101/55. **Chief Arthur Prest** asked the Minister of Home Affairs what steps he proposes to take to ensure that publicity matters, *i.e.*, printed matters, Government circulars, etc., intended for circulation, reach the people in the Western Region and whether he is aware that so far no publicity agent of the Government has reached the Benin River area of the Warri Division.

Mr Ighodaro for the Minister of Home Affairs : When staff are available, an assistant publicity officer will be responsible for distribution of Government publicity material in each Division. In addition, there will be at least one information officer and one cinema and publicity van in each Division. Distribution in the creek areas is at present difficult owing to lack of transport, but the situation will improve when cinema and publicity barges are stationed in all the waterside areas.

Secondary Education Scholarships

*111/55. **Mr A. O. Ogedengbe** asked the Minister of Education which Divisions in the Western Region are regarded as backward by the Ministry of Education in the award of secondary education scholarships.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr K. S. Y. Momoh) : Since the inception of the Government secondary school scholarship scheme, backward area award have been made to the following Divisions :—

Ikeja Division	...	5 awards
Epe Division	...	8 awards
Badagry Division	...	2 awards
Egbado Division	...	7 awards
Remo Division	...	4 awards
Ibadan Division	...	6 awards
Oshun Division	...	7 awards
Oyo Division	...	5 awards
Ife Division	...	2 awards
Ilesha Division	...	2 awards
Ondo Division	...	2 awards
Owo Division...	...	3 awards
Okitipupa Division	...	4 awards
Kukuruku Division	...	3 awards
Ishan Division	...	3 awards
Western Ijaw Division	...	4 awards
Kwale Aboh Division	...	5 awards

Divisions considered for backward area secondary school scholarship awards vary from year to year, depending upon the results of post secondary scholarship awards.

Mr D. K. Olumofin asked what the Government intended to do for those areas that are regarded backwards in regard to scholarship awards.

Mr Momoh : What the Government intends to do is to continue to give them opportunity for special scholarships, as we now do.

Mr Ogedengbe : Are all those Divisions mentioned backward areas ?

Mr Momoh : They are considered backward educationally.

Mr Ogedengbe : What data or on what special conditions scholarships are distributed to backward areas or whether special obligation will not be made to meet up other areas of the Western Region ?

Mr C. N. Ekwuyasi : What was the yardstick with which the Government measures backward and non-backward areas ?

Mr Momoh : Will the hon. Members give notice of these questions please. (Applause).

Regional Scholarship Awards in Owo Division

*112/55. **Mr Ogedengbe** asked the Minister of Education how many applicants have applied for Regional scholarship from Akoko, Owo and Oka Districts in Owo Division in 1952, 1953 and 1954 respectively and how many awards have been made in each year.

Mr Momoh : All statistics in regard to scholarship applications and awards are kept on a Divisional and not a District basis.

It is regretted therefore that the information requested is not available. However, the information for Owo Division as a whole is as follows :—

1952—28 applications—3 awards

1953—27 applications—4 awards

1954—42 applications—2 awards

Modern Agricultural Implements

119/55. **Rev. Mr J. Ade Ajayi** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources how many modern agricultural implements have been provided for the farmers of the Western Region since 1952 ; how have they been allocated and what provision has been made for Ekiti Division.

Chief Akran : None. Government does not provide farmers with agricultural implements, modern or otherwise ; farmers must obtain their equipment through normal commercial channels.

As the hon. Member is aware, Government is carrying out numerous investigations in an effort to find ways in which mechanical equipment such as tractors could profitably be introduced into present farming systems.

[MR AKRAN]

No system has yet been found which would give increased returns sufficient to meet the extra costs involved in the use of mechanical equipment instead of hand labour and Government is therefore not yet able to advise farmers to purchase tractor and their associated agricultural equipment.

Some of these investigations take the form of group farming and tractor hiring schemes operated in conjunction with farmers, and investigations of this nature are now in progress in the Oyo, Ilesha, Ibadan and Egba Divisions. It is not proposed to increase the number of these schemes until results obtained in the present investigations justify it.

Mr J. O. Odigie : How long will it take this Government to continue investigation of this nature ?

Chief Akran : For as long as it is necessary. (Applause).

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Chief F. M. S. Tsekiri : I rise this morning, in accordance with parliamentary procedure, to make a personal declaration of national significance as a confirmation to what you have all heard in the radio and read from the Press immediately after the sitting of the last June meeting of this hon. House ; and this I have done, without tears and without bitterness.

Since the National Youth rally was held at Ojokoro about four and ten years ago and as a new spirit of strong nationalism was ushered in me, I became a staunch member of the NCNC which Party was subsequently formed thereafter. I had harboured the belief that no party other than this formerly great Party of the NCNC can win freedom and bring about the general welfare of the common man in Nigeria generally, and the Mid-West in particular. With this in mind the Urhobo and Isoko peoples did not hesitate to state equivocally their demand for a Warri State cum Mid-Western State at the Provincial level during the review of the Richard constitution in 1949, to which I had the pleasure to subscribe.

In order to crystalise the concepts of a new Nigeria, nay the Benin-Delta State, the Benin-Delta Peoples Party was inaugurated and looking up favourably to its god-father, the NCNC, for all parental

[CHIEF TSEKIRI]

protections and cares. But far from our expectations which were not previously in fact based on "anthropological and sociological similarities" nor on any "terrestrial propinquity", every subsequent event after that time has placed the NCNC Party very unfavourably in the minds of us in the Mid-West in its dilly-dally tactics over the creation of the Benin-Delta State which in fact I and my people fail to reconcile with the professed beliefs, policies and statements of the NCNC.

And as the Benin-Delta Peoples Party has been inaugurated by the Mid-Westerners under the leadership of His Highness Akenzua II, Oba of Benin, as its President-General with a strong Executive composed of people drawn from various walks of life in order to fight for our state now and any other opportunity available, I and my people cannot any longer allow ourselves to be bamboozled nor our fate to be toyed with in any political rigmarole. And judging from all indications that the people of the Mid-West have no other platform on which they can suitably gain political recognition in this hon. House and elsewhere without being rigorously subjected to party principles, rules and regulations in putting forward their representations at the forth-coming 1956 Constitutional Conference, I have no alternative than to resign from the NCNC in and outside this House and have therefore declared for the Benin-Delta Peoples Party.

Already, some NCNC fanatics who do not see beyond their noses and other NCNC political opportunists who are also Benin-Delta Peoples Party Executives have so easily forgotten their inglorious past and started to throw stones even though they live in glass houses. And to the third grade whose flesh is weak but heart is willing, have eyes but see not, have ears but hear not, may God of Africa rectify their defects so that we can jointly face a common goal and thus enjoy life more abundantly at the time of harvest in the Mid-West State as I would prefer being a free steward at home to a slave club manager abroad.

I wish to reiterate at this juncture, that without tears and without bitterness, I have resigned my membership from that one-time great Party, the NCNC, and identified

myself in soul and in flesh with the Benin-Delta Peoples Party which Party at this stage I make abundantly clear shall be in friendship with any political party and/or person which and/or who so genuinely supports its struggles for the creation of the Mid-Western State.

Goodbye to NCNC. God be with you till we meet again.

Mr J. E. Otobo : In keeping with parliamentary practice and in pursuance of statements already made outside this hon. House, I now declare my identity in this House as a Benin-Delta People Party member.

I have no doubt that behind me in the NCNC is a team of persons who go by what I referred to earlier, during the debate on the 7s 6d minimum wage, as the "Otobo Section" of the NCNC—that group of conscientious party men who believe that the best way to serve in a party is not by shouting meaningless praise slogans but by guarding ceaselessly the actions, speeches, and behaviour of party leaders in order the better to preserve the ideals which form the foundation of that party, and on which therefore the confidence of the masses was based. In the interest of the country, I consider that I owe it as a duty to draw the attention of the Otobo Section still in the NCNC to certain facts and factors which are not unconnected with my present frame of mind.

In the first place, a unitary form of government—the most characteristic principle of the NCNC—has given way to federalism: in the words of the NCNC national president, "federalism is imperative" What is of concern to original adherents of a unitarian system of government is not the present entrenchment of federalism as such but the large measures and steps, many of them of a decidedly permanent nature, which are being pursued by the Eastern Government—steps which not only crystallise regionalism on the present pattern but also operate so as to make it almost impossible for Nigerian unity to materialise at all. I do not doubt that the NCNC does not proclaim with vigour the concept of one constitution and one destiny; but the practice does seem to me to be at variance with this philosophy. Naturally, the Otobo

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Section of the NCNC views with alarm certain measures and bills which are passed by the Eastern Legislature without the knowledge of those of their members in the West. I refuse to believe that this serious omission is due to inefficient party organisation or planlessness; if anything, it is studied and intentional planlessness.

In the second place, the political significance of the "problem of the North" is sometimes vastly underrated. Armed with powers of deciding on its own electoral regulations, and with its present frame of mind, the Northern Peoples Congress with its Northern electorate will create and continue to create constitutional problems of a far-reaching nature to the extent of making impossible real self-government for Nigeria or at best making a mockery of the so-called "self-government on a platter of gold" which Southern political spheres of influence may attain. In any event, it will be found on analysis that the whole question of more states is intimately connected with the problem of the North. For the present, be it noted that the Northern attitude towards us Southerners is the answer to tribal loyalties generated by many Southern leaders (more particularly those of the East) under the crocodile tears of "Nigerian Unity".

In the third place, I have discovered that the now overworked *One Nigeria* concept is either a mere political stunt (carrying no faith in practice) or is a device intended to blindfold other Nigerian tribes so that they may the better overlook their natural and national rights and privileges. Let me state here and now my candid belief (and this is not flattery) that the attitude of Western Ibos is definitely different from that of Eastern Ibos. The theme of this part of my speech is that all tribal groups are not making equal contributions to the concept of *One Nigeria*. To quote one or two instances: it is held to be in keeping with the concept of one Nigeria when the Eastern Ibos indulge in distinctions between non-Onitsha and Onitsha Ibos in respect of places in the Onitsha District Council; but the Urhobos, Isokos and Itsekiris will be held to be violating One Nigeria if they insist that in Warri and Sapele townships the Eastern Ibos ought not to control Warri

and Sapele Councils. Again the Isokos are to be regarded as true NCNCers only if they agree that ninety-nine per cent of the teachers in the only Isoko Teacher Training College at Oleh and ninety per cent of the students therein are of Eastern Ibo origin. These are things we have to contend against. Finally, the position is not even made more comfortable by public pronouncements of NCNC leaders. To cite an example: the Otobo Section of the NCNC was naturally alarmed to hear the NCNC National President declare at the Ibo State Union Conference that the Ibos will not accept any inferior status in the Nigerian scheme of things. Perhaps the logical implication that only other tribes are to accept inferior status did not then occur to him. Finally, it is not a fortuitous accident that every Ibo person in my Division is a fanatical supporter of the NCNC. In the face of all this I sometimes pity over-zealous political enthusiast like the hon. D. K. Olumofin. There is an august visitor in the gallery who has clothed himself in Itsekiri dress in order to hide his identity. But it is a matter of common knowledge that he has taken large sums of money from teachers who wished to be employed in the Urhobo Division. He is no other than Mr Oweh who has collected sums of money to the tune of £1,000. And yet tomorrow this Parliamentary Secretary will talk about teachers taking bribes. It is also a matter of common knowledge that hon. Oweh stole the sum of about £1,200 meant for building free education schools in Western Urhobo.

Mr Olumofin : The last speaker has violated and overstepped the bounds of this House by his attack of an innocent person.

Mr Ighodaro : On a point of order, the speaker should specify the number of the standing rule.

Mr Otobo : In the fourth place the Otobo section of the NCNC was convinced that the top storey of the NCNC had become not only unreceptive to honest and sincere approaches made by genuine NCNCers to correct certain omissions and deviations from the party line, but had also become like capitalism, distinctly reactionary to the point of being undemocratic;

[MR OTOBO]
to the point of labelling the more conscientious party men "cantankerous malcontents and political saboteurs"; and to the point of expelling them for what they hold as "acting in a manner likely to bring the name of the NCNC into contempt and ridicule"—as if their very actions had not done more than that! My only consolation in this respect is that the NCNC National President has recently not only almost vindicated on almost all fundamental points the genuine criticisms by his only truly nationalist NCNC followers, but has also now even publicly and outside party circles described his one-time favourite lieutenants as "Crooks defaming the name of the Party". My only regret is that he has, perhaps accidentally, I prefer to believe, manoeuvred himself into an angelic position of innocence, leaving his supporters to condemnation. It is my sincere hope that perhaps if political fortunes shall indirectly bring me back to the Otobo-spirited persons still in the NCNC, then by that time the Otobo Section might, although I doubt it, have succeeded in getting the NCNC to work along its charted course. I hate to leave genuine party men like hon. Ekwuyasi behind in the NCNC fold; but then the country has yet to get many Ekwuyasis to guide the destiny of the NCNC which, in my view, is at present in need of a major political surgery.

I now come to the last phase and note of this declaratory speech—the question of separate states, in particular the Mid-West State. The Benin-Delta Peoples Party is out to get *direct* representation at the 1956 Constitutional Conference in order the better to struggle for the attainment of its immediate objective—the creation of the state, considering present political trends in this country. The B.D.P.P. considers that *direct* parliamentary recognition is a pre-requisite. The B.D.P.P. is prepared to enter into alliance with any other political party which transparently and concretely desires a Mid-West or Benin-Delta State.

Has any of the other political parties any settled views on the question of states? Basically, the Action Group has, in my opinion, settled views on the number of states in so far as it firmly believes in the present three-Regional structure. It will however forgo the Mid-West zone for

political and other reasons, and this, quite irrespective perhaps of the position in either the East or the North. Again, basically, the N.P.C. has settled views: it believes in the present constitutional three-Region structure, and will preserve (with full backing by the British) the present Northern Region intact. It is indifferent to what happens in and to the East and West. In fact, on analysis it will be found that the more the East and West are split up, the more it suits the N.P.C. and British vested interests. The NCNC, on the other hand, definitely has no settled views, and since the NCNC position is more complicated, I will briefly review the facts.

What then are the facts? The two basic facts are firstly, that the NCNC supports the creation of a Mid-West State, and secondly, that the NCNC supports the creation of many states. As against the professed support for the Mid-West State may be set the following:—

(a) the NCNC condones and probably inspires the Western Ijaw agitation for a separate Ijaw State;

(b) the Otu-Aniocha (a representative cultural organisation of Western Ibos) would not want a separate Mid-West State if the Oba of Benin's president-generalship is not replaced by one by a member of the Otu Aniocha;

(c) the Itsekiri NCNCers as represented by that floating politician without an electorate, Chief Okotie-Eboh, have not made up their minds on such an important issue, even though Okotie-Eboh is a top-ranking officer of the NCNC which is supposed to have supported the B.D.P.P. and its demand for the creation of a Mid-West State;

(d) the NCNC on three occasions last year refused offer of alliance by the B.D.P.P.

By necessary inference, it follows that the NCNC is in fact inspiring the Itsekiris, the Western Ijaws, and the Otu-Aniocha Ibos to dissociate themselves from the proposed Mid-West State, thus crippling the chances of viability of that state by a process of nipping its creation in the bud and by a process of dismemberment.

On the other hand, the NCNC professed support for the creation of more states

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must be taken along with the following facts and/or implications:—

(a) In the West it makes some Yoruba NCNC groups ask for apparently futile and confusionist demands for an Ondo-Ibadan-Oyo State;

(b) in the East, the NCNC inspires opposition to an Ogoja-River-Calabar State, while favouring splinter demands for smaller states.

The NCNC cannot eat its cake and have it. If on the basis of the principles of federalism enunciated by the NCNC National President the Western Ijaws, the Ondo-Ibadan-Oyo, the Calabar, the Ogoja and other uni-tribal proposed States are possible, then on this same basis the Mid-West State being multi-tribal and multi-cultural cannot in fact be so constituted. In any case too, the Otobo Section of the NCNC believed that a serious party ought to have worked out what areas ought to be constituted into states on the principles already enunciated by the NCNC. Surely a Party such as the NCNC must have settled views on the future states structure on the eve of a major Constitutional Conference.

By and large then, I am led to the conclusion that the present uncertainty on the part of the non-Otobo Section of the NCNC can only result in a free for all request for separate states—a device which is intended to be used as political stunts as opportunities present themselves. Being, therefore, a sort of ready-made non-committal formula, it is a case of calculated and studied (and hence condemnable) political mischief and insincerity. I am frank enough to state that in view of the stand of the N.P.C. with its political implications, about the only genuine stand the NCNC ought to have declared is one of a three-Region structure. Failure to do this and in view of what I said earlier in the declaratory statement have left me no course of action other than one for the creation of a Mid-West State.

Let me end with the concluding remarks that even if I retire from politics next year, I am satisfied that I have taken the proper course. The wheels of God grind slowly: the NCNC has today the full advantages of an early start, and it is possible that anything could upset even such formidable posts as the Mid-West Division.

I now make myself known to you and therefore to this hon. House as a Benin-Delta People Party member. I thank you for the opportunity thus offered me.

BUSINESS MOTION

Mr Ighodaro : I beg to move: "That at its rising this day this House should adjourn *sine die*".

Chief Akran : I beg to second the motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Gorsuch Report on the Nigerian Public Services

Chief O. Awolowo : I rise to move: "That this House

(i) accepts the recommendations made by Mr L. H. Gorsuch in his Report on the Nigerian Public Services, as they relate to the Western Region, subject to the modifications and reservations indicated in the White Paper on the subject, and in the Supplement thereto, laid before the House;

(ii) authorises the appropriation of £800,000 in the 1955-56 Estimates to meet the cost of their implementation; and

(iii) authorises the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Finance to exercise such powers of virement as may be requisite to enable this sum to be spread over the different Heads of Estimates as necessary."

Hon. Members are already in possession of the Gorsuch Commission Report and also of the Government White Paper and the Supplement thereto, which I had the honour of laying on the Table of this House this morning. Before I elaborate on some of the contents of the three documents, however, I think it is appropriate on this occasion to refresh memories of hon. Members as to how and why the Commission which is now popularly known as "Gorsuch Commission" came to be appointed.

After the Lagos Conference last year, it became clear that the responsibilities which would devolve on the Regions under the new Constitution would be much greater than ever before. Heads of Departments and Permanent Secretaries to Ministries

[CHIEF A WOLOWO]

would be called upon to discharge responsibilities which were before shared between them and their counterparts in the Federal Government. These increased responsibilities at the top would, as of a necessity, devolve successively down the ladder to the very smallest official in the Regions. Besides all these, there had been some murmuring among the civil servants about the inadequacy of their remuneration.

The Government of the Western Region, conscious and appreciative of the prevailing circumstances and the imminent increase in responsibilities, decided to make a request for the appointment of a commission of inquiry to inquire into the salaries and structure of the Civil Service in the Region, in time for the recommendations of such a commission to be implemented by 1st October, 1954.

At that time, it was not within the competence of the Government of this Region to appoint a commission of inquiry or even to set up a committee to inquire into the conditions and remunerations of public servants. An approach was accordingly made to the Federal Government. After some delay, a suggestion came from the Federal Government to the effect that it would be better for a commission such as was suggested by us to be appointed to inquire into the salaries and structure of the Public Service, not only in the Western Region, but also in the Federation and the other Regions, including the Cameroons. We thought that this was an excellent idea and agreed to it. But it took some time before one of the other Regions was able to accede, with reluctance and reservations which are well known, to the proposal. There was a time when we demanded through our Lieutenant-Governor that, if the unwillingness of this one Region to participate was going to frustrate the appointment of the commission for a Nigeria-wide inquiry, one should be appointed immediately for the Western Region alone. It was the wish of this Government that the increased responsibilities which would devolve on the civil servants in this Region should coincide with any increase in pay that might be recommended.

Eventually, the commission was appointed; but not in time for its recommendations to be even published much less implemented by 1st October, 1954. In these circumstances, Government decided to give to its officers, officials and employees, a public assurance of its firm intention to ante-date to 1st of October, 1954, any increase in salaries to which they may become entitled as a result of the proposed review. That was a most serious step to take at the time, as we did not then know what the size of the increases likely to be recommended would be. But we took it because we were determined upon assuring justice and fair play to those who serve us. And we have reason to think that the generality of them appreciated the gesture and have done their work since then in a different spirit from what might otherwise have prevailed. They have worked in the confident belief that they are serving a Government that always keeps its word.

As is clearly stated in the White Paper accompanying it, the Government of this Region has given the Report a very careful and intensive examination, both at the official and ministerial levels. The Report itself is written in a most lucid and understandable style. On behalf of this Government I take this opportunity to pay public tribute to Mr Gorsuch for discharging a stupendous and complex task in a most competent and satisfactory manner.

The aim of this Government is to build up and maintain in this Region an efficient and contented Public Service. Towards this end the Government believes in the co-existence of the following fundamental requisites :—

- (1) An adequate personnel in every sector of our Public Service ;
- (2) Individual suitability, both by qualification and vocational bent ;
- (3) Adequate salaries and satisfactory conditions of service, both of which must be sufficient to attract and retain the right type of candidates in the Public Service ;
- (4) Security of career coupled with absence of interference by politicians in the appointment and promotion of civil servants ; and

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(5) Total absence of discrimination between racial or tribal groups within the Public Service.

It is this aim that has guided and influenced the Government in the consideration of the Report and in the conclusions which it has reached.

What the Government of this Region think of the Report, Sir, is, in the main, set out in the White Paper and the Supplement thereto. We consider the approach of Mr Gorsuch to the problem of the structure of the Service to be the correct one, namely, the creation of a service primarily intended for indigenous candidates, supplemented by inducement additions for the attraction of such oversea appointments as continued to be inevitable. We knew that the task of the Commissioner would not be easy and his Report shows the complexity of it. The Public Service of Nigeria, like many other things in this country, suffers from a distortion resulting from the presence in it of a large number of officers recruited from overseas.

Another misfortune which we have inherited from the past out of Public Service is the mistaken conception of relating the level of remuneration paid to an indigenous officer in Nigeria almost entirely to what is paid to an officer engaged on similar duties elsewhere (commonly in the United Kingdom) or to what is required to attract a candidate from outside Nigeria. It is of course important that, as far as possible, people working side by side on the same duties should be able to feel that, *inter se*, they are justly treated in the matter of remuneration. That is why we are in principle in favour of equal pay for equal job and in principle opposed to differential pay for the oversea officer. I shall return to this question later. The point I wish to make now is this. Just as it is important to ensure that the pay of the indigenous officer on the same work as the oversea officer bears a proper relationship to that of the latter, so it is important that the pay of the indigenous officer in the higher rungs of the service ladder should not be out of proportion, all things considered, to the pay of their indigenous brethren on the lower rungs of that ladder.

It is the policy of the Western Region Government to see that a proper balance is maintained between all classes of its employees in this matter. It is a moot point whether the proposals of Mr Gorsuch will completely achieve this desirable objective, but here again, everyone must admit that by the creation of executive and technical grades he has gone very far, and probably as far as it is possible to go at this stage, to bridge the gap there has hitherto been between the high and the low in the service.

There is a further consideration that my Government regard as of the greatest importance in fixing the level of salaries of public servants generally. It is that that level must take account of, and be generally in line, not only with the level of salaries and wages in the larger trading establishments in the country, which has not escaped Mr Gorsuch's attention, but also with the level of wages and other remuneration of the ordinary man in the street and the ordinary man in the bush who are not civil servants but who contribute to the tax revenues from which the public services of this Region are maintained. I should like to appeal to all ranks of the service not to overlook this important consideration in judging the adequacy or otherwise of the level of salaries that is proposed in the Gorsuch Report.

Judged by all the criteria to which I have referred, the Gorsuch proposals on the structure and the general level of remuneration of the Public Services are, in the opinion of the Western Region Government, acceptable and we recommend them for adoption by this hon. House.

I now wish to add a word or two to what I said earlier on the question of differential pay for oversea officers. Some critics have quite rightly pointed out that "Inducement addition" is a euphemistic expression for expatriation pay. I agree entirely with them. It is Shakespeare who makes one of his characters to say paradoxically: "What's in a name? A rose called by any other name will smell as sweet". But there is a good deal sometimes in a name. A rose called by any other name will smell as sweet but will not be identified as a rose, without its physical presence or nearness. Conversely, "Inducement addition" though a

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Euphemism for "Expatriation pay", sounds better in the ear. It is not so revolting, and it expresses in precise terms the purpose of the additional payment designated "Expatriation pay" which was hitherto paid to expatriate officers in order to induce them to come to our land to render to us essential services.

The whole essence of Gorsuch's recommendations for the remuneration of the Public Service, as I have already pointed out, is the assumption that the Public Service of the country is henceforth going to be an indigenous service. All the remunerations recommended, therefore, are intended to attract and keep in the service indigenous officers. This is in accord with the policy of Nigerianisation which the Government of this Region has been most vigorously pursuing since its assumption of office in 1952. Our record in this regard is one of which any Westerner or any Nigerian at that can justly be proud. But it will take some years hereafter before Nigerianisation could be complete. I do not pretend to know how long it is going to take—it may be ten years hence and it may be less. Everything possible is being done by this Government to accelerate this process by means of promotion of experienced officers, the appointment of newly qualified candidates and by means of large-scale training through the Government's scholarship awards. In the meantime, whilst new talents are being discovered within the service, new recruits are being found, and the training of others is being accelerated, the Public Service of the Region must be conducted and carried on in the most efficient manner possible. If there are not enough indigenous officers to man all the departments of our Public Service competently, it would be our duty to offer sufficient inducement to attract foreigners.

The question which Mr Gorsuch set out to answer was whether the remuneration recommended for indigenous officers is sufficient to attract oversea officers, and if not, how much, in addition to what the indigenous officers in this Region are going to receive, would be required to attract them. It is a well-known fact that the main and indeed the only source of our recruitment from foreign countries is the United

Kingdom and other parts of Europe. Mr Gorsuch was quite satisfied, on grounds which in my view are indisputable, that the remuneration payable to indigenous officers will not suffice to attract expatriate officers. How much then do we have to add to this remuneration in order to induce Britons and other Europeans to come and work for us in this Region?

After due and careful investigation, Mr Gorsuch has come to the conclusion that the "Inducement addition" requisite is the respective rates recommended by him in his Report.

I make no apologies for repeating that this Government is opposed in principle to differential pay, believing as it does in the pay for the job and nothing else. But the Government of this Region is, I assert in all humility, a Government of realists, always prepared to accept and face up to the realities of the situation in which it finds itself. The practical situation today is that in certain important fields of work there are not enough qualified Nigerians to fill all the posts that have to be filled. I have my own views as to the causes of this unfortunate position but I am not at the moment interested in apportionment of blame. I am interested in making it clear to all Nigerians in the Public Service that, as long as the present situation persists, so long will this or any other responsible Government have to submit to the offering of special inducements to attract the oversea candidates.

For the reasons already given, and having regard to comparable rates of inducement pay in other countries circumstanced as we are, we have no alternative but to accept Gorsuch's recommendations on this score and to commend them to this hon. House for approval. To refuse to accept his recommendations would tantamount to saying that the Public Service of the Region could go to the dogs in the meantime, until our own indigenous officers are ready to man all the departments of our Government. That would be grossly irresponsible.

It is not, I think, out of place to state for the information of the hon. Members that Nigerians who are employed by this Government and the Government of the Federation in the United Kingdom are

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general, it is also indefensible and invidious as between the senior classes of civil servants and the junior classes; for as between a senior civil servant and a junior civil servant, the burden of child rearing bears more heavily on the latter than on the former. For the reasons given, therefore, Government is of the opinion that children's allowances should be abolished but without prejudice to those who are now enjoying this benefit.

The original purpose of outfit allowance was to assist an expatriate officer who was coming out for the first time to this country in buying tropical clothing. For some mysterious reasons, however, this privilege was extended to indigenous officers as well. In practice, it means that an indigenous officer who, until yesterday was a chief clerk in Agodi here gets £60 by way of assistance towards the provision of certain clothing, if today he is promoted to the so-called senior service. This is outrageous, to say the least. The Government has therefore decided to abolish this type of allowance to indigenous officers, subject to the exceptions set out in paragraph 27 of the White Paper.

Hon. Members will notice in paragraph II of the White Paper the relative gradings between Permanent Secretaries and certain classes of Administrative Officers called Residents. In the United Kingdom, which is our model in this type of matter, the post of Permanent Secretary is the highest office to which a civil servant could aspire. It is the view of this Government that the same practice should obtain in this Region. This is not by any means a blind imitation. Permanent Secretaries who are associated from day to day with the formulation of policies, and are charged with their execution, carry far more responsibilities under the existing set-up than Residents and most of the other public servants. Accordingly, the Government, as is shown in paragraph 11 of the White Paper, has graded the Permanent Secretaries higher than the Residents who are graded in Group 6. But, as has been pointed out in the White Paper, there are a number of officers in the Administrative Service who would feel personally aggrieved by reason of the fact that they will be holding posts and

receiving salaries inferior and lower than those that are going to be held and received under the Gorsuch recommendations, by officers who are junior to them in the service. It is in order to eliminate such grievances and anomalies that the decision contained in paragraph 11 is taken. It may be of interest to hon. Members, however, to know that this special concession applies to only a handful of officers, most of whom will be due for retirement before very long.

It is the view of the Government that only barristers and solicitors who have had seven years post-call experience should be appointed magistrates in the Western Region. At the time that the Magistrates' Court Law of this Region was being enacted, however, there were (and up till this moment there are) a number of magistrates employed in the Western Region who had not attained seven years' post-call experience. The problem which confronted the Government at the time it was making its plan for the introduction of the Magistrates' Court under the new Constitution was what would happen to those magistrates who had not had the requisite post-call experience. It would have been unfair to dispense with their services, and it would have been derogatory to their status and legal qualification to describe them as magistrates, grade II. The Government therefore employed the device of describing as senior magistrates those who have had the necessary post-call experience, and as magistrates those who have not had such experience.

What is going to happen to those magistrates who do not fall within the senior magistrates' group after they shall have attained seven years' post-call experience is still a matter of speculation and conjecture in judicial circles. Will they then be automatically promoted to senior magistrates' grade, or would they have to wait until vacancies occur in the senior magistrates' group? I would like to take this opportunity of emphasising that the intention and the policy of the Government is as declared in the White Paper, that as soon as they attain the necessary post-call experience, all magistrates who are so designated at the moment will automatically become senior magistrates. I would also like to take this opportunity of declaring that it is the intention and the policy of the

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Government not to recruit into the permanent and pensionable posts of magistrates, persons who have not had the necessary seven-year post-call experience.

When the minimum wage for general labour was fixed in 1954, it was not possible to fix the wages for special and artisan classes of daily paid workers. The Government, however, undertook to set up a Regional Wage Committee to go into the question of adjusting the anomalies which resulted from the fixing of the minimum wage for general labour at 5s, and also to consider what wages should be paid to special labour and the artisans. At the same time, the Government undertook to pay these two classes of workers from 1st October, 1954, in the same way as they have done to general labour class.

About March or April this year, the Regional Wage Committee completed its inquiry and made its recommendations. But it was then considered advisable to wait for Gorsuch recommendations on analogous classes of workers in the established service before a final decision was taken on the recommendations of the Regional Wage Committee. This was done in order to avoid maladjustments and ensure equity as between the rates of pay of these two classes of workers.

Since the publication of the Gorsuch Report, the Regional Wage Committee has again met and reviewed the recommendations previously made by them in the light of Gorsuch recommendations for identical classes of workers in the established service. The wages we propose to approve for these two classes of workers by Government are those recommended by the Regional Wage Committee and are contained in the Supplement to the White Paper.

For the avoidance of doubt and possible misunderstanding it is not, I think, out of place to state, for the refreshment of our memories, that the Regional Wage Committee consists of representatives of Government and workers in equal number, and that their recommendations which Government has accepted without the slightest alteration have been unanimously made. By this act the Government of this Region has once again demonstrated its

sincere interest in the contentment and the general well-being of the generality of its workers.

Workers employed by the Government of the Western Region have nothing to envy in their counterparts under the employ of the other Governments. From the point of view of the workers themselves, they are by far the best paid and the most earnestly catered for in the country. Nominally they receive higher wages than others, and in real terms are extremely better off. They receive a minimum wage of £78 per annum as against £66 per annum in other places, and pay no fees for the education and the medical care of their children. If their children are going to school for the first time, they get school books and materials free in addition to free tuition.

From the point of view of the Government, it is a matter for satisfaction and justifiable pride that the workers in the Western Region are now also the most efficient of all the workers in the country. I have myself seen many of them at work, and I have been exceedingly gratified at their alertness, their obvious hopefulness and their buoyancy. We have had no regrets whatsoever for raising their minimum wage to 5s. We do sincerely hope that the other Governments in the country, including the Federal Government, would emulate our experiment which has proved so eminently successful. What workers want is 5s minimum wage and continuity of service, both of which we guarantee to them. It is unfair to them, and dishonest in the utmost degree to evade this minimum issue by devious and complicated devices which in no way add to the nominal or real earnings of the workers.

For our part, I have no doubt that with these Gorsuch awards, and with the adjustments of anomalies in the wages of special labour and artisans, the existing efficiency in all the sectors of our Public Service will not only be maintained but will also be substantially improved.

There are several recommendations in the Report which will require time for consideration. Some have been mentioned in the White Paper. One other is a review of the entry points on time scales for certain classes of officers, *e.g.*, medical,

[CHIEF AWOLOWO]

engineering, and so forth. As soon as Government finds itself in a position to take a positive line in respect of any of these deferred matters, it will do so, and will inform this hon. House if it is then in session, or, if not, the Standing Committee on Finance.

One other important item on which I must say a few words, before I end this speech is training. We knew before Gorsuch that the neglect of training in the past is responsible for many of our present ills and that training is the key to the success of our whole endeavour to create a Civil Service indigenous at all levels and worthy of the Region. Mr Gorsuch has re-emphasised this point. I have no doubt that the officials responsible, like the Government itself, have taken the point and will bend their whole energies to the task. I can assure the House that my colleagues and I will tolerate no slackness in this matter.

The increases now proposed to civil servants' salaries will have repercussions on the level of remuneration in services for which Government has an indirect responsibility, e.g., educational institutions run by voluntary agencies and local government bodies. I do not have to tell this hon. House what they know already, that my colleague, the hon. the Minister of Education, has set up a very representative committee to deal with the consequential review of teachers' salaries. I am sure the House will not wish to anticipate the committee's proposals by a premature discussion.

Other institutions which will no doubt be re-examining their salary-structure and levels include the local government bodies, and our corporations and boards. Here again, it would be advisable to defer discussion of their case until we know what they themselves propose to do.

The cost of meeting the additional expenditure involved in the proposals recommended by the Government, both in respect of the current year's bill and the arrears for the last six months of 1954-55, is £800,000. The House will

want to be assured that the money can be found. I am glad to be able to give that assurance. When we dealt with our 1955-56 Budget, we arranged to set aside an estimated £1 million for this purpose. The extra provision of £200,000, if it turns out in fact to be unnecessary, will be put to good use for other purposes, of which there are at any time a multitude competing for a priority position in the expenditure queue.

In paragraph 34 of the White Paper it was stated that certain very important recommendations of Mr Gorsuch requiring the agreement of all four Governments were the subject of inter-Governmental consultation and that the Western Region Government hoped to be able to make a statement about them at this meeting. I regret to say that negotiations have not reached the stage at which a pronouncement can yet be made.

As is stated in the closing lines of the White Paper, the Government is satisfied that the proposals we are submitting to this hon. House are as generous as could reasonably be expected, in the light of all the considerations to which it must, like a responsible Government, give weight. I venture to hope and trust that this House, all ranks of the Public Service, and the general public in this Region will regard them as such. Government is fully conscious of the fact that it is on its servants from the highest to the lowest that the efficient, swift and harmonious execution of policies and programmes depends. It is in clear recognition of this fact that these liberal awards have been made. I do hope and trust also that, in return for the additional remuneration and opportunities that will be falling to their lot as a result of Gorsuch (or Gorsuch as amended), they will, high and low, resolve, as heretofore, to give of their best to the Government which strives so hard to minister to their comfort and general well-being.

I beg to move.

Chief Odunjo : I beg to second the motion.

Mr Speaker : The question is in the terms of the Motion.

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Mr Ekwuyasi : I rise to support the motion moved by the Minister of Finance, and also to say that the Opposition associates itself with the tribute paid to Mr Gorsuch for the excellent work he has done for the Government and the Civil Service of this country. Already in the Eastern Region where the NCNC is in power we have given the lead to the other Regional Governments of this country and also to the Federal Government. In the East we accepted the Gorsuch report with certain reservations. Happily those reservations have also been accepted by the Government of the Western Region.

The first thing, I would like to concern myself with is the question of children's allowance. I couldn't agree more with the decision of the Western Regional Government that we should oppose the principle of payment of children's allowance to Government staff. Unfortunately we cannot now do away with the payment of such allowances to those who already receive them. I accept the assurance of the Western Regional Government that in future these allowances will not be paid to new entrants into the service. The Government of the Western Region have assured us that they are opposed to any discriminatory measure. Whereas Africans who work for the Government will not receive children's allowances, expatriates will receive the allowance. I have had the opportunity to meet many African workers and I think one of the things which gives them serious headache is this question of children's allowance. I am of the opinion, that in due course it might be possible for the Government to consider a measure whereby some portion of the salary of the people we now call the junior civil servants will be tax free. This will certainly be a move in the right direction; that is, make some portion of earned incomes tax free as is done in the United Kingdom. The size of this dispensation will depend upon the number of children one has.

Another thing which worries the workers very much about which we would like the Government to take immediate steps is the question of house rents. In certain places rents are going up every day. The workers would like to get the Government's assurance

that they will help them to alleviate the suffering from this direction.

I am satisfied that the Gorsuch recommendations, as far as the junior civil servants are concerned, have almost been overtaken by events. This report reached this country some months ago and it is not until now that we meet to discuss what we should do. We are not even sure that immediately we end this debate the workers will get their pay. Sir, it is unfortunate that although the report reached the country a long time ago the money is not already in the hands of the workers, and prices of foodstuffs have gone up considerably. I will apportion some of the blame to the Press of the country. The Press pressed Government to publish the Gorsuch Report even before Governments had had time to give consideration to this report. It looks to me that what was required was an executive action. All the Governments could have had a meeting immediately after getting this report, decided what to do; then the various Joint Finance Committees of the Regions and of the Central Government could have released this report at the same time, announced their decisions, also announced at the same time that the prices of certain enumerated goods would be controlled; and issued instructions for the various sums approved to be paid immediately. It is my contention that had Government not been pressed too much by the Press it would have been possible for this Gorsuch Report to mean something to the Civil Service of the country. We have made so much noise about it that even before the money has reached the hands of the workers they have spent all the arrears and they are beginning to wonder how Gorsuch has helped them.

Another aspect, which I would like to touch concerns the Western Regional Government. The Government promised us earlier that they would consult the trade union movements before making their own recommendations. I am not aware that they consulted the Nigerian Trade Union Movement. It is a breach of promise and I do hope that Government will make an explanation in due course why they have failed to interview representatives of the various trade unions, that is, the staff side of the Whitley Council, before taking decisions.

[MR. EKWUYASI]

Again, much noise has been made about the question of the daily-paid workers. In the Eastern Region under our control (*Interruptions*)..... we have decided to make our daily-paid workers permanent workers (*Applause*). What has the Western Regional Government done? (*Nothing*). The Action Group promised to pay 5s. (*Interruptions*). We paid this 5s. (*Interruptions*). We read a lot in the papers about retrenchment at Ibadan and Ikorodu (*Laughter*), and also, in the Production Board. The Production Board Rubber Processing Factory at Benin has been operating at a loss. I understand very authoritatively, that the Ethelburger Agency at Ikpoba cannot continue to pay 5s to their workers. They have asked Government to "hands off", and Government have already "hands off". The result is that the Ethelburger Agency do not pay as much as 5s to the workers working under them. The Production Board Processing Factory in Benin is managed in partnership between the Western Region Government and the Ethelburger Agency. The Western Region Government committed themselves to the payment of 5s daily wage. The Ethelburger Agency complained to the Government that the Rubber Processing Factory was being run at a loss, and asked Government to hands off management. The Agency turned to their workers and said, "Look, Government promised you 5s, we are not Government, we cannot pay you 5s". Recently the *Daily Times* published the decision of a group of daily-paid workers at Sapele. The workers said, "Do pay us 2s 3d, but please if you pay this 2s 3d, make sure that you employ many more of us". "When we received 1s 5d and 1s 9d many of us worked, now that this 5s is being paid not many of us are employed." What did the Western Regional Government do? They shared the money formerly paid to about 200 people among ten people; dismiss ninety, pay ten. The question of daily-paid workers should be further reviewed by this Government. There appears to be nothing in store to give encouragement to the daily-paid workers of this Region.

I would like to refer the Government of this Region to one cardinal recommendation of Mr Gorsuch. On page 15, paragraph 47,

he says, "Without the desire to fetter in any way the measure of independence which the Regions have won under the new Constitution, it may be suggested that it is not in the interest of the Regional Governments themselves to fly too far apart from each other and from the Federation in matters affecting their public services. The Regions as well as the Federation stand to benefit from a reasonable amount of conformity in salaries and conditions of service....."

The Regions as well as the Federation stand to benefit from a reasonable amount of conformity in salaries and conditions of service. This is a very useful advice and I wish the politicians of this country should take note of this advice. We should come together as Governments, as statesmen to devise means of making our workers happier, rather than play politics with them. The hon. the Minister of Finance has not impressed me as one who is likely to take this advice given in good faith by Mr Gorsuch. I advise him very seriously that in the interest of this Region, and in the interest of Nigeria, the advice of Mr Gorsuch should be accepted in its entirety. Sir, the hon. the Minister gave no indication in his speech as to whether approach has been made to other employers of labour in this Region to know what they are likely to do to workers in their employ. We do not know, for instance, what the N.A. and other various local authorities will do to their workers. Is the Government going to subsidise the N.A. so that they can pay this new salary award of Mr Gorsuch, or are the N.A.s strong enough to pay this salary to their workers? And what is likely to happen to arrears for N.A. workers. During the Harragin award the Central Government paid the arrears. What is the Regional Government intending to do to N.A. workers. Again have we got the assurance of the firms and other employers of labour in this country that they will move in line with the recommendations of Mr Gorsuch? I make this observation because I know that all shades of workers buy from the same market. No worker goes to the market with a badge from the U.A.C., or from the N.A., Ibadan, to receive special treatment. All workers buy from the same market and therefore should be subject to the same conditions of labour.

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[MR EKWUYASI]

I do hope that the Western Regional Government will make the necessary approach to other employers of Labour.

I now come to another issue. We have "Workers' Gorsuch", but do not have "Farmers' Gorsuch". The farmers produce all the food we eat in this Region; they produce our cocoa, they produce almost everything which gives us the revenue of this Region. I would have expected the Government to come out with a comprehensive scheme proposing how farmers will be helped to get their own "Gorsuch". The Government should launch a full-scale loan scheme to help them; not a loan scheme that comes only when election is near—£50,000 loan scheme for about 4 million farmers in the Western Region two months to election time. *(Interruption)*.

Chief Awolowo : How many farmers?

Mr Ekwuyasi : About 4 million. *(Laughter)*. Well, more than 2 millions. Election is still far away. We could start now to give the farmers their own Gorsuch by announcing a comprehensive loan scheme. We could afford to spend about £3 million in order to help the farmers to produce more. The soil of the Western Region is fertile enough to provide food not only for the people of the Western Region, but also for the people of the Northern and Eastern Regions, and, of course, still leave some for overseas trade. I am satisfied that this Government has done little or nothing to help the farmers and that the Government ought to do something immediately.

Again turn to another aspect of my speech—that is, the question of national service by our friends who come from overseas. I consider this an appropriate moment to mention it. Expatriate officers who come into this country after doing a two-year national service now have it recorded in their favour in the service of the Government of Nigeria. What does this mean? It does mean that a white boy of eighteen who does a two-year national service comes out into Nigeria and then bosses a Nigerian who has not had the advantage of putting in national service for Nigeria and has not

had the opportunity to choose whether to give this two-year national service to the British people. Thus, if a Nigerian is appointed, say, 1st of January, 1951, and the expatriate is appointed 1st January, 1952, the expatriate with his two-year national service becomes the senior of the Nigerian who already had put in one year before this fellow joined the Nigeria Civil Service. I think that the Government of this Region should take notice of this discrimination. All civil servants must be offered equal opportunities. If the Nigerian was offered the opportunity to give a two-year national service and he refused then he could be penalised. He has not been offered this opportunity and should not therefore suffer because he did not have the advantage which the other man enjoyed. I suppose, that we can accept the assurance and the regret of the hon. Minister for not being able to make the statements which earlier on we had expected to get from the Government of the Western Region. We hope that the salary which we now approve for the workers should be paid to them forthwith and without any more undue delay. The workers are itching for the money; nothing that we say now interests them. What interests them is to get this money (pounds, shillings and pence), right in their hands, and then go home to know what to do with it. I do hope that the Government of the Western Region will not delay unduly again in paying this salary to the workers. I beg to support the motion.

Chief J. A. Ola. Odebiyi : I beg to support the motion that this House accepts the recommendations made by Mr L. H. Gorsuch in his Report on the Nigerian Public Services as they relate to the Western Regional Public Service, subject to the modifications and reservations indicated in the Government White Paper on the subject laid before the House.

It is a very welcome step that Mr Gorsuch has in his recommendations of the structure of the Service, tried to transform the Public service of Nigeria into indigenous services. One of the principal causes of bitterness and great discontent has been the sharp distinction between the junior and senior service structures. That it is now possible for any man with ability to reach the highest point of the executive

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

grade speaks much for the forthrightness of the able Commissioner in removing one great cause of frequent friction from the service. Contentment, we are told, is a great quality which is hardly given to mortals, but in view of the limitation of the resources of this Region, it can only be hoped that members of the Western Region Public Service will accept the recommendations of the Commissioner subject to the Region's modifications.

Having gone thus far to make the above general observation, I intend to take a few points in the White Paper for purpose of further discussion.

I should like to state, at the outset, that good value for money should be the motto for any individual just like a body of men or a government. When one takes a good look at some departments of Government, say the Legal Department, one feels a sense of great disappointment. No one quarrels with the upgrading of the post of Attorney-General to Group 4, but when, one remembers how public prosecutions are handled by that department, one wonders whether it is money well spent when efficiency is lacking. There is no point in the Legal Department prosecuting people when facts adduced by the Police during investigation will not lead to conviction. Apart from the mental torture to which innocent people are subjected, valuable time is wasted. If the Police are not efficient, it is the duty of the Legal Department to give advice and to insist on good investigation before people are dragged to the law-courts by the Legal Department. Besides, the diminution of the responsibility of the Attorney-General does not warrant any upgrading.

The upgrading of the post of Legal Draftsman who will be redesignated as Principal Legal Draftsman is in order, judging from the competence of the present holder of the office.

With regard to Education, I think one ought to determine the principle to be followed in fixing the salaries of voluntary agency teachers. Anything short of great improvements in the conditions of service of this class of teachers will be unacceptable. Parity conditions with the exception of making teachers become civil servants will

be demanded. Teachers whose duties justify it should be entitled to car advances, basic allowances, study leaves and free passages whilst on leave overseas. The reason for this is that educational thought and practice change frequently and teachers should keep abreast of the time. Teachers should also be told to keep up their professional conduct by not indulging in professional trafficking and racketeering. Any teacher who has no character, and there are many of them abounding in this Region, should not have a place in any of the Region's schools, because he will infect and corrupt school children.

It can only be hoped that the Terms of Service Committee will note all these when considering teachers salaries.

One feature of the Gorsuch Report is that in departments where expatriates abound, upgrading and enhancement of status are Mr Gorsuch's principle. For how else can one explain the fact that the Deputy Director of Survey and the Principal Surveyor are assigned the same grading? In Education, Information Services, Marketing and Exports, the directors are upgraded more than their Regional counterparts, whereas, in the Medical Department, the Federal Adviser is given the same salary as the Regional Directors. One can understand: for the pigment of one's skin is more expensive than the other.

In the Regional Legislatures of the East and North, the Clerk of the House is assigned Group 7. In the West he is not assigned any grouping at all because he is black. Which reminds one of the fact that most of the salaries were determined not by post but by the person holding it. Anything short of Group 7 for the Clerk of the House of Assembly will be considered derogatory, because the Clerks of the East and the North are not professional men, whereas that of the West is. I hope the hon. the Minister of Finance will right this wrong.

With regard to the daily-rated workers, one is bound to feel satisfied by the decision of this Government in October last year. The statement of the Eastern Minister of Finance on the question that labourers in the East would become established workers is nothing short of deceit and crooked thinking. Some time ago, the Eastern

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Minister of Works said that all works in the Region would be given to contractors. If that were so, most of the labourers would be laid off. From facts available to us, a large number have already been laid off. One can therefore conclude that if works are to be given to contractors, daily-rated labourers who will become established will be very few indeed.

As regards inducement addition for overseas officers, all that one can say is that we are compelled by circumstances to pay this additional allowance. If the recruiting market is limited to Great Britain we shall be forced one day to mortgage all Government buildings to be able to pay expatriate officers. The market of recruitment should be extended and the price will become lower. Only God knows how much we shall be paying in pensions after 1st October, 1955. All talks about mass retirement are mostly gaseous. One man who left last Tuesday has already applied to work under Mr Oyediran. One is already trying to warm his way to getting an appointment in the Western Region's Commissioner's Office. If greater inducement allowance has to be paid in these circumstances, whoever pays is paying under duress, and whoever receives is receiving under false pretences, in which case both the Government and the expatriate officer will be liable to prosecution.

One feels gratified that the children's allowance is not accepted. In the United Kingdom, education is free up to the secondary school level. If two homes are being kept, what about the inducement allowance?

Verbatim reporters on whom the efficiency of the Legislature depends have been degraded by Mr Gorsuch. He has reduced their maximum by £81. Instead of £795 he has given them £714. This wrong ought also to be righted.

I have noticed also that the Deputy Registrar and Deputy Director Public Works Department are not properly graded. Group 6 is assigned to Chief Engineer, therefore the Deputy Director should be in Group 5. The Deputy Registrar of Co-operatives should be in Group 7. The deputy has wider responsibilities than the chief engineers; any other arrangement would be an organisational error. This anomaly should be rectified.

Finally, I have a word for our Nigerian civil servants in this Region. What entitles them to any benefits in this Region should not be that they are Nigerians. If expatriates are doing just the barest minimum, you who are our own people should do much more. You have a worthy example in the pride of our Region—typified by the present holder of the post of Acting Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Finance. Hard work is the only condition that will make self-government worth having. God grant that you all live up to the very high standards that are being set up for you.

I beg to support.

Mr F. Oputa-Otutu : I rise to make a brief comment on the Gorsuch recommendations; I will begin by saying that any reasonable recommendation which would enhance the efficiency of the Civil Service of this country will be welcomed by any true nationalist of this country. On the civil servants falls the onerous duty of executing Government policies and discharging other civil national duties. Civil servants, unlike other class of workers, are deprived of the privilege of serving in the Legislatures of this country. They are also debarred from active part in politics. They are, unlike other workers of the State, not allowed to engage in trade while in the civil service. In other words, this class of workers depends largely and solely on what they are able to save during their tenure of office, and perhaps with pensions as the only consolation.

I would like to say that we on this side of the House—from the qualitative side of the House—(Interruptions) are grievously disappointed to hear the Premier who is also the Minister of Finance say this morning that the Minister of Education will be setting up a committee to enquire into the conditions of service of voluntary agencies. I would like you to know that already the Eastern Government has approved the recommendations to be applicable to voluntary agencies and native administrations of the Eastern Region. There is no need to wait for a committee to enquire into the conditions of service of voluntary agencies: what is good for the goose is also good for the gander.

[MR AWOSIKA]
 experts in the world market. A rough estimate of what this Region is going to spend extra this year is £800,000. Considered on the foregoing basis one cannot say this amount is too much if it will bring peace and contentment into our Civil Service, but I would like to say, that the tax-payer on whose behalf this huge sum is going to be expended will normally expect the recipients, by this I mean the civil servants, to give good value for the money by serving the public with honesty and efficiency. A rise in pay must be accompanied by a corresponding rise in service and sense of responsibility. It is to be regretted that young men now entering into the service do not do so with the aim of improving the service, but to earn as much as they can in as short a time as possible. Such acts can only lead to an inefficient and corrupt Civil Service which will not redound to the glory of Nigeria.

I should like to seize this opportunity to remind the House that within the last few years in Nigeria we have had almost four revisions of salaries, each of which has always been in the up-ward trend, *e.g.*, we had C.O.L.A., the Harragin Report, we had T.A.R.P., we had the 1952 Revision and now Gorsuch. The frequency of these revisions should serve to remind us that the relationship between high cost of living and the raising of wages is a vicious circle and if we are not careful we will discover one day that the chase has led us too far. I am not saying this to prejudice the award now being made as a result of the Gorsuch Report but I am merely sounding a note of warning that we should beware of soaring wages as this is almost always followed closely by a disproportionate rise in the cost of living, owing to the actions of unscrupulous traders and landlords, with the result that the real people to whom the award is given do not benefit from them and therefore continue to ask for more. At least this has so far been our experience in this country. It is not money as such that matters. What matters is the quantity of goods that money can buy, money has lost its value and the clamour for more of it is a vain one indeed.

One other repercussion of these increases in salary is the fact that Government will devise ways and means of increasing the

revenue in order to replenish its coffers. It should be the duty of all of us in this House, both Government and Opposition to support whole-heartedly any measures put forward by Government at any time in order to achieve this. It will be a disservice to the country for any Member to oppose them in any way. I was surprised a few moments ago, hearing from Mr Ekwuyasi, that certain members of the Public Service should have their salary tax-free. It has been said that we have not paid taxes enough in this country, and it has always been the policy of the Opposition to want to curtail taxes or to want to make it impossible for men to pay for the development of our social services. We should always realise that the Region has to be run, and it can only be run with money.

I should now like to turn my attention to some of the highlights of the Report. A very important one is the structural division into five grades—thus providing a long grade thereby ensuring a fairly good career for the civil servant as opposed to the closed shop where people in the past languished in frustration. This also serves to take the edge off the disparity between what was known as the junior and senior services.

Another point worth mentioning is Training. There is no doubt about it that the Commissioner was influenced by two important factors in the preparation of this Report. One is the convenience of the expatriate officers employed in the Nigerian Services and the second the standard of living and general wants of the members of the indigenous service. If the country had the trained experts it would have meant greatly reduced salary bill, but as the reverse is the case this serves to emphasise the fact that we have to intensify the training of the indigenous people to man the service. This is particularly true of the technical staff as the physical development of the country depends entirely upon them. It is gratifying to hear from the speech of the hon. the Minister of Finance that the Government has made a note of this point and will do everything possible to accelerate the pace of the training of our people.

I beg to support,

Mr P. B. Nieketien : I support the motion of the hon. the Minister of Finance that this Government should adopt the Gorsuch Report on the revision of salaries for civil servants. I should be grateful if the Government will give financial aid by way of grants to local government bodies in order to enable these bodies to pay the new salaries to their workers as it has been recommended by the Gorsuch Report throughout the Regions. I would like to tell the Government that there is need to control the cost of foodstuffs and domestic essentials in the country, for if the Government does not control the cost of living as far as foodstuffs and other essentials are concerned there will be another salary revision in the near future. If we go on revising salary every two and every four years as the case may be without controlling the foodstuffs and most of the domestic essentials in the country, heaven knows where we will be in the next three years. Therefore I am urging the Government to see that it takes a serious action and tries to control foodstuffs and other domestic essentials.

Mr J. O. Osuntokun : After a thorough perusal of the Gorsuch Report, which is difficult, I feel the urge of giving Mr Gorsuch a really well-earned praise and appreciation for the pains he must have taken before he was able to present such a clear and vivid piece of work to us, unlike the last faulty, shabby and illogical report which was recently printed by possibly an erstwhile brilliant member of the Regional Legal Department. I appreciate this report and that does not necessarily mean that I agree on all fours with the findings, and in fact, there is scarcely any report which can be regarded as perfect: for there are always some straggling points here and there. Already, several members of the public and the Press also in particular have been feeling uneasy about the inflatory tendencies that may accompany or have already accompanied the report. This uneasiness I sympathise with, but we have got to take it as it stands because there is no running away from the fact that salary increases always tend to bring by it corresponding or some time greater increases in the prices of commodities from abroad. This is especially so when there is no appreciable increase in the amount of

commodities that were previously on the market. It may be argued that in the absence of increases in the amount of commodities and other services the Government ought to be able to pay the prices of such essential commodities.

Chief G. Akin Deko : I rise to congratulate not only Gorsuch but also the Regional Government for the most matter-of-fact manner in which they have handled this thorny business of Gorsuch. It is obvious that Gorsuch in fact is becoming an institution by itself in our national, political and economic life, and depending entirely on how we handled the grave proposals now before this hon. House we could either make or mar our future at will. There is need for us at this stage to work for the salvation of our nation but we should not necessarily darken the prospects of the people. Whilst there is need for us to pay Paul it should not be necessary for us to rob Peter. Yet there are quizzes and puzzles in our stand on these all-involving proposals of Gorsuch with which the Government has had to grapple.

Think for instance, of the questionable proposals for children's allowances as set forth by Gorsuch. There is the catch and there are some temptations; and then think of the difficulty of having to turn down proposal so logically defended by Gorsuch. Yet I believe the Government is forced to turn it down because it is evident that it would be grossly improper and essentially unacceptable to the people of this Region. It would be difficult for the Government to explain away the discriminatory considerations that are apparent in the proposals and I am certain that the more human of our overseas officers would themselves appreciate the delicate position of the Government in this matter and agree that the Government has no option in a matter where so much fundamental human feeling will cry havoc if the decisions were otherwise.

There are two very important points which I would like to raise for the further consideration of the Government. They are matters which, in my humble opinion, are linked up with administrative efficiency and are therefore deserving of closer scrutiny. This matter, was mentioned in passing by one of the hon. Members this morning but I think it is necessary to elaborate a little more on it. I wonder, if

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[CHIEF AKIN DEKO]

the Minister of Works is aware that according to present proposals, P.W.D. salary grouping for the senior staff has one serious defect. The Deputy Director is on the same salary scale with his Chief Engineer. The Deputy Director occupies an executive and administrative post and it is an administrative fallacy that he should be grouped in the same salary scale with his Chief Engineer who, under normal circumstances, should be as much his subordinate officer as the Director is his superior officer. To perpetuate this kind of thing in that Department would be an administrative blunder and perhaps a criminal error of judgment of vital issues. I do not underrate the importance of the Chief Engineer but I certainly assert that the Deputy Director's post is a post he should legitimately aim at, the same way the Deputy Director should aim at being the Director. I do not suggest for a moment that the Chief Engineer should earn less than is being offered to him but I certainly suggest that it would be fair and equitable that the Deputy Director should earn more. I appreciate that as a working principle Mr Gorsuch would like the Deputy Director to be two salary steps below that of his Director. I am aware also that in this particular case the Director is in Group 4 and Group 6 which is the group for Chief Engineers is being offered to his Deputy perhaps in keeping with the Gorsuch principle. But it must be remembered, that Gorsuch himself is not altogether faithful to that principle.

In the Audit Department, for instance, when the Head is in Group 6 the Deputy Head is in Group 7 which is only one step below that of the Head. In this case, therefore, I suggest that the Deputy Director of Public Works can conveniently be placed in Group 5 and if the Government must insist on his being two steps below his Director, it would be more administratively defensible if the Director is pushed up rather than his Deputy being pushed down which is a mock of his high office and his administrative dignity.

There is another case of a Government proposal which, in my humble opinion seems based on a wrong assessment of values. This should be of some interest to

the Minister of Development. I refer in this case to the Co-operative Department in which as at present the Government has recommended that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies be placed in Group 6 and his Deputy in Group 8. I admit that in size the Co-operative Department is comparatively small but in application it is one of the most important departments of our Government. Here is a department which has a turn-over of about £6 million annually, a department which controls the gigantic structure of the Co-operative Bank, a department whose day to day problems are linked with the welfare of the farmers who form the backbone of regional economy, a department which has to advise the Central Government and functions on their behalf, a department which has something at stake in practically every Government department and has something to do with every aspect of regional development, is certainly a department which we cannot afford to discourage in any way. It is only fair and just that the Government should review their proposals with respect to this department and consider placing the Registrar in Group 5 and his Deputy should be placed in Group 7 whatever be the case.

Last but not the least, I should like to express a point of view with regard to the grading of Permanent Secretaries. While I appreciate the fact that the post of Permanent Secretary should be the crown of a Civil Service career and should therefore not come within the reach of none but the most capable officers in the Public Service, there is need to take some caution. As at present Permanent Secretaries are in Group 5. This is a height which places it above the scope of Africans who might otherwise be considered as deserving an opportunity for a try-out. It is to the everlasting credit of this Government that earlier on in their history they recruited two Africans as Secretaries to Ministers and I have reasons to believe that the two Africans were by no means disappointing. Today both these Africans have been promoted in their respective departments but it will be yet some time under the present set-up before they would come within the range now set for Permanent Secretaries. I should like to point out that the Government has already acknowledged the fact that the duties of some Permanent Secretaries are more involving

[CHIEF AKIN DEKO]
 than others and therefore require more specialised knowledge. That is the basis for placing the Permanent Secretary, Finance, and Permanent Secretary, Local Government, in groups other than Group 5. If only to prevent a feeling of frustration in certain sections of the Public Service, I would wish the Government to make the grouping of Permanent Secretaries a bit more elastic than at present. I would in the circumstances suggest that the post be made available to officers in Groups 4 to 6 or 7, thus it would enable deserving officers in Group 6 or 7 to be brought forward for consideration as time goes on. This would mean that in ministries where the technical pre-requisites for Permanent Secretaries are not above the reach of African officers in Group 6, it should be possible for the Government to give Africans with adequate experience and outstanding ability opportunities as Permanent Secretaries in the service of the Regional Government. It will only be a matter of administrative efficiency if within the range of Permanent Secretaryship there is even the facility of promotion.

Those points precisely, are the points I should like to raise and with the gravity that posterity will place on the deliberations in this House on this occasion, we do earnestly hope the Government will give further consideration to the points raised. I beg to support.

Mr. Olumofin : I rise to support the motion of the hon. the Minister of Finance that the Gorsuch recommendations on the salary review should be adopted by this House with certain modifications. Before I go on, Mr Speaker, I would like to refer, with your permission, to page 7, paragraphs 4 and 5 of the address of the Minister of Finance, although it is erroneously put there as Prime Minister:

"Workers employed by the Government of the Western Region have nothing to envy in their counterparts under the employ of the other Governments. From the point of view of the workers themselves, they are by far the best paid and the most earnestly catered for in this country."

The Minister went on further :

"they receive a minimum wage of £78 per annum as against £66 per annum in other places, and pay no fees for the education and the medical care

of their children. If their children are going to school for the first time, they get school books and materials free in addition to free tuition."

Further it says (paragraph 5) :

"From the point of view of the Government it is a matter for satisfaction and justifiable pride that the workers in the Western Region are now also the most efficient of all the workers in the country."

Further the Minister said :

"We have had no regrets whatsoever for raising their minimum wage to 5s."

I would like to call the attention of the Minister to the fallacy of this statement, because everybody knows that 5s per day cannot be compared with £66 per annum, taking other factors into consideration as regards the privileges attached to transferring a man who earns 5s a day to the permanent establishment. It is entirely erroneous to say that 5s a day is better than £66 per annum with all the advantages attached to it. A daily-rated man who earns 5s a day suffers certain disadvantages. I would only cite one or two. In the first place, he is at the mercy of the overseer who can sack him with or without notice in order to satisfy his whims and caprices ; the overseer can lay him off under the pretext that he has committed an offence. That cannot happen to a man who is on the permanent establishment. The man who is a 5s daily-rated worker cannot have the privilege of being paid when he is absent from duty, but the man who is monthly-paid, and is on the permanent establishment, knows that if he is absent from duty he will be paid ; he knows that he can take his leave and be paid ; and that if he is sick he will be paid. And when I say this I say it with authority, because I happen to be a representative of a labour-employing firm.

I would like to issue a challenge to the Minister of Finance in the following terms : If he wants to find out whether the workers of this Region prefer 5s a day to £66 per annum and be transferred to the permanent establishment, with all the facilities attached to it, he should cause a questionnaire to be circulated to the daily-rated workers. I am sure he will be amazed to find that everyone of them would prefer what the NCNC in the Eastern Region has done, that is to say, everyone of them would like to be transferred to the permanent establishment on

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£66 per annum. I hope, Sir, that the Minister of Finance will take this challenge, in order to ascertain the point of view of the workers themselves.

Another point is that the Minister says that the Government has no regrets. I would like to say that the Government has had several regrets for paying 5s a day to only a handful of workers in this Region; and while saying that, I would like to emphasise the point that it goes to prove once again that the Ministers are out of touch with the working classes of this country. We are the people who are in touch with these people all the time, and before we came to this House, Sir, we have consulted the cross section of the opinion of the workers of this Region, and they are all agreeable to becoming members of the permanent establishment, earning £66 per annum continuously, without fear of losing their jobs, and with all uncertainties removed and—which is more, Sir—with the hope that when they retire they will have something to fall upon, *i.e.*, their pension. I believe that nobody would like to earn 20s a day and be kicked off after working for two days. Such a person would have to work more or less intermittently: at a stage he may be called back to work and put in another place where he may be regraded at 15s a day, with the usual uncertainty. But a man who works steadily and is sure of his income coming steadily, would really like to do his job much better and much more conscientiously than a man who is always afraid that his overlord (the overseer) might fire him at any time.

It is wrong to say that the workers of this Region are happy and satisfied with the 5s daily wage. References have been made to places where the 5s minimum wage has caused any amount of trouble in the Region, and some workers have even asked the Government to withdraw the 5s minimum wage and allow them to revert to the old rate: be it 1s 6d or 2s 4d. They prefer this old rate which gives them a greater amount of security. Any system which allows fifty per cent of people working in a certain plantation or at a certain place to be retrenched, so that 5s a day can be paid to the remaining fifty per cent is iniquitous. The Action Group Government wants to

turn out many rogues and vagabonds in this Region by paying 5s a day to a very small group of people while leaving the preponderating majority of the people to wallow in misery and in want, perpetually. That is the reason why we say that the 5s minimum wage, if anything, is a vote-catching manoeuvre. It is going to fail as the vote-catching tricks on education and medical services did fail in November last year, during the Federal elections.

Backing up his assertion, Sir, the Minister of Finance said that the workers in this Region would prefer 5s a day because their children are educated free and are provided with free medical services. I think that the time has come when the Action Group Government should stop making any reference to its bogus free medical service which is entirely impracticable in this Region. I would say that several hospitals have been built in this Region without equipment, without materials, without staff: it is only a window-dressing make-up. It is useless to erect empty hospitals here and there. The people of this Region have known this, and nobody can come here and deceive them by saying that hospitals have been built for them, or talk about free education. I shall come to that later. I wish first to slash to pieces this bogey of free medical services.

To start with, I must say that in this Region a child does not receive free medical treatment, and nobody here, including any Member of the Government Bench, can get up and say that his children do receive free medical service. If any person should say so, we would ask: "From which hospital? How can you get free medical services when there are no hospitals?" These are the questions I would like the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Public Health to answer. The less we hear about the bogus free medical services for the children of the West, the better. It is a shameless scheme which has failed disastrously, and it does no credit to this Region and to the Ministers themselves to continue to bamboozle the people by saying that they are giving them free medical services.

I issue a second challenge: if anybody says that his children do receive free medical services, let him get up and tell us from which hospital, in order to convince the Members of this House.

[MR OLUMOFIN]

I now come to the question of "free" education, Sir. It is most annoying to come here and hear it said that the Government provides free education for the children of the Western Region when we have already proved conclusively, with facts and figures in the past, that there is nothing of the like. I am not here to repeat myself. If the Minister should refer to previous Hansards he would find out our pungent and cogent points and criticisms against this worthless scheme known as free education scheme. This free education scheme, Sir, is something about which I feel ashamed, and I think the Ministers themselves must be ashamed the more.

Several hon. Members : Shame, shame.

Mr Olumofin : The shame is for the Government. It is a vote-catching tactics. It cannot work in this Region, Sir. It has failed before, and it is going to fail again. I can prove this, Sir. In this Region a parent pays £22 10s to give his child elementary education : this elementary education runs from the anomalous primary one to primary six, which is, in effect, standard four. After this, the child goes to a modern school, paying £7 10s a year for three years or four, before he can get the education that children normally had in the past. And when we come here we are told, rather shamelessly, that we are given free education. I wonder what kind of free education this is ! I have given statistics to show that parents in this Region now pay far more to educate their children than they did before the pre-Action Group regime with the introduction of this useless, hopeless and stupid scheme. The less we hear about the *free this, free that*, in this Region, without anything being free, the better.

I have disproved the statement made by the Minister of Finance, and exposed the fallacies it contains. I shall now proceed to show you what a worker in the Eastern Region where the NCNC is in control, will have as against the disadvantages that I have enumerated in the case of the daily-rated worker in the Western Region. In the Eastern Region every labourer, every worker, is now a member of the established staff. The worker in the Eastern Region is at par, comparatively, with the highest official—even the Governor himself who, of course,

will not want to be a daily-paid worker, even if you are prepared to pay him £1 million an hour ! He wants something that is steady.

I know from experience that some labourers are sometimes paid for twenty-four days, twenty-five days, or twenty-six days at the most. They can never know what is coming in for them at the end of the month. But a man who is on the permanent establishment knows that at the end of the month he will receive so much, and would therefore budget his domestic expenditure accordingly. The daily-paid worker cannot do that. He must speculate and sometimes build his castles in the air, and in most cases he is bitterly disappointed when he finds that he cannot meet his commitments. He has bought certain things on credit, and his creditors are waiting to collect their money. If he were a man who receives a fixed salary at the end of the month, he would "cut his coat according to the measure of his cloth". From this, Sir, we can see that every worker in the Eastern Region, being a member of the established staff, is in a more favourably secure position ; he is no more under the perpetual uncertainty and the unending fear of the overseer who can kick him off at any time without anybody asking why he has done so, as there are usually unscrupulous overseers who would kick off old labourers and employ new ones, for spurious purposes. This has now been eliminated once for all, in the Eastern Region. I venture to say that the workers like this, quite naturally.

Another point, Sir, is that, in addition to receiving a yearly earning of £66 a worker receives pension—and this is very important. Most of us who are employees are always afraid of spoiling our chances of pension. Why is it that most of us who are monthly-salary earners always think of our past services and so endeavour to do our best to be honest, to be efficient, and to be faithful ? Every member of a department always tries to be honest, faithful and efficient because if he is not, and he loses his job, he does not only lose his job but something much greater, which is his pension. He wants to go back at an old age and rest assured that a regular income is coming from somewhere.

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[MR OLUMOFIN]

dependable £66 per annum is the greatest liar in this Region. (*Interruptions*).

I do not say, or in any sense claim that I am angelic as other people always do. Some people claim to be angelic; they are always faultless; they are the best in everything. But I do not claim to be an angel when I say "try to be honest". There are people who don't try to be honest because they are already honest, and they have honesty written on their foreheads; but such people, as we know, are the worst enemies of this Region, because they hide the facts; they know that they are sinners and they will never confess their sins so that God may forgive them. If you confess your sins, you will be forgiven. (*Laughter*). But there are people who wallow in sins everyday but will never confess them, thinking that people do not see them! They develop what we call the "ostrich mentality".

In addition to pensions, the workers in the Eastern Region today are entitled to what is called *ex-gratia* allowance and are paid gratuity on retirement. In most cases, when a man retires, he is paid a year's salary for his services in the past. A man who earns £66 per annum knows that at his retiring age he will be able to net £66.

Another point, is that a worker in the East today is entitled to annual leave. A man who is on a daily-paid rate has, say, seven days a year, or at the most, two weeks in the year; but a man on the permanent establishment is sure that he is entitled to all the benefits that anybody who is on that grade is entitled to, and that is another advantage which the workers in the Eastern Region have which those in the West do not have. And I am surprised to note that somebody can get up here and say that workers in the Western Region prefer to remain perpetually as daily-paid workers. I think that is an unpardonable assertion which the workers themselves will take up when the time comes.

Several hon. Members : Sit down ; sit down if you have nothing to say.

Mr Olumofin : I am not prepared to sit down yet (*Laughter*).

Mr I. A. Adelodun : On a point of order, Sir. Standing Orders 27 (2)—

"A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto".

Mr Olumofin : (*Interruptions*)

I wish to make a point of order. Standing Order 29 (5). If anybody deviates from his speech, it must mean that Members on the opposite side are fidgety and afraid to hear the truth and cause any amount of trouble and interruption. Standing Order 29 (5) :

"Members shall not make unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking".

Several interruptions have been made by Members on the opposite side. I take it that they are fidgety because they fear my pungent criticisms! (*Laughter*).

Supposing a worker is sick (and I know from observation that a worker might go on sick leave for about sixty days a year).....

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Gentleman avoid repeating himself.

Mr Olumofin : I am making a point, Sir. It is a point which I have not made before. I am not repeating myself. I wanted to say that there are workers who go sick or pretend to be sick, always. If such a thing should happen in the West and a worker goes on sick leave for sixty days a year, he loses sixty days' pay! It is therefore better to be on monthly-paid rate than to be on a daily-paid rate.

I would like to say that the assertion that the workers in this Region are better paid should be ignored.

We have thrown a challenge that a questionnaire should be sent round to determine whether the workers prefer 5s a day to £66 per annum.

Mr J. G. Ako : The Minister of Finance as usual has dealt very fully with the recommendations of Mr Gorsuch who must be congratulated for his very exhaustive work.

The Government of this Region is aware that the right policy in the words of Professor Lewis, "is to have neither too much money, nor too little money, but just the right amount and the right amount is

[Mr Ako]

that which is appropriate to full employment with no tendency either to inflation or to deflation," and I have no doubt that the problems attending the payment of the increases will be dealt with in the normal course of events by this Government.

Someone in this House, I think it was my hon. friend Mr Ekwuyasi, has asked for a "Gorsuch" for the farmers. Perhaps that Gentleman is unaware of the fact that but for the farmers Gorsuch which is found in the Regional Marketing Board our farmers would have suffered because of the steep drop in the price of cocoa. (*Applause*).

This day I think must be a day of jubilation for the workers of this Region. From all existing records of the relationship between this Government and its workers there has ever been cordiality when it was found necessary to place the Government daily-paid workers on 5s per day which, incidentally, is more than £66 per annum, the Western Region Government did not hesitate to do so and that category of workers has been very happy, except of course my hon. Friend Mr Olumofin, unless to doubt the sanity of some Members of the Opposition (*Interruptions*). Now that there are a number of increases brought about by the Gorsuch recommendations, this Government has not hesitated in moving adoption of same with some very essential modifications in order to put the worker firmly on his feet if not on his seat.

I would like to sound a note that it is the greatest wish of this hon. House, except perhaps Mr Olumofin, I do not know what the Opposition may think, that the joy which will attend the receipt of arrears which accrued from the recommendations of Gorsuch should go with the labourer to his grass cutting, with the artisan to his skilful job, with the clerk to his desk and in fact with everyone to his office. The Government, by its ready acceptance of these recommendations has given an appreciable concern, if not incentive, to the workers, and it can only be hoped that the workers in response on their side should increase their productivity.

After all, most of the workers are natives of this country and must at this great moment in the history of this country

take their due desert in the present surge of nationalism. Since they are not yet politicians their contributions in their various offices can only properly come by the way of honesty and efficiency. (*Interruptions*). I said that since the workers are not yet politicians their contributions in their various offices to give the daily finishing touches to cross a "t" or dot an "i" is a moment well spent for the development and progress of their nation. The day is dawn when a good man can make an honest career of the Civil Service.

I support.

Mr V. I. Amadasun : As all workers all over the Federation of Nigeria, and the Western Region in particular, are listening to us this day, I would like to say a word or two about the Gorsuch Report.

When the Premier was moving the motion in the morning he made mention of the lucid style with which Mr Gorsuch wrote his Report, but the lucidity of the writings of Mr Gorsuch will not make his Report impervious to my own criticism. What has brought about the difficulty of wages in the Western Region today? To me, the most important factor is the Nigerian Constitution Order in Council of 1955 which made it possible for the unitary services of the Federation of Nigeria to be broken up into four various services, and unless the Western Region Government makes it possible for all the other Governments to make a uniform national scale for workers of the Federation of Nigeria, the clamour for increase in wages will continue perpetually.

Now, in order to bring about this realisation, the Western Regional Government should support the Federal Public Service Commission which should see about the appointment of workers, their promotion and discipline. While the Premier and Minister of Finance was making his long speech in the morning he said that in other Regions some workers were getting £66 per annum as against £78 per annum this way. The difference in salaries, Mr Speaker, will create dissatisfaction in the hearts of the workers so that in 1956 the Western Regional Government may need to send another independent Commission to probe into the

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[MR AMADASUN]

affairs of the wages of the workers of the West. A national scale to be enjoyed by all the workers of the Federation of Nigeria is indispensable. So that to me, I stand in this hon. House to say that the Gorsuch Report should be taken as an interim report. It is by no means satisfactory. The people on the Government Bench have spoken a lot, very lengthily about the Gorsuch Report. Those of the Opposition did the same thing. But I have not seen one honourable man who has been able to give a solution to the clamour for increases in salary scales. Why do the workers clamour for high rates of pay? The reason is that their stomachs are empty, and how will you fill their stomachs? You can't do it by long debates in the Western House of Assembly or long debates in the House of Representatives or long debates in the Eastern House of Assembly not to speak of the North. What you have to do, or I think the Government of the Western Region has to do, is to see that thousands of pounds spent for research work by the Agricultural Department be spent on food production in the West. It is only when the workers are contented, when the members of their families are happy because their stomachs are not empty then they will not fight for increases in pay. I said I must touch certain points in the Gorsuch Report.

One point is the point of grade. If you read the Gorsuch Report carefully and diligently you will see that lamentably, the nurses and the teachers are placed under the clerical and technical categories. All the world over, as my knowledge carries me, teachers are professionals; nurses are professionals too. Even Boardman himself, one of the most eminent English educationists said that teaching is a profession though, of course, all over the world the teaching profession is the sorriest of all professions. So that the scale B 3, 1 to 3, and scales F and N, given to the nurses and teachers in Nigeria are inadequate. Nurses are professionals and not technicians.

Now, in paragraph 251 of the Gorsuch Report, Mr Gorsuch said that in future teachers in post-primary institutions shall

be called masters and mistresses and consequently they shall be placed on Scale D 3/C (E 1, 2, 3). (*Interruption*).

I am reciting the Gorsuch Report from memory and I think I do this correctly.

Now, my contention is this, that whether a teacher is in a private school or in post-primary institution and has the same experience and qualification, he should be made to enjoy the same benefit in Scale D 3/C (E 1, 2, 3). This point, is very, very important and it is a thing to be implemented by the Party in power.

Another point I should like to touch is this: the Minister when he was giving his very sweet oration in the morning, made it known to us that the condition of the voluntary agency teachers is by no means certain. During the Harragin, I can still remember, the teachers of the voluntary agency schools suffered a lot. When teachers in the Government schools got their new salaries and the arrears, the teachers of the voluntary agency schools suffered a great deal.

I think, as you all are aware, some of the Ministers and their Legislators here were once teachers of voluntary agencies and they knew how much they suffered when they were in that educational part of the world. So that it is the duty of the Government to see that the teachers of the voluntary agencies are paid simultaneously with the teachers in Government schools. If they are delayed, it means the Government of the Western Region is not doing anything to their benefit. As I have said before, I do not very much like to make a lengthy speech. I should emphasise that unless the Agricultural Department spends hundreds of pounds on research work for the production of foodstuffs the Gorsuch Report will not be satisfactory and I pray the Regional Government will see about the possibility of giving the workers a national scale, so that workers in the East, in the North and in the Western Region could be satisfied and there should be no difference in wages. With these few remarks, I beg to take my seat.

Chief Akran : The speech of the honourable the Premier is sufficiently detailed and abundantly lucid not to need another

[CHIEF AKRAN]

lengthy speech from the Government Bench. All that I wish to do at this stage is to emphasise certain points in an attempt to impress upon our people, not just the people of the Western Region, but all good Nigerians everywhere that this Government deserves their praise and encouragement. I wish to urge upon them that the time has now come when they must make a clean break-away from people and institutions whose claim to any notice at all is that they are very adroit at trying to paint black in such a way that it will look whiter than white. Their existence depends upon ability to fool all the people all the time. This however, is not our stock-in-trade. This Government has always been convinced that the people and workers in particular will one day realise that the Action Group Government of the West is their real friend.

Whatever this Government has done or attempted during the time it has been in office has always been motivated by an ardent desire to serve the people honestly and with understanding in order to justify their confidence. We are confident and we are happy that from now on, no amount of whitewashing will ever succeed in deceiving the people. We claim to be the just servants of our people.

Our claim to the confidence of our people is based on many achievements. Our free primary education scheme benefits everybody and lifts a heavy burden off the shoulders of the workers. The free medical scheme for children up to the age of eighteen benefits everybody and takes a sizeable load off the workers. The scholarship schemes ensure that mere lack of funds shall not prevent our young people from climbing to glorious heights, and that our men will in the near future be available to man our posts. Our co-operative schemes, the producing and marketing co-operatives, ensure that farmers get full return for their labour and that consumers get the products cheaper, but particularly the huge consumers - co-operative stores which are being established everywhere in the Region will ensure that all people, including workers, will be able to obtain the things they require as cheaply as possible, be their requirements imported goods or locally produced goods, particu-

larly foodstuffs. Our Social Welfare Department, by promoting innumerable youth clubs, imparts early training in civics, promotes healthy sports and healthy development. Its social development training scheme is already producing from many young people tough, keen, alert, able and eager community development leaders. Its probation service ensures that wayward children and youths are reclaimed, reformed and returned to society as faithful and loyal citizens. All these are just a few of the things we are doing to improve this Region and this country. Workers must realise that these schemes and amenities are in terms of cash additions to their pay. We must ourselves commend the workers of this Region on their exemplary patience and for turning deaf ears to machinations of evilly disposed and undependable would-be champions. This attitude of theirs is a clear indication that the days of deceit and vain promises are over and that workers now recognise their true friends.

This Government has accepted Gorsuch proposals with modifications calculated to improve them. Where we find that we have made mistakes we shall correct them.

We claim to be the true friends of the workers; we claim to have served and to be serving this Region and this country faithfully to the best of our knowledge and ability, and our conscience is clear. I beg to support.

Mr J. O. Fadahunsi : I rise to associate myself with all those that have spoken on the Opposition Bench, especially in support of Gorsuch Report. I also commend the able manner in which the Minister of Finance has made his report on it. I take it to be a bold venture on the side of the Government to improve the Public Service and condition of the people of this Region, but I would not forget to say that the Western Government has made a bold venture and the Eastern Government has made a bolder venture in so far as the workers are concerned. However I would like to make a few observations whether the Government has closely examined the relation of salary increase to the rising cost of living in the Region; the rising cost of living which is mainly due to the cost of food, the highly increased house rents in places where salary earners are to be found in great

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[MR FADAHUNSI]

numbers; and whether they are aware of the consciousness of the people to live a better and modern life. Whether Government is fully aware that the salary earners who are immediately concerned with the increase form less than 5 per cent of the adult population of this Region and whether arrangements are in hands to improve the earnings and spending conditions of the balance of 95 per cent who are not salary earners in this Region. For example, I believe this could be done by Government by reasonable financial assistance to the producers of food. A speaker some time ago referred to cocoa price that is maintained by Government despite the fact that the world price is falling. I want to say that producers of cocoa are to be found in a small section of the Region and those who produce cocoa do not exceed 20 per cent of the population of the Region; therefore those who are mostly concerned are the producers of food. Whether the Government is taking a serious view about the immediate extension of these benefits to the employees of local councils unlike the 5s daily wage to workers which is now causing a lot of hardship in the local council areas. I say this out of experience, because in my Division, we employ workers to maintain 282 miles of road where Government maintains only about 13 miles and only those that work on these 13 miles earn 5s per day. It is clear that 5s wage to workers does not help workers at the local council areas which form 90 per cent of the workers in the Region. I have advised the Government to be serious over the question of assistance and subsidy to the local council institutions. It is very difficult to maintain our roads; difficult to maintain efficiency in local council areas. We have not got enough fund to maintain the services; therefore if Gorsuch recommendations are to be implemented efficiently or to the best advantage of the people of this Region a subsidy must be given to local councils to carry out the work they do efficiently. With these few remarks I commend this suggestion to the Government for very serious consideration. Government is rich enough to subsidise local councils to enable them to carry on their work. The Gorsuch Report has my full support.

The Minister of Public Works (Mr E. A. Babalola): I wish to correct certain anomalies in the speech of hon. Members of the Opposition. With regard to certain workers in Sapele I have made it very clear in this House more than once that Members should find out facts before coming to the House to say things about which they do not possess the smallest knowledge of any kind. — I want to explain, especially to the Members in the Opposition, that there are different work conditions in the Public Works Department. Firstly, there are members of that department on the establishment of the department; secondly there are those engaged as permanent daily-paid workers and, thirdly there are those who are engaged temporarily. In the case of the Sapele the workers come under the third category. Where there is certain work to be done for a certain length of time some temporary workers are employed under the condition and understanding that when that work is finished they will have to go away. The workers do understand that; and if that is done and the temporary workers are many they are laid off in order, but their names are written down in order that they may be engaged again when there is work; so that when workers of that category are laid off there is nothing wrong on the part of the department, and under such condition the Sapele workers came.

Well, the idea that the 5s minimum wage should be reduced to 2s 3d is a question not for this Government to consider but a question for those temporary workers to consider whether they want to be paid 2s 3d per day.

Another point I would like to make clear is this—the point one hon. Member, Chief Odebiyi, made this morning—that Members of the Opposition said that in the Eastern House of Assembly decision had been reached that the P.W.D. was going to be scrapped and all the work given to contractors. If you take away the workers in P.W.D. how many workers are to be engaged on permanent establishment, and to whom are you going to give pension. It is a great surprise to me to hear somebody from the Opposition Bench ask for 2s 3d per day for workers instead of 5s per day. Of course, it is known that inconsistency is one of the characteristics of the NCNC.

[MR BABALOLA]

One Member made reference to a point, and I want to find out one important point which has been made about the grouping of the Deputy Director of the Ministry of Works. I want to stress to this hon. House that the Government is aware of the importance of the engineering development of this Region, and I would refresh the memories of Members of this House that last year a sum of £12,000 was spent by the Government to bring consultant engineers from Great Britain to work in this Region. This is one of the points which the Premier pointed out this morning that the Government is going to look into.

Then a bit to say about the teaching profession. It has been the characteristic of the Opposition Bench to criticise Government about teachers. I do not know how many of them who really know what is meant by that profession; but from the Government Bench I can see experts in that very profession and the Executive of the Government contains mostly people who have gone through the mill. We do know what is good for the teachers. It has been definitely said in this House that a committee should be set up to look into the conditions of teachers. Please leave the question of teachers to those who know.

Another point I would like to mention again is the question of children's allowance. I think, firstly, the whole Nigeria—and the Eastern Region—have rejected the children's allowance. One is utterly surprised to hear from the Opposition Bench that there should be children's allowance granted to workers; this is beyond our comprehension, and again we see that inconsistency is characteristic of the NCNC.

When I looked at the gallery this morning I saw responsible people from other countries who have come to listen to us and watch proceedings, and so when people get up to speak in this House they should be aware of the harm that can be done to this country by their speech or attitude: It is time we take ourselves seriously in this House.

I beg to support.

Mr Ighodaro : I have no intention to reply to the rather shameless attack on the Minister of Education by hon. Olumofin...

Mr Olumofin : On a point of order I am surprised and ashamed that a Member of this House does not know parliamentary procedure. I refer to section 14 of Standing Order No. 27.

Mr Ighodaro : I can assure the hon. Member that I do not have the intention to be rude to him, for I have been through many institutions where etiquette is thoroughly taught and practised. I only hope that in the future and not very near future when a revision comes to be done I hope the credit will fall on an African to be the author of such a report. There is another point made by my hon. Friend who spoke about our bold venture and that the other Region was making a bolder venture. It has only reminded me of that saying that somebody is attributed to have said that the East was cutting the Gordian knot. But as everybody knows—King Alexander the Great, the son of Phillip of Macedon did not loosen the knot, he cut it, it was the wrong way of loosening it. In fact the problem was not solved, the problem still remains and so it is in the East, the problem still remains. My hon. Friends on the Opposition may not know that the Great King used an unfair way of doing the piece of work before him. What we have done in this Region is honestly and courageously to do the right things and that is what we have done in the way of the workers wages. I do not mean to be tedious. (*Applause*). I beg to support the motion.

Chief Awolowo : I think it is indeed a great relief that we have come to the end of this debate—a great relief in the sense that this hon. House at least for the rest of today will not be inflicted any longer by speeches such as the hon. Member for Owo gave a few minutes ago. I myself will not take much of the time of this hon. House. A good deal has been said by the hon. Members of the Opposition but from the welter of words that have been uttered, only a few points and even those inconsequential emerge. It is incorrect to suggest that we have overlooked the question of rent control.

[CHIEF AWOLOWO]

On the contrary we have done everything possible to introduce rent control into this Region, but unfortunately, we have not enjoyed the co-operation of the tenants themselves. The Minister of Lands shortly after this Government came into power in 1952 set up a committee, a large committee consisting of a few landlords and a large number of tenants to consider certain proposals for rent control in the more important towns in the Western Region. Several meetings were held but no quorum was formed on each occasion, only because one or two landlords turned up and no tenant attended at all. After efforts have been made for a period of over one year the Minister of Lands had to give up the attempt. I can only assure this hon. House that as soon as opportunity offers itself and the tenants themselves show sufficient interest in their own affairs in this regard the Government will not lag behind at all in seizing it. It has also been suggested that only a handful of people benefit in this country from the 5s minimum wage, and that even of this handful a good number have been retrenched. Well I have repeatedly told this House on previous occasions that more than 4,000 people benefit from this 5s minimum wage in the Western Region. I have also said before and I like to repeat it again that there has been no retrenchment in the Region of workers who are receiving 5s minimum wage. The publication in the *Daily Times* was only the figment of imagination of some NCNC mischief makers who were resident in Sapele. It has been said by some Opposition speakers that the Government of this Region is playing politics with the fate of the daily-paid workers. If I would put it mildly I would say that that is dishonesty in the extreme. In 1954 the Government of this Region promised 5s minimum wage to workers and the 5s minimum wage was paid. It also promised that the wages of the special and artisan classes of labour will be revised in the light of the minimum wage of 5s. We have fulfilled our promise. If anybody is playing politics with the fate of workers it is the Members of the Opposition. They in 1954 promised workers 7s 6d. They brought a motion into this very House urging the

Government to adopt 7s 6d minimum wage for workers. I, representing the Government of this Region which is honest and conscientious in all it does, opposed that motion, even on the eve of election. Many workers were misled into believing that this promise of the NCNC unlike other promises would be fulfilled; but what is the position today? Shortly after the election the NCNC turned round and gave workers 2s 3d or 2s 7d, and now all the NCNC is attempting to do in the Eastern Region is to cut the Gordian knot by offering to the workers £66 per annum. The hon. the Minister of Public Health has already given the history or the historical background of the cutting of the Gordian knot, but I would now press it home by saying that cutting the Gordian knot is evading a knotty problem. What really solves a problem is to loosen the Gordian knot. Speaking about the supposed conversion in the Eastern Region we have been told in this House that the NCNC has done wonders and performed miracles in the Eastern Region by converting all daily-paid workers into established staff. But I have had the opportunity of reading the White Paper published by the NCNC Government of the Eastern Region. Unfortunately it was lent to me for about an hour by a friend from the Eastern Region who has taken back his copy; otherwise I would have been in a position to quote a paragraph from that White Paper. I do not remember the actual words used but I remember the substance. Mr Speaker, with regard to this conversion the first thing that must be borne in mind by all workers of this Region is that it is a deception of the highest order—the usual type of deception which the NCNC and their Leaders are always in the habit of giving on the eve of election. Now, why did I say so? First of all, only a month or two ago the Minister of Works in the Eastern Region declared that in the future all minor and major works in the Region would be performed by contractors and contractors only. He also said expressly and even published it in the newspapers that the Public Works Department was going to be scrapped. In effect what the Eastern Government is doing by promising this so-called conversion to established staff to workers is a mere deception in the sense that there will be no workers to convert when

[CHIEF AWOLOWO]

the time comes. The second reason why I regard it as a deception is that it is clearly stated in that White Paper that a certain committee is going to be set up to inquire into and investigate the procedure for making the conversion. Now, we all have the experience of NCNC Committees, they are usually long protracted and usually end up in failure. Furthermore, there is one important point in that White Paper which I remember: it was stated that the Premier of the Region is in consultation with certain experts in the United Kingdom who are familiar with the calculation of pensions and gratuities. Why on earth it is necessary to consult people in the United Kingdom on this matter beats me. That is the sort of calculated deception which the NCNC are capable of and we are not interested in this type of wild deception in this Region. I like to say publicly that for a long time now we have been thinking of this question of absorbing a number of daily-paid workers into the established staff and they are being progressively absorbed. But it is well known that no Government can ever put all its workers on the established post. In any event, even if it were possible at all, this Government is not in the habit of giving public expression to policies which are still in the process of formulation. We make it our policy to say publicly only those things that we are prepared to do and since this sort of thing is still under the process of formulation we are not going to deceive the workers by making a categorical statement at this stage. Now, we have been called upon to produce a farmers' Gorsuch; the NCNC economist the hon. Member for Benin Division, Mr Ekwuyasi, was the person who, I remember, made this demand on the Government. I think one of the defects of the NCNC hierarchy is a deliberate lapse of memory, they forget their commitments and remember the falsehood which they say for the condemnation of other people. Otherwise I am surprised that any member of the NCNC could demand from this Government a farmers' Gorsuch at this stage. This Government has done more for farmers than for any other group of people in this Region. Loan schemes

have been launched. Reference was made to the £50,000 Loan Scheme; that was a pilot scheme, and I made that point abundantly clear in this House before. The pilot scheme will be watched closely and if it is successful Government is prepared to launch an amount several times more than that £50,000. Results are already coming in and in due course the Government should be in a position to make further statement on this point. But apart from that, there have been Co-operative Banks into which an amount of £1 million had been invested. This is intended for the assistance of farmers and all those who belong to the Co-operative Movement. On top of it all, the Government is at the moment considering very actively and very seriously its five-year plan. Those who read the newspapers and those who attended our reception here for this gentleman a few days ago would know that in this Region now there is a gentleman by the name of Professor Arthur Lewis. He is here conducting an extra-mural course on Nigerian economic development. The Government of this Region invited him to arrive a fortnight earlier so that he might be able to help us to look into our economic problem and be able to give us expert advice. Such advice has been given, Mr Speaker, and we are still busy considering this advice, and in due course a Paper will be laid before this House setting out our five-year economic programme. It has not been necessary for us, Mr Speaker, like some extravagant Ministers to go several thousands of miles to the United States of America, Alaska, Australia and all those places on pleasure trip pretending to have gone on economic mission. Then twelve months after they have returned from the economic mission, they sit down and look into reference books and encyclopaedias and produce a report which a newspaper known to be very strong supporter of the NCNC has described as a brazen inanity.

May I come to the more refreshing side of this reply of mine, that is, the points made by speakers on the Government Bench. I must say on behalf of the Government that we are very grateful to them for the very

[CHIEF AWOLOWO] helpful and they have points on them, and I would say and they would mention which

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[CHIEF AWOLOWO]

helpful and very illuminating points that they have made. I would not take these points one by one—there are many of them, and each of them is important. All I would say is that these points are noted, and they will be given the utmost consideration which they deserve.

I beg to move.

Mr S. A. Akinyemi rose in his place and claimed to move "That the question be now put".

Question put "That the question be now put" and agreed to.

Original question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr Ighodaro : I beg to move : "That the House do now adjourn *sine die*".

Chief Odunjo : I beg to second.

Mr Speaker : The question is in terms of the motion.

Mr Wellman, Telegraph Engineer

Chief Odebiyi : I rise to refer to a matter of great public importance, and that is the gross discourtesy and rudeness of one Mr Wellman, Telegraph Engineer of the Posts and Telegraphs Department situated at Ibadan.

In the course of his duties as Chairman of Ijebu Ode Divisional Council, Chief Odutola, the Ogbeni Oja of Ijebu Ode had to transact some business with Mr Wellman, a Telegraph Engineer, sometimes last month. When he got to the office, the man said that he wanted to go to the small room ; so he went away and came back and said, "What could I do for you ?" Chief Odutola said he had come purposely about certain complaints which councillors in his Council had made to him, and which he as the Chairman of that Council ought to investigate, if maximum efficiency was to be assured. Then the man said he must have been a fool to travel all the way from Ijebu Ode to come and discuss the question of telephone with him. Then Chief Odutola told him that it was not the question of being a fool that really made him leave Ijebu Ode to come down to Ibadan, but that it was very necessary to make a personal

contact so that what he wanted done might be done as expeditiously as possible. Then, later on, he was told who was speaking to him, and he said, "Mr Chief, carry on". At this stage Chief Odutola had to tell him a few home truths. What I am trying to put across, and I have done so on several occasions in this hon. House, is the fact that we are not going to spend hard earned money belonging to Nigerians in importing rudeness and discourtesy into this country.

It has always been said that charity begins at home. If a man has not learnt to be courteous from his home, it is no use bringing him into a country like this which is just trying to develop and raise the standard of character among its own peoples. A man of the character of Mr Wellman ought not to be here any longer, because he is not an embodiment of the best tradition of the British people for courtesy and commonsense. We have all passed through the system of education which was imported into this country by early missionaries from Britain, and we value those institutions which they have handed over to us very highly ; but if occasionally we do find people who are a disgrace, who are a stupid ambassador of their country, then the best thing is for people like that to pack up and leave this country for us to manage.

What is important in this case is not the question that Chief Odutola has been insulted ; but what about thousands of people who do not know their left from their right—people who would have suffered the same indignity from Mr Wellman. I think, something ought to be done, and I should suggest to the Executive Council to make the necessary contact with the particular Minister in charge and see that Mr Wellman is really made to apologise in the proper way desirable.

Alafin of Oyo

Mr Fadahunsi : I should like to say that the Western Regional Government should make a public statement on the position of the banished Alafin of Oyo with regard to his maintenance and subsistence allowance, and the time he should return to his throne, since the Government has said that he was banished "until further notice".

MR FADAHUNSI]

I do not question the right of the Government to banish or depose any *Oba* or Chief, in as much as the action is based on fairness and justice. But how could somebody ever think that a man in the position of the Alafin of Oyo should be banished indefinitely for such a long time without any means of maintenance. We read in the Papers, but nobody would ever believe it that it is possible for any Government with heart to say that such a man like the Alafin of Oyo should be advised by the Government to leave his domain, pretending at in course of time his matter would be settled, and to be left there to be starved to death.

I feel that it is necessary that the Government should make a statement as to what his position is, especially in so far as maintenance is concerned, and the time when his banishment order will be cancelled and he will return to his throne.

School Tragedy in Lagos

Mr F. O. Okuntola : I rise to move at this hon. House now in session records its grave concern and sympathy for the ghastly incident which was reported to have happened in Lagos, the Federal Capital this morning, wherein a school building has collapsed, killing seven children and injuring many others.

General Election in 1956

Mr Olumofin : It is my intention to call on the Western Regional Government to make a public pronouncement on the 1956 general elections in the Western Region, with reference to the kind of electoral system, the anticipated date of election and the nature of constituencies. We are asking for a statement to be made for certain reasons. Rumour is current in the West in particular and in the country in general, that the general elections, date for 1956 has been fixed, and that certain members of the Party in power are in possession of the information. My regard, Sir, to what happened in 1954 when the Federal elections arrangements were made by the Government, the Party in power, which happens to be the Action Group, were knowledgeable about the position and the state of things in so far as those arrangements were concerned. It was found out at that time that certain

names were being mentioned, particularly in regard to a constituency in Abeokuta, and when the final arrangement was published, the rumour proved to be true to the letter.

I do not want to mention names, otherwise I would have mentioned certain persons connected with this rumour which, when the final arrangement was completed and announced, was true to the letter.

I have said having regard to this evidence, that the NCNC should give credence to the rumour now circulating in the Region that the date of the elections of next year has been known; and, personally, I know that certain members of the Action Group have been making arrangements and have even selected their candidates for the 1956 general elections! If they do not know about the election date and have not heard anything about the final arrangements for the elections, they would not have dared to make such an elaborate arrangement as far as selection of candidates is concerned. We are therefore asking the Government to make a pronouncement and let us know definitely whether or not the rumour has any iota of truth in it, and whether or not it is a mere rumour that we should dismiss.

The Government should not, as the Government formed by the Action Group, use its position to prostitute governmental functions, governmental secrecy and governmental arrangements for the interest of its own party. We feel this is unfair. We want a public statement made on the matter.

We would not entertain any statement made by the Action Group Party Manager, who once lied to and misled the country by saying that the Lloyd's Report was not here when really it was here. A statement direct from the horse's mouth, Mr Speaker, is what we demand.

Chief Awolowo : I take the question of the tragedy in Lagos first. All I wish to say on that point is that the Government associates itself with the sentiments already expressed by the hon. the Member for Ilesha.

I now come to the question of the Alafin. There are two points made by the hon. the Member for Ilesha. First is the maintenance of the Alafin and his return to Oyo:

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[CHIEF AWOLOWO]

I would like to dispose before I comment on these two points of the allegation made by the hon. Gentleman. He accused the Government of advising the Alafin to leave his domain on the pretext that he would come back as soon as the enquiry was completed. The Government of this Region have at no time advised the Alafin—using the word advice in its true sense. We told the Alafin that it was imperative for him to leave his domain. He was unwilling to do so and the Government was prepared to get him out by other means. Unfortunately, that order had to be prepared by the Central Government at that time; that was before the 1st of October, 1954. Well, the ways of the Central Government in those days were sometimes mysterious: some people advised the Alafin and then, he left. As far as the Government of this Region is concerned, there is no question of advising or begging the Alafin to leave his domain. The Government after careful consideration made up its mind that it was imperative that the Alafin should leave his domain. If we had had the power to make the necessary order he should have been bundled out of the Afim; and we at no time pretended to the Alafin or promised him that as soon as the enquiry was over he would come back to his domain.

Now, coming to the question of maintenance. As far as the Government is concerned, the Alafin has been adjudged guilty of a number of things in Oyo and has been dealt with accordingly. If he is going to get any maintenance at all, that is a matter for the Oyo Divisional Council to consider and decide. If they wish to give him money they may do so. If they decide not to give him money it is just too bad, but we cannot compel the Divisional Council to appropriate any portion of its money against its own wish.

With regard to the return of the Alafin, reference has been made to the point that he has been banished until further notice. That is quite correct. There are a number of reasons why the Government decided that the Alafin should be suspended and banished. It is important that certain conditions should prevail in Oyo before the Alafin sets his foot in that territory again. All I would like to say in this House now

is that those conditions which are necessary still do not prevail in Oyo and the Alafin and his supporters have not done anything to make it possible for those conditions to prevail and therefore the position today is still as it was when the order was originally made.

Now, with regard to the 1956 elections it is a well-known characteristic of some members of the NCNC, particularly the hon. the Member for Owo Division, to fabricate stories in order to damnify his fellow men. We know very well that in 1954 when preparations for election were being made the NCNC Government of the Eastern Region refused to take the Opposition into confidence. On the contrary in this Region we set up a bi-partite Committee consisting of members of the NCNC and the Action Group of this House to go into the question of details for the election in 1954. It is therefore unfair and dishonest for any Member of the Opposition to suggest that Government did anything behind their back. Also, about two or three months ago—I do not remember the actual date, a Committee was set up consisting of five members of the Action Group and three members of the NCNC to consider the electoral regulations for the elections in 1956. As a matter of fact, the hon. the Member for Owo Division is himself in possession of all the facts contained in those draft electoral regulations, because he has made use of them in his campaigns in Akoko District; and the NCNC also have made use of these facts in their paper called "*Defender*" popularly known as "*Offender*". It is therefore unfair to say that we are doing anything behind the Opposition Members. Everything that has been done so far in regard to the future elections either into the local government councils or into this hon. House is fully known to the Members of the Opposition. If those who are on the Committee fail to report to their colleagues that is not the fault of the Government but the fault of the NCNC members on the Committee.

Now, I come to deal with the three points which are contained in the hon. Member's motion. The first is what electoral system is going to be used in 1956? Well, the answer to that is, let him go and consult the draft regulations which have been

[CHIEF AWOLOWO]

submitted to members of his Party and the conclusions reached on those draft regulations. More than that I am not prepared to say at the moment, because the hon. Member is already in possession of the facts. Then the other point is what constituencies are going to be created in the Region? These facts are in the possession of Mr Olumofin himself and if he has not got the facts now, let him refer to the draft regulations together with the schedules thereto which are already placed in the hands of these two members of the Committee. I believe one of them is the hon. Mr Fadahunsi, the Member for Ilesha; the hon. Mr Okwuyasi, another member; and the hon. Mr Osadebay is another member. Hon. Fadahunsi is here with us and I am sure that he would not deny the Member for Owo Division a copy of these regulations which has been placed in his hands about two or three months ago.

Now, the last point to which he referred in his motion is the date of election. That gives me an opportunity of clearing certain speculations which have been going on for a long time in this country. One rather officious journalist of the *Daily Times* has suggested that we were going to hold an election in June 1956. Some people even

have been suggesting that we are going to hold an election before the next year's Conference, and so on and so forth. I would like to make it publicly clear that this Government has a mandate to administer the affairs of this Region for five clear years. We assumed office in February 1952 and we are due to relinquish office in February 1957. It is within the power of the Government of the day to hold an election at any time that it chooses, but at the moment I can assure the hon. House that it is, not the intention at all of the Party in power to curtail this mandate that has been given to it.

Mr Speaker: With regard to the publication of the Hansard, I should like to urge hon. Members to be prompt in the returning of the corrected script of their speeches. Some of the speakers who spoke during the last meeting, eight of them, have failed so far to send in their corrected script and this, you know, is bound to hold up the publication of the Hansard. It is such a good publication that we would like it to come out promptly and regularly and would like hon. Members to co-operate in this regard.

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned sine die at 7.15 p.m.