

EASTERN



REGION

NIGERIA

**Eastern House of Assembly
Debates**

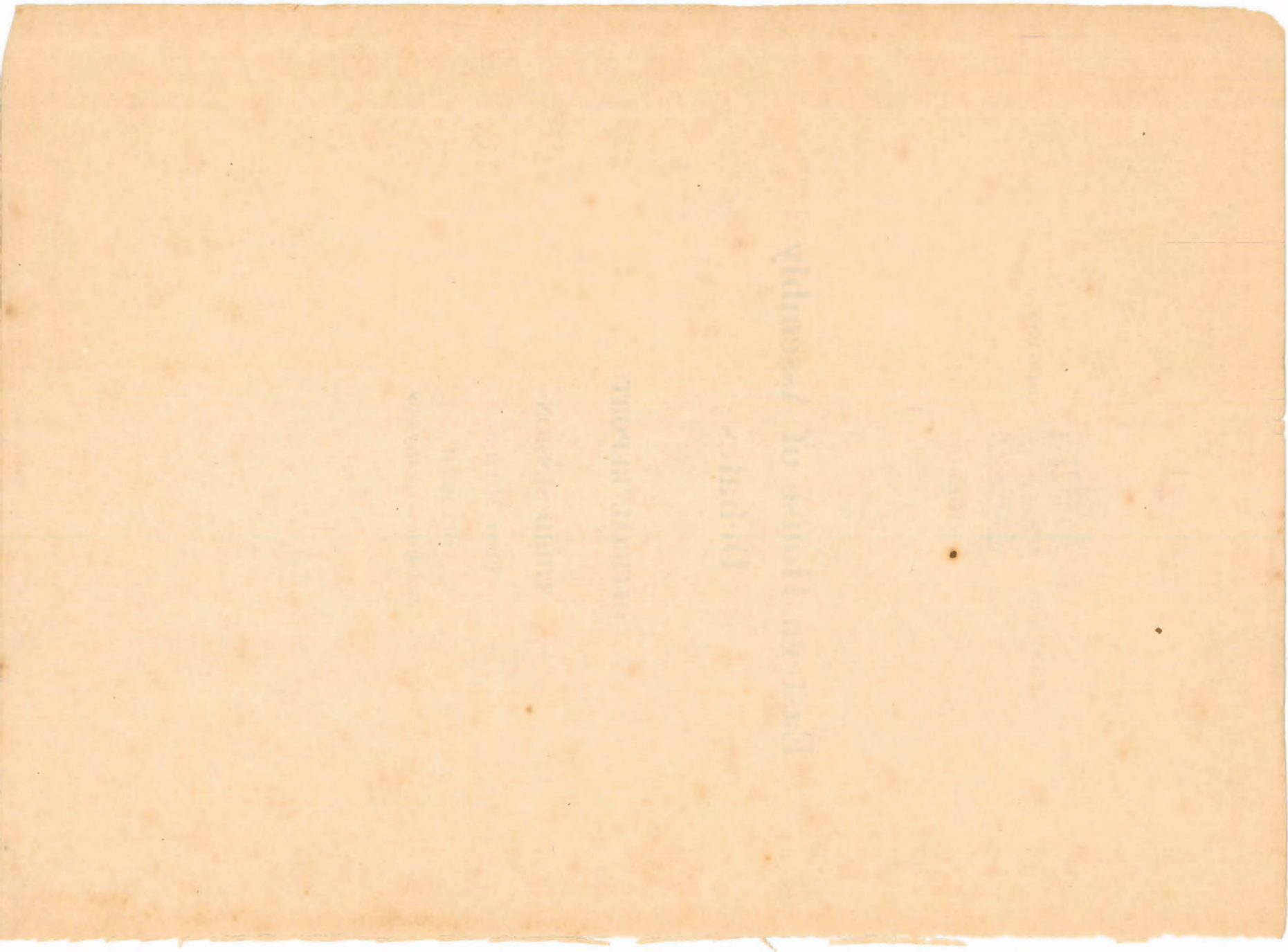
OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION

FIRST MEETING

VOLUME II

23rd April, to 7th May 1959



EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 23rd April, 1959

(The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Tele-communications

7. Mr J. E. Eyo asked the Minister of Works, how soon will telephone facilities be extended to all the District Council Headquarters in the Region for ease of communication.

The Minister of Works: The hon. Member's attention is drawn to Federal Government's Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, which clearly sets out the objectives of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Aviation in this respect, during the current Development Plan.

As will be seen therefrom many of the District Councils in the Region will still be without telephone communications and accordingly a list of these places is being sent to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation for inclusion in that Ministry's Second Development Plan.

I can assure the hon. Member that my Ministry's side is to continue to press the Federal Government for extensions to the tele-communications of the Region.

Owerri Girls' Secondary School

24. Mr E. U. Eronini asked the Minister of Education, how many non-expatriate and expatriate teaching staff are there in the Owerri Girls' Secondary School; what are the qualifications of each of the staff; is there a disparity in the number of expatriate and non-expatriate teaching staff at this school; if so, why.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): I am directed to answer as follows:—

The particulars of the staff for this term submitted in January, 1959 show that there are four expatriate teachers on the staff of the Owerri Girls' School, and five non-expatriate.

The reason for the large proportion of expatriate teachers in many girls' secondary schools (in this case nearly 50 per cent) is that there are not enough qualified Nigerian women to staff them. There are at present only about half a dozen Nigerian Women graduates teaching in the Eastern Region, and there are very few teachers with a Grade I Certificate or other suitable qualification for secondary school teaching. Moreover, a large proportion of those who are qualified are also married and cannot be posted away from their husbands.

That this is the reason for the position at Owerri Girls' Secondary School is fairly clear, for although it is purely a girls' school, three out of the five non-expatriates teaching there are men. No principal of a girls' boarding secondary school would appoint men teachers where women were available, because they cannot undertake many of the boarding supervision duties which therefore fall too heavily on the rest of the staff.

Coal Royalties

64. Mr M. Onwuma asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is considering ways and means of replenishing any loss in Coal Royalties due to cuts in coal production in the Eastern Nigeria; if so, what are the proposals: if not, will the Minister seek expert advice on this matter.

The Minister of Finance: When the Estimates were prepared, the Federal Government advised us that the gross royalties would be the same as last year. That Government later reduced its estimate by £20,000 but omitted to tell us. This therefore means a loss of £10,000 to this Region. On the other hand, the Federal Government has raised upwards other estimates for Mining Royalties and Rents. As a result, we have been advised by that Government to expect the same gross revenue in this sector as before the coal royalties figure was dropped. Or, in other words, the loss on coal has been replenished.

The hon. Member may be representing that coal's own contribution to revenue should not be allowed to fall. This could only be effected by either increasing the royalty or by developing other uses for coal. The former is not within the executive competence of this Government

[DR IMOKE]

even if to do so would not accelerate the downward trend in consumption. The latter is already receiving the close attention of the Federal Government.

Tax Assessment in Owerri Province

67. Mr S. E. K. Iwueke asked the Minister of Finance, how many appeals against the Tax Assessment were lodged in Owerri Province, Division by Division, since the introduction of the Finance Law; how many of such appeals were for amounts over £50, and how many of them were either granted, not granted or outstanding.

The Minister of Finance: As a full reply to the hon. Member's Question involves a large number of figures, I will, with permission, circulate in the Official Report two tables of figures which contain the detailed information requested. Meanwhile, it may be of interest to the hon. Member to know that 628 appeals to the Boards of Commissioners were instituted during the two years 1956-57 and 1957-58, of which 92 were still outstanding at 31st March, 1959. In the three years 1956-57 to 1958-59 inclusive 31 appeals to the High Court were instituted, of which none were outstanding on 31st March, 1959. About 59 per cent of the appeals to the Boards of Commissioners and about 84 per cent of the appeals to the High Court were unsuccessful.

The Tables are as follows:—

TABLE I
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPEALS (i.e., UNDER £50)
OWERRI PROVINCE

Division	Period	Total	No. of successful appeals	No. of unsuccessful appeals	No. of appeals outstanding as at 31-3-59
Aba	1956-57	134	80	54	—
Bende... ..	1956-57	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Okigwi	1956-57	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Orlu	1956-57	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Owerri	1956-57	222	89	119	14
Total	1956-57	356	169	173	14
Aba	1957-59	46	18	19	9
Bende... ..	1957-59	100	10	82	8
Okigwi	1957-59	38	2	36	—
Orlu	1957-59	61	18	4	39
Owerri	1957-59	27	4	1	22
Total	1957-58	272	52	142	78
Grand Total	1956-57 to 1957-58	628	221	315	92

TABLE II
HIGH COURT APPEALS (i.e., OVER £50 OR ON A POINT OF LAW)
OWERRI PROVINCE

<i>Division</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>No. of successful appeals</i>	<i>No. of unsuccessful appeals</i>	<i>No. of appeals outstanding as at 31-3-59</i>
Aba	1956-57	20	4	16	Nil
Bende... ..	1956-57	1	Nil	1	Nil
Okigwi	1956-57	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Orlu	1956-57	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Owerri	1956-57	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1956-57	21	4	17	—
Aba	1957-58	7	1	6	Nil
Bende... ..	1957-58	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Okigwi	1957-58	1	Nil	1	Nil
Orlu	1957-58	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Owerri	1957-58	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1957-58	8	1	7	—
Aba	1958-59	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bende... ..	1958-59	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Okigwi	1958-59	1	Nil	1	Nil
Orlu	1958-59	1	Nil	1	Nil
Owerri	1958-59	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1958-59	2	—	2	—
Grand Total	1956-57 to 1958-59	31	5	26	—

Market Development at Ezamgbo

73. Mr P. A. Onwe asked the Minister of Local Government, whether he will not investigate the expenditure of over £1,000 at Ezamgbo, Ishielu District in Abakaliki Division for market development with a view to surcharging the Ishielu District Council for wanton waste.

The Minister of Local Government: The matter has been investigated. A total of £1,000 was approved in 1957-58 for the development of the market at Ezamgbo, about 12 miles from Abakaliki, along the Abakaliki-Enugu Road. There was inadequate consultation with the local people about the site and

the new market has never been used. But the Council spent the money on the purpose for which it was intended. The expenditure is not, therefore, contrary to Law and cannot, as the Eastern Region Local Government Law stands, be the subject of a surcharge. It may be that another market, instead of that at Ezamgbo, could have been developed. But as it is within the discretion of the Council to decide which market should be developed, the exercise of that discretion cannot in the circumstances, be the subject of a surcharge.

I understand that the Council is now exploring the possibility of salvaging the materials from the market and re-erecting the

[CHIEF ONYIUKE]

stalls where they can be more useful. I shall see that the Council keeps me informed of progress in this matter.

Irrigation

90. **Mr R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.**, asked the Minister of Agriculture, when will irrigation be introduced in some parts of the Eastern Region.

The Minister of Agriculture: The introduction of large-scale irrigation schemes is a matter which requires very careful survey, planning and estimation before hand. They require soil investigations and water analyses. Not all water is suitable for irrigation purposes particularly in areas where evaporation is high. Before any large-scale schemes can be introduced therefore very thorough investigation must be carried out. Such schemes must also be applicable to large areas of land since their capital costs are always high and the maintenance of canals, etc., also expensive. The hon. Member is, I think, aware that a soil and land use survey was approved in the Supplementary Budget for 1958. Such a survey is the first step in ascertaining whether land is suitable for such purposes as irrigation or plantation development, etc. The hon. Member will also see that a similar scheme is included in the Capital Budget Proposals and the Development plan for the next four years.

Small-scale irrigation schemes involving bunding of the land to assist in conserving water for rice cultivation, the diversion of streams, etc., can be undertaken in local areas.

Work on these lines is now beginning in the Afikpo area of the rice growing lands and training in these methods is being given to trainees in the School of Agriculture at Umuahia.

Simple overhead irrigation of vegetable crops has been demonstrated here in Enugu for several years and some local market gardens now have their own pumping equipment for this work. Such equipment was also installed on the Agricultural station at Nekede last year and is being demonstrated there. Other stations are being so equipped in the coming year.

Cocoa and Cotton in Nsukka Division

91. **Mr R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.**, asked the Minister of Agriculture, if he is aware that cocoa and cotton grow well in Okpuje Town in Nsukka Division; if so, will he take steps to encourage local farmers to grow these cash crops in commercial quantities.

The Minister of Agriculture: I am aware that small quantities of "backyard" cotton and some cocoa are grown in one or two areas of Nsukka Division.

The Agricultural Division of my Ministry in fact imported some of the improved Ishan "A" cotton for trial in that area.

We are at present in correspondence with the cotton experts on the feasibility of the development of the growth of a cotton which might be suitable for export. My advisers are uncertain at present of the possibility of this owing to the high degree of insect infestation which occurs in cotton in these areas and further enquiry must be made into these matters before I could recommend to farmers that they take up this crop and we become involved in the setting up of the marketing and seed distribution organisation which would be necessary for the collection and ginning of the crop and the maintenance of an export quality.

In so far as cocoa is concerned, supplies of amazon cocoa seedlings are available for planting this year from the Agriculture Division Demonstration Farm Centre at Ukpabi. They will be supplied to farmers who have land suitable for the crop and which has the requisite degree of shade. I would warn the hon. Member however that cocoa does not like an intense dry season and that while it may *grow* in parts of Nsukka Division it does not follow that it will be *high yielding* in that area.

Mr E. O. Eyo: What does the Minister of Agriculture mean by "backyard cocoa"?

The Minister of Agriculture: Some people have very few plants behind their yard and that is not plantation.

Mr Ukuta: Where does front yard cocoa grow?

The Minister of Agriculture: Areas found suitable where cocoa can grow, for instance Bende and Ikom Divisions, and where you have proper farms where they can be grown.

Food Supply in Secondary Schools

93. **Mr P. A. Onwe** asked the Minister of Education, what steps is he taking to ensure that food supplies in boarding schools are nutritiously adequate; is the food provided inspected by the agents of the Government at regular intervals.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): I am directed to answer as follows:—

When secondary schools are inspected the Inspecting Officer generally inspects the menu list to ensure that the diet is adequate and balanced and makes criticisms where necessary. The Ministry also encourages the diet sheet to be approved by a Medical Officer. If food is known to be bad the management of the school is required to improve it. Officers of the Ministry intervene and investigate serious complaints about food and food strikes.

Grants-in-Aid

98. **Mr P. N. Okeke** asked the Minister of Education, what is the present policy of giving grants to Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Institutions in the Region; will the Minister consider basing grants on *per capita* of the students in these institutions.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): I am directed to answer as follows:—

The policy governing the payment of grant to Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Institutions is set out in Regulations 15 to 19 of the Grants-in-Aid Regulations published in the *Eastern Regional Gazette* No. 9 of 19th February, 1959 as notice No. E.R.L.N. No. 78 of 1959.

The hon. Member will find that, except for the salary grant which is calculated on the salaries of the teachers actually employed, the grant is based "on *per capita* of the students in these institutions."

Voters List

100. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Premier, whether he will make representations to the Federal Government to consider reducing considerably the cost of the Voters List of each Constituency.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (Mr J. O. Umolu): I am directed to answer as follows:—

The Preliminary Voters' List is sold at ten guineas per constituency. In view of the amount of work involved in preparing it, I do not think that this is an excessive charge. The hon. Member will no doubt appreciate also that it is not the practice for this Government or any other Government to publish Voters' Lists for cheap and easy sale. Any private person can go and have a look at the published List if he desires, but it is normally only a political party which would wish to purchase a copy for retention.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The 1959-60 Eastern Region Appropriation Bill

(First Allotted Day)

Considered in Committee of Supply

Mr Speaker: Before we commence with the proceedings on the Committee of Supply, I would like to remind hon. Members that there has been an amendment to Standing Order 66 relating to Appropriation Bills, and in particular I would like to draw your attention to 8A of Standing Order 66. "... debate shall be confined to the policy of the Ministry and the services and Departments under the Ministry or the policy of the service for which the money is being provided as the case may be...". I refer also to Standing Order 66 (13) because I find that in two instances there have been amendments to increase.

"An amendment to increase shall take precedence of any amendment to decrease any Head to which the said amendment to increase relates and if carried no amendment to decrease the Head concerned shall be called."

Therefore Members who have proposed any amendments in any case of an increase, those amendments will not be called. When I

[MR SPEAKER]

propose a question under each Head, I think it will be right for the Minister concerned to introduce his Estimate and other Members can debate on it.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-7 postponed until after consideration of the Schedule.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Head 421.—The Premier's Office

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £661,790 for Head 421—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule.

The Premier (Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe):
Mr Chairman, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name that the total provision under Head 421—Premier's Office—be reduced from £661,790 by £73,130 to £588,660. The reason for decreasing the provision under Head 421 is that I have decided that the most efficient arrangement will be for the hon. the Minister of Internal Affairs to be charged with responsibility for Information Services.

In the reorganisation of certain Ministries which I am proposing to make in the interests of economy and efficiency, and on which I shall make a statement in this House at a later stage, the Ministry of Information will be abolished and the Information Services Division will form a Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In the Draft Estimates before the House, therefore, all those Sub-heads dealing with the Information Services will be transferred and this explains a decrease of provision under Head 421 amounting to £89,420.

I will leave it to my colleague, the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, to explain in the House the details of the provision for Information under his Head and the very desirable expansion of the Services which we propose.

Against this decrease under Head 421, there must be set two small increases. The first is to provide a Sub-head entitled "Special Hire of Transport" to make provision of £1,040 in respect of certain payments for the hire of launches in Brass Division, which was necessary during the U.P.E. disturbances at the beginning of 1958. The reason why these payments have not been made earlier is that it has taken some time to get correct assessments of cost from the

Director of Inland Waterways to pay for these launches to be restored to their former condition.

The second increase under Head 421 is to make provision of £15,250 for improvement to Station Rest Houses. The reason for this is one on which I think all hon. Members on both sides of the House will fully agree. I feel that it is time that Rest House facilities should be improved at stations where there are no V.I.P. or Catering Rest Houses in this Region. It is therefore proposed to make improvements to Station Rest Houses by repairing the structure of the present bush Rest Houses at each Divisional Headquarters, by redecorating them and providing them with basic furniture and proper bathroom, toilet and kitchen facilities.

It is not, at this stage, possible to build Catering Rest Houses at every Divisional Headquarters, although it is hoped that ultimately this objective may be achieved. It will obviously, however, be a great improvement if our present Rest Houses are improved in such a way that any person intending to use them does not have to travel with a camp bed and all other equipment.

In order to do this, it is proposed in the coming financial year to provide improvements and additional facilities at the following Rest Houses:

Obudu	Ikot Ekpene
Obubra	Abak
Afikpo	Uyo
Udi	Enyong
Nsukka	Eket
Awgu	Opobo
Awka	Ogoni
Owerri	Ahoada
Orlu	Degema
Okigwi	Brass
Total	20.

In summary, therefore Mr Chairman, I propose that Head 421 should be increased by the sums of £1,040 for special hire of transport, and £15,250 for improvement to Station Rest Houses; and that it should be decreased by the transfer of provision for the Information Services to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This will produce a net decrease of £73,130.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed, That Head 421 be reduced by £73,130.

Mr G. I. Oko, M.B.E. (Awgu Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to make a few observations on the policy of this Ministry—the Ministry of Information.

Several hon. Members: This is not Ministry of Information.

Mr Oko: Now that the Ministry of Information has been merged with the Office of the Premier . . .

Several hon. Members: It is merged with the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Mr Oko: Mr Chairman, I shall make my observations when it is time.

The Chairman: I suppose the hon. Member is a bit confused. The debate covers the policy of the department as a whole.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Chairman, we are not very clear about this amendment because all that the Premier seeks to do is to reduce Head 421 by £73,130 but in the course of his speech he made mention of other items for increases and decreases.

The Chairman: I think in that way he only explained how the reduction of £73,130 came about.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Our view, Sir, is that he should have listed all the items in the amendment so that we may know what we are voting for.

Mr S. G. Ikoku (Enyong Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, this Head 421 is a very important one. If I may borrow a term from Biology I think it is the Solar Plexus of the Government. Therefore, you will pardon us, Sir, if Members of this House take a good deal of your time in discussing this Head. I, on my part, would like to raise just two points. I am aware that several hon. Members are anxious to speak on this Head.

My two points, Sir, are the question of this Provincial Assembly and how it relates to the proposed Senate. My second point, Sir, is the position of certain categories of civil servants. May I take my first point first.

Yesterday, when the hon. Premier spoke in this House, he made it clear that the twelve proposed provinces will serve as senatorial zones for the election of senators to the Federal Upper House when it comes into being next year.

It is from this aspect that I would like to speak. Firstly, Sir, the Opposition would like to draw your attention to the decision of the 1957 Constitutional Conference. At page 12 of that Report we find in paragraph 30 that it was made clear that in the Eastern Region there will be a Senatorial Zone and with your permission may I read paragraph 30 thereof:

“The Conference took note of the intention of the Government parties in each Region that the twelve Senators from the Northern Region would each represent one of the provinces there;

“That each of the eight provinces in the Western Region would be represented by at least by one Senator and that in the Eastern Region representation will be based on senatorial zones to be decided by the Regional Government after consultation with the Opposition.”

I would like to say that I was a bit startled when I heard the Premier say that these twelve provinces would serve as senatorial zones. It is obvious that the decision of the London Conference has not been complied with. I will go further to develop my argument. We are not opposing the use of the twelve proposed provinces as senatorial zones simply because the decisions of the London Conference had not been complied with but we are opposing it on grounds of natural justice. To use the proposed twelve provinces as senatorial zones and to return one Senator to the Federal Upper House is to add insult to injury. These twelve provinces are, to put it kindly, a caricature of democracy and to insist that people who have been cheated as a result of this new system should be cheated again is to add insult to injury.

On this score, Sir, I would like to make it clear that this side of the House is prepared to abide rigorously to the decision of the London Conference. In this connection may I say that we never decided at the London Conference

[MR IKOKU]

to have twelve provinces in the Eastern Region. Any attempt to make the Opposition support this is wrong. What we agreed, Sir, at the London Conference was that we would have nine new provinces and on that score we are ready to pledge our word and stand by it.

Secondly, there was no decision in the London Conference that the twelve provinces would serve as senatorial zones. There was no such decision. So that the Premier dragging in the idea of selection or election of the senators, I may say, Sir, is of no help, is entirely irrelevant. He should tell the House that it is his responsibility because the impression is gaining ground that we are party to this decision. There was no such decision at the London Conference that the new provinces proposed for the Eastern Region should be the senatorial zones for the election of senators.

An hon. Member: But you say you are the leader of the minority.

Mr Ikoku: Before I go on, it will be necessary to give some background information as regards the size by population of the proposed twelve new provinces. They are as follows:—

Abakaliki Province	...	829,592;
Annang Province	...	413,154;

An hon. Member: That is wrong.

Mr Ikoku:

Calabar Province	...	140,975;
Degema Province	...	117,937;
Enugu Province	...	176,043;
Ogoja Province	...	262,756;
Onitsha Province...	...	761,447;
Owerri Province	...	1,359,928;
Port Harcourt Province	...	502,493;
Umuahia Province	...	753,475;
Uyo Province	...	848,481;
Yenagoa Province	...	186,968.

For the information of Members, Sir, may I say that all these figures are got from the 1953 population census of the Eastern Region. You will notice, Sir, that these provinces are far from balanced as far as population goes, and, therefore, to allocate senatorial seats on the basis of these provinces will be a gross injustice. Members are very familiar with the five old

provinces. May I point out, Sir, what this new election proposed by the Premier and announced to this House yesterday would mean. It would mean this—that the old Calabar Province will have three seats in the senate. The old Ogoja Province will have two seats in the senate. The old Onitsha Province will have two seats in the senate. The old Owerri Province will have two seats in the senate and the old Rivers Province will have three seats in the senate. I want it to be quite clear, Sir, because the idea is being circulated that the minority has been favoured. This is the view of the Opposition that Government cannot solve the minority problem by creating majority injustice.

We have to make it clear that democracy must work and work smoothly, and merely making an attempt to appease one side and in the process displease the other side does not solve the problem. I would like to point this out that even the idea that the minorities are being favoured is wrong. Look at the population again. You will find that among the minorities themselves there is injustice, and among the majorities themselves there is injustice. So that in an attempt to remove one injustice you are creating three: injustice for the whole Region, injustice among the minorities, and injustice among the majorities.

I will illustrate my point. Among the minorities, the Annang with a population of 413,000 will have one seat; Calabar province with one quarter of that population (140,000) will have one seat; Degema with 117,000 one seat; Uyo with seven times the population of Degema, and twice the population of the Annang area, will have one seat. That is one aspect of the injustice.

Turn then to the majorities. Enugu with one million has one seat; Onitsha with three quarters of a million has one seat; Owerri with 1,300,359 has one seat. Where is the justice? There is no justice among the minorities and there is no justice among the majorities. Where are we heading to? In an attempt to solve one problem, we are creating three problems.

Now, Sir, I come back to the question of selection for the Senate, but before I do that may I reply to the hon. Leader of the House who is talking about State? All this mess into

which we are getting is the result of the Government Party refusing to accept the only applicable formula for solving the minority problem—and that is the question of the creation of States. To continue on this question of selection for Senate, or rather Senatorial Zone, the Eastern Region has a population of roughly 7.3 million, and for selection of Senators to the new Senate, we, the Opposition, hold the view that the population principle must be adhered to. The Premier can go ahead with his twelve Provinces, but all that this hon. House wants to be assured of is that these twelve new provinces have nothing to do with Senatorial Zone.

Sir, I go further to say this: that because our population is 7.3 million there should be one senator for roughly 610,000 people. This figure 610,000 is arrived at simply by dividing 7.3 million by 12. Sir, you will find from the new system which we are advocating that the old Calabar Province with a population of 1.5 million will be entitled to 3 seats; the old Ogoja Province will be entitled to 2 seats; the old Onitsha Province will be entitled to 3 seats and not 2 seats; the old Owerri Province will be entitled to 3 seats and not 2 seats; the old Rivers Province will be entitled to 1 seat and not 3.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Rivers Members, do you agree with him?

The Minister of Commerce (Mr J. U. Nwodo): Chief Amachree, do you agree with him. What do you say to that?

Mr S. T. Akpan (Eket Division): He was present when we discussed it and he is satisfied.

Mr Ikoku: I would like to make it clear that in this reallocation of seats which we are demanding, it is true that one minority area, that is the old Rivers Province, will lose two seats but please, Sir, it is our view that sound Government can only be based on natural justice and equity. I can assure you, Sir, that all reasonable people in the Rivers Province will accept this proposal wholeheartedly.

Several hon. Members: You think Rivers people are fools. Go and tell them this and you will see their reaction.

Mr Akpan: We shall go to tell them.

Mr Ikoku: As far as we know, from the experience of the Mother of Parliaments, that is Britain, Parliament is a territorial representation of voters making sure that each representative in Parliament represents roughly the same number of people outside Parliament. So that the whole idea is proportional representation and we are insisting, Sir, that all other arrangements will be made as regards Provincial Administration. They can do that; they can even give villages representation, but when we come to the major legislatures of the realm the standards of the democratic principle of proportional representation in accordance with population must be adhered to. That is our point. It is not a question of whether they please Yenagoa or they please Obudu; it is a question of whether they are doing what is right and what they can defend.

Therefore, Sir, we hope that at no distant date the hon. the Premier, in accordance with paragraph 30 of the 1957 Conference decision, will invite the Opposition to consider the marking out of senatorial zones in the Region, and we are assuring him that when we come to that round-table meeting we are bringing this our proportional representation theory which I have just enunciated this morning. I am glad to note, Sir, that many faces in the Treasury Bench have beamed as a result of my statement; I hope the faces will continue to beam.

My second point, Sir, is a brief one and here I am addressing myself to the Premier because the Civil Service is really being conducted from his office. I am appealing to the Premier on the question of Executive Officers in the Service of the Eastern Region; just that one point, Sir. I would like to give a few scale comparisons. The Executive Officer in the Eastern Region is on a scale of C (E) Training 1 and 2, that is £270—£714 per annum. His equivalent in the Federation is on scale C (E) 2, 3, 4. Now, the point of entry in the Federation is £564 per annum, whereas the point of entry in the Eastern Region is £270 per annum. I believe that the hon. the Premier was quite categorical when he made the statement that the conditions of Service in this Region should be brought to parity with the conditions of Service in the Federation. We would therefore like to see these Executive Officers properly scaled. The Higher Executive Officers, Sir,

[MR IKOKU]

in the Eastern Region are on scale C (E) 3, 4: they start at £744 and end up at £972 per annum. Their counterparts in the Federation are on scale C (E) 5, commencing at £1,014 and ending at £1,145. The same thing for the Senior Executive Officer: when in the Eastern Region they are on scale C (E) 5 £1,014 to £1,140 per annum, in the Federation they are on scale C (E) 5, 6 commencing at £1,014 but ending up at £1,360.

I would like to point out, Sir, that these Executive Officers constitute a most important link in the chain. They are, as it were, the intermediary stage between the junior service and the senior service officers and you will find them in practically all the Administrative Offices all over the Eastern Region; and they are really performing the functions of Assistant District Officers. There is no doubt about that, and they are working very hard. All we are pleading, Sir, to the Premier is that their conditions of service should be brought "to a level not less favourable" (to use his own phrase) than conditions in the Federation.

In this connection, may I remind the Premier further that it is not only salary scales that constitute conditions of service. You have other ancillary considerations. For example, there is the question of transport. In the Federation these officers are given transport and they are given car advances as of right. In the Eastern Region, they are not given car advances. There are only two or three of them who have cars and those who have these cars are not entitled to Basic Allowance. We are therefore pleading, Sir, that these Executive Officers should be entitled to not only car advances but also Basic Allowance. They should also be entitled to an Outfit Allowance on first appointment as is the case with their counterparts in the Federation.

Thirdly, Sir, it is about time these officers were removed from Junior Service Quarters. They should be given quarters more in keeping with their enhanced status in the Civil Service.

Lastly is the question of Children's Allowance. The Senior Civil Servants are entitled to £75 per annum Children's Allowance up to a maximum of, I think, three children. We

would like to see these Executive Officers given the same conditions.

In conclusion, Sir, I would not like the Premier to feel that the Opposition is anxious to bring up every case or what you might say, all and sundry, in the Civil Service. We are very interested in these Executive Officers and in the policy making grades of the Civil Service. Those are the two links, the two aspects of the Civil Service on which really depend the efficiency or inefficiency of the Civil Service. These Executive Officers are the recruits of today, no doubt, but tomorrow they are likely to be the Higher Administrative Officers, and just as we take enough pains to see that our children get the right type of education to enable them to get to the top when they do come of age, I feel the Civil Service should take very great care about these Executive Officers in order, to make sure that when their time does come they will fill higher posts in the Civil Service with credit and distinction. These are my two points.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, may I explain a few points by way of elaboration and clarification of the argument of the Leader of the Opposition. He has spoken at length on the statement made by me yesterday on the intentions of Government regarding the Senatorial Zones. I think that in fairness to the Government and in fairness to the Leader of the Opposition, and with your permission, Mr Chairman, I shall read precisely what I said. I have here the uncorrected *Hansard* of yesterday and I did say: "We are arranging for each of the twelve Provinces to choose a suitable representative to be a member of the Federal Senate"; so that my Friend should appreciate that it is not a cut and dried affair.

We are quite aware of the decision taken at the London Constitutional Conference in 1957 to consult the Opposition; that is why we do not make a statement that we have arranged. We arranged simply because it is our intention to consult the Opposition and let the Opposition know our intention and of course the Opposition know what we decided in London. We are to consult them, but we are not bound by their advice. It is only to consult them. When we are ready, we shall consult them and let them know the arrangements we have made.

May I tell the House quite frankly that the capable speech of the Leader of Opposition was a relief to us on the Treasury Bench, because it is a bone in our throat to divide these Senatorial seats and some of my Colleagues felt that it would be adding insult to injury by allowing minority groups to have equality of representation in the Senate. It is a thorn in our throat. It is with pleasure that the Treasury Bench accepts the suggestion made by the Leader of Opposition that in deciding how the twelve seats in the House of Senate should be filled reference should be borne to population. In any case we shall go through the usual channel and get in touch with the Opposition and consult them and after consulting them we shall decide what to do and we shall thereafter publish it to the outside world.

There are two other points raised by my hon. Friend on which I disagree. He said that when it comes to the question of representation in the House of Senate that if the Government decided on that, Government would be wrong. With respect I beg to differ. This argument is irrelevant in view of the laws of the Upper House. Take the case of Rhode Island in the United States. It is the smallest in comparison and in population, and take the case of Texas which is very large; nevertheless they are equally represented, so that what the Leader of the Opposition is having in mind is the unitary form of Government; but if you have the federal form of Government you are bound to take into consideration the feelings, not only of the majority group but of the minority elements as well, that is why we have the Upper House to enable minorities to have equality of representation with the majorities. Even for that matter, if you bear in mind the Senate, you will find that if the Cameroons decide to remain with us they will have equality of representation with the North, the West will have equality of representation with the East. I wish to say that the solution offered by the Leader of the Opposition is very acceptable to this side of the House.

There is another point made by the Leader of the Opposition on which, once more, I disagree. He said that we never agreed in London to have twelve provinces, that we agreed to have nine. But the point is that that was not the issue before the London Constitutional Conference. The Conference had no jurisdiction to decide for us what number of

provinces we should have. We have only to tell the London Conference that we intended to have nine provinces, and we have also notified the Secretary of State that we have decided to have twelve provinces. So that it would be misleading to leave this House under the impression that at the London Constitutional Conference we agreed to have nine provinces. That was not an issue before the Conference at all. As a matter of fact the Conference has no jurisdiction to decide how many Provinces we should have; it is the Governor who is to decide, and his Excellency has published a Proclamation to that effect.

The Leader of the Opposition also suggested that in dividing these 12 seats in the House of Senate that this Government should bear in mind the former five Provinces. He suggested for Calabar Province 3, Ogoja 2, Onitsha 3, Owerri 3 and Rivers 1. We shall go into his figures because we do not agree that these former Provinces are entitled to the seats suggested by the hon. Member. But I would like to remind him that according to the decision of the London Constitutional Conference it is in the power of this Government to nominate these Senators and we shall do so bearing in mind, of course, the composition of the House.

The last point raised by the Leader of the Opposition is in respect of Civil Service—Executive Officers. I can assure my hon. Friend that it is not the intention of the Government to make the conditions of service of our civil servants here less favourable than those of the Federal Government. As a matter of fact, we have started implementing that statement which I made here, that it is our policy that the conditions of service here should not be less favourable than the conditions of service in the Federal Government. I think that my hon. Friend's difficulty is in terminology—whereas we use the expression "Senior Executive Officer" in the Federation they use "Higher Executive Officer". In the Federation Assistant Executive Officers are on Scale C E 1, 2, and Executive Officers on Scale C E 2, 3. In any case, we assure him that we have already made certain changes and that we have no intention whatsoever to make the conditions of service of our Executive Officers, whether they are Assistant, Senior or Higher Executive, less favourable.

[THE PREMIER]

In conclusion, Sir, I would say that the observations made by my hon. Friend are quite in order. He has, however, given me the opportunity to clarify the decisions taken at the 1957 Constitutional Conference which shows that we have done nothing wrong. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition has saved us from a dilemma when he agreed with us that it is unfair to distribute these 12 seats evenly. We shall make proposals how the seats will be distributed and in doing so we shall bear in mind the population of the various areas.

Chief S. J. Amachree (Degema Division):

Mr Chairman, Sir, this question of Senate is a new thing to us—we are copying it from other countries. It is set up on a principle and whatever the Government may decide to do it will give satisfaction to the people of this Region if it is done on the right principle. The principle I am talking about is this: in the countries mentioned by the Premier even the smallest State has a Senator to represent it.

It is true that we have no States in this Region; but States in other countries are units of Federations. I can therefore see no reason why the proposed twelve provinces should not be regarded as Units of the Region, and the principle of equal representation in the proposed Senate applied to them. But if it is decided that the proposed provinces are not Units of the Region, then the Government will have to create twelve senatorial Units, and each of these Units having a representative in the Senate. This is the only way which will give satisfaction to everybody.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr D. S. A. Agim (Orlu Division):

Mr Chairman, I just want to make three points. Sir, the first point is a point of praise for the Treasury Bench. I want to speak on the last tour of the Premier over the Region that was in February last. That tour was a very good step in the right direction because I believe that such tours help the Government to know more of the people for whom they care. These tours also bring the Government closer to the ordinary people of the rural areas and to them Government will no longer be such an intangible, such an incomprehensible a thing. They will know the Premier himself, see some of the Ministers of State so that they

will be in a better position to appreciate Government policy. I feel that will improve the relationship between the Government and the people. It will lead to a better understanding of Government's policy. Last time when there were some disturbances in connection with the modification of the U.P.E. Scheme many people criticised the Treasury Bench and said if there had been something like extensive tours to explain to the people the difficulty which Government was experiencing in implementing the Free Primary Education Scheme, the sad incident which resulted could easily have been obviated.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): On a point of Order, Mr Chairman. I thought the hon. Member was to move to reduce the Head by £100. Is he now explaining . . .

Mr Agim: The point I want to make, Sir, is that such tours should be repeated in times to come because I feel that they are invaluable in their effects. My people of Orlu Division were very grateful for the last tour.

Another point I want to make, Sir, is about recruitment and training. Mr Chairman, Sir, I notice that special emphasis has been laid in this particular section of the Office of the Premier on university degrees. Sir, I believe that in the various departments there are lots of very clever chaps who have qualified themselves to be pushed up for this training scheme by virtue of their long experience. I do no mean to underrate the value of university degrees, but I want to remind the Premier that university degrees are only a means to an end. I think the end is efficiency in the work one undertakes in life. This efficiency can be attained by means of practice. Some of these civil servants who had not the opportunity for university education have made themselves very useful in their various departments. I feel that the degree of experience which they have, together with the in-service training which they have had for a long time, will help them to benefit by such training. So if they are given this chance of higher training, when they come back, you will find that invariably they will be more efficient in their work than people with university degrees who are directly employed. I feel very seriously, Sir, that more opportunity should be given to the non-graduate staff of the various departments for further training for higher responsibilities.

The third point, Sir, is in connection with the administrative service: that is the District Officers in the various Divisions. Mr Chairman, I happen to be a secondary school teacher and I have had the opportunity of coming into contact with different types of graduates from the United Kingdom, America and also people locally trained at Ibadan here. The point here, Sir, is that the posts of Administrative Officers are special ones. It is quite different from other types of what we call "Senior Service posts" because these posts require much greater and varied responsibilities. These posts are meant for people with very good character, people who are capable of meeting up various situations. But again, the most important thing is honesty, fairness and human-feeling for the society where the Administrative Officers work. I feel that an Administrative Officer is at the same time a welfare officer and a probation officer who should have good understanding of the problems of the society. This type of officer will be of great help to this Region.

Mr Chairman, it appears to me that the gentlemen trained locally here at Ibadan are very much more useful in this type of post than their counterparts who are trained overseas. I do not mean to underrate university degrees got outside the country, but I am talking from my personal conviction and what I regard as my experience with these people. Many of these chaps from Ibadan seem to have very strong morals, particularly fairness, which is an indispensable quality for an Administrative Officer who hopes to be successful.

I want to draw the special attention of the House to these Ibadan-trained Administrative Officers and would say that a special preference should be given to them to under-study the Provincial Secretaries. I have said that I am very happy that we are going to have a home University. It might be that at the Ibadan University the training is closely related to the needs of our society with the usual emphasis on honesty and fairness. I feel that these officers should have these qualities and that is why in selecting them special consideration should be given to their character. Some of them should start now to under-study the provincial secretaries.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

Chief I. I. Morphy (Ogoja Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Head 421 should be reduced by £100. The reason why I move this reduction is that the Premier has allowed the Government to be inconsistent in the way that government policy has been carried out. That is why the Government has not kept their policy in constituting the Region into twelve provinces.

Mr Chairman, Sir, with your permission may I read paragraphs 2 and 3 in Chapter V of Sessional Paper No. 2/1957:

"The policy of devolution of powers seeks further to develop the present Local Government structure and to use it generally as an instrument for implementing Government Policy so as to allay the fears of communities which can be estranged to become separatist in their tendencies once they are left under a false impression that they constitute an extraneous element in the governmental machinery of the Region.

"It is not enough to make a special arrangement for their welfare, by charging a particular Minister with special responsibility for their affairs; the inhabitants of the so-called neglected areas must be related physically with the day-to-day administration of their territory and they must be so placed in the political organisation of the machinery of Government that they would be in a position *pari passu* to enjoy a fair share in the benefits to be derived from such a constitutional attachment".

This policy has been carried out in the case of grouping tribes or people who are similar in culture, the Annangs who say that they are not Ibibios are removed from Calabar. Aro-Ibos, also have been removed from Calabar Province, but in the case of Ogoja, that is not the case. You will find that in Ogoja Province, Obubra has been removed and grouped with other tribes in Abakaliki Province but you find here in the Eastern Region Official Document No. 1 of 1959 over the signature of the Premier, in paragraph 11—that,

"Since the Resumed Conference ended, the Government has taken positive steps to explain this aspect of the decisions of the Conference to the people of the Eastern Region. Some representations have also been made to Government regarding the need to *excise Abakaliki and Afikpo Divisions from the former Ogoja Province . . .*"

[CHIEF MORPHY]

This is over the signature of the Premier but he has not carried out this policy and as such he has allowed himself or his Government to be inconsistent in the way Government policy is carried out. This is what the Premier himself signed but in actual fact, what he has done is to remove Obubra from the rest of Ogoja Province, even though the people did not like it that way, and group them with Abakaliki and Afikpo.

An hon. Member: They wanted it.

Chief Morphy: The people did not like it that way. It will be worth its name if policy papers are carried out as they are put down. If you just present a policy paper which will be read by people who say it is nice and you do not carry it out, it is not good. You will find it also on the question of Chiefs. It was at the Chiefs Conference here and in London . .

An hon. Member: There was no Chiefs' Conference in London.

Chief Morphy: . . . that it was agreed that in the Eastern Region, Chiefs should be graded First-class, Second-class and Third-class and also it was agreed that the Provincial Assembly should have to elect First-class Chiefs in their own area who will be recognised as First-class Chiefs, but Government has decided that they will have to nominate somebody and recognise that somebody as First-class Chief. If Government is not doing what Government itself has agreed upon, then Government is inconsistent. It was agreed that the Provincial Assembly should have to elect somebody to be recognised as First-class Chief.

An hon. Member: Where ?

Chief Morphy: It was agreed here and in London.

The other point I want to raise is about the Commissioner's Office in London. The Commissioner himself is doing a good job but the workers there are not doing a good job in that they are neither African in their attitude nor English. The Africans are very warm in the way they receive strangers but the English are very cold, but once you are introduced to an Englishman, you are friendly throughout. But people leave this country for the United Kingdom and when they go to the Commis-

sioner's Office, the workers there are not warm at all and they do not make people who go over to the United Kingdom very happy and feel that they have an office overseas. It will be very good if Government could make the workers there to sell our way of life and sell our customs to people overseas rather than become very indifferent. It is even very hard to get the Commissioner. This Government should see to it that the people who go overseas publicise our custom and that the workers serving overseas in the Commissioner's Office should be as warm as Africans use to be.

About the Provincial Assemblies; I find in the Estimates that we have only £22,720 provided for subsistence allowance for members of the Provincial Assemblies. I think that people who work in the Provincial Assemblies should be paid. £22,720 is not enough in that these people are coming to do a job and since they are coming to work they should be paid £300 per annum rather than giving them allowance. They will not be satisfied with an allowance of only £22,720 for twelve provinces. They need to be paid.

The other point I wish to make is that the Premier has allowed his Government to neglect Ogoja and Ogoja is a forgotten area. Ever since the British rule Ogoja has not been considered. Therefore the Premier should give an undertaking that he is going to do everything to bring up Ogoja to be in line with other Divisions of the Region.

Sir, I do not move.

Mr P. A. Onwe (Abakaliki Division): The hon. Mover has said that Ogoja people are divided into two sections against their will. . .

Chief Morphy: Sir, he is misquoting me. I did not say that they were divided into two sections against their will.

Mr Onwe: It appears that several Members of the Opposition use Ogoja Province to foster their evil intention of disuniting Ogoja which previously has taken a firm stand to remain as a block. I want to tell you, Sir, that Ogoja people want to remain as a block just because they happen to realise that they are a backward people. The whole of Ogoja Province realise that they are backward, and they want to develop at their own pace. That is why we

have always fought tooth and nail to remain together. It appears that we cannot have this implemented, and when the Government explained to us the reasons why they wanted to divide us into two sections we agreed and accepted it because we realised that we were going to benefit the more. But as time went on the Ogoja Provincial Movement met and decided that in accepting the measure of the Government, it should be pointed out that we still want to retain our identity.

We would not like the Government to do anything or introduce any measure without giving us a chance to present our wishes. I am saying here that our wish has been complied with by the Government. Only a totalitarian Government can introduce any measure or policy and stand rigidly by it, even if the people concerned have expressed their opinion that they do not like that policy to be implemented on them. As far as we in Ogoja Province are concerned, and we have made this clear to the Government through our Local Councils, District Councils and other bodies, the Ogoja State Movement is a cultural organisation and every Council sends a representative or representatives to any meeting of the Movement. So that every decision taken at any meeting of the Ogoja State Movement must be taken seriously and must be upheld as the voice of Ogoja people.

So, Sir, I am saying on behalf of Ogoja people that we are satisfied with Government measure in this respect and they will continue to uphold all Government measures in so far as they are not going to infringe the principle of their remaining in one block.

Thank you, Sir.

Chief Morphy rose.

The Chairman: Why is hon. Morphy standing up?

Chief Morphy: I am entitled to speak twice, Sir.

The Chairman: What is your authority?

Chief Morphy: Sir, as Mover of the Amendment, I am entitled to speak twice. I am covered by the Standing Orders.

Mr Chairman, I did not say that the people of Ogoja are dissatisfied that they are divided into two provinces but I said, Sir, that Ogoja

people are not satisfied that Obubra Division has been included in Abakaliki Province since it is the intention of Government to bring together in this matter of Provincial Assembly people who have the same culture. That was what I said.

I have repeated this because it seems my hon. Friend who spoke last misunderstood me.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment. I say so because originally the proposal was to have 16 provinces and I want to say categorically that I am in full support of Provincial Administration and my constituency agree to the idea of bringing together people of similar culture and language but they feel that this should not be done at the expense of general development and progress of the Division.

Originally when the 16 provinces were proposed, the name "Ngwa Province" was acceptable to my people and when it was later changed to Aba-Bende Province they did not oppose the idea, but when the name was later changed to Umuahia Province my people found it difficult to accept. They have sent delegations, telegrams and letters protesting against this name.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, I propose to put a question on that point and I am taking these smaller figures first, that is why I have called upon Mr Agim and Mr Morphy to move. I now call upon Mr Achara.

Mr S. O. Achara (Okigwi Division): Mr Chairman, it is re-assuring that the hon. the Premier has confirmed the statement he made in this hon. House in 1957 that conditions of service in this Region will not be less favourable than in the other Governments of the Federation. It would appear that much emphasis has been laid only on the Executive Officers. I would like to say that in giving further detailed consideration to the question of Civil servants that there are others too (other grades in other Departments and Ministries) that have not been equated with their counterparts in the other parts of the Federation, and I would suggest, before I give one or two instances, that the hon. the Premier would perhaps find it useful if he set up a small Committee in his Ministry to go into the details of such grades in the various Ministries that are not equated with their counterparts in the Federation.

[MR ACHARA]

I have here, Sir, to announce that last year this Region lost the services of two Laboratory Technicians at the General Hospital Enugu simply because they were not given the same conditions as their counterparts in the Federation. They resigned and went over to the Federal Government Service—two technicians who had passed the intermediate examination of the Institute of Medical and Laboratory Technology.

The Chairman: Does that come under this Head?

Mr Achara: Yes, I think we are considering the whole Public Service under Head 421 Page E. 30—Civil Service.

I will say, Sir, that the cause of their resignation was simply because they were not given the same treatment as their counterparts in the Federal Public Service. We have also the Survey Assistants in this Region: their conditions of service are not as favourable as those of their counterparts in the other Governments of the Federation, and that is why I am suggesting that the Premier considers setting up a small Committee to look into all these, so that there will not be the need for us to come here from time to time and refer to these grades in the various Ministries.

The other point, Sir, is that I think—and I am making this point with a sense of responsibility and duty—that in view of the rosy and buoyant nature of the finances of this Region, Government should consider very seriously introducing a minimum wage of 5s in this Region.

An hon. Member: Why not table a Motion?

Mr Achara: Mr Chairman, I wish to say that I have no intention whatsoever of playing politics with this suggestion which I am making. I am not speaking as a politician, Mr Chairman; I am speaking more as a statesman than as a politician.

I know, Sir, that it has always been (if it is not now, and I think it is still) for many years, the intention of the hon. the Premier to create a Welfare State, and in this connection, Sir, he has always been a great champion of the working

class. The opportunity to translate this Welfare State into reality, the opportunity to further give the impression that all his words and all his labours in fighting for the working class have not been mere platitudes, is now right here. I am suggesting very seriously that this Government, in view of the buoyant nature of our finances, should introduce a minimum wage of 5s in this Region and should also insist that the Local Government Councils in this Region, the Voluntary Agencies and other such bodies who are employers of labour, should adhere very strictly to this minimum wage of 5s. It is no longer possible for one to live on a daily wage of 2s 6d in this Region.

The other point, Sir, is that the Premier had said that he would look into the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition about Provincial Assemblies, and in the course of his explanation I think I did hear him say that the Governor has made a proclamation. I do not know, Sir, if the proclamation is about the twelve Provinces as proposed. If it is not, may I very humbly and seriously request the Premier—because this lies within his authority as he has the final say in this matter—to give further consideration to the setting up of these Provinces as they affect the old Owerri Province and the old Onitsha Province. I am appealing to him to give this matter another serious consideration. It is very unfair, Sir, that 1.3 million people will be equated to 117,000 people of Degema Division. This is no politics but the truth. I appeal to the Premier—I know it is within his province—to make amends and notwithstanding the proclamation by His Excellency, the Governor in Council can meet again and withdraw this proclamation and make a new proclamation, after the amendment shall have been made. These are the points I wish to make.

The Chairman: Does the hon. Member withdraw?

Mr Achara: It was only an opportunity to enable me speak on this matter. Sir, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Chief Morphy: Mr Chairman, Sir, if the Premier will give an undertaking that he will consider the case of Obubra being removed from Abakaliki, I will withdraw.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Question proposed, That a reduced sum of £588,660 for Head 421—Premier's Office—be inserted in the First Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Sitting suspended at 12 noon.

Sitting resumed at 12. 30 p.m.

Head 422.—Audit

£59,260 for Head 422—Audit—agreed to.

Head 423.—Electoral Commission

£20,250 for Head 423—Electoral Commission—agreed to.

Head 424.—Judicial

The Attorney-General: I would like, Sir, that this Head be postponed, because I would like to take Heads 424 and 435 together.

Head 424 postponed.

Head 425.—Legislature

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £158,800 for Head 425—Legislature—stand part of the First Schedule.

Mr D. S. A. Agim (Orlu Division): Sir, I do not move my Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Chief Morphy: Mr Chairman, I rise to move that Head 425 be reduced by £100. I make this amendment in order to have an opportunity to speak on this Head.

We, on this side of the House, Sir, know that the Clerk of the House is retiring soon, and during his time in the House he has done a good job and has managed this House well. We thank him for what he has been doing. We also hope that the Government will try and make him a special member of the House of Chiefs so that he will guide them in the procedure of the House. So we think that he is to be rewarded for the good job he has done in this Region.

The other point is about the Verbatim Reporters. I think the Clerk of the House will remember that at times when Members rise on a point of order they have names of other Members in place of those Members who get up. And also they do not really report us properly; the report is so poor that I think it will be good enough if girls are trained because girls are more painstaking. This is done in Western Region and it should be done here.

Another point is that Members of this House now get consolidated transport allowance of £140 each per annum. But I feel that consolidated transport allowance should be abolished so that Members should have basic allowance rather than the consolidated transport allowance. I think Ministers' basic allowance has now been raised to £55 per month for their cars. They were getting 8d per mile when we were getting 15s per day as sitting fee. But now their mileage allowance has been increased to 1s per mile. So what we are saying is that £140 is not enough for use to maintain our cars and to do the job for the public. So we would like the consolidated transport allowance abolished and basic allowance of £300 paid to the Members of the House.

Also the Members' lounge has become the public drinking place. The lounge is for Members; when they have break they go there; and also if they want to consult on any point that place is made for them. But now you find that everybody in the gallery rushes into that Members' lounge to drink beer.

The other point I wish to make is about the Clerk-Assistant. We see in the Estimates that provision has been made for three Clerks-Assistant and in the Federation you will find that the Clerk-Assistant always puts on a robe and wig. But here, in the East, this is not the case. When Dr Nkrumah was here the other day, we felt that the Clerk-Assistant should have been in a robe and wig. I hope that Government will provide robes and wigs for the three Clerks-Assistant provided for in the Estimates.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak on this point. I will try to be as brief as I can.

[MR IKOKU]

Mr Chairman, you remember that some time ago, we did raise the question on the level of salary payable to officers of our Legislature. I remember, Sir, I made the point that this Legislature is as important a Ministry or a wing of Government as any other Ministry in this Region and therefore, Sir, we do not see any reason why the Clerk of the House of Assembly should be on a scale of salary lower than the salaries of Permanent Secretaries in other Ministries. I made that point and I am repeating it here again and I want Government to take this into serious consideration. Is anybody seriously suggesting, Sir, that this Legislature is less important to this Region than any of the Ministries? We do not want to accept the implication, the implied notion that we are in any way inferior to any of the Ministries. Why then do we put the Clerk of the House on Group 7? We want him to be put on Group 5. We would like him to be raised to Group 5.

I have no power to make any amendment, Sir, but I am glad to note that the hon. Premier has been nodding assent. We all hope that when we come to welcome the Duke and the Duchess, the Premier will make an announcement to this effect.

Going from there, Sir, is the position of the Clerk-Assistant. I would like to believe that the senior of the three Clerks-Assistant should be somebody who is being groomed to take over from the Clerk of the House when he does retire. If that is the case, Sir, I think the salary scale will have to be adjusted and the gap between the Clerk of the House and the senior of the Clerks-Assistant should be somewhat narrow. The senior of the Clerks-Assistant, Sir, should also be somebody of the rank of a Principal Assistant Secretary in charge of a Division of a Ministry. I do not think, Sir, that these gentlemen at the moment are on the upper segment of Scale A. I think most of them are on Group 7 or Group 8. So I feel, Sir, that something should be done about this.

The main point behind what I am saying is that we regard this Legislature as in no way inferior to any of the Ministries in the Region and I would like to feel that I am expressing the sentiments of the entire House on this matter.

We must congratulate the Government for now making provision for our House of Chiefs and we hope that all the Members will be able to sit up in the gallery by next month or so to witness the House of Chiefs in session.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): You will be in the gallery for that.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say something about a group of people in the Civil Service and that is the clerks. I know that it is a provision in the General Orders that clerks are not paid overtime but I would like Members to consider this matter very seriously. Whenever this House is in session, the rather small body of men we have in the Clerk's Office are continually over-worked. They report for duty by 8 o'clock a.m. and when we go away by 2.30 p.m. they still continue till late in the afternoon; that is, working overtime when we have a session has become a normal feature of their every day activity. I think this is a case which the Treasury Bench should consider and should not allow the provision in the General Orders to apply. In other words, there is a strong case for the payment of overtime for the general clerks. If they are worried about the terminology, let us call it overtime allowance, and if they are not prepared to amend the General Orders let us call it the House of Assembly Bonus for working long hours.

Another point is the question of catering for the Press. I must make it clear that they are part and parcel of this institution known as Parliament and therefore it is most disgraceful for us to see them hanging about the premises like people who are not wanted in the premises. We must make provision for members of the Press in this House. I hope that when the new Legislature is going to be built there is going to be a special place for members of the Press.

Another tricky point and a very important one is this question of allowance as regards Members' transport in this House. I think it is time we became honest with ourselves. I know that what I am going to say the Government Bench knows very well. Now the position is this, that we take out a loan of £1,000 to be repaid with interest to purchase a vehicle and any hon. Member who does his

work well, who runs round his constituency regularly will find it impossible to use his car after two years.

Now the position is that we take this loan repayable in instalments. We continue repaying the loan for years. In two years the transport is off the road and one has no transport at one's disposal but we have to continue to pay for another year. As a result, hon. Members have two alternatives—either to take another employment and regard their function as hon. Members as subsidiary or completely ignore their constituency and say, "When I finish my five years, anything can happen." We want these Members to discharge their duties and we are appealing to Government to give serious thought to this transport allowance.

Dr Okpara: No money.

Mr Ikoku: I do not want to bring any match between the Government and the Opposition in this matter but I have got to say that the hon. Leader of the House is tickling us because he cannot in one breath say there is no money and in another breath insist on improving the conditions of service of Ministers in the Region. Government have raised Ministers' basic to £55 a month. What have they done for the poor fellows on this side? I will, therefore, suggest that some system of paying basic to the hon. Members should be evolved. I am not at all suggesting that an hon. Member should be paid a fantastic basic of £55 a month or even the £46 per month payable to Parliamentary Secretaries.

Certainly, if hon. Members were given something which is intended to dissipate their debt to the Accountant-General's Office, the principle which is acceptable in the Civil Service would have been applied here, because the main principle of repaying in the Civil Service is that you should be able to repay as a result of basic drawn, and therefore we too should be able to repay our loans as a result of the basic we draw.

It is no use pretending to be hon. Members and being reluctant to discharge our duties to our constituencies. Even those who live in their constituencies will find that they have to do periodic rounds and the roads are not good enough. If there is any Member here

who can keep his car on the road for two years, then he must be a genius looking after cars, and all the Members here will agree that there is none of us who has not got a black record with one of the motor dealers. We are continually reminded of our debt when we go to them and in fact you know how embarrassing it is when you ask for a new tyre and you are reminded of a debt which is accumulating. It is very embarrassing to Members and we would like the Premier to give us some consideration.

This is not a question of paying out money indiscriminately. There is no question of Members trying to make money out of it. It is what is called, in the Civil Service "Conditions of service". This is part of our conditions of service. I will stop at this point, and I hope that the hon. the Minister of Finance will hold consultation with the hon. Premier and make certain amendments.

Mr J. A. Agba (Ogoja Division): Mr Chairman, although what I am going to say is not strictly under this heading, but since Legislature comes in, it is proper that I should mention it here. It is very consoling that the Government has proposed to build a new Parliament, and the remarks I am going to make should be borne in mind, if not at the present time, then when it will be planning the Rest Houses for Members in the new Parliament, it should take these things I am going to say into consideration.

I think it is really disgraceful that when Members come here you find some of them hanging in little hotels in the town. Some are ashamed to take people to where they are lodging because the house is dirty, and even the beds are so appalling that lodgers are ashamed to take a fellow Member to where they are living. Members going to Council meetings feel that they are being degraded at their not being given their due respect because some of them were found eating *mai mai* and bread by the way side. Legislators are by far more dignified persons than ordinary Councillors, and as such I earnestly suggest to the Government that Quarters should be provided for the Members and the charges payable by the Members should be so considerate that they will be encouraged to go there and not to hide in nooks and corners for fear of the charges.

[MR AGBA]

I would not mind inviting Mr Chairman to my own chalet. The windows are broken. The mattress is so hard that if you slept on it for two weeks you would feel pains at the back. Then the services are not worth the charges, and I think I have a good explanation for this nature of services we do receive in the Catering Rest House. One reason is that when we come here for the session of the House the stewards do work overtime. We close here at 2.30 p.m. while they are supposed to close earlier. At the end they do not get overtime pay which is a matter of practice in other departments. I think that if the remuneration they get as a result of serving overtime during the sessions of the House was really appropriate to their services, Members occupying Rest Houses would be very well served. When we close here late, if anybody tells them to do this or that, they will rightly tell the person that they are expected to be off duty and that they get nothing for working after their normal office hours. I, therefore, ask the Government to see that the chalets are made available to Members during sessions of the House at a very low charge. They should also take the stewards into consideration with regard to overtime pay. They should compare the services there with what obtains in the Federal Capital since everything is now being brought in line with what obtains there. Last time when I travelled to Lagos with Dr Awduche I was really very much impressed with the house where we lodged. Everything was in all respects superior to what obtains in our Rest Houses here and even the services were in some cases better than what Members have in their own homes.

An hon. Member: They pay 10s 9d.

Mr Agba: Yes, they pay 10s 9d but we pay 13s 6d here for very poor services.

As I said before, it is very gratifying that the Government is proposing to erect new Parliament building with Quarters and Offices for Members, etc., but I would like Government to take these my few remarks into consideration when building them. I think it is really degrading for Members to come here for the sittings of the House and go to put up in very small huts in the town. I say this from the moral point of view also. Not only that Members run the big risk of contracting dis-

eases but there is also the moral tendency which is at stake. I think they run into very great danger of, you know, I will not say it. You know what I mean.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Chairman, I want to comment on the official report of Members' speeches. I raised this point last year that the report of Members' speeches should not be made available to the public until they have been corrected by the Members concerned. But that has not been done. When Members do make their speeches, without giving them the opportunity to have the speeches corrected, they are rushed to the C.M.S. Bookshop for sale to the public the next morning. Sir, it is rather disgraceful to read what is printed there as the report of the proceedings of this House. May, I, Sir, invite your attention to the provisions of Standing Order 73 (3) which reads as follows:—

“A copy of the record of a Member's speech shall be sent to him for correction before it is published”.

I think all Members will bear me out that this Standing Order has not been adhered to and we do not know why. Personally, I am very strongly against this rushing of uncorrected speeches for sale at the C.M.S. Bookshop. I have never been given an opportunity to correct my speech and there is not even a sentence in my speech that is correctly reported. I think this is due to the fact that we have not got Verbatim Reporters and this is a very serious matter. If we are not going to make nonsense of the records of our speeches here then it becomes very necessary for Government to employ qualified Verbatim Reporters to report the speeches of Members. There is no point engaging Stenographers to do the work, when we know they are not qualified to do it. We do not need them since we want verbatim reports of our speeches.

If I made a speech and there was a Verbatim Reporter taking down notes, there is every chance that I will be reported correctly. But Stenographers cannot be as efficient as Verbatim Reporters. Sir, I strongly object to the procedure whereby reports of Members are exposed for sale to the public before they are corrected. Every Member's speech must be handed to him for correction before it is ever published for sale.

The next point, Sir: I want to draw the attention of Government to the disparity between the salaries of the Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and the Government Chief Whip and their counterparts in the Western Region. In the West, the Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and the Government Chief Whip are earning £1,680 as against £1,500 earned by their counterparts here in the Eastern Region. I do not see any reason, if the Government has decided on equal conditions of service between our Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and other officers, why our Deputy Speaker, Leader of the Opposition, and Government Chief Whip should not earn the same salaries as those in the Western Region.

I now come to the question of comfort of Members. In 1952, I happened to serve on the House Committee of this House and the whole question of comfort of Members was gone into and we recommended then that the Government should reduce the Rest House charges for Members while they were attending meetings of the House. Now, Sir, you happened to be in the Federal House and you know that there the Federation has built Legislative Flats for Members: you have a whole Flat to yourself, two bed rooms and a sitting room for only 10s 9d a day; you have frig and cooking utensils. As a matter of fact, I know two Members in the Federal House sharing one Flat and paying only 5s 4½d each. Very good Flats, Sir. What do we have here in the Eastern Region?

Sir, I occupy a double chalet in the Catering Rest House and I am called upon to pay £1 7s a night for accommodation only; and other Members who prefer to share, pay 13s 6d a night for accommodation only. Now Sir, I think it is asking too much. You will appreciate that this Budget Session is likely to last over a month and if I occupy the Catering Rest House for thirty days, I am going to pay 30 x £1 7s for accommodation only, while discharging my duties as a Member of this House. The result is that most of our Members stay in the town. Members are not supposed to stay in the town. It is the duty of the Government to provide accommodation for Members of this House and, Sir, since Ministers do not pay rent, since Parliamentary Secretaries do not pay rent, why should Members who attend meetings of this

House pay rent? All I am saying, Sir, is that the Government should consider this matter while they are building the new Parliament. Government must be prepared to vote money to build Legco Flats for Members, and the existing rates in the Catering Rest House should be reduced for Members. After all, we do not come here for pleasure: we are here to attend meetings of the House and to call upon any Member to pay £1 7s every night, Sir, for accommodation only is, I think, just asking for too much.

An hon. Member: What of the tax-payers?

Mr E. O. Eyo: Yes, we are thinking of the poor tax-payers when we have fifteen Ministers enjoying free electricity; we have fifteen Ministers enjoying free water, free quarters. As a matter of fact, the Ministers do not pay for anything.

Now, Sir, since Government has decided on equating the salaries of the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries with those of the Federal Government and/or the Western Region, I wonder why the salaries of the hon. Members of this House should not be considered on the same line. If Members will care to compare the detailed items on the two sheets submitted by Government, they will find that we are more at par with the Western Government than with the Federation. I will say that the Eastern Region has copied from the West. (*Government Supporters: No! No!*). All right, the Western Region has copied from the East. (*Government Supporters: That's better*). In other words, you have accepted equality in the conditions of service of the two Regions. Mr Chairman, the point I am driving at is that that being so, Sir, we fail to see why the Members of the Eastern House of Assembly do not earn the same salaries as Members of the Western House of Assembly.

Several hon. Members: This is a poor Region.

Mr E. O. Eyo: The suggestion is that if the Eastern Regional Ministers equate their salaries and conditions of service with those in the Western Region, then the Member of the Eastern House of Assembly should earn equal salary with a Member of the Western House of Assembly. We do not see any reason

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

why Members of the Western House of Assembly and Members of the Western House of Chiefs should be better paid than Members of the Eastern House of Assembly. I am complaining not so much for ourselves, but for our Chiefs. The Government will soon give the impression that these Chiefs in the Eastern Region are inferior to the Chiefs in the Western Region. That being so, I hope the Government, very shortly, will bring in some amendments to equate the salaries and conditions of service of our Chiefs with their counterparts in the Western Region.

Now, I have to deal with the question of mileage allowance. We are accepting Government's policy on equal conditions of service. Members of this House draw a mileage allowance of 1s a mile to and from Enugu while attending meetings of the House of Assembly. But Sir, is it not true that in the Federation and I think also in the Northern Region, the mileage allowance is 1s 3d a mile?

An hon. Member: They have more distances to cover.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Is it not interesting that while Ministers here take care in preparing these documents, making sure that they enjoy similar conditions of service with their counterparts in the Federation, they have not given consideration to the conditions of Members of this House? Each time it looks as if our Ministers do not know. I am telling the Government that in the Federation and in the Northern Region, Members do draw a mileage allowance of 1s 3d.

The Premier has just indicated that this should be taken up through the usual channel and so I leave the matter at that.

Mr E. Ita (Calabar Division): Mr Chairman, we front bench seaters have a grudge with Government for the soiling of our clothes by the back-benchers who sit just behind us. It is most annoying to find my jacket soiled with the Enugu red earth on the shoes of those who sit behind and then go home to have black eyes from our wives often shaken with fury to see our clothes all soiled at the back. What is needed is a very simple and inexpensive footrest for the people who

sit behind us and that would prevent the sordid business of soiling our clothes.

Mr A. G. Umoh (Enyong Division): Mr Chairman, I want to say a few words about the conduct of Ministers and Members of this House. I feel, Sir, that it is not really the conduct, it is the way we behave within the floor of this House. I am afraid we have created the impression that this House is less dignified than some of the County Councils by the way that we, including some of our Ministers behave. Outside, Sir, I feel that Members of this House should be taken at their worth.

The Minister of Commerce (Mr J. U. Nwodo): Point of Order, Standing Order 25 (9).

Mr Umoh: Sir, you know how often you have taken the trouble to call us to order, and I often pity you for the number of times you have to do this; and this is not particularly a question with Floor Members; the practice is even common also among Ministers. I would like to point out that this House is a dignified place and I would like Members to feel dignified. Outside the House as Members of the House, I feel that we should be taken as respectable people by the public.

There is an hon. Member of this House, for example, in this town who had tried for the last three days to get money from a bank transferred to this place but has not succeeded because of a breakdown in the telephone system. By the failure of the manager of a bank here in Enugu to contact the branch manager there he has not been able to get his money, not because there is no money here, but because the manager rightly insists that he must hear from the home branch. Why? Because he said several hon. Members come here to draw cheques which are later discovered not backed by deposits. This is a let-down of the whole of this House and as a result innocent Members cannot get the privilege attached to their position as Members of this House. I strongly protest on behalf of the Opposition that Ministers of this House should be honest enough to be trusted outside so that the good name of the House is passed to all of us.

Before I sit down, Sir, I also want to remark on some of the disreputable societies joined

by Members of this House. There are some Members who are not yet back in this House and it is a shame to hear that a Member of this House should go into such societies as the "Odozi Obodo". The observation I want to make is that Members should behave as Members of this dignified House.

The Chairman: Chief Morphy, do you want to move your amendment?

Chief Morphy: Sir, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr Achara: Mr Chairman, I wish to congratulate the Government for listening to the criticisms of Members last year with reference to the conditions of service of the Serjeant-at-Arms of this hon. House. His salary was increased from £200 to £400 per annum. But on comparison, Sir, my information is that the Serjeant-at-Arms in the House of Representatives is on a salary of £500 per annum and he is a pensioner. The Serjeant-at-Arms in the Western House is on a salary of £600, but the Serjeant-at-Arms here is on a salary of £400. I humbly request, Sir, that due consideration should be given to this officer with a view to bringing his salary in line with that of his counterpart in the West who is on a salary of £600 per annum.

Sir, I do not move the amendment standing in my name.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I am very grateful to all the hon. Members who have made suggestions and constructive criticisms on this particular Head of the Estimates. Chief Morphy complained that the Members' Retiring Room has been transformed into a sort of common room. I assure him that there is no intention whatsoever to allow outsiders to make use of the Retiring Room unless they are invited by hon. Members. I shall look into this complaint and tighten up things.

My Friend the Leader of the Opposition made some points on the question of salaries and allowances of the Clerks of this House. It is true as pointed out that there is need for this Government to give due consideration to the present salary of both the Clerk of the

House and the Clerk-Assistant. But may I refer him to the fact that the Clerk of the House in the Federation and also in the West are in Group 7 as our own Clerk here, and that the Clerk-Assistant there is in Group A whereas the Clerk-Assistant here is in Group A Upper Segment. As a matter of fact, in the Estimates you will notice that in the West the salary of the Clerk-Assistant there is £740 whereas the Clerk-Assistant here is on a salary of £880. However, I want him to know that this Government is in sympathy with his views and that for some time now have been setting the machinery into operation so as to carry out Members' wishes by upgrading the Clerk of the House to Group 5.

Hon. Agba has also suggested the building of flats and in this he was supported by the hon. Opposition Chief Whip. The Government will go into this very carefully because of the need for removing the inconveniences to which Members are exposed when they attend long Meetings as the Budget Meeting. Putting up flats is an expensive proposition; each block of six flats costs about £18,000 to £20,000, but Government will give it due consideration.

The Opposition Chief Whip has also complained about the official reporting of speeches. I would like to assure him that there is no intention to permit wide distribution of uncorrected versions, but after all it is not true that it is a violation of Standing Order 73. If one would be good enough to look at the top left hand corner of our *Hansard*, one would notice there that it is really indicated that "no proofs of the Daily Reports can be supplied. Corrections which Members suggest for the Bound Volume should be clearly marked in the Daily Report. . . ." What I am trying to make is that in order to have a well informed public, they are entitled to know what is happening in this House from day to day; that is the practice in England and also in other parts of the Commonwealth, and it is not possible and is not done, as a matter of fact anywhere in the world that you have to wait for weeks before publishing the *Daily Hansard* simply because Members have not corrected their speeches. The only solution is that Members should co-operate and as soon as possible, make corrections of their speeches. We shall look into it so that all such copies of the *Hansard* are marked "uncorrected" to avoid giving a wrong impression about Members in the debates. But in this connection,

[THE PREMIER]

I really thought that some Members of this House would have called attention to the remarkable speed and expedition with which our reports are produced.

Well, it is with pleasure that I announce to the House that we have now secured the services of a very qualified and efficient Editor who has helped a great deal so that everybody would be able to get our Reports, and I thought that congratulations would have been thrown to the Treasury Bench for securing the services of so efficient an Editor.

Stenographers are doing their best as well. I am quite sure that my Friends opposite will agree with me that the standard of verbatim reporting is just about the same as it was five years ago, other things being equal.

The Opposition Chief Whip has also drawn attention to the disparity in the salaries of the Members of this House and their counterparts in the West, but I am wondering why he emphasised the West alone. What about the North? The salary in the North is about the same as the salary here—£800. The hon. Member has suggested that ours should be increased to £840. Whereas Government is going to take due consideration of that, this Government owes it as a sacred duty to the people of this country, the bearing in mind of the interest of the tax-payers. (*Applause*). It has been suggested that the Deputy Speaker, the Government Chief Whip and the Leader of the Opposition should be equal to their counterparts in the West. I agree and Government will give the suggestion due consideration, but I must remind my hon. Friends opposite that whatever this Government does it must always bear in mind the welfare of the poor tax-payers of this Region.

An hon. Member: But when it comes to the question of pension for Members of the House, the hon. Premier does not take tax-payers into consideration.

The Premier: Well, we tabled the Bill here and made certain suggestions but as soon as the tax-payers reacted, we withdrew it.

The hon. Member for Okigwi has also suggested that Government should consider

the salary of the Serjeant-at-Arms. I can assure him that we will bear this in mind when the salaries of the other officers of the Legislature are considered.

The hon. Member for Enyong, I think, made a mistake when he suggested that people feel that some Members of this House have identified themselves with a proscribed society. I would like to announce that it is with great pleasure that we welcome to this House a Member who has just been acquitted and discharged. (*Applause*).

In conclusion, Sir, I want to thank the Members for bringing all these points to the notice of Government. We shall go over them very carefully and where changes will be made, my hon. Friend the Minister of Finance, will be able to find the way out of our Contingencies Funds. But I do hope that if this Government respects the opinion of this House by making certain changes in salaries and allowances, the Members of the Opposition will be among the first to go and explain it to the electorate. (*Applause*).

Question again proposed: That the sum of £158,800 for Head 425—Legislature—stand part of the First Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 426.—Public Service Commission

Question proposed: That a sum not exceeding £18,470 for Head 426—Public Service Commission—stand part of the First Schedule.

Mr I. U. Imeh (Abak Division): Mr Chairman, I want to make a point on this Head. During the debate on the Speech from the Throne, several Members made speeches that membership of the Public Service Commission should be changed from three to five. I wish to say, with respect, Sir, that Government should maintain its policy of three members on the Commission.

The next point is that an expatriate officer should at the moment continue to be the Chairman of the Commission. If the Government changes its policy on this, we should be prepared for something cropping in. I do not want to accuse the Africans of dishonesty in their jobs, but it will be a sort of dignity to this

Region if an experienced expatriate officer is retained at the Head of the Public Service Commission. So I would like Government to maintain this policy.

Dr A. N. Obonna (Owerri Division): Mr Chairman, I would like to speak on this Head and would suggest that the Government should Nigerianise the Public Service Commission and that the composition of the Members should be increased from three to five. In the Constitution the membership is limited to five. I do not agree that it is absolutely necessary to have an expatriate there if we have Nigerians who are capable.

If the answer is no, it means that the Nigerians are not honest if a white man should be the Chairman. What I am saying is that it will be fairer if we give a Nigerian the full responsibility of that post. I suggest that the membership should be five even if as part-time membership.

Mr Kalada Kiri (Degema Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I consider that the Public Service Commission is a very important Commission in the Eastern Region. If we are capable of running the Government of the Region, why should we not find an African who would be capable of taking up the position of Chairman of the Commission?

Mr Chairman, my point is this: I think that the membership of the Commission should be increased, and I strongly support that it is high-time we tried our capable men at key positions. If we do not do it now, it means that we have not capable men to run the Services of the Region.

It is the aim of this Government, like all other Governments in the Federation, to have the post of Permanent Secretaries and other key positions occupied by capable Africans. It is the aim of all the Governments of the Federation to have Africans as their Ambassadors. You can see the two sides of the story. The present composition of the Public Service Commission is that you have the two largest groups represented by Africans with an expatriate as the Chairman.

It follows that I should suffer most having come from a minority area. But I advise strongly that an African should occupy the position of Chairman. There is something that is wrong with certain Members.

I believe that there is bias, clanishness but I do not believe that all of us should be guilty of such things. We should at least allow ourselves to have the chance, and should not condemn ourselves as unfit. Mr Chairman, I remember that when this House was first formed in 1954, there cropped up the question as to who should be the Speaker. It was then thought that it was impossible to get an African who would be fair.

There is no reason why we should not try. Let us try and make the mistake if any should occur.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I would like to remind the House that the Eastern Region is self-governing and that we are striving to create a healthy climate for people of different races and nationalities in this country. I therefore appeal that efforts should be made not to spotlight any particular Member of the Public Service Commission. At the Constitutional Conference, the decision was that the appointment of the Chairman should be made by the Governor after consultation with the Premier. I can assure the House that His Excellency and myself will bear in mind whatever is the public opinion but that will not necessarily decide who should be the Chairman on the basis of race. (*Hear! Hear!*). Whatever recommendation I make to His Excellency, and whatever decision he takes in his absolute discretion will be in the best interest of this Region. But I must object to the insinuation made by an hon. Member that certain areas are not receiving their fair share. I wish to point out that the members of the Public Service Commission are engaged in a most difficult task and whatever decision they make is a collective one on the part of the three members. I should also wish to erase the impression in the minds of hon. Members that there is any attempt on the part of the Public Service Commission to neglect any particular area. If any vacancy occurs, it is usually advertised and people submit their applications and they are vetted. I would not like in the absence of any concrete evidence to come to this House to make a general statement which will be misleading and unfair to those who are doing their best. However, we are grateful for the remarks made from both sides of the House about the Public Service Commission. There is no attempt on the part of that Commission to

[THE PREMIER]

take sides. They are not politicians and I hope that the politicians will not infest them with their politics.

Question, That the sum of £18,470 for Head 426—Public Service Commission—stand part of the First Schedule, put and agreed to.

Head 427: Ministry of Agriculture

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £571,120 for Head 427—Ministry of Agriculture—stand part of the First Schedule.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr P. O. Nwoga): Mr Chairman, before the House considers the Estimates, under Head 427, Ministry of Agriculture, some explanation of what is involved is necessary. In 1958–59 the Estimates for this Ministry and the departments under it were treated under five different Heads, namely, the Ministry, Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Veterinary. With the integration of the Departments into Ministries, and the merging of the Ministry of Production with Agriculture it will be seen that under this one single Head—the Ministry of Agriculture—we have now seven divisions.

The first two of these, Administration and Accounts Division, will deal with the routine administrative and accounting work which to a large extent will help to relieve the pressure of work on the former Heads of technical divisions who will in consequence be able to devote greater time to the technical and professional side of their functions without being over-burdened with the day-to-day affairs of a non-technical nature.

Alphabetically speaking, the first technical division of the Ministry is Agriculture; it is also the largest and the one on which hon. Members usually level most of their criticisms.

I would, therefore, Mr Chairman, like to devote a little more time to this than the rest of the divisions of the Ministry. The policy for agriculture in the Eastern Region is stated in the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1954. This policy is summarised and the programmes for its implementation adequately indicated on pages 2 to 5 of the document entitled "Self-Government in the Eastern Region, Part I, Policy Statements, Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1957". All these documents, Sir, passed

through this hon. House. The objectives aimed at under the present policy for agriculture in the Region are:—

1. To give every possible assistance to the farmer to increase his productivity.

2. To examine all possible methods of maintaining and improving soil fertility on the poor sandy soils especially by the introduction of new kinds of fallow plants.

3. To extend the reclamation of mangrove swamps and flood areas and to increase rice production.

4. To diversify the economy of the Region by the introduction of new crops.

5. To ensure that the farmer has an accessible and profitable market for his product.

6. To make every effort to effect security of land tenure for the farmer.

7. To establish agricultural credits to enable the farmer to borrow at a reasonable rate of interest.

8. To establish nurseries for the testing of new seeds and for the demonstration and distribution of seedlings to farmers.

9. To extend the use of intelligent propaganda through the medium of demonstration farms, model communities and extension workers.

10. To introduce and test agricultural machinery.

Mr Chairman, these objectives are clearly stated on page 5 of the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1954 already referred to.

Since my appointment as Minister of Agriculture, I have toured very extensively and have visited almost all the divisions in this Region to acquaint myself with the field work of the staff of this division for the realisation of the objectives enumerated above. I must say, Mr Chairman, that I am very satisfied that the policy and objectives as at present laid down for agriculture are being pursued meticulously and to the extent that available funds and staff permit. Under the present policy, Mr Chairman, my Ministry

is not, repeat not, charged with the physical production of the necessary food to feed the eight million people of this Region as is erroneously assumed by some hon. Members of this House.

Our duty is to train farmers to produce food and cash crops. I can assure hon. Members, Mr Chairman, that progress already made under this system has indeed been very significant though not generally noticed by people, as what we do is normally not exposed to public view as tarred roads or schools and hospital buildings. Let me illustrate what I mean by progress with two crops—rice and cocoa. In the last ten years rice production by farmers in this Region has grown from nothing to 30,000 tons of clean rice last year. The order in cash of this to the farmer is over £2,000,000.

We have in the last four years increased our exports of cocoa from 600 tons to 2,000 tons last year. This represents an industry worth over £½ million as it stands now. At the present rate of progress and interest shown in the cultivation of cocoa, particularly in Ikom, Bende and parts of former Calabar and Rivers Provinces, I have no doubt that in a matter of four to five years we shall take a proud place with the Western Region and Ghana in the production of this very important cash crop.

Some hon. Members have again and again suggested in this House that our policy for agriculture should be reorientated so as to place more emphasis on plantations and quick production and less on experiments and research.

Mr V. K. Onyeri (Port Harcourt Division): Have you done this?

Mr Nwoga: Mr Chairman, I think this is an erroneous idea. We are all—Government and Members—agreed on big plantations and quick production of food and cash crops. As a matter of fact, the Ministry of Production now merged to Agriculture was created with this aim in view. Also, encouragement and facilities are given to the E.R.D.C. to pursue this same objective. But I would like hon. Members to realise that research and experiments do not retard the rate of production. On the contrary they accelerate it. The success of plantation can be more easily and

quickly achieved if we know before hand what is best to grow, the best method to grow it and the best place to grow it. These are facts which research and experiments are intended to supply, and by the nature of the process involved the final results are not obtained in a matter of weeks or months. It will interest Members to know we have the following organisation—WAIFOR—West African Institute for Oil Palm Research—working to find the highest yielding and best quality oil palm. They supply us with improved palm seeds which we germinate and distribute to the farmers.

Mr M. U. Etuk (Uyo Division): Not even one farmer has received any such seed. Perhaps you distribute it in a special area.

Mr Nwoga: WACRI is engaged in the work on cocoa as to quality and quantity of yield and cocoa diseases. There is WASPRU to study storage problems and how best to treat them.

For the information of hon. Members experiments are also going on at present in this Region to discover better strains of maize, high yielding type cassava and palatability and mechanisation of yam.

Some hon. Members: You will go on mechanising for years.

Mr Nwoga: Experiments and trials are also going on in other directions, such as those to find out high yielding citrus plants in and out of season, the best method of applying fertiliser, etc. All these facts when finally ascertained will certainly not only accelerate rapid and efficient production but will also be of immense value to the farmers and the people of this Region.

It should be noted, Mr Chairman, that the centre of our research organisation is at Umuahia and the work in that place has indeed immediate effect upon increased production of our food and cash crops contrary to the assertion made by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday during the debate on the Development Programme. I would, however, like to acquaint the House with two fundamental problems which must be solved if we are to revolutionise agriculture in this Region.

[MR NWOGA]

The first you have already heard. This is the soil and land use survey on which we have already made a start. This is absolutely necessary if we are to ascertain the best possible use to which we can put our land and give accurate information to the farmers.

The second problem is the system of our land tenure under which the farmers have small and uneconomic holdings. My Ministry and the Board of Agriculture are at present studying this problem with a view to the possible introduction of some form of land consolidation in the Eastern Region.

The implementation of this policy is reflected in the items and sub-heads of this Head occurring under the Agriculture Division and the money provided goes towards the staffing and running of the five major research and demonstration centres sited in the Region, the three minor demonstration centres, the two mechanisation schemes, the five swamp rice development and demonstration schemes, the School of Agriculture, the specialist research and advisory service, and the three farm schools. Reorganisation on the basis of the twelve new provinces has not yet been put fully into effect in so far as the agricultural extension work service is concerned but is proceeding on the basis of an extension work team of two senior officers in each province and the provinces grouped under five of the more senior officers of the Department based on the major agricultural stations now existing. Most of the twelve provinces already have either a demonstration farm centre or a major agricultural station situated in it, or some other major agricultural project to serve as a focus for agricultural work. All have several nurseries for the supply of improved planting material.

The expansion in this division this financial year amounts to some £30,000 which is reflected in increasing the services I have just mentioned, but I would warn Members that although this sounds a reasonable sum of money the division could absorb ten times that amount of expansion and I would still not be satisfied. We have in point of fact not yet reached the level of our total expenditure on Agriculture both Regional and the old Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes which became a Regional responsibility, which we had in 1954.

As regards Fisheries, what I said last week in speaking to the Motion of an Address of Thanks holds true and I will not take up Members' time by repeating myself. Being still a young division that has scarcely got over its teething troubles and not yet making itself felt as equally forceful, its main projects are reflected in the Capital Estimates Heads which occur later on.

The Forest Division is mainly concerned with the rehabilitation and regeneration of Government owned forest reserves, but I was pleased to note the anxiety expressed by the hon. Member for Abakaliki over the depredation of privately owned forest estates. I do urge most strongly upon Members of this House the necessity for conserving and enlarging such estates. The establishment of plantations and forests as individual enterprises is not something that catches the ordinary man's eyes nor is it an undertaking that gives a quick profitable return; nevertheless, in addition to caring for our state forests, the division is available for the supply of planting materials to any one who cares to indulge in planting for posterity. It is my complaint that not enough use is made by our people of the service available. The importance of this division in assisting in controlling soil erosion and in establishing small forest areas in co-operation with local communities cannot be over emphasised, and I would urge hon. Members to assist in bringing home to their constituents the need to think years ahead in terms of forest planting outside forest reserves.

The Produce Inspection Division of the Ministry comes to us from the Ministry of Production. As the service which is the watchdog of most of our export crops, it has performed in the past a function on which our good name overseas rests. By its work the standard of our produce is kept at a high level which it is necessary for us to maintain if we are to attract buyers for the produce which our farmers grow. The main change in the framework of this Division under this Head of the Estimates is the initiation of a Pest Infestation team whose function it will be to assist in carrying out the disinfection of cocoa stores in the Region—a most important function.

The final division of the Ministry is Veterinary. In aiming to provide a veterinary service which will maintain and improve

the health of the livestock of the Region and maintain and improve the industries closely allied to and associated with livestock health. A considerable expansion must take place with regard to the staffing situation. In conformity with Government's Policy on devolution and the creation of twelve Provinces, it is my aim eventually to provide the necessary senior and junior staff for each division. This cannot be done overnight as the training of veterinary assistants is a lengthy business, but a start is being made this year.

That, Mr Chairman, summarises briefly the plans and hopes that have been embodied in this Head of the Estimates. I have been impressed in the last year with the results which have been shown by the farmers in growing cash and food crops with the help of these various divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture and I trust that with their continued co-operation and with the co-operation of the hon. Members of this House we shall be building a firm foundation for the agricultural development of the Region. The £571,000 which stand in this sub-head is but a fraction of what I could use in implementing the policy of this Ministry.

Mr R. O. Ukuta M.B.E., (Nsukka Division): Mr Chairman, I only want to talk briefly on the Ministry of Agriculture. I think it was high time that the Agricultural Department should work out from the experimental stage, (*Hear! Hear!*) because agriculture is mainly associated with the people in rural areas.

In my own area, in the town of Omasi, I think about 10,000 acres of land were voluntarily given out by the people to the Agricultural Department to develop agricultural farming. Some officers went there but after submitting a report, nothing was heard again. We do not know what to do. In these circumstances, I venture to ask what time the Ministry of Agriculture will try to reconcile the "back-yard" cocoa with the "front-yard" cocoa and make dairy product available to the people.

An hon. Member: Are you still on that?

Mr Ukuta: Yes, I am still on it because if one points out that the land of certain areas is fertile to grow cocoa, instead of receiving encouragement all one hears is "back-yard" cocoa, simply to get rid of that Division.

I think that the Ministry should try to demonstrate by purchasing tractors. But how many farmers in this Region can afford to purchase a tractor of £400 to £500? I think that if the Ministry gives loans to these local farmers that will help them immensely. So, Mr Chairman, I will never be satisfied unless the Minister of Agriculture tours Nsukka Division. I will lead him to see the back-yard cocoa and he will be a sole judge for himself.

Mr J. A. Etuhube (Ikot Ekpene Division): Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Everybody in this Region knows the importance of agriculture. This is a Ministry that I may say is for the masses of the people in this Region, but unfortunately not up to 75 per cent of these masses know there is any such thing as the Ministry of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture has just told this House that he has toured almost all the Divisions in this Region. I do not think the Minister was serious when he was making the statement, because, for example, the Minister has not known my own Division for over three years. I do think that the Minister has actually taken care of these small agricultural centres opened some years ago.

I find that the sum of £571,120 has been earmarked for work in this Ministry this year. Out of this £335,710 is for Personal Emoluments, £95,020 for what is called Ancillary Charges and £135,270 for Other Charges or the actual work to be done in the field of agriculture. Mr Chairman, I want to say that this sum of £135,270 is rather too small for the actual work to be done. What we want in this Region, just as the Premier said when he was supporting the motion on the Development Programme, is development brought to the village people. That is what we want. We do not want these to be kept in stations here and there and year in year out we talk of experimental achievements, progress and other such things. From now we want this particular Ministry to be for the village man; he wants to know what is happening. If you bring the knowledge to our own people they will be very much benefited and the Government will be benefited too.

Take for example, if the Government would like to open some small agricultural stations round local council areas where some agricultural officers will be stationed, experimental farms could be opened here and farmers

[MR ETUHUBE]

from these localities could be taught modern methods of farming. Along with that the Government can give small loans to farmers to open their own farms and these small loans will fetch Government some kind of interest and this will lighten the financial burden that would have been borne by this Government. Not only will small profit accrue to Government in this way, but also Government will be making the people know really what is actually happening.

Mr Chairman, the point I want to make is that though we argue up and down, we broadcast, we write and advertise, lots of people of this Region are purely illiterate. Even some of those who are considered lettered do not care to spend a penny to buy newspapers and read to know what is actually happening. So I am making the point that if we open this type of centres, not only are we going to impart knowledge, but also we will be helping our people to increase their daily earnings from their own occupation; we will be teaching them to improve their standard of living and probably end these political agitations about which the Premier has appealed to this House and to the Region as a whole. The problems will not end until the people are well educated on what is actually happening. I am saying that the Minister of Agriculture should make arrangements to bring this particular Ministry to the people who really own it.

Mr M. N. Onwuma (Aba Division): Mr Chairman, I beg leave to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture on the statement which he has just made because it appears that some people do not make enough effort to understand the problems concerning agriculture in this country.

There is a point which he emphasised which I think everybody here should be primarily concerned with and that is the problem of land tenure. The land tenure in this country seems to me a great obstacle to real agricultural expansion, because if the owner of a patch of land is unwilling to co-

operate so that modern methods of agriculture can be applied there will be no progress. I therefore suggest, Sir, that we should encourage village Farming Co-operatives. If the farmers can be encouraged to farm in a co-operative manner we may be able to tackle this problem.

Mr Chairman, may I appeal to the Government to make approach to the Marketing Board to try and do something in the way of increasing the selling price of Palm Oil and Palm Kernels in this Region?

Opposition Members: You voted against us the other day.

Mr Onwuma: I did vote against the Opposition Bench because the matter they raised is quite different from what I am talking about.

I suggest that the price for a tin of oil should be fixed at 15s to 20s or more if possible.

With regard to loans, Sir, I think it is necessary to grant loans to farmers. But my experience in the Public Accounts Committee and elsewhere is that some of our people do not make real efforts to repay the loans and most of the loans are not used for the development of agricultural projects. Some people use the loans to buy lorries or to buy houses.

And it being 2.15 p.m. the Chairman interrupted the business and left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress: To sit again Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.
(*The Minister of Production, Dr M. I. Okpara.*)

Adjourned accordingly at seventeen minutes past two o'clock p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Thursday, 23rd April, 1959

Civil Servants and Politics

22. **Mr M. C. Awgu** asked the Premier, whether the Eastern Regional Government has, since becoming self-governing, permitted its civil servants to participate in the politics of the Region.

The Premier: No, Sir, on the contrary, a circular has recently been issued on my direction drawing the attention of civil servants to the existing rules which forbid them to participate in the politics of the Region.

Government Teachers—Salaries

31. **Mr J. O. Okeh** asked the Minister of Education, whether it is true that the option

given the Government teachers to convert to the scales of salary for non-Government teachers affects their rights to the retirement benefits to which they should under their original condition of service have been entitled as civil servants.

The Minister of Education: It is *not* true that the retirement rights of Government teachers are affected by conversion to the non-Government scales of salary. Teachers who opt for the non-Government scales retain the same conditions of service as those who elect to remain on the Government scales.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday, 24th April, 1959

The House met at Nine o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

The 1959-60 Eastern Region Appropriation Bill

(SECOND ALLOTTED DAY)

Considered in Committee of Supply (Progress 23rd April).

Head 427—Ministry of Agriculture

Question again proposed, That a sum not exceeding £571,120 for Head 427—Ministry of Agriculture—stand part of the First Schedule.

Mr M. N. Onwuma (Aba Division): Mr Chairman, I was saying yesterday that we are making a reasonable amount of agricultural loans to the farmers in this Region, but the people on their own part have not responded by repaying the loans when they are due for repayment. Because of that, there is not enough money in circulation to make further loans. I should therefore like to suggest, Sir, that if in future petty farmers want agricultural loans, they should provide at least one or two Members from their constituencies to stand surety for them.

Mr Chairman, Sir, it is also true that the quality of timber exported from this country and from this Region is very much of a low quality. I think you will remember that it was only about two or three weeks ago that a South African firm and also a firm from the Continent advertised that in future before any firm have any dealings with Nigerian exporters they should exercise the greatest care by consulting the Chambers of Commerce in this country because in their view exporters have discovered that produce exported from this country has been much below what had been anticipated. I do not think that that is a very good thing for the export market of this country.

Finally, Mr Chairman, yesterday the Minister of Agriculture in his able speech did say that the reorganisation of these new provinces has not yet been put fully into effect in so far as agricul-

tural resources are concerned. That is as it will be, but I would like to warn the Minister of Agriculture that he should not take the question of the twelve provinces into consideration because we have not at the moment accepted the so-called Umuahia province. The question is still further to be decided and any question on agricultural level should not be completely decided at this stage because I am going to use every constitutional means at my disposal to fight this Umuahia province. But if I fail to obtain a change by all constitutional means then I should be most willing to accept hon. Chikwendu's challenge that law and order be suspended in both Aba and Bende Divisions so that we can do it the way it used to be done in the old days.

Dr W. N. Onubogu (Onitsha Division): Mr Chairman, I just want to say a few words in contribution to this debate. The Ministry of Agriculture is a very important one realising that Nigeria is an agricultural country. The importance of this should not be over emphasised. I would like the Minister of Agriculture to cast his mind back to those old days of the Legislative Council when we had the Unitary Government. Our Members then did criticise the so-called experimental station and since that time criticisms have been levelled every year since the division of Nigeria into the Western, Eastern and Northern Regions. This question of experimental station has been a bone in our throat. I am saying, Sir, that when I was in the Ministry of Natural Resources, which was later on called Agriculture, I saw quite a lot and I was surprised that in one agricultural experimental station I saw that the crops they had there in the way of demonstration did not even do as well as those of the local farmers nearby. I am saying, Sir, that this question of experimenting gives worries. We cannot run this country on experiments. We have been experimenting for many many years.

Another point is, how does the local farmer in the village know that we are going to have independence? Take the religious bodies for example. All of them are preparing for independence. The little village farmer does not know what we are talking about. Yesterday, I heard the Government Bench saying that the West has been copying quite a lot of things from us. Let us change policy in Agriculture and let them copy. Let us, Mr

Chairman, stop this experimental schemes and divert the fund to the farmers. Here in the Government, we have Africans taking over responsibilities to prepare for independence. In the religious circle, Africans have been raised to posts of Bishop. They are certainly preparing for independence to take over British rule. But this question of agricultural experiment was started so many years ago, yet we are still experimenting. What have we derived from this experiment? I am not suggesting that the vote should be scrapped. The work that is being done at Umudike should be left as it is. Let all the experiments be made there. Then take the result to the people. Post all Agricultural Officers in the Region to Divisions to tour round and help the farmers and advise them.

We have been told that in Ibo country, our soil is sandy and that nutrition sips deep in the ground. Because of that the soil is not fertile. Year in year out, experiment after experiment—what has this experimental station done? Why is Nkwerre there? Why is Abakaliki with all the mechanical machines for agriculture there? There is one at Abak and in several other places. They have even established experimental farms. I am saying this, Mr Chairman, that all these things have served their purpose long ago, if they served any purpose at all. It is a waste of money to continue with this experiment now that we are marching to independence.

Now, Sir, I do not want independence to mean to some people what a friend told me and I do not want to mention his name. He hopes that our country will not be like a country that was told that they had been granted independence and the next morning a lot of them went to their Headquarters and when the President came out, he was surprised that a lot of people were there. He asked them what they wanted. They asked him: "Is it true that our country has been granted independence?" "Yes" he replied, "We want to see it", they said. (Laughter). It only shows that they do not know what it is all about.

Mr Chairman, our farmers do not know what this independence is. They are going to ask what is meant by independence. I am saying, Sir, that it is no joke. We must do something to show the farmer that we have now

finished with what the white man introduced here before—that is this question of experiments. As a matter of fact, what they do know now is to slaughter one pig every Saturday. Is it what we vote all this money for? If it is now a question of slaughtering one pig every Saturday, I am afraid that should be scrapped. Some say, the meat is shared, but I think it is sold and I do not know where the money goes.

Mr Chairman, in the Development Programme, an amount of £790,000 has been earmarked for Agriculture. This is a very big amount, and we should advise Government how to use this money. I believe that we have our local native cattle. What have these experimental stations done to improve the breed of these cattle? Nothing at all. What have all these experimental stations done to improve our poultry? Go to the market and you will see our small cocks degenerating; and yet we have been wasting money experimenting. I am saying, Sir, that these experimental stations have done nothing to improve our poultry and should be scrapped. Why not help the farmers by giving them a lot of this money that is earmarked for experimental stations? Group these farmers into co-operative societies, give them these mechanical machines where applicable, give them advice, then watch and see how they progress. If they do that, they will see that in a short time all these boys who rush to the big towns for jobs will be attracted back home to farm.

Mr Chairman, I hope the Minister of Agriculture, who looks a little bit sad is taking note of all these remarks. They are very serious suggestions that are being given him here and not ones that will just be brushed aside because of Government policy. They are suggestions that should be taken very seriously. All this high yielding this and high yielding that cannot do now. When he was reading his speech yesterday he was talking of high yielding this and high yielding that. When I was Minister of Natural Resources in 1954 I read all about high yielding cocoa and palm trees to this House but yet nothing has been yielded. If it had been yielding so highly we should have known where we are by this time. The time has come when we must put a stop to this high yieldings and bend down to something that will be of help to the people of this Region. Money that is being used

[DR ONUBOGU]

for this high yielding Amelonado cocoa and high yielding palm trees should be given to farmers as loans. Agricultural Assistants and Agricultural Officers should be sent to the Divisions to help the farmers. They should examine their farms and if their farms are not doing well they should look into their troubles and advise them accordingly. Our farmers should know that we are getting into independence, otherwise if only Legislators and clerks who have climbed to the senior service know of independence, when the time comes many will turn round to ask, "What is this independence all about?" I do not want these farmers to be ignorant of what the implications of independence are and afterwards turn round to accuse us of having used their money in a wrong way. They too should benefit from independence.

Mr S. G. Ikoku (Enyong Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say right away that given the traditional concept on the role of the Ministry of Agriculture then the Minister of Agriculture made a very good speech yesterday. What we are after, Sir, is not the continuation of that concept which had held sway in this Region; we want a new concept. We want a totally new approach to the problem of agriculture in the Region.

I would like to compliment the Minister of Agriculture on what he told us yesterday about experimentation. We have heard of new seedlings; we have heard of mechanised form of farming and all such things. In themselves, these things are good; but I want to remind the Minister that we do not carry out these experiments for the sake of experiment. It is only in the University that one studies for the sake of study; but in the applied fields one carries out these experiments with the objective of transmitting the result of the experiment to industry or agriculture as the case may be.

Now, I give you an analogy. You have a big plant. This is agricultural industry. Then you have an electric motor. This is the experiment. The electric motor may be working at a very high rate. But until you have connected the motor by way of an electric belt to the machine, the result of the working of the electric motor can never be transmitted to the machine. The machine cannot move. Now, what is the value of mechanisation when

the farmer cannot afford it? What is the value of demonstrating large-scale farming when our land tenure system is such that we cannot have large-scale farming?

My point, Sir, is that our experiments are being directed the wrong way, and it is about time we called for a change. If you concentrate experiments on just two aspects: storage—improved methods of storing our food crops—and pest infestation—cheap and economic method of dealing with the pests—you will find that the total agricultural output in this Region will increase by no less than 10 per cent—on these two things alone. But every year we have thousands of tons of yam going rotten as a result of the yam pest; thousands of tons of rice going bad because of poor storage. These are the lines along which experiments will be of very great help to the farmers of the Region, provided the result of the experiments can be applied economically—a very important "provided".

It is like our experience in the University. We study about all sorts of methods of improving things but we have no means by which to apply this wonderful knowledge. This is just the position in which our experiments in agriculture in the Region are. Very good ideas arrived at are beautifully tabulated on paper. You go to the experimental farm at Umudike, they take you round to see some excellent gardens, very up-to-date laboratories and the rest of it, and you see the result carefully and beautifully worked out. What else? The next door farm to the Umudike farm, owned by a pagan, does not in any way reflect the experiments we are making.

An hon. Member: Because he does not care to apply them.

Mr Ikoku: Because he cannot afford it!

I would like to give a little idea to the Minister of Agriculture. We would like to increase our output of palm produce for many reasons. The revenue of this Region depends on palm produce to a very great extent, and on produce tax alone we collect between £800,000 and £1 million every year. In addition, the tonnage of palm produce exported every year has a direct effect on the amount of Federally allocated revenue which comes to the Region. Now, Sir, what I am saying is that we think the Minister of Agriculture is anxious to

increase the output of palm produce—on that he has won. The question now is how do we go about it? The Minister of Agriculture seems to be very much after the idea of bringing in new seedlings, having big farms, big plantations and the rest of it.

May I submit, Sir, that this is a long-term approach to the problem; the short-term approach to the problem should be to increase peasant production of palm produce. It takes about seven years for a palm plantation to begin to yield, and you are going to run into all sorts of difficulties as regards acquisition of land, but if you realise that 98 per cent of the output of palm produce in the Eastern Region is peasant production, you will discover that to concentrate all ways and means of increasing peasant production is the real answer to this problem.

The Belgian Congo, Malaya and some other places have concentrated on this plantation production. They were lucky they had huge strips of land and Western European trains could bump in there any time, but here our circumstances are quite different. Therefore, we cannot get on by way of the advice or the experience of Belgian Congo or Malaya. Our problems are different.

Now, imagine for one moment that every Clan in the oil producing areas of this Region is called upon or encouraged to form a Producers' Company, imagine for one moment that through a judicious re-allocation of the Pioneer Oil Mills we have in the Region, you make one mill available to each Clan Co-operative Society, you find at once that all the peasant farmers within the Clan will endeavour to carry their produce to their own Oil Mill and quantity and quality are assured immediately because they are going to get good quality oil and a good quantity of it.

Suppose you reinforce this programme with a credit system, granting credits to these Co-operative Societies, not to individuals. We have now two Co-operative Banks in the Region and the money given to these Banks is so small that they cannot carry out these functions. For example, in our Four-Year Development Programme, it is suggested that they will be given £50,000, that is, £12,500 per annum. Now, Sir, you know that an ordinary

factor buying palm produce for U.A.C. handles more than £12,500 in any one season. You know that. Now, how can we think that they are doing something wonderful for a farmer by allocating £12,500 a year for all the Co-operative Societies, for all the peasants of the Region? The amount is just ridiculous and I am making my appeal again for a substantial increase in the amount of funds which Government will make available to these Co-operatives, and believe me, Sir, the figure of £1,000,000 is not at all fantastic. If the Marketing Board could make that grant, everybody in this Region, be he a legislator or a farmer or a primary producer, will be attracted to the market.

Still concentrating on the grant as the unit of production, you will find that if they give producers a system of bonus for new seedlings which they plant and also give them loans to tide them over, to cover the cost of clearing the forests in order to plant these new seedlings, they will have engrafted their high yielding seedlings onto peasant producers and there will be fertile grounds. Right now, if they will try to create plantations to plant these things, they will not succeed. But if they engraft their new ideas onto peasant production they are on the right way to success. So much for that.

While on this question of co-operatives, I would like to say that if only the co-operative societies and the co-operative banks could get the right amount of money there is going to be a big upsurge in agricultural productivity in the Region, and what applies to palm production is also the case for cocoa. You know very well that Ikom has become the premier cocoa producing area of the Region.

An hon. Member: I do not agree. What of Bende?

Mr Ikoku: Well, I was lucky to have met an entomologist from Ghana who visited the cocoa plantation in Bende. He told me that the experimental farm in Bende is the best he has seen anywhere, but he also made the point that it takes a long time to go from experiment to actual production.

An hon. Member: An entomologist or an agriculturist? Do you know the difference?

Mr Ikoku: If they want to help cocoa production in the Region, surely that will be a creditable arrangement. Co-operative Banks for these cocoa co-operatives situated in Ikom will be a very great help to that industry in that area. £100,000 put into the bank situated at Ikom will boost cocoa production in that area, ditto for Mr Chikwendu's Bende.

An hon. Member: What of your own Division?

Mr Ikoku: We have some cocoa at Arochuku, but I have my doubts if the Minister of Agriculture may not refer to it as backyard cocoa.

Before I wind up, Sir, I would like to advise the hon. Minister of Agriculture to do much more touring, not only within the Region but outside. Let him go to Israel and see how co-operative farming is organised. Let him go to Liberia and make arrangements for new rubber seedlings. Let him go anywhere he wants to go and see how these things are done and come back to apply them.

An important aspect, Sir, of boosting production in the Region is to have up-to-date accounts of what is happening in other parts of the world. I would very much like to see the Minister of Agriculture off at the airport with his Permanent Secretary and his technical advisers. Let them go round and see how these things are done in other parts of the world and try to rationalise his experience in order to grapple with the system already in existence. And of course I would like to include my Division in this touring programme. I want the Minister to tour Enyong Division. He has been promising us a visit but we have not seen him there. We are anxious to see him there, not so much because of his Agricultural Division but with regard to his Forestry Division. The forest reserves in my Division are causing a lot of headache.

An hon. Member: Where is your Division?

Mr Ikoku: In Enyong, Umon, Eki and Ukwá and all those clans on both banks of the big basin of the Cross River, the forest reserves are irksome. We want to meet the Minister and talk it over with him and see what can be

done to send these ominous cement dealers a little further into the bush. The point is that they are too near the houses and if they can move a bit into the forest that will help very much and we will be happy.

In conclusion, Sir, I would repeat that the Minister should try to break loose of the traditional concept surrounding agriculture in the Region, and should also try to blaze a new trail. The most convenient way of blazing this new trail is to make sure that he tours very many parts of the world in order to assimilate their skill and in this way he will give us a rational way out. Right now we are in a morass; we are in stagnation. We want to break loose and blaze a new path, and if the Minister of Agriculture can do that for us he would have made the biggest contribution to what the Premier has rightly described as a new emphasis in our economic progress.

The Chairman: I think hon. Members will appreciate the fact that there is quite a lot to do within the seven days allotted to the Committee of Supply. I therefore propose to take up these amendments; I notice they are six in number.

Mr D. S. A. Agim (Orlu Division): I do not agree with the wholesale condemnation of the policy of experiment.

The Chairman: Hon. Members should try to be concise.

Mr Agim: I do not agree that experiments should be . . .

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Is the hon. Member moving his amendment?

The Chairman: Is the hon. Member moving his amendment or is he not?

Mr Agim: I move that Head 427 be reduced by £100. I was following the example I saw yesterday. I thought I could finish my speech and move the amendment later.

As I said, Mr Chairman, I do not agree with the wholesale condemnation of the principle of experiment in the Agricultural Department. I believe that experiment is a

means to an end, and that the result of experiments should be applied to actual production. I also believe in Demonstration Farms, but I think they should be used just as a class-room teacher uses a teaching apparatus. When a teacher wants to take a lesson on, say, parts of a plant, he usually goes to the bush and roots a twig and presents it before the pupils. He then shows them the various parts of a young plant. If these Agricultural Demonstration Farms are regarded as such, then they should be used in this way. An Agricultural Officer should be posted at least one to every Division of the Region and his duty should be to have one Demonstration Farm in each clan which will be accessible to the farmers. Then he should go to the villages and explain to the people the disadvantages of a primitive form of farming. He takes these farmers once in a while to the Demonstration Farms and shows them the proper method of farming in order to enable them to circumvent their difficulties. In this way, Sir, I think the Demonstration Farms will be doing the duties which they are intended to do.

Mr Chairman, I am in support of loans being given to the peasants to help them develop their farms provided that Government obtains proper security.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the system of land tenure in this country has a very serious impact on the location of people in the Region. According to native law and custom, the first born has most of the family land and the last children are landless people. The result is that most of them move to the urban areas and this causes a lot of difficulty to the local government bodies. In Ikwerre and Etche we have large areas of land which have not been farmed for years. I think if the Agricultural Department directly, or through the E.R.D.C., could make arrangements with some of the owners, these lands could be leased temporarily for the purpose of developing considerable food crops and not cash crops. I think this will help to raise the standard of living and it will give employment to so many of our young people who roam about the country. I think it will also help to raise the general morale of the people in this country.

Mr Chairman, Sir, my people, the village of Isieknesi in Orlu Division, ask me to

make a special request for them. That village is suffering from serious incidence of erosion. The villagers have been made homeless and their source of water supply has been cut off by erosion. I am appealing to the Minister of Agriculture to see what he can do to help the people. Now, in my area, which is an agricultural area, within the last twenty years the annual crop yields have been falling very considerably so that the natives who are exclusively farmers have to travel about ten to fifteen miles to get land on which to farm. So I am appealing to the Agricultural Department to see what could be done for these people. I would like something like soil surveys to find out why the soil is so infertile. About twenty years ago that was not the case; but now it is almost going barren. I think that this is a very interesting problem and I would like to know that they will tackle the problem.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish also to say a few words about food preservation. I remember sometime ago in this House somebody spoke about trying to find out means of preserving our food so that it could last longer than at present. There are different ways of preserving food. The same could be done to, for example, yam, to last more than it does at present. But if we have an improvement of food preservation, I think the yam could be kept till very late in August and September when new yams begin to appear. This would be of great help to people, particularly those in the urban areas.

Again, there has been a lot of talk about the preservation of palm wine. I do not know what has been done about this, whether authority has been given by Government for people who can afford it to brew and preserve gin from palm wine in licensed premises. I should like Government to give consideration to this matter. If the brewing is properly supervised, it will help to keep a lot of money in this Region because all hon. Members will bear me out that plenty of money goes out of this Region by way of drinkables. Some of these are gin, whisky, beer, and so forth. If these drinks are brewed locally, they will be patronised by the people.

With these few words, Sir, I withdraw the amendment.

The Chairman: Does the hon. Member still move the amendment?

Mr Agim: I said that I have withdrawn.

Mr E. O. Eyo: He cannot withdraw when he had already moved except by leave of the Committee.

The Chairman: The hon. Member says he does not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr G. C. Okeya (Owerri Division): Mr Chairman, I am speaking on this amendment just to have the chance to reflect on the policy of the Ministry. The Minister of Agriculture gave us a very interesting account of the achievements and progress of that Ministry, but the point of criticism is that agriculture as is done in this Region lacks realism and ability to adjust itself to the local needs of the rapidly developing Region.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, on a point of order, Sir. May I invite your attention to Standing Order 66 (10). "...each amendment shall be disposed of before the next is called."

The Chairman: I have taken note of that.

Mr Okeya: Agriculture is synonymous with food production and it affects life and living. Each year we must try to say something about this Ministry. If we consider the policy of the Ministry and give them a trial we may derive maximum benefit from it. We should encourage the people to increase the productivity of the farmers in order to provide increased yields of food and cash crops to sustain and raise the standard of living of the large and increasing population. In view of this we seem to criticise this Ministry because so far as the Ministry is concerned there is no new plan to implement this policy. We have been having a high increase of rice and yam every year.

The question we should take into consideration is the amount of rice we get from the North. The quality of yams supplied to the Eastern Region by the Northern farmer is very high. The agricultural policy as a matter of course shows Government's full intention to revolutionise rural economy, but the scheme is too high; a Member described it here once as a school-boy essay. To me it is a University scheme too difficult to implement within the next period of two or three years. I think the Ministry is top-

heavy and seems to be in a dilemma. The argument whether we should carry out high industrialisation does not arise now.

What we want to do now is to face the real fact as the Leader of the Opposition has just said. The Government should find out on what to emphasise and encourage during the four years of the Development Programme. It is very interesting when we consider that a few years ago our Premier had solved the problem in a book written by him and called the *Economic Reconstruction of Nigeria*.

An Opposition Member: He is very good in writing.

Mr Okeya: Now, as regards land tenure the problem is also solved. Here, Sir, may I quote from the *West African Pilot* of 19th February, 1942:

"In the first place, I would cause agriculture to be a compulsory subject in all the elementary schools of the land. In this connection, I would enact law, with the consent of the legislature, making it obligatory for each Province to reserve 100 acres of land for the purpose of establishing a college of agriculture in its territory."

Then he gave the eight points and one of these points is most interesting. He said that agricultural education should be revolutionised in order to enable rural youth to acquire skill in the science of agriculture. In view of this I feel that the question of land tenure is a handicap to African development and as such Government should make a law to acquire land for this purpose. I would suggest that agriculture should go *pari passu* with other industries. What we call prince-pauper economy will no longer help us in this Region. At one time we had plenty of food and at another no more food. The Ministry of Agriculture will do the Region good service by encouraging canning industry.

Another point that I want also to emphasise is poultry. This is one of the most profitable trades in Nigeria. If the experiment started in 1922, I think it is high time we got enough poultry. Now Government should have a lump sum of money to subsidise the allied industries and quicken the progress of changes in our rural economy. Under Head 427, Ministry of Agriculture, expenditure vote is

£571,120. Of this sum, Personal Emoluments alone took £335,710, Ancillary Charges £95,020 and Other Charges—£135,270. £70,460 out of this money is to be spent on Agricultural Division for lunches, parties, and maintenance of official car. One is then left wondering as to how much is being spent on subsidies to improve agricultural activities. It is painful to note that a grant of £5,000 has been made or is going to be made to the centre at Asaba. Why cannot we have our own here instead of spending £5,000 on a farm at Asaba?

As regards fishery, I think that either the Ministry or the Department is in a dilemma. With reference to this, the Official Debate in this House, Volume 2 No. 1 of Wednesday 21st May, 1958, carries in it a question asked in my name. The Ministry of Agriculture then had this to say about fishery industry in Oguta!

“The Department of Fisheries is interested in examination of the fish population of Oguta Lake and improvements which might be made in the fishing Industry there.

“At present, however, only the Federal Fisheries can provide the necessary staff to conduct the form of careful scientific research which is required, and it is hoped that as soon as arrangements can be made for a joint research with the Fisheries Department of the Eastern Region, such a survey will be started”.

This is one of the points I am sure the Minister will note, knowing full well that this lake supplies fish to nearly all people in that Division. At present, however, only the Federal Fishery can provide the necessary staff to conduct the form of scientific research which is required, and it is hoped that as soon as arrangements can be made for a joint research with the Fisheries Department of the Eastern Region, such a survey will be started.

If this is acceptable, why is it that people keep on fumbling with the fishing ponds at Umuna and other places and yet little or no profit is brought to the Region?

Now I am making the following suggestion to the Ministry of Agriculture that the Government does not attend to the allied industry.

By this I mean that I do not agree that Agriculture is purely for research and experimentation, but this is where we differ that the results of this experimentation and research should be applicable to the villages. Now, the work of the Ministry of Agriculture is to establish pilot industry on experimental research basis. They have also agreed that the Ministry should lend money to farmers. I am afraid I may differ, because take for example, the loan from C.D.C.; it is about £2 million and about half that money has been paid back. So we can give money to farmers to develop their farms.

I have the following suggestions to make, and firstly on fertilisers. Now, improve livestock, say sheep or goat or cow or chicken where they are needed. Then they need expert advice. Government should penalise the recalcitrants who refuse to take that advice. I also suggest a form of subsidy—for example, tractors should be lent to the farmers, even lorries. Training centres or colleges in the rural areas should be well used; although this is a part of the Ministry of Education, yet it is also concerned with agriculture. The Rural Science Centre at Umuahia is doing very well, but the result of the work in schools is abortive.

I am suggesting, Sir, that the system recommended in the book I quoted, written by the Premier, should be used—that the training centres and even District Councils should be used to disseminate agricultural knowledge. For instance, at the training centres or the Rural Science Centre at Umuahia, teachers should impart this knowledge to students who in turn would return to the village to form clubs at which this knowledge could be put into practice. I would also suggest that the system being used in other countries should be used in this country. The Church also should be used as an agency for distributing agricultural knowledge. These are the people who are equal to the people and who have the ability to attract people into the service of their own people. Such men should be used—even headmasters, council chairmen and village heads. All these are suggestions which will help the Agricultural Department to practise its policy.

Sir, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The Chairman: I think there is some confusion about these amendments appearing on the Order Paper. I suppose the primary aim of a man who puts down his name is to give him an opportunity to speak. When I call upon him he makes his brief speech and in the end he says "I do not move", and that ends it. But if he wants to pursue his Motion then he should start from the start and in the end he should say "I beg to move". I then propose it to the House. When I have proposed it to the House and he does not want to move again, then he withdraws. That is the time when the leave of the House is concerned. I hope that is clearly understood.

Mr J. A. Agba (Ogoja Division): Mr Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of £100 be reduced from Head 427. I would like to say that much has been said by other Members on the points that I would have very much emphasised, and I am really baffled by the fact that quite a lot of Members who did not propose any amendments have spoken. As a result I will say something in connection with Ogoja rather than anywhere else. I shall be strictly circumscribed.

The Ministry of Agriculture is really a very important one considering the nature of our land and particularly the needs of the Region. I think the needs require very capable hands not only in dealing with theory but also with practice. A lot of suggestions have been made under this Head and may I suggest to the Minister of Agriculture that from the point of view of having able men to help him in performing his very important assignment, he should have an eye on recruiting his men from various Divisions. I am inclined to think that a lot of his handicap emanated from the fact that in many of these places where the work of his Ministry has been severely criticised there are not sufficient and capable men to help him do the work. I know that it may not be easy for him to satisfy all the needs of the Divisions but he can do this indirectly by distributing his seedlings all over the Region and in each Division. I think the only way he can do that is by getting people from each Division and sending them to the School of Agriculture. When these people have been well trained they will come out to put all that they have been taught into practice. When these men come out as Foremen, Agricultural Officers, Artisans and

Laboratory Attendants, they will really foster the idea of this Ministry in the line of training the villagers in the technique of modern agriculture since they will impart their knowledge to the village farmers.

In the Ogoja and Obudu areas we have some people called "Field Agriculturists". These men scarcely put into practice what they themselves did experiment in the agricultural farms. Their own farms look and yield exactly the same as that of the natives. These people are no use at all. I think the main reason is that a lot of them who come out as Field Agriculturists and Field Overseers are not at all interested in what the people are doing, and something must be done about such people.

The Minister on his own side when he comes on a visit to Ogoja and Obudu, and especially Obudu, climbs right to the top of the hill to the cattle ranch. He sees the cows there. There is scarcely any farming going on in that area except the rearing of the animals. Farmers are further down the hill. When the Minister has seen these cows he runs down and returns to Enugu to say he has toured Ogoja and Obudu Divisions. Even his lieutenants do not take the trouble to inform the farmers that the Minister of Agriculture will be coming on such and such a day and will be prepared to meet them at such and such a time in such and such a place so that they may have the opportunity of acquainting the Minister with their difficulties. The result is that his visit is a complete waste of time, complete waste of energy and complete waste of public funds.

What we want the Minister to do is to inform the people of Obudu or any place he intends to visit that he will be coming on tour of their Division on such and such a date and he hopes to see the farmers at such and such a time. If he does this I think the farmers of this Region will be benefited since they will communicate most of their difficulties to the Minister himself.

He has visited Obudu Division; he has also visited Ogoja Division, but for what purpose? I think the main reason for his visit should have been to instruct the farmers on some important points in agricultural services and I think the villagers themselves would thus be more profited by the Minister's visit than

merely calling at the Cattle Ranch. That is one point, Sir.

Now about the Forestry business. The Minister perhaps has in mind to see the Forest he has acquired in Obanliku area. We are really interested in the forest and we do not want this forest to be acquired indiscriminately. We would like to get something in compensation. A large tract of forest land was acquired in Obanliku area but I do not think the people were sufficiently informed. Really I shall come to this point when we shall be talking on something else. The Government has it in mind that once it sends out a letter to an Administrative Officer to inform the people of a place of such and such an idea or of such and such a thing the Government is intending to do, that the Administrative Officer has done so, and it goes out to acquire the land or the forest concerned.

I think it is a cheat particularly to the people of Ogoja. Who is there in the area who reads the notice? They have fulfilled the Law when they have the publication in the *Gazette* and they expect that literate people have read it. But I ask, Sir: how many people in our own area are really literate? I think that before the Government acquires any forest reserve it should go into the land, consult the people, get the important people from each village and get them to realise why the Government wants to acquire the forest, what it is intending to do with it, and the rest of it. We are really very bitter about these things. The area is over a hundred miles in length and over sixty miles in width. It is a very big tract of land.

Again, Sir, when the forest has been acquired the people in the area should be employed as forest guards; the people from the area should be used as clerks, surveyors, draughtsmen. Why not train these people to take part in this important work? The Minister is only concerned with acquiring the forest and not giving any benefit to or considering the people who really own the forest. They should derive some sort of good by getting into these posts. I do not see really why Government should have taken their land without the permission of the people and without telling the people what the Government intends to do with it, when they themselves should be enjoying it.

The Produce Inspection Branch can very well do quite a lot of things. Ogoja as a whole

really beats the whole of this Region (whether you believe it or not it is quite true) in the production of such things like rice, groundnuts, yams, cocoa, wheat, cassava. I think the Ministry of Agriculture could do quite a lot of improvement not only to Ogoja but also to the Region as a whole. Take, for instance, the people who are interested in soya beans and others who are interested in planting groundnuts and things like cotton. If, as has already been suggested, the Minister of Agriculture organises these people into groups and encourages them by way of loans and lectures on the way they can propagate these things, I think the Region will really benefit.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that things like cashew, plantain, bananas can also do very well in Ogoja area and I do not see why certain experiments could not be carried out in the area. I hope it is not the intention of the Ministry that this huge sum of money now voted or earmarked for the Ministry of Agriculture is all going to be spent on one part of the Region.

I am appealing to Government that a substantial part of this huge sum earmarked should be spent in Ogoja—when I say Ogoja I do not mean only Ogoja Division, but I mean Ogoja Province which has been so badly neglected, and I still say that I cannot very well speak on this Ministry without feeling some serious bitterness because I think the Minister of Agriculture is only interested in clearing large tracts of forest land; what the Government is doing with these forest lands, I do not know. I would really like my remarks to be taken seriously and unless some sort of promise is given me, I still move, and leave it to the decision of the House.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed to reduce Head 427—
Ministry of Agriculture—by £100.*

Question put and negatived.

Mr J. A. Etuhube (Ikot Ekpene Division): Sir, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr S. O. Achara (Okigwi Division): Sir, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr P. O. Nwoga): Mr Chairman, I would like first of all to thank hon. Members for the keen interest they have taken in the Ministry of Agriculture in speaking on the Floor of this House. I only hope that they will take the same interest outside in their constituencies. Why I say this, Mr Chairman, is that I said here yesterday that I have toured very extensively in the Region and that I have visited almost every Division in this Region. Wherever I have been, I make sure that my Ministry contacts the hon. Members of the Division; it is only on very few occasions that I met hon. Members in their Divisions. So, I am not surprised that Members make the same old criticisms year in and year out on the Floor of this House. In every Division, we have officers. In some we have up to 24 officers, from agricultural officers to field overseers, agricultural assistants and agricultural supervisors.

An hon. Member: Doing what?

Mr Nwoga: I wonder how many hon. Members have taken the trouble to go to these people to find out what they are doing. I now refer to the main criticisms of hon. Members. I sum them up in this way: There is too much of experiments and research. The results of the experiments are not transmitted to the farmers. I can see that everybody is interested in the farmers and all activities which we undertake have been undertaken in the best interests of the farmers.

The first man to attack the Ministry in a very vicious manner was Dr Walter Onubogu. I am sorry that he is the man to say this. Dr Onubogu used to be the Minister of Natural Resources and he did say that during his visit he noticed that in the experimental farms things were not as good as those outside.

An hon. Member: As they were outside; say that.

The Minister of Agriculture: I am very much surprised that he of all men should have spoken in the vein he spoke, because he ought to have understood exactly the real significance of experiment and research. Yesterday, Mr Chairman, I did say that I would like hon.

Members to realise that research and experiments do not retard the rate of production; on the contrary they accelerate it.

Is it true that the results of our experiments are not being transmitted to benefit farmers? That is not correct. Some spoke of high yielding cocoa, high yielding oil palm, high yielding rice and all that. How many of them are farmers? How many of them have farms? Well, those of them who may claim they have, it might be the backyard cocoa or backyard cotton. Mr Chairman, the point I want to make clear is that nobody has said that the policy is not being carried out; all that they say is that our experiments do not benefit anybody. I am telling them that they do benefit people who are engaged and interested in agriculture. I have visited several farmers and I know that they are benefited. If you go to Ikom, you will find that so many farmers are interested in cocoa and are being benefited. I know of somebody who resigned his appointment as a forest officer and has taken to planting cocoa under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture. Hon. Okpokam here is interested and is being benefited. If you go round the Region you will find people who are also interested and are being benefited.

With regard to yam beetles, Sir, if Members go to Ogoni they will find that the insecticides which are distributed to the people there are destroying the beetles. Cocoa, oil palm—all the crops that have been planted now—have shown very great improvement from what they used to be, and this is the result of our experiment.

Hon. Ikoku complained about storage problems and insect pests. Yesterday when I was speaking, I made mention of W.A.S.P.R.U. This is an organisation set up to look into the problems of storage, and as I emphasised yesterday, the result of these things cannot be seen overnight. With regard to insect pests, we try to find out what is the history of the insect, the condition under which it thrives and so on. So that it is not right to say that we are not alive to our responsibilities in this respect. Something is being done to solve these problems.

Cocoa disease is also being tackled and we hold spraying demonstration in most parts of the Region.

Another thing hon. Members want done is granting of loans. This has been emphasised by every Member who has spoken on this Ministry. As you know, Sir, the E.R.D.C. is the agent of Government for the granting of loans. My Ministry does not grant loans directly to farmers. I am convinced, however, that much money—up to the tune of £181,994 has been granted by the E.R.D.C. to farmers. It is not correct to say that we do not give loans to farmers. At present we are studying whether there can be a revision of this policy, probably to earmark something specifically for farmers, though farmers have been getting loans. What is worrying us is the use to which the farmers put the money given to them. Mr Chairman, I do not like to be brutal, but I know that the money has been diverted to something else.

Some Members spoke of improving poultry and livestock in general. Again I say, if anybody is interested, let him go to our provincial farms, for example, Abak, Nkwelle in Onitsha, Owerri and Abakaliki. Let him attend our agricultural shows that we have every year and see what is happening, and judge whether there is no improvement in our poultry and piggeries. I know some Members are interested, but others are not interested in these things and they do not see what is exhibited. They think we are doing nothing. I appeal to hon. Members to be more interested when they go to these places to find out exactly what is happening.

I do not agree with hon. Agba who said I was only at the cattle ranch when I visited Obudu. He did not put in appearance when I visited the area. My visit to Obudu was not only to see the ranch but also other projects.

Hon. Ikoku, the Leader of the Opposition, spoke about the forest reserve in Enyong Division. I remember sometime last year he spoke to me about this forest reserve, and I said that we should see to this whenever I visited Enyong Division. Ever since then I have made some enquiries and I think that his complaint is that by the constitution of this forest reserve the local people have not enough land to farm on. That is his complaint. I have since discovered from the

officers of the Forest Department that the people were given land to farm in the forest reserve but they did not take the advantage. Rather they got people from other places and gave them the land. So I do not agree with the hon. Member that there is any land shortage for the people.

Mr Chairman, with regard to Forest Reserve in Obudu, Government does not simply seize people's land. The Forest Reserve Notice is published in the area concerned, and it is up to the people to come and make objections. Nobody made any objection and therefore the hon. Member is not representing the views of his people.

Mr Chairman, I hope I have replied to the points raised by hon. Members, and I am happy that nobody has said that what is contained in our policy is not being carried out.

Question, That the sum of £571,120 for Head 427—Ministry of Agriculture—stand part of the First Schedule, put and agreed to.

Sitting suspended at 10.30 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 11.00 a.m.

The Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo): Mr Chairman, I would like to make an application asking the permission of the Committee to take the two Heads of the Estimates in which I am interested. I shall be leaving for Lagos to attend a meeting of the Committee on Nigerian Citizenship which will begin on Monday. As hon. Members know, this is one of the Committees set up during the London Constitutional Conference and it is important that I should be there. I do not know how long the meeting will last but I might not be back in time. So, I am asking the Committee to be kind enough to allow debate on the two Heads today. They are Heads 424 and 435—Judicial and Ministry of Justice.

The Chairman: Is it the pleasure of the House that the two Heads be taken now?

The Committee gave leave.

Postponed Head 424.—Judicial

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £106,000 for Head 424—Judicial—stand part of the First Schedule.

The Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo): Mr Chairman, I rise to move that there should be a provision under Head 424 for an increase by the sum of £11,920 in accordance with Standing Order 66 (11). The sum of £11,920 is made up as follows: The establishment of Chief Magistrates under Sub-head 2 (1) will be increased from three to four. The provision under Sub-head 3 will be increased by the sum of £2,040 and should now read £8,160.

The establishment of First-class Clerks under Sub-head 2, item 10 will be increased from 14 to 15 and the provision therefor will be increased from £4,690 to £4,960.

The establishment of Second and Third-class Clerks under Sub-head 2, Item 11 will be reduced from 125 to 124 with a consequent reduction in provision from £23,710 to £23,560.

There will be an increase in Clerical Assistants under Sub-head 2, Item 12, from 13 to 14 with a consequent increase in their provision from £1,680 to £1,800.

A new item to be created under Sub-head 2 for twelve posts of Night-watchmen on Scale G (1) with a provision of £1,210. This will be by the reduction of the provision under Sub-head 15—Established Labour Force—from £3,100 to £1,980.

Ancillary and Other Charges, Sub-head 3—Upkeep of Chief Justice's House and Grounds will be increased from £140 to £150.

Sub-head 4—Upkeep of Judges' Houses and Grounds will be increased from £270 to £290.

Sub-head 5—Motor Basic Allowances will be increased from £6,000 to £8,800.

Sub-head 6—Local Transport and Travelling will be increased from £8,000 to £11,580.

Sub-head 7—Office and General will be increased from £750 to £850.

Sub-head 11—Fees for Counsel assigned by the Court to be increased from £600 to £2,000.

Sub-head 12—Fees for Interpreters to be increased from £240 to £300.

Sub-head 14—Inquests to be increased from £1,000 to £2,000.

Sub-head 15 to be reduced from £3,100 to £1,980.

It is proposed to have an extra Judge at a salary of £3,000 per annum. That will bring the number of Judges from six to seven and the financial position therefore will be increased from £18,000 to £21,000. The remaining, the Crown Witnesses expenses under Sub-head 9, is another statutory expenditure. It is proposed to increase the expenditure from £5,000 to £8,000.

I do not think I need worry hon. Members of the House with the need for an increase in the number of Judges. The two Judges have stressed very strongly on the inadequacy of the number of Judges in the Region with consequent disorganisation of the work in the courts, and I hope Members will be happy to hear that there is a move to increase the number of Judges in order to help the efficient administration of the country.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Mr J. M. Ito (Ikot Ekpene Division): Mr Chairman, I would like to say a few words on this item. I see that there is a great omission and in my own case I have already put a question sometime ago. The Magistrates' court is being now encircled by the new hospital. There has been an inflation of water the pipe of which is developing engine trouble. This is also very close to the Magistrates' court. It would be more essential for this court to be removed to a more quiet place where the Magistrate could concentrate very much on cases. I feel that on this there has been nothing mentioned in the Estimates.

I have also to talk about the increase of staff in Ikot Ekpene Magistrate Court. I have to draw the attention of the Attorney-General to that fact. I see that we are suffering a great deal because of shortage of staff. Most of the cases would not come up in time because we have not got a bailiff to distribute the writs. The

bailiff in our Division is doing that of Enyong Division as well as that of Abak and other places. I see that some of these things are not going on as they should. So it will be better if additional staff is added to that area.

I also observe that a lot of inconvenience is being suffered by witnesses. In fact, when we get to the court, there are no seats provided for witnesses and there are no seats also for lawyers. The whole place is congested because there is no sufficient accommodation for lawyers and they have to pack together like sardines. So the situation needs improvement and in particular provision of more seats and accommodation for lawyers. I should suggest as a way out that a rest house or small building be put up to serve as a place where witnesses could remain until they are wanted by the Magistrate.

With these few words, I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Achara (Okigwi Division): Mr Chairman, I have this important point to make on this Head. The first one is about the salary of members of County Appeal Courts and Grade A Courts. I honestly consider, Sir, that the purpose . . .

Mr Ajegbo: Point of Order, Sir. Customary Courts come under Ministry of Justice.

Mr Achara: So sorry. Thank you.

Rev. M. D. Opara (Owerri Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have a few words to say on this Head, and that is on what we call charge and bail in many Divisions. There are many people who go about collecting money and spoiling the names of our Magistrates. They collect the money and tell the people that they are going to see the Magistrate on their behalf. When they collect the money I am not sure that they give the money to the Magistrate. But immediately they get out of the place, they say: "I have seen the Magistrate". I only want the Attorney-General to warn the Magistrates to be more precautions of these people. We are going towards independence. It is not good for us to feel that our Magistrates are corrupt. These people are irresponsible, and the Police should always charge them. They loiter about the Court premises and ask anybody who comes to the Court: "What can I do for you? I know how to see the Magistrate".

The Attorney-General should warn the Magistrates about these people and endeavour to have them brought to book.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I just want to comment on the number of Judges and Chief Magistrates in the Eastern Region as compared with the Western Region. The Attorney-General, Sir, has asked us to increase the number of Judges here from 6 to 7. May I draw your attention to the fact that in the Western Region, up to last year, they had nine Judges, and bearing in mind our population, which is 7.3 million as against 6.2 million in the Western Region, I think the position in the Eastern Region is not good enough. Also, Sir, the number of Chief Magistrates. The Attorney-General has asked us to increase from 3 to 4, but up to last year in the Western Region, they had 5 Chief Magistrates. Now, I am more concerned with the question of Chief Magistrates. In Calabar Province, we have only one Chief Magistrate who is stationed at Calabar. The bulk of the cases are done in Uyo and Ikot Ekpene, and I do not see why a Chief Magistrate should not be appointed and posted to Uyo.

Sir, in the Eastern Region we have only two grades of Magistrates—Magistrates and Chief Magistrates. But in the West there is provision for the post of Senior Magistrate. It is rather trying to expect our Magistrate to run up the ladder for a number of years before he becomes a Chief Magistrate. I wonder if Government would not consider creating this post of Senior Magistrate. Not all our Magistrates in the next five or ten years would climb to the post of Chief Magistrate. But if they knew that they had an intermediate post, namely, the post of Senior Magistrate, to aspire to, that would be an encouragement to them.

I observe too that we make financial provision for three Justices of the Peace in the Region; but Government has appointed all Administrative Officers in the Region as J.P.s. I do not know what deference there is between the J.P.s provided for under this Head and these Administrative Officers who are made J.P.s.

Sorry, Sir, my attention has been drawn to the fact that we provided for three J.P.s last year, but this year we are not providing any

[MR E. O. EYO]

vote for the posts. I just do not know what is the idea behind Government's proposal to appoint all Administrative Officers in the Eastern Region as Justices of the Peace. Sir, all over the Region it is considered that the post of Justice of the Peace is very essential. We used to understand our Justices of the Peace to be people who sat and heard such minor cases as traffic offences, etc. But now that all Administrative Officers have been appointed Justices of the Peace I do not know whether it is proposed that they too will hear similar cases. Our point, Sir, is that we are very much in favour of the old system whereby eminent personalities in the Region were appointed Justices of the Peace.

Now, Government has not given any heed to the suggestion which we have been making from time to time in this House, that is, placing Magistrates on a higher salary. Our view, Sir, is that if you allow a Magistrate to look on somebody for promotion or increments with his poor salary you can hardly reconcile that with the principle that the post of Magistrate is such that will not expose the holder to the temptation of being corrupt. I, therefore, think, Sir, that it is high time the salaries of these Magistrates were raised. It is true that most of the good lawyers do not agree to accept appointments to the post of Magistrate. How can even a second-rate lawyer accept appointment as Magistrate on £1,000 per annum when he can make up to £2,000 or more in a year? Let Government say something on this question this time.

The Chairman: May I remind Members that we are finishing this Head today and we have only 20 minutes within which to deal with other Heads. So will Members be very brief in their speeches.

Mr C. A. Abangwu (Nsukka Division): Mr Chairman, the point I would like to refer to under this Head is about Magistrates. I notice that there has been no increase in the number of Magistrates in this financial year. Last year we had twenty-three Magistrates and this year we still have provision for twenty-three Magistrates. I notice also that the three Justices of the Peace are apparently not provided for in this year's Estimates. Owing to the introduction of the Customary Courts system a number of appeals now lie before the Magistrates. This has automatically increased

the volume of work being done by the Magistrates. It is, therefore, surprising that in view of these reasons the number of Magistrates has not been increased commensurate with the amount of work which has now devolved upon them. I am, therefore, hoping that the Ministry of Justice will look into this matter with a view to increasing substantially the number of Magistrates so as to cope with the volume of work.

Another point, Sir, is the question of Court buildings. Even in Enugu here, which is the Headquarters of this Region, it is surprising that no change has taken place in Court buildings. Turning to the Estimates for the 1959-1962 Development Programme no provision has been made for the building of Magistrates Courts in the Regional Headquarters and in the Divisional Headquarters.

The present Magistrates Court buildings at Enugu is made up of an old army building with timber walls and is just not befitting the Magistrates Court in the Regional Headquarters. I am, therefore, suggesting to the Minister of Justice that an adequate building suitable to house all the Magistrates and befitting the Regional Headquarters should be put up. I have looked up the 1959-62 Development Programme and also the Estimates for the present financial year but have not been able to see any provision made for these buildings.

I also notice that the new High Court which was built and opened, I think, last year has only one court hall—only a single court hall, whereas, in point of fact, we have three Judges in Enugu. The result is that when the three Judges are sitting we have to find temporary buildings for them, whereas we have a large ground upon which the three Courts could have been properly put up. It has also been the wish of Members that each of the Administrative Divisions should have a Magistrate posted there. Each of the Administrative Divisions should therefore have a Magistrates Court. At present Magistrates are obliged to make use of Native Court halls not infrequently without ceilings, with the result that about noon Magistrates find it difficult to continue to work in such buildings. I think that the time has come when a Magistrate should not only be posted to each of the Administrative Divisions but also a separate Magistrates Court building should be provided for each of these areas.

I also support the point raised by my hon. Friend Mr Ito, when he suggested that there should be a bailiff for each of the Administrative Divisions. At the moment there are not bailiffs in all Administrative Divisions. When a summons is issued and sent to such a Division it becomes the duty of the Police to serve such summons; but the Police are not versed in the art of serving summonses. When a case is therefore called up in Court the Judge or the Magistrate finds out that although it is mentioned that a summons has been served, no person has actually signed as having received such a summons, and the whole court proceedings may be held up because of that. I looked into the Estimates and found that there are no provisions for these bailiffs and I hope that the Minister will take this into serious advisement.

Another point, Sir, is about the salaries of Magistrates; that is, that Magistrates should not be running incremental scales because there is the tendency of making some of them either to work hard or not to work hard, or to have some sort of allegiance. Once a Magistrate is appointed he should be placed on a fixed salary and then if it is found necessary to promote him, he goes over to another fixed salary; and Magistrates should be placed on scales which will be able to attract better lawyers.

The next point I would like to make, Sir, is about Customary Courts.

Mr Ajegbo: The hon. Member should not be dealing with the question of Customary Courts.

The Chairman: Yes, I agree with you.

Mr O. Arikpo (Obubra Division): I would like to bring to the notice of the Attorney-General—and it is a point which the hon. Member for Orlu has already made here some time ago—the large accumulation of civil cases in Magistrates' Courts. The efficiency of Magistrates is derived by the number of criminal cases tried in the Court and not those regarding civil matters. I want to suggest to the Attorney-General to see whether arrangements have now been made for all civil works to be taken over by Chief Magistrates. The criminal jurisdiction of Chief Magistrates and

Magistrates overlap considerably, and if these Magistrates were made to carry out the functions of County Court Judges in England, I think the civil side of the administration of justice in this Region should be considerably improved.

The Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo): Mr Chairman, I just want to answer briefly the points made by hon. Members. I must say I am very grateful for some of the points made.

I shall start with hon. Ito. I have not had the opportunity of visiting the Court he mentioned and I can assure him that we shall do everything we can to improve upon the place.

An hon. Member: How? To build a new one?

Mr Ajegbo: Yes, to build a new Court.

As to the increase in staff, that matter is already receiving attention. I am in consultation with the hon. the Chief Justice, and we shall endeavour to increase the staff in the Courts.

As to the question of charge and bail which Rev. the hon. M. D. Opara mentioned, that is a matter that affects the conscience of both the public and the Magistrates and I think here we have a responsibility. It is the duty of every decent citizen to make his voice heard to stop the corruption in our courts. It is the people who corrupt the Magistrates and if we can by public denunciation kill this question of charge and bail, I think everyone will be happy. I will also take it up but I am appealing to Members of the House to see what they can do in that direction.

The hon. the Opposition Chief Whip made a point about the number of Judges in the West. I can only remind him that in the North, there are only four Judges.

An hon. Member: We do not want comparison with the North.

Mr Ajegbo: We are doing our best and as and when we see fit, depending on the financial position of the Region, we will see what we can do in that direction.

[MR AJEGBO]

Another point he raised was about Senior Magistrates. I do not think it is the wish of both the hon. the Chief Justice and myself that we should copy the example in the West. We are making our own arrangements to see that the Magistrates are paid well but I do not think we will adopt the method of the Western Region in that direction.

Hon. Eyo again queried the number of J.P.s in the Region. I can only remind him that according to the London Constitutional Conference, it was decided that these Justices of the Peace should be appointed by the Judicial Service Commission; and that is what we have done. They have always been Justices of the Peace—these Administrative Officers—and we have now tried to regularise the procedure of their appointment. We now make them to be appointed by the Judicial Service Commission.

An hon. Member: What do they do ?

Mr Ajegbo: It seems there is little apprehension about the three Justices of the Peace provided in the Estimates. If you look at the previous Estimates, you will find that no salaries had been attached all the time. They are temporary J.P.s and they have always been paid. The posts have not been abolished. We are just following the old procedure whereby no salaries are marked down for J.P.s.

As for the Enugu High Court, that is receiving attention. On the bailiffs, they are part of the Police and if you look into the Federal Estimates I am sure you will find that they are provided for under the Head for the Police.

I am very grateful to hon. Arikpo for reminding me about the point made by hon. Ihekwoaba some time ago about the accumulation of civil cases in the Magistrates' Courts. His suggestion is noted and I think something will be done in that direction.

Question proposed, That an increased sum of £117,920 for Head 424—Judicial—be inserted in the First Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Heads 428 to 434 postponed.

Head 435.—Ministry of Justice

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £50,290 for Head 435—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the First Schedule.

The Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo): The Ministry of Justice has made great strides in recent times. Since I took over the Ministry as the Minister in charge, the Ministry has been completely reorganised. At present we have four divisions and a fifth one is being added. The four divisions are as follows.—

(1) *The Legal Division:* Which deals purely with civil matters and legal advice to Ministries. This serves as a sort of clearing house. It gives legal advice to all Ministries and is responsible for all matters, other than criminal, in the Ministry. It is regrettable that for years this Region has not been able to recruit the services of a qualified Legal Draftsman. The result is that I have to do the bulk of this work myself. It has made it difficult for me, therefore, to fulfil other important engagements. Serious efforts are being made to recruit a Legal Draftsman and I am hoping that by the time we meet again I shall be able to announce that a qualified Legal Draftsman has been employed to serve in the Ministry of Justice. We are also looking ahead. Very soon a Law Officer who has shown interest in this type of legal work will leave for the United Kingdom to be trained as a legal draftsman. It is not the type of work that appeals to the average legal practitioner. The Secretary of State has been good enough to get a reputable firm to undertake the training and the trainee will leave any time now.

(2) *The Prosecution Division:* This division deals purely with criminal matters. It is proposed to strengthen this division by employing more Law Officers so as to ensure that prosecutions within the Region are controlled and supervised by Law Officers.

(3) *The Administrative Division:* This is the central section of the Ministry where administrative business is transacted. Meanwhile, it is headed by an Assistant Secretary.

(4) *The Customary Courts Division:* The fourth division is the Customary Courts which is transferring to the Ministry of Justice. This is a difficult division about which my staff and

I am a bit tremulous but I am confident we shall overcome any obstacle that may confront us.

As was indicated in the Speech from the Throne, the Solicitor-General acts as the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Justice. He assists me in advising the Government and in the performance of my other duties. He is the civil head of the Ministry and he is responsible to me in the discharge of his functions. More work has devolved on the Ministry as a result of constitutional changes that have taken place. We are going to have two more additional Senior Crown Counsel, bringing the total number to three. Provision has been made also to recruit more Law Officers in order to cope with the tax cases and tax appeals which keep pouring in from various Divisions in the Region.

I have to mention one other division which is coming into being soon. It is the division for Law Revision. We are going to have a Commissioner for Law Revision. Efforts are being made to recruit the services of a man of first-class ability to do this job. Our Laws are overdue for revision and if we waited a little longer the state of our Laws might become chaotic.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Minister of State Charged with Responsibility for Customary Courts and the Appointment and Recognition of Chiefs (Mr R. O. Iwuagwu): Mr Chairman, hon. Members are aware that the responsibility for Customary Courts has now been transferred to the Ministry of Justice. All matters relating to Customary Courts should henceforth be directed to the hon. Attorney-General.

Since the sitting of the last Budget Session, Customary Courts have been established in some Divisions. Arrangements have almost been completed for the establishment of Customary Courts in the rest of the Divisions.

You are aware of the magnitude of the preliminary work that is necessary before these courts could be established on a sound basis. This is one of the reasons why we have not rushed through the establishment of these courts in the Region. Before the end of this financial year every Division in this Region must have Customary Courts.

Registrars: It takes time to train the Registrars of the Customary Courts. The training of Registrars is conducted at the Community Development Centre at Awgu under the supervision of the Customary Courts Adviser. 166 Registrars have been trained in the whole Region. We are still holding Refresher Courses for these Registrars at Awgu. The Customary Courts Law, 1956, and the Customary Courts Rules, 1957, with all the amendments up to 31st December, 1958, have been compiled and bound into a volume. They are very handy and simple, and they serve as a good guide to Registrars, court members and other persons both litigants and otherwise, who are interested in the Customary Courts. The bound volume is 1s 9d, and is obtainable at the Government Press, Enugu.

Membership of Customary Courts: The appointment of members of the Customary Courts is not made on a representative or a sectional basis. It has always been stated that the policy of this Government is that any teacher, councillor, or legislator (including, of course, a member of the proposed House of Chiefs) who is appointed a member of the Customary Court cannot sit as such a member, unless he resigns his appointment as teacher, councillor or legislator.

Hon. J. A. Agba, Member for Obudu Division, when speaking on the Motion of Thanks ably proposed by the Government Chief Whip for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne criticised the way the court members are appointed. He said that some Chiefs had already paid bribes to certain people in order to enter into the Customary Courts. The hon. Member has the police to lodge his complaint for prosecution. However, Mr Chairman, this Government has not encouraged and will not condone any act of bribery and corruption anywhere in this Region if a genuine case is brought to its notice. But any wild allegation will not be welcomed at all. Any Chief, who is known to indulge himself in bribery and corruption will not be considered fit to be appointed a ruler of his people because a corrupt leader will bring up corrupt followers.

Hon. S. G. Ikoku, Member for Enyong Division, said that the Chiefs who know the customs and traditions are being elbowed out of the Customary Courts. This is untrue.

[MR IWUAGWU]

The position is that the Customary Courts' Law, 1956, provides amongst other things that the President of the Customary Court shall be literate in the English Language. Hon. Members will now see that illiterate persons whether young or old may be appointed a member of the Customary Courts.

And it being 11.45 a.m. the Chairman interrupted the business and left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report progress: To sit again on Monday, 27th April, 1959.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn.

May I remind hon. Members that the general meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be held after the adjournment. That means that every Member of this hon. House will be meeting in this Chamber immediately after the adjournment.

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned, accordingly, at thirteen minutes to twelve o'clock noon.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 27th April, 1959

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker: During the present sitting a number of printed papers has been delivered to the House and distributed to Members and deemed to have been laid upon the Table pursuant to Standing Order 10 (1). They are:—

- (1) Annual Report 1956–57 Eastern Region, Volume I.
- (2) Annual Report—Leprosy Service Research Unit, 1958.

Ordered: That the said Papers do lie upon the Table.

REPORT FROM A SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr M. U. Etuk (Uyo Division): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of this hon. House the report of the Public Accounts Committee No. 1 of 1959.

Ordered: That the said Report do lie upon the Table.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Capital Grants to Voluntary Agency
Hospitals

53. Mr S. T. Akpan asked the Minister of Health, whether Government will give consideration in this financial year to the restoration of Capital Grants to Voluntary Agency Hospitals in order to enable the Hospital Authorities to provide better and more accommodation for the members of their African Staff, if not, why.

The Minister of Health: The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Head 801 Sub-head 115 of the Draft 1959–60 Estimates which shows a provision of £10,000 for capital grants to Voluntary Agency Hospitals.

E.R.D.C.

84 Mr J. E. Eyo asked the Minister of Production, whether he is aware that politics has been

introduced into the E.R.D.C. service especially in Uyo Division, resulting in victimising and antagonising opponents; what steps is the Minister taking to reinstate the victims of the situation and to restore the *status quo*.

The Minister of Production: I am unaware that politics has been introduced into the E.R.D.C. service. In fact, it is more correct to say that freedom from political interference in staff matters in the E.R.D.C. has been absolute. The Board of the Corporation has delegated to the management the handling of junior staff and each and every discharge for any reason is considered individually by the General Manager. The statement that there has been victimisation in Uyo lacks, to my knowledge, substantiation and facts to support the assertion. As regards Senior Staff, all discipline is in the hands of the Board of the Corporation itself and for the information of the hon. Member the only member of the staff discharged who is of Ibibio origin resigned of his own accord.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Will the hon. Minister be good enough to call upon the hon. Member to substantiate the allegation against the people of Uyo Division?

The Minister of Production: I regret this is not my duty.

Palm Oil Market Prices

87. Mr S. O. Achara asked the Minister of Production, why are the prices paid to producers of palm oil and palm kernels in the Eastern Region lower than those paid to their counterparts in the Western Region, bearing in mind that the Marketing Boards in both Regions sell their produce to the same oversea buyers; what steps is the Minister taking to remedy this anomaly.

The Minister of Production: The hon. Member is aware of the debates that have taken place on this subject and for his benefit I quote an extract from the speech which I made to the House on Wednesday 15th April, 1959:

“The Eastern Region Marketing Board is pursuing a policy of sound economic price for its produce based on a world market price, and existing prices have been fixed with that over-all policy in mind.

[DR OKPARA]

Our intention has been to increase the quality of Special Grade Palm Oil. This has been very successful and this Region produces between 80 to 90 per cent of total production of high grade oil. The Eastern Region Marketing Board fixes its prices based on the advice of economic experts who are qualified in the marketing of palm oil, seeds and fat. The world market for oil and kernels is the governing factor in fixing prices in the Eastern Region. As we are now producing a large quantity of the finest oil we could only support a price above the world market price at a great loss to the Marketing Board Finances. The Western Region which produces so little special oil might well be able to support its price at a higher level. Acting on the same principle it should be remembered that this Region is paying £25 more per ton than the Western Region for its cocoa in order to boost the production of cocoa."

Mr E. O. Eyo: Is it a fact that a large bulk of cocoa produced in the Eastern Region comes from Bende Division?

Several hon. Members: That question is irrelevant.

Mr Akpan: It is a supplementary question.

BILL PRESENTED

Sports Commission

Bill to amend the Eastern Region Sports Commission Law, 1955, presented by the Minister of Welfare, Mr E. A. Chime, read the First time; to be read a Second time tomorrow.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Sir, I beg to move that the following be members of the Committee of Selection of the Eastern House of Assembly for the Session 1959-60 pursuant to Standing Order 54:—

Mr M. E. Ogon.
Mr. K. J. N. Okpokam.
Mr N. O. Onwudiwe.
Mr A. J. Ekpe.

Chief I. I. Morphy.
Mr S. O. Achara.

The Minister of Transport (Mr P. O. Ururuka): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Speaker, our only complaint is that for years the Committees of the House appointed by the Committee of Selection with the exception of the Standing Orders Committee which met recently and the Public Accounts Committee, all the other Committees have not been meeting. I have in mind the House Committee.

Now, Sir, this Committee must meet this time because it is necessary for decisions to be taken on a number of matters. It is a pity, Sir, that even though the Committee of Selection under Standing Order 54 is to be appointed at the commencement of every Session, Government has not thought it wise to do so. The point is that if we set up a Committee of Selection today, I presume that the Committee will meet and appoint other Committees; but, Sir, those Committees will not be able to meet during the sitting of the House or when the House adjourns until you give your permission, and one would imagine that it would be easier for you to give permission that these Committees should sit while the House is sitting rather than allow Members to come from long distances in order to sit.

It looks as though it will be a waste of time for the Committee of Selection to nominate people into the Statutory Corporations Committee under Standing Order 59 because the recent amendment to our Standing Orders makes it impossible, I think—and I think that is what the Government wanted—to allow Members of the House to come upon a substantive Motion to debate any aspect of the Public Corporations. If that is correct, then it will be a waste of the Members' time if there is any attempt to appoint Members into the Statutory Corporations Committee.

If I may reiterate, Sir, when Members are appointed into the House Committee, we want this Committee to sit because we have so many matters affecting the comfort of the Members of the House which we hope the Committee will look into.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Speaker, Sir, may I speak on the two points now raised. First, the Chief Whip of the Opposition is wondering whether this is the beginning of the Session. Of course, it is the beginning of the Session; the Session lasts the whole year, and the Budget Meeting is the beginning of the Session so that we are still covered by the provision under Standing Order 54.

The other point is his reference to Standing Order 59, Statutory Corporations Committee. I do not think for a moment, Sir, that the recent amendment to our Standing Orders precludes the appointment of Members to Statutory Corporations Committee. All that the former amendment did was to preclude Members from coming here to debate the functions and day-to-day business of the Statutory Corporations. There is nothing to preclude this House from establishing a Statutory Corporations Committee which may, if the House requests, look into any aspect of the work of the Statutory Corporations.

Question put and agreed to.

Ordered: That the following be members of the Committee of Selection of the Eastern House of Assembly for the Session 1959-60 pursuant to Standing Order 54:

Mr M. E. Ogon.
Mr K. J. N. Okpokam.
Mr N. O. Onwudiwe.
Mr A. J. Ekpe.
Chief I. I. Morphy.
Mr S. O. Achara.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The 1959-60 Eastern Region Appropriation Bill

(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY)

Considered in Committee of Supply (Progress 24th April).

Head 435.—Ministry of Justice

Question again proposed, That a sum not exceeding £50,290 for Head 435.—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the First Schedule.

The Minister of State charged with Responsibility for Customary Courts and the Appointment and Recognition of Chiefs (Mr R. O. Iwuagwu): Mr Chairman, I was going to say before the House adjourned its sitting last Friday that, where Customary Courts have already been established, both literate and illiterate persons have been appointed to the membership of those courts. Every effort has been made by me through the press, the radio and other means to inform the public that the appointment of court members is the responsibility of the Minister charged with the responsibility for Customary Courts, and that the Minister has not delegated that power to any member of the public.

Hon. G. I. Oko, M.B.E., Member for Awgu Division, remarked that there was need for a Commission of Inquiry to look into the method adopted when appointing the Customary Court members in his Division, Awgu, on account of political bias. What the hon. Member meant by political bias is not clear to me. Is he critical about the method of appointment because he was not asked to appoint court members for me? Section 4 of the Customary Courts Law of 1956 empowers the Minister charged with the responsibility for Customary Courts to appoint court members. The appointments were based, of course, after consultation, on a list submitted by each Administrative Officer of a Division and the chosen members were the best amongst the former court members of the Division before the Customary Courts system was introduced. It is a fact, however, that certain persons in some parts of this Region for reasons that are obvious did organise protests because all the candidates of their choice did not get the appointment. Hon. Members will remember the story of a hungry fox and the sour grapes. Why were the grapes described as sour? The answer suggests itself.

Efforts are being made to appoint lawyers as Assistant Customary Courts Advisers, and in fact, before this Budget Meeting adjourns, about four Assistant Customary Courts Advisers will have been appointed. It is proposed that some of these Assistant Customary Courts Advisers are to be posted in the provinces to supervise the day to day working of these courts.

Mr Chairman, hon. Members will agree with me that this is a sure way of obtaining

[MR IWUAGWU]

maximum degree of achievement in our courts. It is also a means of collecting materials for the codification of our Native Laws and Customs.

Instructions have been issued to the Customary Courts requesting them to give priority to the hearing and determination of tax and rate cases. This, no doubt, has given a great impetus to the drive to collect taxes and rates in the Region.

Since the proposal to establish a House of Chiefs in the Eastern Region was announced, innumerable installations of Chiefs by unauthorised persons have been made in this Region. It is not uncommon now to find a group of people here and there, even people of one family, installing one of their number a Chief and asking Government to recognise him as a Chief of the whole clan or town. In the same degree hundreds of individual aspirants send in applications asking to be given the "Post of Chiefs" as they term it, as if it were a civil service job. As a result of all this scrambling for chieftaincy titles and recognition, serious situations have arisen which need tact and courage to meet.

Hon. Members know as well as I do that in the Eastern Region today a thousand and one chieftaincy disputes are on. It is quite evident that the sole cause of all these claims and counter-claims is the Chiefs' ambition to have places either in the proposed House of Chiefs or in the District Councils as traditional rulers. It is unfortunate to note that some of these disputes have reached such magnitude as nearly to result in a serious breach of the peace. In any case, it is encouraging to note that Government has not rested complacently over these troubles but has stepped in to deal with the more serious of them in order to find a solution. In the interest of peace and order, Government will in the very near future and as soon as administrative convenience permits look into these multifarious cases outstanding and give each the attention it deserves.

It should be the duty of every hon. Member who has the progress of this Region at heart to help Government in educating the masses especially the illiterate ones as to the real aim of Government in undertaking to give the

Chiefs and other natural rulers a place in the Government of the Region. It is well known to all that Government is liberally democratic and would wish as many of the indigenous people as possible to share in the Government of the people. Unfortunately it has been alleged that some Members of the Opposition have arrogated to themselves the right of helping to instal Chiefs indiscriminately with the sole purpose of causing confusion and bad blood among the members of the community and thereby achieving their own selfish ends.

Hon. Members may be shocked to hear that there is a strong allegation that one hon. Member of the Opposition side started on the 18th of January, 1959, to issue uniforms and caps to certain Chiefs, deceitfully informing them that it was a sign that this Government has recognised them and would eventually inject them into the proposed House of Chiefs and into the Local Councils. It is further alleged that for a set of these uniforms and caps issued the Chiefs are asked to collect £13 from each village in payment for them. This act is being done under the guise that Government has ordered it.

The most irritating aspect of the story is that by the direction of the supplier of these uniforms the Chiefs distribute them to certain persons who go about certain parts of the Division committing acts of intimidation and fraud.

I am appealing to the hon. Member concerned to desist from going on with this irresponsible and fraudulent act.

In conclusion, hon. Members should make their constituencies realise that the recognition and appointment of traditional rulers is not designed to give absolute power to the Chiefs over the ordinary citizen. Instead it is designed to keep the people, even though they live in the remotest parts of the Region, in touch with their Government. Unnecessary scrambling will instead of making things easy, deter the progress of Government by creating tension here and there.

Turning again to the question of Court members, their minimum number in each District Court is five and the maximum is seven.

For the County Courts the number is five. Their sitting fees are as follows:—

	£
(a) President of the District Court	96 p.a.
(b) Member of the District Court	72 p.a.
(c) President of the County Court	120 p.a.
(d) Member of the County Court	84 p.a.

(Interruptions)

The Chairman: I think hon. Members will agree with me that there has been a lot of disorder in this House. It is our duty to set a good example to people who are sitting in the galleries. More especially, there are times when distinguished visitors from various parts of the world come to this House to hear our debates and we are expected to give them a correct impression of parliamentary debates.

Mr S. O. Achara (Okigwi Division): Mr Chairman, before going to the two points which I propose to raise under this Head, let me take this opportunity to say that it seems to me that the Minister of State charged with responsibility for Customary Courts . . .

The Chairman: Are you moving a motion?

Mr Achara: Yes, Sir, I am speaking to the policy of this Head.

The Chairman: Not moving yet, but you will come to the amendment later on ?

Mr Achara: Yes, Sir.

As I was saying, Sir, it seems to me that the Minister has been wrongly informed about the position of the Opposition in this House. During our five weeks' tour last year, we discovered to the contrary that they were supporters of the N.C.N.C. who went round gambling with these so-called Chiefs and Customary Courts members, collecting money from them and intimidating them. Those of them who had the courage to attend our meetings were later on intimidated; they were told that except they apologised in a satisfactory manner to these so-called N.C.N.C. members their prospects of being appointed either as Chiefs in this Region or as Customary Courts members were in great danger. In fact, I did not

the Government of the masses which intends expect the Minister to have been so misled. As a matter of fact, he is a man of proved integrity and one of those Ministers for whom we have the highest regard in this Region. I am not trying to flatter him, for I am saying it with sincerity and truth. That is why I say he was misled into reading this speech. The trouble of this nature started with members of the Government party, who went all over the Region installing Chiefs. In fact, there was one who was installed in our Division last year and you know the trouble that it brought. On the question of going round to collect people who would become members of the Eastern House of Chiefs and Customary Courts, I would say that this Opposition is too responsible to indulge in that type of practice.

Mr Chairman, coming to the two points which I had originally intended to raise under this Head, the first, Sir, is the salary approved by the Minister for members of both the County Appeal Courts and the District Courts. To say the least, Sir, the salary of £7 a month for members of these Appeal Courts, and the salary of £8 a month for the Presidents of the District Courts, are out of all proportion to the responsibilities they are expected to discharge. Sir, we who are Members of this House should make sure that all classes of workers receive adequate pay for the work they perform. These are the people who are responsible for dispensing justice, and in view of the black record of the former N.A. Courts, it is the duty of Government to make sure that we do not aid in any way anything that will tend to make the administration of justice impossible.

The salary of £6 for a court member who sits throughout the whole year in court is very low, Sir. There is no doubt that these court members with such a meagre salary will fall easy victims to bribery. I am aware of the fact, Sir, that somebody whose stock-in-trade is bribery and corruption will continue in that practice, no matter how much you pay him, but you will agree with me that there is a kind of salary you will pay to somebody and he will not abuse his office, especially so when the office is as important as that of the court member. A salary of £6, Sir, is therefore out of proportion to what should normally be paid to these members. This Government, Sir, if I am not mistaken, claims to be a welfare Government. It claims to be

[MR ACHARA]
to make the working classes happy. I am therefore appealing seriously to Government to substantially increase the salaries of these court members.

For each court member to be able to discharge his duties without bribery and corruption, I am suggesting a salary of £15 a month. This will be fair enough for them. Similarly, Sir, the salaries of the members of the County Appeal Courts should substantially be increased. The salaries paid to these members at present are very unworthy of the responsibilities which they are called upon to discharge.

The other point, Sir, is that in 1957 the Minister of Justice toured extensively in this Region and assured the Region that all members of these courts will be literate people who will be able to record the proceedings of the courts and who will not be deceived by the court clerks as was the practice in the old Native Administration Courts. It would now appear, Sir, that in some cases, illiterate members have been appointed to preside over these courts. Maybe the Minister does not know about this but the object of bringing it to the notice of the House is to enable him to investigate and see that the members appointed are literate persons who will be able to record the proceedings of the courts. Such people will also be able to render accounts to the Minister of the efficient administration of the courts. In the old Native Administration Courts, it was not uncommon to find court clerks recording different judgments from what the illiterate court members decided. It was not also uncommon for them to twist the questions and answers in the courts to suit their own purposes. The object of the reformed courts is to make sure that the members will be entirely responsible for the proper recording of proceedings in the courts. I am appealing to Government to see that the illiterate members are replaced by literate ones.

Finally, I wish to appeal to Government to see that Customary Courts are introduced in all the Divisions of the Region.

An hon. Member: It takes time.

Mr Achara: I know it takes time.

The more we delay the appointment of these court members the better for those Chief-makers because some of them in the Government Bench take special delight in installing themselves Chiefs. When we criticise what we call the frivolous installation of Chiefs we should show the example by not installing ourselves as Chiefs. Investigation will show that Members of this House have been installing themselves Chiefs at the expense of the natural rulers in their Divisions and you have a lot of confusion going on. I hope that the Minister will begin his investigation from his Ministry.

Mr Chairman, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr G. I. Oko, M.B.E. (Awgu Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to clarify the point which the hon. Minister of State charged with responsibility for Customary Courts made this morning. I want to say, Sir, that the point which the hon. Minister wants to know something about is not far to seek. It is still the opinion of the people of Awgu South in Awgu Division that the appointment of County Court members in Awgu Division was outside the conditions laid down by his Ministry—they were not consulted. If they were consulted, I would like to know on what basis the consultations were made. The appointment was not based on population.

The second point is that Awgu Division is made up of two District Councils as we know it today. The small village of Achi with a population of 18,000 people is now constituted to be a District Council. Sir, with the appointment of County Court Members this small village of Achi has three seats whereas the rest of Awgu Division with a population of over 13,000 has only two seats. I do not know whether the hon. Minister knows this fact before saying that the appointment was not influenced by political bias. We of Awgu South still demand that a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to know how the members of Awgu County Courts were appointed and what justifies their appointment.

I do not believe, Sir, that the appointment was based on the population of the Division. If the appointment was based on education, we would like to know whether those appointed from Achi clan are better educated. If it was

I still say that in fairness to the members of Awgu Division the Minister of State charged with responsibility for Customary Courts should investigate this matter carefully, if possible by a judicial commission of inquiry.

The second point, about which I want to know from the hon. Minister is the matter of Court building for Awgu Division. In the Development Programme, Sir, I saw the allocation made for buildings for Courts in Onitsha and other areas. I want to take this opportunity to say, Sir, that in Awgu Magistrates sit in a locally built house. Government has no vote in these Estimates to provide a court building at Awgu. I appeal to the Minister to make provision for this.

Rev. M. D. Opara (Owerri Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want only to speak on this Customary Courts provision in this Bill. We recently got circulars from the Ministry of Local Government and are surprised that it gives some traditional members to our Local Council. I wish to know how we are going to appoint these traditional members since the Customary Court has not been introduced in our area. I would like the Minister to do his very best to see that the Customary Court is introduced in our area (the Owerri Division) as soon as possible, in order to enable us to select the remaining people and send them to the Council; because I do not know—I have a doubt too—whether somebody could be a member of a Customary Court and at the same time be a traditional member in the Council.

Another thing I want to say, Sir, is about the pay. The salary to be paid to these Chiefs is very small. We appreciate this more if we compare these boys who just only passed Standard Six and are paid a minimum salary of five pounds, with these people who have so many children, some of them in secondary schools and others in primary schools to be paid £6. Formerly they were just selected for about two, three, or four months as the case may be in some areas, and they had their own time for farming or doing any other job. Now it is a permanent job. I think, Sir, it is a bit ridiculous to say that a Chief receives £6 or £7 a month.

An hon. Member: Not a Chief; a Court Member.

Rev. Opara: Generally anybody, Mr Chairman, who happens to be selected by the Government to go to the Court is called a Chief. If he is a Chief and is a Court Member, well, all people always go to him for advice. Therefore he is a judge. What I am saying, Mr Chairman, is that the Government should consider the salary of these people and their status. It is not, in my own opinion, very nice to pay them this meagre salary. This brings bribery and corruption. I suggest about £10 for the members and about £15 for the President; they must be paid reasonable salaries to make them fit for their jobs.

Then what of County Customary Court members? They hold greater responsibility because of appeal cases. I am not going to mention it but I think the Minister himself should know that the amount to be paid to them should be commensurate with their responsibility. I should like the Government to consider it seriously. My people of Owerri have mentioned that it is now overdue for us to get our Customary Courts. We must move ahead with other Divisions at the time when customary courts are being introduced in various Divisions.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Chief G. N. Agbasiere (Orlu Division): Mr Chairman, I rise to thank the Minister of State. He is a God-fearing and righteous Minister. I hope that he will not be removed from his office and that he will continue even for 20 or 30 years. Mr Chairman, I am surprised that hon. Members come here to discuss fees or salaries of which they know nothing. They have not been court members. I have been a court member for 26 years before I resigned.

Mr Chairman, I do not know whether these people who come here to criticise the Minister are people who collect money from certain individuals hoping to make them court members and when they fail to carry out their promises, they come here to criticise the Minister. When I was a court member, I was paid £3 per month which is £36 per annum but we used to sit for only two months, and for those two months, we got £6 each. What of people

[CHIEF AGBASIERE]

who now get £6 a month and sit every month? My point is that the salary they get fits them.

At Orlu, everything is going on smoothly. The people are pleased with their appointments to the customary court. If there are any petitions at all, they should be from enemies—mainly the Opposition Members. I thank the Minister for his good work.

Mr J. A. Agba (Ogoja Division): Mr Chairman, there are just a few points to emphasise in the Ministry of Justice. Bribery, we know, has been misunderstood. According to the definition of bribery, it is accepting money for work for which a person is already paid. But I think our people are confusing the issue when they talk of bribery—whether it is bribe or tip or some sort of reward. At the same time we cannot draw a definite line between bribery and tips or other things of that nature, and so even tips have become some sort of bribe. It becomes necessary to exclude all and to regard all as illegal.

I want the Government to understand that in all parts of the world Judges are the most highly paid people, and they are so highly paid because it is the intention of the Government to see that every poor man, every rich man—anybody at all—who is seriously wronged and seeks justice in the court should have justice done to him. So to insinuate that members of courts should be so lowly paid—£6 a month—when they have to forego their every other obligations is unfair.

If you look at the list, Sir, of the type of people to be selected into the Customary Courts, you will find that the President of any Customary Court completely hands off any other business which will yield him money of any sort. If that is the case, as someone has already pointed out, I think the work that man has to do should really be so rewarded that the reward should, if not equal, be almost equal to the work. I think, Sir, that why bribery has become so rampant in this country and particularly in this Region and much so in the courts is because of poor pay.

Somebody has just pointed out that when he was a member of a court he was being paid £3 for every sitting and they sat twice a year.

I want to make you understand, Sir, that in some areas court members were paid less and because they were paid less they sought compensation from people who came to their courts to seek justice. It is almost impossible to make these court members not receive bribes from members of the public unless something is done in the way of making their salary very high.

So, I am still emphasising that the cause of bribery being so rampant in this Region and particularly in the courts, even in the civil service, councils and so on, is poor pay. Otherwise how can somebody who is highly paid and has got the money to meet his commitments accept bribes from somebody? So, Sir, the sooner the Government is able to give these court members reasonable salary to compensate them for their work the better and easier it will be to wipe out bribery which has eaten deep into the everyday life of this Region. The custom of paying Judges high salaries is not only in this country; it is all over the world, particularly in European countries. I repeat that the reason why Judges are so highly paid is to keep them away from the temptation of accepting bribes from anybody seeking justice from them.

Sir, I will now cite an example. A few months ago an hon. Member of this House resigned his membership only to become President of a Customary Court. His salary for this post is only £8 a month. I think he must have some reasons for doing this. Considering the honour and prestige attached to membership of this House, even the words "honourable Member", and other privileges accorded to Members of this House, it beats my imagination that a Member can easily resign only to accept a post for which he will be paid £8 a month. So I want to make it very clear that there is something behind that his action. He knows full well that the money he will collect from members of the public coming to his court will more than double all that he receives from this House. I have only given this as an example. I think I am perfectly right, otherwise I do not see why an hon. Member would prefer being a Customary Court Judge at £8 a month to being a Member of this hon. House where he has the opportunity of serving his own people and the Region better.

The Chairman: I think it is not quite fair to refer to this particular case since the person concerned is not here to defend himself.

Mr Agba: Anyway, I only gave that as an example of what can happen in our Customary Courts. Let the Government therefore look into this very important matter if it does not want to give the impression that it supports bribery and corruption in this Region. The judges should be adequately paid to make them feel that they are holding a very responsible and honourable post in the Government of the Region. Unless this is done there is no possibility of wiping out this evil practice in our courts. It is useless coming to this House to talk of stamping out bribery and corruption from this Region without going to the root cause of it.

Another point I would like to raise is that the introduction of these Customary Courts in some areas has been terribly slow. The Minister has done well to select staff from different areas, get them trained in preparation for the introduction of the Customary Courts into the different areas, but what is the cause of the slowness? I do not know whether if after a trial of these Customary Courts in some areas and the Minister finds that the thing does not work well, then the Courts will be abolished without trying them in other places. As somebody has already said, it is really causing a lot of unrest in several places and the Chiefs who intend to go into these Customary Courts are constantly being ravaged. I do not like to specify certain classes of people in the House by saying that certain Members of the Government Bench are responsible for going to the Chiefs and collecting money. But I know for certain, Sir, that the question of collecting money from members who are intending to get into these Customary Courts is very true; and it is still existing today in some areas where these Customary Courts have not been introduced. I can only suggest to the Minister that the sooner he introduces these Customary Courts into the areas which have not got them, the better will it ease the situation, and I hope consideration will also be given to these Chiefs who are now being badly treated.

The Chairman: I will now proceed to the amendments on the Order Paper. I call upon hon. Agim to move his amendment.

Mr D. S. A. Agim (Orlu Division): Mr Chairman, I beg to move that Head 435 be reduced by £100.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I was thinking that when the reorganisation of courts was mooted some time ago—about two years ago—these courts would be placed under the presidency of qualified barristers. People have never had a very high estimation of the honesty and degree of justice available in the Native Courts and I thought that that was the purpose why Government wanted to make a change in order to improve the administration of justice in the Region. However, it appears to me, Sir, that from the appointments so far made in the Courts already set up, there is little change in the personnel of the Native Courts. Most people were the old members of the Native Courts and there is no difference in policy from all I can see. There appears to be no change except that a few Chiefs were dropped. So I really believe there is not much meaning in introducing this new law. If the *status quo* was to be maintained I do not see the meaning in the change at all. This is one of the points I wanted to raise.

The next thing I wanted to say is that I think it would be better for the Region—if it is not possible for one barrister to be placed in charge of a single Customary Court—to have a barrister placed in charge of a group of these Courts to preside as the Chairman of those Courts. These Native Court Judges should only sit by him as assessors. I feel that is the only way whereby something like a change can be effected in the new Courts. It will be difficult for one barrister to go into close association with about three or four other people to conspire and agree with them to take a bribe. I think justice will be very much assured that way than it is at present.

Mr Chairman, Sir, as for the salary of the Court members, if one reviewed what the remunerations of the previous Court members were—which were next to nothing—one would be satisfied with the offer made. But one thing I would like to say to the Minister concerned is that the possibility should be kept open for revision of these people's salaries with the advance of time and according to the efficiency shown by these Customary Courts. I feel for a year or two the present salaries could do for the County Courts.

[MR AGIM]

As far back as January, 1956 the Ministry showed a tendency to select very prominent people for the Appeal Courts but their present salary does not very much show the preference shown to them for their higher responsibilities. It is their work that is liable to come into the Magistrates Courts for expert review, so that I think their own salary is not adequate. Also I think they have to travel from place to place and for that matter I think that their salary should be higher. I would like to support what a Member said earlier that for Appeal Courts, the Chairman should get at least £15 a month, that is about £180, and the members £10 a month.

An hon. Member: That is too low.

Mr Agim: Well, it might be low but it is better than what they are receiving at the moment.

Mr Chairman, I have a special message from the people of Orlu Division. The people of Osu Alamiri and Osu Ikpo had two different courts before the new court system was introduced and these two courts had been joined together into one court. Well, before it was normal to have seven members in each and the result was that the two different clans now had to produce seven members whereas other clans of very comparative population surrounding had each a court of its own producing seven members. But these two clans are joined together to produce only seven members so that the people are very sour, because these clans had been in existence so many years before and we are very much opposed to the arrangement. We feel that it is an unfair dealing with them. If these courts had been found fit to exist up to the date of the introduction of these new courts, why should they be found useless to exist now? Such cases of amalgamation are very very rare in the course of these court formations. I am supporting the view that the Minister concerned should review the situation and give back these courts to them.

After all, Sir, if one goes to the clan, very often the centre of life, the township or the citadel of the town is the native court, so that everyone wants to look up to the court as the centre of life; it is the centre of native administration in these rural areas and that is why

more care should be taken about these courts. As I said before these people are very sour, and I am begging that serious consideration should be given to them; but if there is anything in the law that will make it absolutely impossible to consider this appeal, then it might be necessary to appoint double stream of court members to these joint courts, so that each area will have its own direct quota of court members. After all, these court members were discussing their salaries and it is the tax-payers money that they are drawing, and each clan wants to have a fair share of this public money that is being distributed for this kind of service. Every member among them feels he is justified to enter into these courts and he had not the chance.

The third point I want to make is that it appears that it was not possible to explain right from the beginning that these Customary Court members were not natural rulers. That confusion exists particularly in my area; that confusion remained almost to the last moment and the people thought that Customary Court meant chieftaincy and the result of this is that every member of the Customary Court in my own area for that matter is a native Chief.

Mr Chairman, we are just thinking about the appointment of various grades of Chiefs. I do not know whether a Customary Court Judge who is a Local Government servant will also be a native Chief; and whether a Customary Court member is also capable of being a Councillor even though I believe he is an employee of the Local Government Council. These difficulties do arise. In fact, until the tour of the Premier this year many people did not know what it was all about. Now that the position has been clarified I think it might be a good thing to review these appointments.

The last point I want to make has already been mentioned by someone, and that is the appointment of illiterates. It was the result of illiteracy that brought about Court Clerks, becoming the controllers of Chiefs instead of being the ordinary clerks they are supposed to be—subordinate to the Chiefs—because the Chiefs did not know what they wrote. This enabled them to twist evidence in order to please the particular view which they support. Very often when District Officers

criticised the Chiefs for what was written down, many of them expressed surprise because what was recorded was not what happened. I therefore think that in this new set-up members of Customary Courts should be literate—it is not only the Chairman who should be literate. This will go a long way to stop bribery. Government should also make it clear to the people that Court membership is not exactly the same thing as Chieftaincy because this is why many people who do not qualify for it rush head-long into it and cause great embarrassment to all concerned.

Finally, Sir, someone has demanded something like a Commission of Inquiry. In fact, Sir, there has been so many rumours connected with these Customary Court appointments, and several people have been accused. I therefore think that something like a public Inquiry should be set up to clear the series of allegations hovering like death over people's heads. If the Inquiry is conducted in private where the accused is not present, someone will say what he likes to the investigating officer as the accused is not there to challenge him.

With these few points, I beg to withdraw my amendment and therefore do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Chief I. I. Morphy (Ogoja Division): Mr Chairman, I do not move. In introducing Customary Courts into Ogoja, 75 per cent of the people who are to become customary court members should be Chiefs. The people of Ogoja say they want 75 per cent membership in all Customary Courts to be Chiefs.

Mr P. A. Onwe (Abakaliki Division): Mr Chairman, I wish to speak on this Head and to confine my points to the activities of the Ministry as they obtain in my own Division.

My Division, the Abakaliki Division, is fast becoming a centre of litigation. If a statistical list of cases in court is taken, covering the Region, there can be no doubt that Abakaliki Division will definitely soar above the heads of others in producing the highest number of cases in court. It follows, therefore, that adequate measures should be taken to provide for the Division all means of disposing of these cases within a reasonable amount of time. In this connection, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Justice to the pressing need of

providing one more court hall and at least an additional Magistrate for the Division. This will go a long way to ease the congestion.

May I draw attention to the immediate causes of this congestion. In this Division, we have a lot of false informers, made up mainly of rogues and charge and bail boys who go about implicating others by making false allegations to the police and thus securing the opportunity of exploiting the more responsible and rich ones.

What I am saying, Sir, is that it appears a section of the law which provides for the punishment of false information does not operate in this part of the Region. It might be said that the investigation section of the Police in Abakaliki have not taken it seriously otherwise a good lot of this stamp of men could have been dealt with.

This brings me to the role being played by rogues in this Division. I thank the Government and also the Police Force, especially the C.I.D. Branch of the Force, for the excellent work done in clearing up the menace of the Odozi Obodo Society in Abakaliki Division. But, Mr Chairman, I must say that the result of Odozi Obodo is nothing short of outside exploitation of the ignorance and the state of backwardness of Abakaliki people.

If I am to continue on this topic, I should say that the position of things in the Division today is very unsafe for its people. Imagine, Sir, where because of the influence of Odozi Obodo a good lot of these rogues bolted away only to turn back after the suppression of the society to form themselves into gangs terrorising and raiding the inhabitants. The pitiable ones are those arrested in connection with the Odozi Obodo affairs, who after their release come back to face privation because they have been rendered homeless. Every bit of their property has been cleared by these rogues. Poverty and confusion then become the state of affairs especially in the rural areas of the Division. This is a menace which calls for immediate check.

I want to say further, Sir, that the plight of those arrested is too bad. In most cases people are arrested and charged on a series of murder complaints by at times this type of

[MR ONWE]

men, who do the concoction. For instance, some were charged with murder or other offences in two or three places, based on the same evidence and backed by the same witnesses. When these accused persons are discharged and acquitted of one offence, they still stand trial for other offences even though they are of the same nature as the one already disposed of.

My submission here, Mr Chairman, is that where this obtains the accused person or persons so discharged and acquitted should be set free since it is only a sort of punishing these innocent men to keep them languishing in the prisons. The whole position of these people should be reviewed with a view to avoiding unnecessary punishment.

Sir, in connection with the Customary Courts I wish to make a few points. My understanding is that the name Customary Court should reflect its meaning, and if this is to be so, in introducing Customary Courts the Minister in charge should make sure that he injects experienced people who in fact are conversant with the customs of the place into the courts.

When I say this, I have an eye on the fact that with the introduction of chieftaincy into the Region, Chiefs should be given a place in our Customary Courts. These Chiefs are supposed to be conversant with the customs and customary laws of the land and will be able to give them better interpretation in our courts. This again will help to find places for the Chiefs who otherwise would be simply recognised and go back to their homes without any administrative or judicial functions. Take for instance in Abakaliki Division, it is likely that more than 30 to 40 Chiefs will be recognised. When it is remembered that only about four of this number will be appointed to the House of Chiefs, one wonders then what would be the fate or rather the lot of the remaining ones. So, if the Chiefs could safely be made to fill their rightful places in the administrative set-up of this Region, places must be found where they could fit in.

Mr Chairman, with these few points, I do not move.

Mr S. N. Alo (Abakaliki Division): Mr Chairman, I have only one point to make

and that is about the staff of the Customary Courts. I suggest, Sir, that the Minister in charge should find the possibility of Government taking over the control of Customary Court staff instead of allowing them to be under the control of the councils. Sir, I have my reason for saying this. Where the staff of the Council is a Registrar of the Customary Court and he is doing his work properly, it is easy for the Council to get him out of the court and send in a new man. There have been cases like this before in some councils. But if the Customary Court staff are taken over by Government completely the loop-hole will be tightened up and the position of the staff in the Customary Courts will be safer. So, I think, Sir, that it is proper for Government to take over the control of Customary Courts staff.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Town Planning (Chief S. E. Onukogu): Mr Chairman, I just want to mention that some Members who have nothing tangible to contribute to this House only waste our time by repeating what other Members have already said. They are making an election issue so that when they go out they tell their Customary Court Judges that they have been fighting for them. They are not pleading their course because a few years ago when the issue of Customary Courts was introduced they were all against the re-appointment of the old Members.

Some Members went to say that the illiterate court members should not be appointed. I want to tell them that it is only the literate men who are more corrupt than the illiterate members who are in the Native Courts and it is these illiterate Native Court Judges who know and obey the customs. The literate court members are more corrupt.

The Opposition Members were against the increase of tax and coming to this House to plead for the increase of court members' fees is incorrect. Where will the money come from? They should not continue to make political capital out of this Customary Court membership.

The Minister of State charged with Responsibility for Customary Courts and the Appointment and Recognition of Chiefs (Mr R. O. Iwuagwu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I

thank those hon. Members who actually read the activities of the Customary Courts and also thank those who have been able to criticise because our best friends are those who show us our faults and at the same time tell us how to correct them. It is a pity some people who spoke did not at any time show the way the situation could be improved. They always say this thing is bad, that is bad, without suggesting any remedy. They should show the way that is good. Mr Chairman, I appeal to all hon. Members to go to their homes, find out the people who are corrupt as far as the introduction of Customary Courts is concerned and they will receive appropriate treatment.

Those who say that the sitting fees which we pay to these Customary Court members are too meagre or too small have forgotten that there are two things involved. If they want them to receive more money, get ready to pay more tax. If they wish the number of the Court members to increase, get ready for bribery and delays in our Courts. In the Northern Region there is only one man, an Alkali, to judge in the Court. Time has not yet come in this Region when there will be one or two judges to a Customary Court; then and then only shall we be able to increase the pay.

Somebody mentioned that the Presidents of Customary Courts should take the court proceedings. The Presidents are there not as clerks. They are there to read through what the Registrars put down and interpret that into the local vernacular to their assessors, and to sign necessary warrants and documents. They are not there as clerks at all. Members should hear this.

Another point is, as you heard me when I was talking this morning, we are going to recruit Assistant Customary Courts Advisers to all our Courts for supervision work. That indeed will enable the Courts and Court members and clerks to do their work satisfactorily.

Now, one man, hon. Oko wanted a Commission of Inquiry: what for? There is no need for it. If there is to be any Commission of Inquiry, he will stand there to defend himself, not myself. The position is that I toured Awgu and held consultation with the people, but the hon. Member who is insisting on this Commission of Inquiry was away.

He did not turn up. He knew I was coming. He wanted to be the Alfa and the Omega of Awgu Division; that is why he failed to turn up. Let me tell hon. Oko that the appointment of Appeal Court members in Awgu County Court set-up is as follows:—

One member from Achi;
One member from Oduma;
One member from Awgu;
One member from Etuku; and
One member—the Chairman—from Awlaw.

What evil have I done? Hon. Members, what is it about? We must praise where praise is due.

Several hon. Members: And we are praising you.

Mr Iwuagwu: Rev. Opara suggested to raise the sitting fees. As some of our hon. Members know, it is a matter which requires consideration in due course. The mistake which some of them make is that they count their chickens before they are hatched but it is only wise that they count after they are hatched. You cannot snore in your nose until sleep becomes sweet.

One Member wanted Barristers to be Court Members. Let me warn him. If he wants to go through the next election, he should not throw out those court members and bring in those Barristers. Time will come when consideration will be given to the suggestion. The fact is that we are laying a foundation and when we have laid the foundation, then Barristers will be brought in to do the work.

Then about the merger; I know the places he is referring to. They belong to the same ethnic group. Their custom, language and culture are the same. There is no trouble in communication. Let me tell him that after the merger, the people from that area sent me a congratulatory telegram for merging them together. If I hear from the people that they do not want the merger, then consideration will be given.

Question, That the sum of £50,290, for Head 435—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the First Schedule, put and agreed to.

The Chairman: Hon. Members will remember that we had to go through Head 435

[THE CHAIRMAN]

at the special request of the Attorney-General. That means we shall go back now to the Estimates normally.

Head 428.—Ministry of Commerce

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £107,140 for Head 428—Ministry of Commerce—stand part of the First Schedule.

The Minister of Commerce (Mr J. U. Nwodo): Mr Chairman, I beg to move that Head 428 be reduced by £1,560. This reduction is due to the provision having been made for similar services in the Ministry of Information which Ministry is now being transferred from the hon. Premier's Office to the office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The particular items affected in this Head are 46 and 47, and they represent staff of Government Department who have been working on secondment with the Cinema Corporation.

I spoke at length on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill on the policy and activities of my Ministry and at this stage I do not like to retrace the ground already covered. But I would, however, like to expatiate on only one aspect of my Ministry, namely, the Co-operative Movement which various hon. Members have asked the Government to assist.

Government has never been slow to help any group of people who are showing some effort to help themselves, but at the same time we must be sure that our confidence in a group, who say they are doing all in their power to help themselves, is not misplaced. Before becoming co-operators, the members of these societies are no different from other citizens of this country, many of whom are successfully managing their own affairs, are proving reliable and credit-worthy; and while it is the policy of my Ministry to encourage all sorts of people to join together to form companies, partnerships, trade associations as well as co-operatives, it must be clearly understood by hon. Members that merely by forming a co-operative society, a group of people does not suddenly acquire any new virtue or quality that was not there before. Indeed, to make a Co-operative successful, it often requires greater effort on the part of the members, and greater integrity, than if they all continued working separately.

Although Co-operative Societies fall within my portfolio, I do not manage the societies. In fact, my control over them is even less than the hon. Minister of Local Government has over Local Councils, or I have over the statutory corporations in my portfolio. The Co-operatives are to all intents and purposes independent. The powers exercised on my behalf by the Registrar are mainly advisory so far as the business aspect of co-operation is concerned. It follows, therefore, that before I can recommend to Government that the co-operatives should have more assistance I must satisfy myself that they are doing everything possible to help themselves.

What is the record? The majority of the societies, particularly the credit societies, are managed quite well, and by regular savings, members are building up a solid reliable co-operative structure. In the marketing societies, however, there were far too many members who were reluctant to pay in enough share capital to provide even the basic needs of the society, and these societies when forming their Exporting Union, failed by a very wide margin to put up share capital so that nearly all the money for financing, building of stores and purchase of produce, was borrowed from or through the Regional Co-operative Bank. That Bank, believing that co-operative principles alone would safeguard their money, gave out loans and advances to many societies the members of which had not proved themselves credit-worthy, either by normal business or by co-operative standards. The Bank has therefore given out all its money, some on short and some on long-term loans and advances and it is not yet known to what extent all that money can be recovered.

Now, hon. Members are asking me to give more. But it is only tax-payers' money that Government can use and it would be wrong to give out money to one small section of the community without some guarantee that it is going to be used properly.

Government did give £10,000 to the Co-operative Bank to be established, and Government and E.R.D.C. both gave a guarantee to the African Continental Bank to the extent of £50,000 and later £70,000 to finance the co-operative marketing operations. The Regional Co-operative Bank went beyond these limits, forgot the fact that the guarantees were

for fixed periods, and in fact, quite improperly, used the E.R.D.C. guarantee for cocoa purchases to finance palm produce purchases instead. In addition, the Bank and the Co-operative Exporting Union, gave out off season advances using the same guarantee, so that the Bank found it impossible to refund the overdraft to the African Continental Bank at the end of the season. This overdraft was guaranteed, as I have said, by Government and E.R.D.C.

Even though the overdrafts of the Co-operative Movement stand at £42,000 at the moment Government is giving again £50,000 in the Estimates to the Co-operative Movement. Government is also willing to guarantee a further overdraft of £25,000 for the marketing operations.

I am going to make it a condition that I shall reserve the right to appoint the Chairman of the Regional Co-operative Bank's Board of Management. This, I should add, is not a reflection on the present Chairman, who is a very suitable person. The Registrar also advised certain measures last year and the co-operative societies are gradually giving effect to his advice. I therefore hope that the co-operative societies will succeed but I think hon. Members will agree that the Government has been doing enough to encourage and help co-operators until we can make sure that they, too, are doing well enough.

Sitting suspended at 12 noon.

Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.

Mr Nwodo: Earlier, Mr Chairman, I did say that during the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, I had spoken in detail about the policy and the activities of my Ministry and at this Committee Stage of the debate I do not intend to repeat myself. All I would like to do is to try to reply to new points which hon. Members may wish to raise.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Chairman: I notice that the hon. Minister has, in making a speech on this Head moved the amendment. The correct procedure would have been for him to give an outline of the policy of his Department in regard to the Head and then we come later to

the amendment. Therefore, I shall ask those hon. Members whose names are on the Order Paper to move their Amendments and be fairly brief; they will notice that already the hon. Minister's amendment to the Head is much larger than theirs.

Mr E. O. Eyo: If I may call attention to Standing Order 66 (10) "each amendment shall be disposed of before the next is called."

The Chairman: I agree with the hon. Member, but I want to save time. But if the Member wants us to proceed with the amendment, then we can.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I have no objection if the amendment should be moved under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, since I have a lot to say on the Cinema Corporation.

Mr A. O. Chikwendu (Bende Division): Mr Chairman, I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Commerce to one or two points, particularly to firms which import motor vehicles into this country. I am asking the Minister to warn these firms that they must have spare motor parts. It is no use for anyone to spend £1,000 or £1,200 and then when the car is damaged and he sends it to the Company, he is told that there is no spare part. We have to wait for weeks, even months, to get the car repaired. If the firms are not able to stock spare parts the Minister should consider the possibility of withdrawing the import licences of such firms.

I want also to draw his particular attention to the general complaint from the African licensed buying agents. They complain that the Marketing Board delays payment after the oil is bought, and payment is not made immediately. In particular, from January up to the beginning of this month their commission had not been paid and to many of them it is hardship indeed. In fact nearly all of them are freshers on the field and their capital is very limited. When there is delay in paying them trade swings in favour of the expatriate firms who have larger and wider resources.

So, I have to ask the Minister of Commerce to contact the Marketing Board and ensure that these African dealers are paid as soon as their oil is bulked at the B.O.P.

[MR CHIKWENDU]

I would like the Minister too to consider very seriously doing in the old Onitsha, the old Owerri Provinces what has been done in Calabar Province as far as the question of co-operatives is concerned. The co-operative societies there are very well organised. In particular, I would like him to ensure that farmers co-operatives are established in the old Owerri and old Onitsha Provinces. As a matter of fact, I would like him to consult the Minister of Agriculture and they should press the Government that instead of making direct loans to farmers, such loans should be made through farmers' co-operatives so that the Government makes money available to the Co-operative Bank, and the co-operative societies should be making the loans to the farmers. In that way the repayment of these loans is assured. If that step is taken, I think that small moneys should be made available to these peasant farmers who cultivate the farms and grow the food crops which people live upon. If such steps were taken it would yield money to the ordinary people and to the Ministry concerned.

I raise this point very seriously because I feel it will definitely give some improvement in the lot of the people.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I must say, Sir, that I was rather disappointed by the speech made by the Minister of Commerce this morning. It appears that the Minister does not really grasp the role of the Co-operative Movement in a socialist society. Sir, in the past few years I have attempted to draw the attention of the Minister to the role of the Co-operative Movement in the United Kingdom and in other countries where socialist societies exist.

May I, Sir, draw the Minister's attention to the Annual Report of the Co-operative Department 1956-57. I rely entirely on this Annual Report in my address to you. At page 2 the Report gives the growth of the Co-operative Movement in the Region, and I will just quote figures. At 31st March, 1957, in the Calabar Province there were a total number of 808 Co-operative Societies and 132 Women Societies. In the Ogoja Province there were twenty-seven Co-operative Societies and no women society; Onitsha Province

sixty-four Co-operative Societies and five Women Societies; Owerri Province 150 Co-operative Societies and six Women Societies, and in the Rivers Province there were thirty-six Co-operative Societies and no Women Society; making in all a total of 1,085 Co-operative Societies and 143 Women Societies in the Eastern Region. This, Sir, does not go to support the Minister's contention that the Co-operative Movement caters for a few people here and there.

The last speaker has made mention of the growth of Co-operative Societies in Calabar Province. May I emphasise, Sir, that in my Province, if there is any department which appeals to my people, it is the Co-operative Department because I can hardly think of any village in Calabar Province that has not organised one or two Co-operative Societies. So that when we come here and try to impress upon the Minister the role that these Co-operative Societies are playing in our social development at home, I hope he will listen and seek expert advice. It is all very well to say that money is made available to the E.R.D.C. to give out as loans, but does this money get down to the village level? It does not. Most of the loans are obtained by people in the townships who claim to run certain industries.

What is the loans' position with regard to Co-operative Societies? I will give you the figures. I am referring, Sir, to pages 4 and 5 of this Annual Report, and I draw your special attention to paragraph 27.

The figures cover the period 31st March, 1954 to 31st March, 1957 and they are very interesting. At 31st March, 1954, there were 682 Co-operative Societies in the Eastern Region with a total membership of 26,283; and they have funds available to them to the tune of £203,195. Of this, Sir, they issued loans totalling £272,914, and at the end of the year it will be interesting to know that the percentage of loans overdue for repayment was only 0.8. All the loans during the year, Sir, were repaid, the only percentage overdue was 0.8.

At 31st March, 1955, there were 791 Societies in the Region; membership 28,696; funds available £266,078; loans issued £327,290; percentage overdue for repayment 1.2. At 31st March, 1956 there were 866 Societies; membership 31,582; funds available £326,193; loans

issued £380,044; percentage loan overdue 2.4. 31st March, 1957, Societies 910; membership 32,578; funds available £378,377; loans issued £414,747; percentage overdue for repayment 2.3.

I have just quoted these figures, Sir, to show you the excellent work that is being done by those Co-operative Societies so that when we come here to say that the Government should make money available to them, Government will know that we know what we are talking about. The money will go down to the farmers at the village level, and if there is anything that this Government could do to help the farmers or the producers, it is to make money available to the Co-operative Societies.

I will give you, Sir, other interesting figures—paragraph 22 of this Report. These figures show you to what use the farmers or the producers make of these loans that they receive from the Co-operative Societies. Calabar Province; on farming and agriculture the percentage of the loan is 33 per cent (of the loan received both were on farming and agriculture); fisheries 3.4 per cent; industries 1.4 per cent; trading 54 per cent and other purposes 2.8 per cent. Owerri Province, farming and agriculture 13.8 per cent; industries 9 per cent; trading 67.3 per cent; other purposes 6.6 per cent. Rivers Province, farming and agriculture 15.9 per cent; Fisheries 7.4 per cent; industries 5.7 per cent; trading 35 per cent; other purposes 23.5 per cent. Ogoja Province, farming and agriculture 24.6 per cent; industries 1.3 per cent; trading 59.3 per cent; other purposes 3.4 per cent. Onitsha Province, farming and agriculture 29.8 per cent; Industries .2 per cent; trading 62.5 per cent; other purposes 7.5 per cent. There is at the bottom of that paragraph a very interesting comment. "In the Calabar Province, agricultural pursuit centres largely on the 'acquisition and redemption of palm groves' ". In view of the above explanations, I do not see what else is better than what the farmers are doing.

When the Minister spoke this morning he said that Government had made available £10,000. This is the Minister's salary for three years.

Now, Sir, may I deal also with paragraphs 6 and 9 of this Report. I must say that it is a

very interesting Report which should commend itself to the Minister. Paragraph 9 of the Report says: "Progress in the formation of other types of society, such as consumer, farming and industrial, continued to be slow...". Here again, Sir, the Department should have explained why there is slow progress in forming the consumer, farming and industrial co-operatives. Well, I am more interested in co-operative farming, and when the Leader of the Opposition spoke the other day on agriculture he harped on this question of co-operative farming. May I suggest to the Minister that his Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture must come together and agree on this co-operative farming. It is true that in the Eastern Region it is difficult to obtain large tracts of land. Now, Sir, if you go to the District Council level and announce the Government scheme that you are going to get the farmers (that is those at the head of the various families who control the communal land), organised and make them hold title to these lands, and that you are going to make money available to them through their Co-operative Societies, surely, the response will be there. They will come together, register the communal land, have title to the land and all of them will come together and agree on co-operative farming provided the Co-operative Society will make money available to them.

The Minister mentioned Co-operative Banks. All he told us was that Government had undertaken to guarantee loans to those who were marketing bodies. But I think there is a world of difference between "guarantee loans" and "making money available by way of loans".

May I draw the Minister's attention to pages 8 and 9 of this Report; let us start off with paragraph 28. At page 8 there you have figures between 1955 and 1957 in respect of the Co-operative Bank in the Eastern Region:

"Regional Co-operative Bank: The following figures indicate the Bank's progress—At 31st March, 1955, membership (societies) 52; Capital share £1,515; Working capital £6,193; Reserve fund Nil; Government stocks Nil; Net surplus £2". They had a net surplus at the end of the year of £2.

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

“At 31st March, 1956 membership (societies) 95; Share capital £2,226; Working capital £48,322; Reserve fund £10,058; Government stock £5,800; Net surplus £683”. In the first figure there was a net surplus of £2.

At 31st March, 1957, total membership (societies) 83; share capital £2,638; working capital £78,141; Reserve fund £10,230; Government stock £980; net surplus £1,140.

It is true that there is a gradual increase in the finances of the Regional Co-operative Bank, but, what is a share capital of £2,638 for a Regional Bank at 31st March, 1957? What is a working capital of £78,141 for the Regional Co-operative Bank at 31st March, 1957? And what is a reserve fund of £10,230 for a Regional Co-operative Bank at 31st March, 1957?

Our view, Sir, is that if Government is really serious to further the growth of the Co-operative Movement in this Region, then Government must be prepared to make available a large grant to the Co-operative Movement in the Eastern Region. I must say that if there is any department which I am not prepared to criticise, it is the Co-operative Department, because as I said earlier, my people in Calabar Province have benefited quite a lot from the Co-operative Society.

At paragraph 32, Sir, I will deal with the Co-operative Bank in my province before I go on to the one in Owerri. Sir, the Calabar Co-operative Provincial Bank figures are available from 1952 to 1957, but, Sir, I will only deal with figures at 31st March, 1955 to 31st March, 1957. 31st March, 1955—there were 650 Societies with a share capital of £8,916 and a working capital of £31,834; fixed deposits £10,442; Reserve fund £252; net surplus £586. 31st March, 1956—total membership societies 705; share capital £9,674; working capital £32,086; fixed deposits £10,889; Reserve fund £398; net surplus nothing. 31st March, 1957—total membership societies 745; share capital £24,433; working capital £32,765; fixed deposits £11,425; Reserve fund £398; net deficit £67.

The figures for Owerri Provincial Societies are at paragraph 35. What I am trying to say is that there is a slight increase in respect

of share capital and also in working capital and in fixed assets rising from 31st of March, 1955. Paragraph 31 of the report is very clear. May I draw your attention to paragraph 31 of the Report.

“It was another successful period for the Board of Management and Executive Committee but the Bank is certainly very much in need of some outside finance to expand its activities . . .”

That is the report of the Department.

I now deal, Sir, with some other activities of Co-operative Societies with regard to the operation of pioneer oil mills. I will draw the Minister's attention to Page 2 paragraph 10 of the report:—

“The organisation of the Co-operative Oil Mills at Ikeduru and Ikot Ama was continued but it was not possible for the E.R.D.C. to complete arrangements for the handing over of the Mills. The Co-operative Mill at Ikot Iyan and Uyo Division owned by the Asutan Ekpe Co-operative Community Development League had a successful year. Its net surplus (31-3-57) of £3,163 11s 1d was the highest monetary return by a society during the year.”

This is the experiment that I started in the E.R.D.C. This Mill has been made available to this Co-operative Society in 1955. We have it here on record that within 12 months this Co-operative Society was able to make a net surplus of £3,163 11s 1d as against what obtained in the other Mills owned by the E.R.D.C. If about half of these Mills were sold out to the Co-operative Societies in the various Divisions instead of their being managed by the E.R.D.C., I cannot think of any better arrangement whereby Government could increase production and output of palm oil and palm kernel than by linking up the present producers with these pioneer oil mills.

I want to draw your attention to page 12 paragraph 41 of the Report:

“Results have once again lent support to the view that the hope of Co-operative Palm Produce Marketing lies in the operation of Pioneer Oil Mills . . .”.

That is the expert view of that Department. Three Societies operate Pioneer Oil Mills. Then it goes to give the turnover of these Societies.

The Chairman: The hon. Member has five minutes in which to wind up.

Several hon. Members: One minute.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I wish I could walk across there and try to blow up their heads.

Several hon. Members: That is unparliamentary.

Mr E. O. Eyo: What is unparliamentary, to blow Members' heads up?

Page 16 paragraph 49:

"Another Community Development Society, the Ibesikpo Co-operative Development Association was registered on 25th September 1956. With the initial membership at 200, share capital £863 and working capital £967, the chief objective is to own and manage a Pioneer Oil Mill. Much will depend upon the readiness of the E.R.D.C. to concede the partnership scheme which has made the Oil Mill venture at Asutan Ekpe a success."

I would like to know, Sir, from the Minister what has happened to this Scheme. Over six to eight months ago, Sir, this Co-operative Society at home deposited £3,000 with the E.R.D.C. on the understanding that it was going to take over one of the mills. That was encouraged by the Co-operative Department. The Assistant Registrar came down and encouraged the people to organise themselves into this Society, and they raised this huge sum of money, but my latest information is that the E.R.D.C. is not willing to part with one of the mills to this Co-operative Society. Now, Sir, that will be rather a very serious matter because the Department deals with this Co-operative Society and is trying to explain Government Policy and Programme to the people at home. It was the Department that got my people to organise as a Co-operative Society and they made available to the E.R.D.C. the handy sum of £3,000 about eight months ago. Well, if the E.R.D.C. has accepted £3,000 on deposit from this Co-operative Society, I think it is

rather childish at this stage to come to say that the E.R.D.C. is not prepared to part with one of the mills. I hope the Minister is fully aware of the seriousness with which my people at home view the situation.

Winding up, Sir, may I again try to impress upon the Minister the role of the Co-operative Society. There will be no progress in the Co-operative Movement in the Region, if money is not made available. Our figure is £1 million and we know, Sir, that the Marketing Board is in a position to make £1 million available. £½ million, if it were made available, to the two Co-operative Societies—one in Calabar Province, the other one in Owerri Province—and the other £½ million to all the Co-operative Societies numbering over eight million in the Eastern Region. The Report goes to support that nearly all these Societies are well organised and well managed—the Minister will be able to see, in five years, what progress the Co-operative Societies in the Eastern Region will have made, and, what is more, the question of loans and advances will have gone right down to the village level and will have been made available to the farmers through their Co-operative Societies.

Mr I. U. Imeh (Abak Division): Mr Chairman, in speaking on the policy of this Department, I have to start with the Trade Division. Looking through the Estimates, Mr Chairman, I notice that the policy of Trade Division of the Ministry of Commerce falls vigorously because what we had here in the past 3 years are still there. We had the Principal Trade Officer since about 3 years ago, we had a Trade Officer and we had two Assistant Trade Officers. Mr Chairman, I may say that I would like to speak on this particular Division of Commerce because it is my "baby". I should like to see that particular Division by now able to manage its own affairs. But the reason may either be that the Ministry is not prepared to pursue its policy or the Ministry has lost interest in it entirely. The policy must expand to meet the petty traders' needs—to teach them how to keep books of account, and then be able, at the end of each month or year, to draw up their own balance sheets. But with the number of staff here, I doubt it very much whether anything has been done. How can three people

[MR IMEH]

working for the whole of the Eastern Region be able to meet the demand of the Regional trade at the moment?

The Principal Trade Officer died about three years ago. Should I believe that there is no African or Expatriate to fill that post? What of the Trade Officer? He has been acting in the post for many years. Is he not fit to be promoted? If he is not able to hold the post, why not bring in an expatriate? The policy is that the Department should build Trade Offices at Onitsha, Aba, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Enugu and Umuahia, but at the moment since the Trade Offices were built at Onitsha and one at Port Harcourt nothing has been done again. Aba is a large trade centre and Calabar is a growing trade centre. What of Umuahia and what of Enugu? How can three people run such a big division?

What I advise the Minister is to go back and ask for the expansion of that Department, and fill the post of the Principal Trade Officer with an African or with an Expatriate. If the African now acting is fit, he should be promoted so that the two Assistant Trade Officers should follow up and vacancies could be created for others.

One other point I would like to mention is about the Pottery Centre in Ikot Ubo in Abak Division. The clay we have in that village is the best, if I may say so, in the Eastern Region. The people of this village started this pottery on their own because we are always original in our ways. These people next sent ten people to Okigwi to be trained, and among them were two women. They were sent for training, and when they were fully qualified they came out and started the business. They even contributed money themselves and applied to the Government to assist them. But since then—it is now over three years since they came back—nothing has been done; and the place has been abandoned. The people do not know what to do, and the Minister of Commerce has concentrated on only Ekulu and Okigwi Trade Centres. Why not encourage these people? Why not give them grant? We want all this money to go back to the people themselves. If grants are given in this way it is an encouragement to the people and in course of years they can expand.

May I say a word or two about the Co-operative Society. The hon. Member for Uyo Division has spoken at length on the expansion of these societies. It is true that the Co-operative Society expands in the old Calabar Province more than in any other Province, and I agree with the hon. Member for Bende, Mr Chikwendu, that the activities of this Society should be expanded fully to all the Provinces. But this cannot be done if there is not enough staff. I will therefore make a special appeal that the Government should increase the staffing position of this Department. It is highly understaffed. I would also like the Minister to let us know what shall be the qualifications and the entry point of Assistant Inspectors of Co-operative Societies, since the Inspectors of Co-operative Societies enter with Senior Cambridge or the West African School Certificate.

May I make a special appeal also as regards the co-operative marketing of oil palm produce. It is noted in the Estimates that there is no increase whatsoever. If you look through the Estimates you will see that what we had for 1958–59 is still what we have for 1959–60. At the rate we are moving, I am definitely sure that it is a waste of money to allow that section of the Co-operative Department to remain without expansion. How are we going to encourage palm oil marketing in Onitsha Province, in Owerri Province and in Rivers Province, as mentioned by my hon. Friend? If we want to do that I will call upon the Minister to see that he asks the Eastern Regional Marketing Board to double the grant for this particular project, so that the demand for all the Divisions can be met. After all, the money used in this particular project is not from the Regional Government fund; it is from the Marketing Board. Therefore if the Minister can make an approach to the Regional Marketing Board, I am sure they will be able to give more grants for the expansion of this particular project.

Now, Sir, I have one other point to make. I wish the Minister to take a walk with me to the Catering Rest House. This is indeed a very important point, Mr Chairman. When the Government was handling these Rest Houses they were being run very well. But now that they have been handed over to the Tourist Corporation everything there is

very disgraceful. How can you pay 13s 6d a night and turn round to find snakes and rats in your room; no good food, very poor service, cobwebs here and there.

Several hon. Members: Have you mentioned cockroaches?

An hon. Member: A millipede nearly fell into my food the other day.

Mr Imeh: Will hon. Members please not put words into my mouth. I have a lot to say about the Rest Houses.

Sir, I should have thought that the Tourist Corporation on taking over the Rest Houses would improve on the good work of the Government but instead the standard of service and everything has deteriorated. Before I go on, Sir, I must make it clear that I am not only referring to the Rest Houses at Enugu but if you go to Port Harcourt, Aba, Calabar, Onitsha and every other place you will find the same poor condition of things. Mr Chairman, if you visit any of these Rest Houses you will find the meal so poor and the service so bad that you will rightly think that the money you have paid is a waste. The bedspreads are very dirty and torn, the pillow cases, window blinds and door blinds are so torn and soiled that the authorities need not be told that they have to be replaced. The mattresses are so hard that it seems as if one is sleeping on a cement floor. I am telling you, Sir, that if you see any of these Rest Houses you will agree with me that they are a disgrace to the people of this Region.

Sir, I would like the Minister to recall the condition of things in the Rest Houses, and particularly in Enugu, in 1956 when the Queen visited us. The furnishings were very neat, the food was quite nice, the walls of the Houses were well decorated and the service was excellent. I just wonder what opinion the people who visited us then would have if they came now to stay in any of the Catering Rest Houses. Now we are expecting Independence in a few months time and we are hoping that there will be many visitors from all over the world to join us in the celebration. No doubt, many of these people will be accommodated in the Rest

Houses and it will be very disgraceful if the Minister does not look into these complaints now and make these Rest Houses very comfortable to any visitors.

Sir, these are the few points I wanted to make about the Catering Rest Houses or what is generally known as the Tourist Corporation. Thank you.

Mr M. U. Etuk (Uyo Division): Mr Chairman, I will not take a long time. I just want to emphasise two points.

First of all it is about the Trade Department. To confirm what an hon. Member said before, I think the original idea of this Department, if I may quote the Government right, was to act for Regional mutual trade only. But, Sir, a lot of activities has been added to this Trade Department: statistics, Reports of Overseas Traders, and education of local traders to keep their books well so that our tax collectors may assess them properly, etc., etc. But if you look at the Estimates for the past three years there has been stagnation in that Department. Every year you will find only one Trade Officer and two Assistants. How can these three officers perform the multifarious duties now assigned to the Department—compilation of statistics, information for foreign traders of correct trade position in this Region, etc. Trade is the live-wire of any country and if our economy is to be developed we must of necessity expand this Department.

I think one of the lines that we have got to develop in this Region is trade. How can we develop it if we have not got facilities for expansion in that Department? If the Government have found out that it is not worthwhile keeping that Department, I suggest they scrap it and transfer the present staff to other Departments. But if it is really something that we feel should be kept, I think it is time when we should expand this Department and appoint officers to undertake these works which will certainly pay us good dividends in the end.

Secondly, is the Industrial planning system. It is a pity that when ever Industry is being talked about in this House or in this Region, only certain sections of the Region will have to be benefited. It will either be Aba, Enugu, Port Harcourt or Umuahia. One reason for

[MR ETUK]

always doing this is because there is power—electricity—in all these places, and the other parts of the Region are forgotten because they have no electricity, they have no good water supply, they have no good communications. I suggest to the Government that these planning Officers could do something to see that these other parts of the Region are also benefited. If really electricity and water supply are the main things that attract industries to certain areas, could not they make recommendations that the other sections of the Region should also be considered?

The hon. Member from Abak has mentioned pottery. Pottery has been the only small industry (should I say) that is being carried on in Uyo, my constituency. About a year ago the industry was handed over to the District Council and that is lost. In other words, the Government has nothing like industry in that section of the Region. I would ask that now that the Council has taken over the Industry, the Minister should consider giving an adequate grant to assist the Council to develop this industry.

Mr Chairman, as I said, I am not going to waste the time of the House on unnecessary words, but I hope the Minister will take these things into consideration.

The Minister of Commerce (Mr J. U. Nwodo): Mr Chairman, I would start to reply to some of the points raised by hon. Members in connection with my Ministry.

Hon. Chikwendu raised the question of restricting Import Licences of some of the firms which after importing certain motor vehicles into this country, fail to import as well the spare parts which will help a lot to maintain the vehicles. I would say that much as I welcome his criticism, there are provisions in the Constitution which actually prevent me from taking the line of action which he has suggested. As a matter of fact, the granting of Import Licences is a Federal subject, but both my predecessor in office and myself have issued instructions regularly to most of these firms stressing the importance of having the spare parts of vehicles which are sold in this

Region for the convenience of their customers. I will, however, guarantee in this House that I will try to re-emphasise that instruction.

He also talked about paying commission to Licensed Buying Agents. As a matter of fact, he has got the issue mixed up because the question of the Licensed Buying Agents in this Region is purely a matter which comes within the province of the Minister of Production and I think this will be looked into at the appropriate time when the hon. Minister will reply to criticisms.

Hon. Chikwendu further exhorted that there is also the importance of establishing Co-operative Societies in all parts of the Region. I quite agree with him, but the difficulty is that in the method of establishing Co-operative Societies, there is no legislation by which my Ministry can force people against their will for coming together. As a matter of fact we are doing our best to see that these co-operative societies are spread all over the Region.

Well, hon. E. O. Eyo, the Chief Whip of the Opposition, Mr Chairman, spoke at length and quoted extensively the report of the Co-operative Department and I think if I may sum up his criticisms, they bordered on two aspects: one is about the policy on grants and loans to co-operative societies and the other is about the policy of the E.R.D.C. to sell pioneer oil mills to the co-operative societies. On the first policy of granting loans, he quoted from page 4 of the Report to show that most of the Movements are credit-worthy and as I pointed out to the House it is not all that correct to suppose that they were uncredit-worthy and were not qualified for more loans. I wish to say that he quoted paragraph 20 of page 4 which could not be read in isolation from paragraph 21 of the same Report. In paragraph 21 of this Report, you will note, Sir—if you go to the various societies and the loans which have been made to them—that right up to 31st March, 1957, the outstanding loans total £343,186. Now they are in this order, Province by Province: In Calabar Province the number of Co-credits is 744, number of loans 19,418, amount outstanding £297,572; Owerri amount outstanding £33,320; Rivers amount outstanding £7,889; Ogoja amount outstanding £1,587; Onitsha amount outstanding £2,808; total £343,186.

Surely, Mr Chairman, the Opposition Chief Whip is not asking this House that a huge amount of this nature which is outstanding would inspire the Government to go on giving more guarantees and more loans without an attempt by the various societies to retire the loans which had already been given them?

Now I come again to the other aspect, that is about the policy of the co-operative societies buying the oil mills. He read also from page 2 paragraph 10 of the Co-operative Report and he made mention of one or two co-operative societies at Ikeduru and Ikot Ama whose progress was satisfactory and for which the E.R.D.C. had not fulfilled its promise of selling an oil mill to this particular co-operative society, but it would have been better if the Opposition Chief Whip had led the House to understand exactly the facts. He had not read this particular paragraph in full but I intend with your permission, Mr Chairman, to show why the E.R.D.C. had not been keen on making the pioneer oil mill available to various co-operative societies as suggested. The whole paragraph reads as follows:—

“The organisation of the Co-operative Oil Mills at Ikeduru and Ikot Ama was continued but it was not possible for the E.R.D.C. to complete arrangements for the handing over of the Mills. The Co-operative Mill at Ikot Iyan in Uyo Division owned by the Asutan Ekpe Co-operative Community Development League had a successful year. Its net surplus (31-3-57) of £3,163 11s 1d was the highest monetary return by a society during the year. But the League has continued to experience teething troubles and has been unable to develop the ‘Co-operative Spirit’ or to adopt true Co-operative methods”.

Turning to the Ministry, well, I think it would be entirely wrong for the Ministry to continue to encourage the E.R.D.C. to advance loans to such co-operatives as was suggested by the Opposition Chief Whip.

The other Member who spoke, Mr Chairman, was hon. Imeh. He criticised the Trade Division of my Ministry and said that whereas provision has been made in the past three years for the post of Principal Trade Officer that post

has not been filled. He also said that he was particularly interested in this Division. As a matter of fact, I was not the Minister of Trade in the past three years and obviously he was. I should have thought that with the degree of interest he had in this particular division he could have seen that his policy was carried through. What I said during the debate on the Appropriation Bill was that the post, as in the civil service, should be distinct from an individual and that the filling of a post is dependent on the volume of work carried by the post. Admitting that the post has really been created, the hon. Member would understand that it is not within my province to fill this post—it is a matter for the Public Service Commission.

Secondly, Sir, the response from traders in this Region has not actually justified an increase in the establishment of this particular division. During the Appropriation Bill I did tell the House that the response we have from the traders in the keeping of their books and accounts was unsatisfactory. They had been hesitant in accepting the instructions given to them by the Trade Officer, and they had been very suspicious of what they regard as interference by the Government in their private affairs. As a matter of fact, they read suspicion into the whole thing and feel that it is an attempt to tax them more than they should pay. That is the reason why the volume of work in this particular division has not justified the increase in establishment.

The other point the hon. Member raised was in respect of Pottery of which he claimed that the best clay was available at Ikot Ubo, and that the Ministry was concentrating only at Ekulu. As I said during the Appropriation Bill, we do not establish most of these industries for the sake of establishing them. We have many factors to consider before agreeing to the location of an industry, and we must make sure from our research and investigation that the industry must be a viable proposition. We have started well with the Ekulu industry not only because it is a particularly suitable place, but at the same time it is accessible. As has been indicated in the Instrument, the revenue accruing from Ekulu Pottery this year is in the neighbourhood of £5,000—this is an important point for hon. Members to take note of. We have been encouraging these local industries.

[MR NWODO]

Now, against the allegation by the hon. Member, Government has been making yearly grants to Ibeku-Abasi pottery, Mbiakpa pottery, etc., and all these potteries are run by local communities. As a matter of fact, in regard to the particular pottery which the hon. Member mentioned, staff were sent from Okigwi to this pottery, but the local council failed to co-operate and for that reason the staff were withdrawn, and the Council themselves abandoned giving any subsidy to this particular industry in the past two years.

Now on the marketing side, as I said previously, the Co-credit of the Co-operative Society has been doing well, but in the marketing societies, however, there are far too many members who were reluctant to pay enough share capital to provide even the basic rate by the society. Even from the Report of the activities of the society last year, it is shown that the Marketing society is in a deficit of £42,268 2s 11d. I made also the point during the debate on the Appropriation Bill that it is not correct to say that the Marketing Section is not being helped by the Government. If you look into the Report, you will find that the Marketing Board made a total grant of £82,000 to the Marketing Section of the Co-operative Movement; they had also used a lot of this money, and what is being provided this year is £8,015—that is to provide staff for the Marketing Section, to help them buy equipment, build a store for them, etc. Government has of recent made a guarantee of £25,000 to the Co-operative Movement. I think we are doing a lot to help the Co-operative Movement.

Under Rest House, Mr Chairman, hon. Imeh spoke at length to say that the premises of the Catering Houses are untidy. He did not say that even one of the Rest Houses is clean. On the staff of the Rest House we have the General Manager and supervisors who have to see to the cleanliness of the premises. There is provided in the Rest House a log book in every chalet and I would really welcome criticisms from hon. Members. If the hon. Members would take time to minute their observations in the log book, I will definitely take action to see that something good is done.

Question put and agreed to.

Question proposed, That a reduced sum of £105,580 for Head 428—Ministry of Commerce—be inserted in the First Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 429—Ministry of Education

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £5,670,200 for Head 429—Ministry of Education—stand part of the First Schedule.

The Minister of Education (Mr G. E. Okeke): Mr Chairman, in speaking to this Head I would like to explain very briefly to the House the major changes provided for in the new Estimates for my Ministry. First, Members will notice that under Sub-head 1, Item 11, there is provision for nine Provincial Education Officers on Scale A, upper segment. Previously, Provincial Education Officers have been on Scale A, but Government has recognised the very heavy responsibilities they carry, particularly for the disbursing of £5 million a year in Grants-in-Aid. Therefore nine upper segment posts have been created with effect from the 1st April, 1959, and I feel sure the House will welcome this recognition of responsibility.

I would refer next to Sub-head 1, Item 12, where the five new posts of Technical Education Officers have been created. Two of these will go to the newly completed technical wing at Government College, Umuahia; two to the new technical wing at the Government Secondary School, Afikpo; while the fifth is to supervise the newly completed Handicraft Centres. Technical Education is therefore getting a real boost this year.

Sub-head I, Item 26, provides for a new post of Inspector Rural Education. Members will see that at Item 39 we still have three Rural Education Officers (the same as last year), but Government realises the need to encourage rural education and therefore this new senior post of Inspector has been created. He will, of course, live at Umudike.

The Technical Institute and Trade Centre at Enugu is being split into two separate institutions. Items 34 and 37 show that provision has been made for two Principals—one for each institution. The present holders of the two Vice-Principal posts will continue to

hold them as personal to themselves, and that is why they have been designated "super-numerary".

The footnote to Item 38 shows that of the 95 Education Officers, one is to be the present Sports Organiser transferred from the Ministry of Welfare as a result of the transfer of the Sports Commission to my portfolio; while another is to be a Physical Education Officer. This is an entirely new post, and the officer will head a new section in my Ministry that will be charged with Physical Education (or P.T. if you prefer) in institutions throughout the Region. This Government never fails to encourage Sports and Physical Recreation. Academic education is not enough, and we recognise the truth of the saying, "A healthy mind in a healthy body".

Turning now to Sub-heads 9 to 17, Members will see that £300,450 has been provided for Scholarships this year compared with only £166,900 last year. This dramatic increase heralds the White Paper on Scholarships Policy which, as I have mentioned in an earlier speech, is to be published before the end of the present meeting.

I would, however, like the House to know some of the highlights now. As far as 1958-59 awards are concerned, all students of Eastern Nigeria origin who, last October, entered University College, Ibadan, University College, Ghana or Fourah Bay College, will be given automatic Scholarship Awards by this Government, . . . (*An Opposition Member: What of overseas?*) . . . provided the student in question is not already the holder of a Federal Government or other Scholarship. In addition, one Secondary School Scholarship award will be made to each of the 93 District Council areas in the Region.

Regarding future policy, which will commence with this year's award, a radical increase in numbers and a radical change of system have been made.

Post-Secondary Scholarships: One hundred Scholarships will be awarded annually to persons of Eastern Nigerian origin who succeed in gaining admission to the University College, Ibadan, University College, Ghana, Fourah Bay College, Kumasi College or any of the three branches of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology. These awards will

be made on the basis of two per Division, but those Divisions with large population will receive additional awards.

Secondary and Technical Scholarships: Five Secondary School Scholarships and one Technical Scholarship will be awarded annually to each District Council area.

Teacher Training Scholarships: Two awards will be made annually to each of the 146 constituencies of the House of Assembly.

All the Secondary and Technical Scholarships and half the Teacher Training Scholarships will be made by the newly established Provincial Scholarship Board, one of which will be set up for each of the twelve Provinces.

Mr M. N. Onwuma (Aba Division): Mr Chairman, may I humbly appeal to the Government, through the Minister of Education, to make some serious representations to the Federal Government Ministry of Education about the frequency with which the higher institutions in this country are closed down. Higher institutions of learning in this country, for the past two or three months, for one reason or the other, have been closed down for about two or three months or even six months—as the case may be—under the pretext of discipline. I imagine that in a situation like this, it is not only the students who are to blame. I suspect very strongly, Sir, that the authorities themselves share the blame. In any case, Sir, the suspension of the students is not, repeat is not, the answer. I know nowhere else in the world where a university college or any high institution is closed for three or six weeks just because the students carried out some demonstrations. I am therefore appealing very seriously to the Minister of Education to do something and make some effective representations to find the most suitable solution. It is not good enough to keep the students away from their studies for so long or even for any length of time however short.

Mr Chairman, a large number of people have commented that the standard of education has fallen in this Region or rather in this country. As a scientist, I cannot say for certain whether it is true or untrue until I investigate the comments.

Several hon. Members: Are you a scientist? What have you discovered?

Mr Onwuma: Mr Chairman, I do not know what the standard originally was and I do not know what we want our standard to be. In either case, Sir, I think it is a mere assumption that the standard has fallen. But there must be a standard for reference before we can decide whether the present standard is high or low. In this particular instance, there is a necessity for the Ministry of Education to institute, if possible, the Department of Educational Experiment, so as to find out whether or not certain of the statements or allegations are really true because many people are most unrealistic in their statements.

It will be necessary to find out whether these things are true or not. Some of the performances of the old brigades in this House leave very much to be desired. I do not know whether we are making or judging the standard from the ability of the school boys to speak English well or the ability of the boys to solve mathematical problems or the ability of the boys to perform scientific experiments in the class, or the ability of the boys and girls to jump a height of six feet. Many complex factors have come to play and I do not support making sweeping generalisations. There is need for a scientific approach to this problem. If the standard has really fallen (because sometimes you have the graph of a school result falling and at other times it goes up showing what is really going on) it will be unnecessary to rouse the feelings of the public that because the examination results are very poor, therefore the general standard of education has fallen.

It was most unwise to publish the standard VI examination results twice just to pander the feelings of the public. It was neater to leave the results as originally published, irrespective of whether it was high or low percentage of passes.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Ministry of Education to deliberate for the great Independence of 1960, to make the standard of Free Primary Education reach up to Standard Two. (*Hear! Hear!*). I hope they will take that advice and give us independence in 1960 with Free Primary Education up to Standard two.

Mr Chairman, last year I wanted to make a point but I had not the time and opportunity. This point is the scarcity of science teachers in this Region. It is not only in

this Region but throughout the Federation. There is a dearth of science teachers and we live in a scientific age. If the basic steps in science are not mastered, especially in our secondary schools, the education of the youth is not complete. I note that the Ministry of Education is making a start by giving some grants of up to £2,000 for the building of Science Laboratories. But it is not enough to provide buildings worth £2,000 for Science Laboratories. We require people who have acquired training in science subjects to teach in these Laboratories.

To begin with, it is a very difficult thing to qualify as a Scientist. It is indeed very difficult, more so to qualify in the subjects that are in great demand, say, Physics, Chemistry, Botany or Zoology, Biology, Bio-Chemistry and some such other subjects. It is extremely difficult to come across such people, who can teach these subjects well, and I know that one or two of them have left the Secondary Schools and have gone to the University College where conditions are more attractive. Quite frankly, I cannot suggest immediately the solution which will attract more science teachers to the teaching field. I know that it is a difficult thing. There are very few science masters who come up to Enugu to do administrative work as far as the Education Department is concerned. As a matter of fact, it is only very recently that we have about two or three people with the real science qualifications being offered opportunities to show their ability in the direction of Education Administration. What will be the solution to the problem I cannot say at the moment, but I would like all of us to recognise that there is that necessity. A large number of Education Officers are merely people with History Degrees, which of course you can sit down in, say, Onitsha, and read up, enter for the examination and pass with credit. But as far as science is concerned it is not so. So there is a great necessity to entice science teachers because we want people to become Doctors, we want people to become Engineers, we want people to become Agricultural Officers; these have to go through schools of Science in order to acquire the necessary qualifications to allow them to go to the University to do these courses.

Mr Chairman, the Department of Education has set up a Committee to investigate the Policy of Education in this Region. That is

very welcome because it was mentioned in the Governor's Speech of 1958. It is very welcome but, Mr Chairman, I beg to submit that it has not got local bias. One person is of American origin, one is English and the only African there, as far as I know, has not been connected with Education work in this country for any reasonable length of time. There are people who have been connected with Education in the Voluntary Agencies for a very long time in this country or, in particular, in this Region, who, I think, ought to have been included.

It may be true that the Ford Foundation has financed the Commission but I think it right to have some sort of local bias because we know what we want in this Region. If anything is not there, then we shall be able to say that this is not there and at any rate, we may be able to tell the other people in the Committee what are some of the feelings of the people. At least to that extent, it seems to me that that Committee welcomes the feelings of the people. There are people like Father Jordan whose educational connection in this Region has been long, Bishop Cochin, and one or two other people from this Region, e.g. Enemo.

Mr Chairman, I beg to plead the cause of teachers already in Training Colleges who have done elementary courses before and who were promised on the Floor of this House sometime last year by the then Acting Minister of Education that the money which used to be paid to teachers at the time would be discontinued with the exception that those who were already in training colleges would not be affected by virtue of the fact that the change had come when they were already in the college—that is, that what they were entitled to before the proclamation would still be given to them. Teachers in my constituency and other parts of the Region have petitioned that up to the present, they have not received their entitlements. Whether this is true or not, I am not sure, but I am asking the Minister of Education to find out whether this is true. If it is true, he will probably give us his own version of the story so that we can dispel any illusion or unwarranted statement about the delay in the payment of the allowances.

Mr Chairman, it is surprising to find that Adult Education has been removed from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of

Internal Affairs. I certainly cannot understand how that excision from the Department of Education has been made. I do not know whether this is a suggestion of experts or a suggestion of some other people outside, but for goodness sake, Mr Chairman, I would like the Adult Education to be part and parcel of the Ministry of Education. I think it is necessary to return it to the Ministry of Education where it properly belongs.

Mr Chairman, the provision of having nine Education Officers is not enough. We shall create or be able to create 12 Provinces or if you like, say 13 provinces.

An hon. Member: Why do you want 13 provinces?

Mr Onwuma: So that we may be able to create Aba province.

Mr Chairman, there ought to be 12 or 13 Provincial Education Officers with this status—that is Scale A Upper Segment—because we envisage a number of provinces and we are going to raise enough Provincial Education Officers for this provincial set-up. I would suggest that now we are going to have 12 or 13 provinces that we make provision for 12 or 13 Education Officers. The effect will be to reduce the amount of work that each Education Officer has to do and at the same time help to increase efficiency.

Mr Chairman, as I said earlier in my statement during the debate on the Speech from the Throne, there should be no lowering of standards in this Region so that women could be appointed Education Officers. It is not enough to go over to London or somewhere else for two years to repeat the Higher Elementary course or its equivalent, come back to this country with identical qualification as those at home and without any ability to teach be appointed an Education Officer just because one is a woman. No. Mr Chairman, I am appealing to the Minister of Education to see that only women who are qualified to teach in our secondary schools are recruited and appointed Education Officers.

Sometime ago, a question was asked of the Minister of Education. It was revealed that there were no African women qualified to teach secondary school subjects in Owerri Girls' Secondary School. This is also true of other secondary schools. We must move with the

[MR ONWUMA]

times. Women are making their contributions in various aspects in this Region. But we cannot allow educational standards to be lowered. They must remain where they should be. If women cannot aspire higher let them stay put.

Mr Chairman, the W.O.T.C. in Aba should be from now converted into a pure commercial secondary school, either for boys or for girls or for both. In this Region we have not got a pattern of commercial education where the Government is showing people the light so that they can find the way as far as commercial education is concerned. The W.O.T.C. in Aba, I think, is where this experiment can be tried out. The Department of Education is doing its best, I know. A lot has been done so far; but more remains to be done. I know that the mainstay of the Government depends on the Ministries of Education and Local Government. A lot remains to be done in these Ministries. As I shower praises on the Ministry of Education, I must also draw attention that some defects which exist have to be remedied at a time when it is convenient for the Minister of Education.

Some time last year, my hon. Friend from Uyo was attacking on the Floor of this House the Principal of the Teacher Training College in Uyo, simply because he happens to come from another area. Mr Chairman, Sir, I have this to say that as far as that Teacher Training College is concerned, neither before 1953 nor

after 1958 has so much good work been done in that Training College. As a matter of fact the expansion in that College since the last three or four years has taken a tremendous stand not only in quantity but also in quality.

Mr Chairman, it is necessary to set aside clanishness and lend a helping hand to a good job.

And it being 2.15 p.m. Mr Chairman interrupted the business and left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress: to sit again on Wednesday, 29th April, 1959.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till tomorrow at 10 a.m. Members of the Committee of Selection should meet in the Committee Room after the adjournment.

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at seventeen minutes past two o'clock p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Monday, 27th April, 1959

**Bishop Shanahan Memorial Training
College, Uboma**

35. **Mr S. E. K. Iwueke** asked the Minister of Education, whether he will make for special purposes grant to Bishop Shanahan Memorial Training College, Uboma, to enable it increase its Board accommodation, in view of the pressing necessity to increase the number of students there and the fact that this College is the only Higher Elementary Training College in the whole of Okigwi Division; if not, why.

The Minister of Education: I regret I cannot make a promise about any one particular institution without examining the needs of all other institutions that may be eligible. All applications for Special Purposes Grants are considered by me at the same time, and those in respect of the new financial year have not yet been submitted. When the time comes I will, of course, consider the needs of Bishop Shanahan Memorial College, but would point out that only £12,500 for Special Purposes Grants has been provided in the current Estimates for all educational institutions in the Region.

**Double-Stream Classes in Govern-
ment Secondary Schools**

37. **Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba** asked the Minister of Education, whether he will consider allowing Government Colleges and Secondary Schools to have double-stream classes in view of the increasing number of pupils who are seeking admission into them for whom there are no places at present in these schools.

The Minister of Education: Government College, Umuahia, the Women's Training College, Enugu and the Teacher Training College, Uyo are already double-stream institutions. The Government Secondary School at Afikpo is in the process of doubling up and will reach full capacity of 10 classes in January, 1962.

The present accommodation at the Owerri Boys' Secondary School and at Queen's School, Enugu is sufficient only to permit single streams.

Teachers' Certificate Examination

39. **Mr S. N. Alo** asked the Minister of Education, how many teachers in the Region have passed in theoretical subjects in the Teachers' Grade II Certificate examination, and have not got places in Teachers' Training Institutions for their three months' Course.

The Minister of Education: With the exception of one candidate who applied late last year, no case has been reported to my Ministry. Applications were, however, made by candidates direct to the Principals of Colleges where the courses were held.

Mental Hospital

49. **Mr S. E. K. Iwueke** asked the Minister of Health, whether there are Mental Hospitals in the Region; if so, how many are they, and if not, why.

The Minister of Health: There is one Mental Hospital in this Region—at Calabar. Mental patients are also accommodated in the Prison Lunatic Asylums at Enugu, Calabar and Port Harcourt.

Arrears of Tax

66. **Mr S. E. K. Iwueke** asked the Minister of Finance, if he is aware that the cumulative reassessment and collection of arrears of tax from Schedule II for 1957-58 and 1958-59 at the later part of last year and/or early part of this year, is causing dissatisfaction among tax-payers in the Region, if so what step is the Minister taking to reduce the arrears to one year in order to make the burden on the people lighter.

The Minister of Finance: It is the duty of all tax-payers to pay tax and of the Internal Revenue to collect it. If it is not paid in the year of assessment, steps will be taken to enforce collection in the following year, and if necessary in subsequent years as long as the individual can be traced. Over £366,000 of arrears was in fact collected during 1958-59 in this way. A tax-payer has only himself to blame if he neglects to pay his tax one year, and is then called on to pay two years' tax in one.

I am aware of no general dissatisfaction among tax-payers on this matter; but I am sure there would be grave dissatisfaction amongst honest men who pay their tax promptly if I were to adopt the hon. Member's suggestion, which would amount to forgiving the tax to any tax-payer who succeeds in evading the tax collection for twelve months.

Bore-holes

82. **Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba** asked the Minister of Works, what consideration is the Minister giving to the repeated requests of the two Colleges in Orlu Division, namely, St. Augustine's College, Nkwerre, and Bishop Shanahan College Orlu, for bore-hole water supply; is the Minister aware that these Colleges are inconvenienced for lack of water supply; howsoon will the situation be remedied.

The Minister of Works: The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to Appendix C, page 11, of the White Paper on Rural Water Supplies in the Eastern Region and Sub-head 337 of Head 806 of the 1959-60 draft Estimates where Bishop Shanahan College Orlu is shown in the list of Educational Institutions for Institutional Supplies.

Under the Rural Water Supply Scheme £73,000 has been set aside for Water Supplies for Institutions such as hospitals and Secondary Schools. Ten Educational Institutions were selected from the list recommended by the hon. Minister of Education. In making my selection it was vital to bear in mind the need of the whole Region and allocate to each of the former Provinces in the Region a fair share in accordance with the policy of the Eastern Government of even distribution of amenities.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 28th April, 1959

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Speaker, I beg to say that the Committee of Selection has met and nominated the following Members for the various Committees of the House.

(i) **Standing Orders Committee**

Mr Speaker (*Chairman*)
Mr Okoi Arikpo
Mr O. O. Ita
Mr C. A. Abangwu
Mr M. E. Ogon.

(ii) **House Committee**

The Minister of Internal Affairs (*Chairman*)
Chief I. I. Morphy
Mr V. K. Onyeri
Chief G. N. Agbasiere
Mr J. M. Ito
Mr S. N. Alo
Mr J. O. Okeh.

(iii) **Committee of Privileges**

The Minister of Town Planning (*Chairman*)
Mr Eyo Ita
Mr O. B. Nalelo
Rev. O. Efiang, C.B.E.
Mr P. N. Okeke
Mr K. Kiri
Mr O. Oketa
Mr M. C. Awgu
Mr P. U. Amaefunah.

(iv) **Public Petitions Committee**

The Minister of Health (*Chairman*)
Chief I. I. Morphy
Chief S. J. Amachree
Dr A. N. Obonna
Mr D. E. Akilo
Mr R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.
Mr J. O. Okeh.

(v) **Statutory Corporations Committee**

The Minister of Commerce (*Chairman*)
Mr Okoi Arikpo
Mr A. J. Ekpe
Mr G. C. Okeya
Mr N. O. Onwudiwe
Rev. M. D. Opara
Mr P. A. Onwe.

(vi) **Public Accounts Committee**

Chairman (To be nominated by Mr Speaker)
Mr S. O. Achara
Mr A. J. Ekpe
Mr J. W. E. Anaba
Mr S. E. K. Iwueke
Mr M. N. Onwuma.

Chief I. I. Morphy raised the question of nominations to the Finance Committee and the Chairman said that that Committee had been overtaken by the Constitutional changes and was no longer necessary.

Mr Speaker: I shall appoint the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee in due course.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Acquisition of Land in Diobu

45. **Mr J. O. Okeh** asked the Minister of Town Planning, whether progress has been made in the negotiation between the people of Diobu and the Government for the acquisition of Trans-Amadi layout for industrial schemes; if any, what are the terms offered to the landowners; will Government guarantee that only the original landowners would be entitled to benefit from the acquisition.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Town Planning (Chief S. E. Onukogu): I am directed to answer as follows:—

Notice of acquisition of the site for Government Industrial Estate in Port Harcourt was published as Eastern Regional Notice No. 1031 in the *Eastern Region of Nigeria Gazette* No. 61 Volume 7 of 20th November, 1958. Objections which have been received are still under consideration, and Government will treat with landlords who have submitted genuine claims.

The proposed terms of acquisition are contained in a secret file and cannot be made public at present.

[CHIEF ONUKOGU]

Government will not guarantee that only the original landowners would be entitled to benefit from the acquisition. The land is required for industrial purpose, or in a broad sense, for public purpose, and the interest of the landowners lies in compensation which will be paid.

New Roads

59. **Mr P. N. Okeke** asked the Minister of Transport, how many miles of new roads have been constructed in each division from 1954-59.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport (Mr D. O. Nnamani): I am directed to answer as follows:—

The mileage of new roads constructed by my Ministry since 1954 is only 32 miles, namely:

- (a) 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles in Abakaliki Division on the Abakaliki-Obubra Road.
- (b) 7 miles in Ogoja Division on the Obudu-Wula Road.
- (c) 4 miles in Ikom Division on the Ikom-Bendiga Ayuk-Bashua Road.
- (d) Two four-fifths miles in Ikot Ekpene Division on the layout at Ikot Ekpene, and
- (e) 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles in Udi Division on the Ekulu layout at Enugu.

However, it is not Government's policy to construct new roads except in a few cases where there is a complete lack of roads which hinders the economic development of the Region; rather Government is responsible for improving and reconstructing existing Trunk Roads and other important feeder roads. My colleague the hon. Minister of Welfare, however, informs me that 660 miles of new road were constructed in 1956-57, and 650 miles in 1957-58 by community effort. Figures for 1954-55 are not available and those for 1958-59 have not yet been received. Government, of course, gives assistance to communities and Local Government bodies who are constructing these new roads.

Mr P. N. Okeke: Is the Minister aware that Onitsha Division is being neglected as far as road construction is concerned?

Mr Nnamani: The Minister is not aware.

Chief Morphy: Will the Minister name the new road constructed in Ogoja Division?

The Minister of Transport: If the hon. Member had listened he would have heard when it was mentioned—Ikom to Wum.

Water Supply

80. **Mr J. E. Eyo** asked the Minister of Works why is it that the Urban Areas are not called upon to contribute towards their water supply scheme, whereas in the rural areas, the people are called upon to contribute $\frac{1}{3}$ towards the cost of the pipe borne water supply scheme; in view of the disparity in the two schemes will the Minister consider discontinuing the $\frac{1}{3}$ contribution system in the Rural Area Schemes.

The Minister of Works: My hon. Friend has got his facts wrong. Those people who enjoy an Urban Water Supply pay eventually for the whole capital cost of their water undertaking, as in the annual bill presented to the Prescribed Authorities, there is a 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent annual charge on all plant and equipment incorporated in the undertaking. The Prescribed Authorities pass this charge on to the ratepayers by way of a general water rate. No such charge is proposed for Rural Water Supply installations, so my hon. Friend will agree that the rural ratepayer is better off than the Urban ratepayer in this respect.

The majority of towns selected for rural water supply pumped and piped installations have now paid their $\frac{1}{3}$ contributions, and there are many other towns who have not at present been selected for such installations who are clamouring to pay a share of even more than $\frac{1}{3}$ so that they may have this amenity.

Abakaliki General Hospital

83. **Mr S. N. Alo** asked the Minister of Transport, whether he will give early consideration to the tarring of the approach road to the General Hospital, Abakaliki in order to put a stop to the discomfort caused to patients and staff by the dust raised by passing traffic.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport (Mr D. O. Nnamani): I am directed to answer as follows:—

Yes, I will. My Ministry has on several occasions carried out such tarring, stretches of road running past the Nsukka and Awgu Hospitals are cases in point. I have therefore instructed the Provincial Engineer, Abakaliki to send me an estimate for this proposal.

ALLOCATION OF SEATS IN THE FEDERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr M. N. Onwuma (Aba Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name:

That this House prays the Federal Government to reconsider the question of allocation of seats in the Federal House of Representatives as it affects the Eastern Region generally and Aba Division in particular.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the essence of this Motion is to ask the Government to make it clear to us once and for all that there will be a constitutional provision for increase in the number of seats in the House of Representatives in future. I looked through the report of the Constitutional Conference and the relevant portion does not seem to give me the satisfaction I was looking for.

On the matter concerning the amendment to the Constitution after independence, page 25 of the report of the Nigerian Constitutional Conference paragraph 63 refers. With permission, Mr Speaker, I beg to read as follows:—

“(b) Provisions which affect the basis of representation in either of the Legislative Houses of the Federation. It was confirmed as the understanding of the Conference that the constitution for independence should provide that the Regions shall have equal representation in the Senate and that the seats in the House of Representatives shall be allocated among the Regions and Lagos in proportion to their respective populations. In addition to the entrenchment of these provisions it should be provided that—

“(i) an amendment which would reduce the proportion of seats in the Senate allocated

to any Region or reduce the seats allocated to any Region in the House of Representatives to a number less than that which is proportionate to the population of the Region shall not take effect until the Region in question concurs in the amendment;

“(ii) an amendment which would proportionately reduce the representation of Lagos in the House of Representatives shall require the concurrence of a majority of the representatives of Lagos in each of the two Federal Houses; . . .”

Mr Speaker, the same thing holds true with representation of Lagos and there is no provision in the Report for the increase in the number of seats allocated to the Regions either for the Senate or for the main House of Representatives. So, I would like it to be made quite clear to this House whether that provision is understood or that it will require a constitutional procedure before that is inserted. If not, it will be necessary to make provision because the population of this Region is rising much more rapidly than the population of the other Regions. The number of seats as it affects the Eastern Region at the moment will, in a year or two, be most inadequate or will be out of proportion to the population of this Region.

Sir, in the Delimitation Report itself, at page 11, you will find the number of persons occupying square miles in this Federation. In the Northern Region the number of people occupying one square mile is 61, in the Western Region 134, in the Eastern Region 245. Apart from Lagos, the density of population of the rest of the Regions is less than the density of population of this Region and I am reliably informed that the birth rate or the increase in the number of people in this Region is higher than in the other parts of the Federation. As a matter of fact, social scientists know that at a certain stage, population increases and reaches a certain maximum and begins to decline and I am not now going to explain why it is so because it will be outside my argument. The essential thing, Mr Speaker, is that the new Federal House will make room for about 320 people. I am saying that we can make representations that that will not be enough in, say, about two, three, or four years to come. It is possible that the number of Members will be increased to 340 or 350 or even 400 as the case may be. It will be useless

[MR ONWUMA]

to build a House for 320 people at this time and in about four or five years we begin to make extensions. The matter can now be taken in hand.

Mr Speaker, Sir, where this affects Aba Division is that there is a constituency in Aba Division—Aba Central Constituency No. 238—with a population of 141,477 people. It is the largest constituency in the Eastern Region. (*Several hon. Members: No! No!*). I would not have minded that very much if we were not about to lose certain privileges as a result. For instance, in the next Eastern House of Assembly which is expected to meet in 1962, there will be 146 Members.

Mr Speaker, that is provided for in the Report of the Constitutional Conference page 29, paragraph 73 (c)—“Membership of the Eastern House of Assembly should be increased to 146. It was noted that for this purpose, each Federal Constituency would be divided into two single member constituencies”. Aba Central 141,477, then will have the same number of seats with, say Enugu 65,100, in the next Eastern House of Assembly.

Now, Sir, this Aba Central Constituency with 141,477 people would be divided for the purpose of the Regional House into two constituencies of approximately 70,000 people. Mr Speaker, you will see that there are a number of constituencies—in fact a great many of them—with 68,000 people and on this basis, 68,000 people would be divided into two constituencies of approximately 34,000 people in a constituency. I quite agree, Sir, that the work of the Delimitation Commission was extremely difficult but we are suffering for it.

My case, Mr Speaker, is that this Aba Central Constituency is too big to be compared with the very many smaller constituencies of about 50,000, 60,000 and so on, which will have two seats, while the Aba Central Constituency with 141,477 people have the same number of seats. So, Sir, I am appealing to the Government to keep the matter constantly in view to find out whether a compromise could be reached whereby people with larger population will not lose their numerical representation because of some of these difficulties.

Mr Speaker, I do not intend to be long on this subject because the Premier and his Ministers received a welcome address by the Southern Ngwa District Council mentioning

this point last year, that the merging together of the Southern Ngwa District Council with the Eastern Ngwa District Council to produce this constituency is too large. The same representation was made to the Ministers who were touring the Eastern Ngwa District as well as Northern Ngwa District Council area separately. In this consensus of opinion the matter need not be left alone because at that time it received a favourable reply. So, Mr Speaker, once more I leave this to our Government to do something about this constituency because we are going to lose a lot if the Eastern House is built for 146 Members. It is likely that any provision for increasing the membership will be made at this level. I suggest that the building programme should make provision in the Eastern House of Assembly to build a House of Assembly to contain more than 146 Members. If it makes it about 150 or 152 anywhere it will minimise the necessity of building another or extending the House of Assembly.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr E. U. Eronini (Owerri Division): Mr Speaker, I want to bring to the minds of hon. Members that not only is Aba in the same category but also Owerri, particularly the area from which I come. It is very difficult where you have two districts to share one representative. In the case of Southern Aba with a population of 141,000 it is a district. In the case of Mbaitoli and Ikeduru the matter is even worse and it is getting to a dangerous point. Mbaitoli during the last census had a population of 74,000. That is not the population at all because it is more than that by almost double that number. It can be argued that in the last registration they registered up to 32,000. You know that with a population of 74,000, it is almost impossible to have 32,000 to register. It is always in the neighbourhood of one to four and if you calculate on that strength, Mbaitoli will be regarded as up to 120,000 in population, and Ikeduru another district with 62,000 by the last census is by far more than that. During the last registration, it registered up to 22,000. No doubt by the same proportion she is almost 80 or 90 thousand in her population.

Mr Speaker, we have been having a lot of headaches in the two Districts to choose one to represent the two thickly populated areas. When we look through the Delimitation report

and the population, we find that in some areas, especially in the West, there are some Districts with only 62 thousand having a representative; but unfortunately in the East, for one reason or another, these two thickly populated Districts (Mbaitoli and Ikeduru) were just grouped together to have one representative. It may create bad blood where it did not exist before, because for three days now, it has given us a lot of headache. We do not know what to do; we have to abandon nomination for one reason or the other; and then everybody says "All right, we shall go up to the Governor and tell him that we cannot do it; we can even tell him not to give us any representation at all". So, in that respect, Sir, I feel that the Regional Government should now make its representation to the Federal Government. Possibly as time is coming, as the hon. the Mover of this Motion said, there may be a possible chance of having more seats in the Federal House. It might be possible that the Cameroons are not coming to the Federal House; so that the possibility of the other Regions getting their better share will be considered. So we are making this strongly, Sir, that unless something is done to Mbaitoli and Ikeduru they will reach saturation point and we must think of what to do.

Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Speaker, I would like to state two objections and ask for your ruling before proceeding with this Motion. First, Sir, may I invite your attention to Standing Order 18, (6) (c). I am relying on the line, Sir, dealing with matters not within the executive competence of the Regional Government. In our view, Sir, the subject matter of this Motion is not within the executive authority of the Eastern Government. And, secondly, Sir, the Motion is based on the erroneous presumption, that this is a matter within the competence of the Federal Government. May I submit, Sir, that it is entirely a matter within the discretion of the Governor-General.

On that, Sir, may I invite your attention to the 1957 Constitutional Conference Report which has been embodied in the Constitution. I am drawing your attention, Sir, to paragraph

34: "The Conference set up a Committee, under the chairmanship of the Governor-General, consisting of delegates from all political parties represented at the Conference and including United Kingdom representatives, to consider proposals for an electoral law for the Federation. The Committee reported to the Conference and after discussion it was agreed to recommend as follows:—

(a) The Governor-General. . ."

The Premier: Point of Order. Mr Speaker, I raise this point not to embarrass the hon. Member but because he has started arguing the second point. Assuming that his first point is correct, I am submitting, that his second point is not correct. Although the Standing Order 18 (6) (c) has been quoted by him it is contained in paragraph 6 (c) that

"Any such notice shall be submitted to Mr Speaker who shall direct. . ."

Since you have not directed that the Motion should be returned to the Mover and since you have not stated that in your opinion this Motion of the hon. Member for Aba Division is inadmissible, the inference is that Mr Speaker has ruled this Motion in order and according to the Opposition Chief Whip, he is now questioning the correctness of that decision and my submission is that Standing Order 34 makes it quite clear that Mr Speaker shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of Order in the House and his decision upon any point shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the House except upon a substantive Motion. My point is that having allowed this Motion to be entered on the Order Paper, you have given a ruling that it is admissible.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I said earlier that I was going to clear the ground and ask for a ruling. I never knew that I was going to be interrupted by the Premier. If you will allow me to proceed, I will submit myself to your ruling.

The Premier: Mr Speaker, I raised a point of order. My point of order is that there is nothing to preclude my hon. Friend from pressing his point when he speaks on the Motion but at this stage he is not speaking to it because he is challenging your decision.

Mr E. O. Eyo: My point, Sir, is that you have not made any ruling on this. If I will only be allowed to proceed on this, I will submit myself to your ruling.

The second point which is very serious is that this Motion seeks to debate an act of the Governor-General in his absolute discretion. I am submitting that this House cannot properly debate that and I am sure that if this Motion were to come before the House of Representatives, it would not have been allowed. I am referring to paragraph 34 of the Constitutional Conference Report of 1957. The Governor-General acting in his discretion should appoint a Delimitation Commission to make recommendations for the division of the Federation of Nigeria into single-member electoral districts.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members will see that this does not come within the scope of what the hon. Member is saying. The Motion is only that this House prays the Federal Government, and it is within the executive authority of the Regional Government to pray the Federal Government, and therefore the Motion is in order.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I rise therefore to oppose the Motion. I am opposing it because it is fundamentally defective in that it presumes erroneously that it is within the competence of the Federal Government to deal with delimitation of single-member constituencies. I appreciate the ruling you have given; but what is the point in this House praying the Federal Government to do a thing it has not got the power to do? It is absolute waste of our time, and if I may say so, it is nonsensical.

Sir, if I may take you back, the matter is within the discretion of His Excellency the Governor-General and it is not open to question by the House of Representatives or even the Council of Ministers. The Federal Government has no standing in the matter whatsoever. The Governor-General has acted in his absolute discretion. As a matter of fact, I want the Premier to bear me witness that at the last Constitutional Conference, delegates attempted, around the Conference Table, to reopen the question of the delimitation of single-member constituencies but it was ruled that His Excellency the Governor-General having received the report of the Commission and

proceeded to take action on it, nobody was in a position to question the exercise of discretionary power in the matter.

Mr Speaker: I do not know whether the hon. Member has the brief of the Federal Government to be its advocate to say what it is competent to do and what it is not competent to do—and this is within the competence of the Federal Government. You are not the advocate of the Federal Government in this matter. It is up to you to discuss your own Motion that is before you.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I am saying that the Constitution having conferred discretionary power on His Excellency the Governor-General, the matter is outside the competence of the Federal Government. Now, Sir, what is the point in this House praying the Federal Government to do a thing it has not got powers to do? Paragraph 34 (c) of the 1957 Conference Report reads:

“The Commission should submit its recommendations to the Governor-General who, acting in his discretion should amend them as he deems necessary and embody them in a Proclamation determining the electoral districts for the purposes of the ensuing election”.

The Governor-General, acting in his discretion has amended them as he deemed necessary and has actually issued a Proclamation. So that there is nothing this Legislature can do; there is nothing the Federal Government can do about the matter. Our argument is that the Motion is calling this House to pray—I am happy not to God as this is the type of prayer that is never answered.

The next point, Sir, is that the Motion goes on to say “to reconsider the question of allocation of seats in the Federal House of Representatives as it affects the Eastern Region generally...” Now, Sir, the whole question of allocation of seats is based on a formula which was acceptable to everybody at the Conference; that is, a seat per 100,000 population. Now the Eastern Region has been allocated 73 seats for its population of 7.3 million. So that there is no question of the House “praying” the Federal Government to do anything about allocation of seats. There is no suggestion by the Mover of the Motion that the Eastern Region has not received its pro-

portionate share of the 320 seats. The main point is that the Member is arguing a case for Aba Division but, Sir, this is not a case for the Federal Government now because this Region has got its proportionate share according to the 1953 census. The allocation was, North, 174 seats, Eastern Region 73 seats, the Western Region 62 seats, Lagos 3 seats and Southern Cameroons 8 seats, which is in all 320 seats for roughly 32 million people; that is, 1 seat for every 100,000 population. Sir, all these were agreed at the Conference.

Sir, I submit that it is too late in the day for the hon. Member for Aba to come here and try to argue a case for the Aba Division. At the Conference which approved the report of the Delimitation Commission the Government was represented, the Government Party was represented and the Opposition was also represented and all the parties made their representations to the Delimitation Commission. There was no argument as to the number of seats allocated to the Regions since this was based on the 1953 census. So that the Commission having heard from the Government Party, having heard from the Opposition and having made its recommendations to the Governor-General who has acted in his discretion, I do not see any reason why my hon. Friend should come here to waste the time of the House asking us to pray the Federal Government to do what we know it has no power to do. If the Member is not satisfied he has his remedy in paragraph 34 (e) (ii) of the Report of the 1957 Nigerian Constitutional Conference which reads as follows:—

“the periodic review of constituency boundaries after each census has been published, saving that there should be no review for the five years immediately following the initial delimitation of constituencies.”

So assuming, Sir, that this prayer could be answered, well he has got to wait for five years and if he is aware of that I do not think he will regard us on this side of the House as being heathens if we refuse to join in a prayer in which we do not hope to get an answer until after five years. So, as I said before, it seems that the Mover is not happy about his own Constituency but I am sorry there is nothing this House can do to help him.

He has got to go and fight his election wherever he has been unfortunately placed and I hope he will be popular enough not to find it difficult to win the election.

On these grounds, Sir, we on this side of the House are opposed to this Motion.

Mr M. E. Ogon (Ikom Division): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Motion, and in doing so, Sir, I would like to say that the important thing in prayer is not the length of time it should be answered, but... (*Interruption*). I feel that the Mover of the Motion realises that this Motion does not mean that the changes enumerated will be effected before the next Federal elections. He realises that quite well. It is, Sir, against the future that he wants the glaring injustice to be corrected. Whether it is the Regional election or the Federal one, Members will agree with me that 100,000 should represent one Constituency, and these people in question are about 140,000 in population, and I am sure by the next census they may be a bit more than that. It will be a glaring act of injustice if no provision is made in future to correct this anomaly.

Moreover, Sir, when the Delimitation Commission came into being, the Leader of the House put up the case for the Eastern Region. Chief Morphy, Sir, in that Committee, will agree that there was a considerable doubt as to how to allocate the 8 extra seats. It was agreed that in the East when these 8 extra seats were to be re-allocated, they should go to the people who were on the outer verge of 100,000 and if in future there are extra seats available, they should be allocated to such Constituencies.

A Member for Owerri raised a very important point that the Cameroons might go French. I do not myself wish that that will happen, but should that happen, Sir, it means that there will be 8 extra seats for re-allocation. There might be the necessity for us to press that these 8 seats should be weighted in favour of the Constituency where the population was over 100,000.

Again, Sir, I would say that after Independence, it should be possible for the Federal Legislature to take a decision on certain matters

[MR OGON]

and amend our Constitution. It happened in Ghana, and our argument is that if you read the Report of the 1958 Resumed Nigeria Constitutional Conference, paragraph 74 (d), it is stated that, "The Federal Government should be responsible for legislation concerning Federal elections and the Regional Governments for legislation concerning Regional elections. After independence the constitution should no longer provide that electoral legislation should be in the form of regulations made by the Governor-General and the Governors. Instead such legislation should be enacted by the appropriate legislatures . . ."

It is expected by this Report that these arrangements of the Governor-General making regulations are only between now and 1960. Immediately after that, the appropriate legislature should be responsible for making local regulations.

Again, Sir, I would not like the Members to mislead us into thinking that this House cannot pray to God. We can pray to God; we can pray to anything. The only one I will not support us to pray to is the Colonial Secretary.

Mr V. K. Onyeri (Port Harcourt Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion is very interesting because it has drawn some of us who had no time or privilege to be Members of the Constitutional Conference Delegation, to that Conference. Mr Speaker, you will notice that the Member from Aba is complaining about the number of seats allocated to that Division. If we take the overall picture of the country and come to how these seats were shared, you will observe, Mr Speaker, Sir, that certain sections of the Federation were given the lion share. This is where I will disagree with him and I say I do not pray. If we want to pray I will suggest that we pray to ourselves, that whenever we attend meetings we must have a clear idea of what we are going to present.

It appears to me, Mr Speaker, that the Eastern Region has indeed deteriorated to a Region of not being satisfied with anything given to her when in fact we have the best brains in the country. The only thing is that whenever we are called upon to present our views we do not consult ourselves and whenever we make mistakes, instead of owning them

manly we try to pray even to God, a prayer that He will not even answer.

An hon. Member: God answers all prayers.

Mr Onyeri: Mr Speaker, Sir, during the last Constitutional Conference, you will remember what happened. Many of us, the backbenchers at home, were told that we got everything that was asked for in London. We got everything that the Eastern Region wanted. But what happened? The Northern Region refused to give the right of vote to their women and during the consideration of the allocation of seats our people should have pressed that the allocation of seats must be based on the people who are going to vote and not including women.

An hon. Member: He is ignorant of the background.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I must point out that we cannot have two debates going on at the same time.

Mr Onyeri: The thing is that some of them who did not even cross the Bar-Beach in Lagos talk more than those who took part in the debate.

Mr Speaker, what I am saying is that if we had presented our case and actually got our Northern brothers to see that there is no need for them to have grabbed 174 seats when actually half the population of that Region are not entitled to vote or be voted for, we would have got more seats for the Region; but it will surprise you, Mr Speaker, that a Member from Aba Division was a delegate to that Constitutional Conference, a substantial lawyer at that and an orator; he went there and sat tight and did nothing for his Division, only to ask us in this hon. House to pray to the Government. Mr Speaker, I am tired of praying nowadays.

The only thing I have to say is that the hon. Member from Aba Division will take heart and go down to his Division and fight out his way because I know his constituency and know what is going to happen. Perhaps he is telling us indirectly that during the next election he is not going to see the precincts of this House.

I am saying, Mr Speaker, that I will even show him the way out from this place; that I am praying. I am praying you, Mr Speaker, to tell the hon. Member to go and campaign well in his Constituency to see that he retains his seat here.

Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

Mr J. E. Eyo (Abak Division): Mr Speaker, I wish to speak very briefly on this Motion. Those who do not wish to join in the "prayer" as they call it, should ask themselves whether they are speaking the minds of their people. Whenever something is wrong something should be done to amend it. Though this Motion is a bit parochial, speaking only of Aba Division, yet let us view the points raised as far as the Eastern Region as a whole is concerned. After the Delimitation Commission I think there have been some changes in some Divisions which might also affect the allocation of seats. Recently, there has been a Commission of Inquiry set up by the Eastern Government to look into the request of certain people of Annang race from Opobo Division wishing to join Abak Division. We are quite optimistic that they are coming. As they come over, it is going to cause some changes in the population. It will mean that Abak Division is going to have increased population and if that happens, and as the seats were allocated on population basis, Abak Division will, in all fairness, be entitled to more seats than it has at present.

Also, Sir, we have our brothers who are coming to join Abak Division from Ikot Onono. All these bring about increase in population. I am speaking as it affects my Division. There might be changes in other Divisions that might warrant this "prayer" being answered very soon. Though the Constitution says we should wait until five years before any changes are made, but if something happens I think a proclamation can be made, as I heard Opposition Members say some days ago, to cancel a former proclamation. I think the Government will be wise to see to it that where something is wrong it should do something to correct the fault. Those who are opposing this Motion are not quite serious that they would not like to have more seats allocated to their Divisions. It might be that these people will be the first to grapple this chance when it comes to them. So the Motion is quite straightforward and plain and calls for no argument.

There should, therefore, be no need for the Opposition to ask for a division in this matter.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

Chief I. I. Morphy (Ogoja Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion. My object for opposing it is that before the Delimitation Commission started to work, a Delimitation Committee was set up in the Eastern Region and it was comprised of the following people: Dr Okpara, Mr Okeke, Mr Ogon, Mr Inko-Tariah, now Magistrate in Calabar, Mr S. G. Ikoku, Professor Eyo Ita, and I was also serving in it. Now, what happened was that both the Government and the Opposition had to prepare their cases, and their cases were presented to the Delimitation Commission; they met us in Enugu here. I think that before Government presented their case they could have consulted their own people. For any of them to come here with this Motion now, and I think it is too late, shows that they have no confidence in the Government at all and that there is no degree of consultation between the Government and the people. Now, if there were any degree of consultation he would not have moved the Motion because the Government Party had presented their case to the Delimitation Commission.

We have presented our own memorandum and we did argue for Aba at that time, but the Government felt that what is reported in the Delimitation Commission is proper for Aba Division, so I think in this respect, this Motion shows that the Government never consulted their supporters at all. We cannot do anything now because Government and Opposition have agreed on what the Delimitation Commission recommended. The only way out is that after five years we might get a change, and everyone of us has got to know that.

So on that ground, Mr Speaker, I do not think we are joining in the prayer.

Mr A. O. Chikwendu (Bende Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Motion by the Member from Aba in that the Delimitation Commission in their report indicated that they recognised certain anomalies, but that they were asking the Government to see that in due course such anomalies were removed. They recognised that an attempt to remove these anomalies would land them into major

[MR CHIKWENDU]

difficulties and for that they pressed upon the members of the Government to accept their recommendations as at the present moment.

It happens that Bende Division is one of those Divisions where there are many anomalies. The Ala-Ala District Council and the Elu-Elu District Council have a population of more than 135,000. The people of Ala-Ala District Council have made some representations to this Government and those of Elu-Elu District Council have also made some representations to this Government, and during the time the Premier and his Ministers visited Bende, it was one of the issues raised; and when His Excellency visited Bende, in the welcome address, it was one of the issues contained therein. Both the Premier and His Excellency said that the anomalies of which we are now complaining have been recognised by the Government, but that in due course, that is after five years when the situation arises, they would make certain to ensure that justice was done to everybody.

What this Motion seeks, Sir, is to appeal to our Government to make sure that when the opportunity arises, certain adjustments will be made as far as this matter is concerned, and that the Government report the point at issue and nothing more. We are supporting this Motion and praying to our Government to ensure that when the proper time comes the anomalies and injustices done to certain Divisions are corrected.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I support this Motion.

Mr N. O. Onwudiwe (Okigwi Division): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Motion. I do so because it gives the opportunity to everyone of us to present his difficulties to the Government.

But before presenting my case I would like to answer some of the points raised by the Opposition Members. They say that they will not take part in any prayer which will not be answered. I want to say that when we pray to God we cannot be sure whether or not the prayer will be answered, but we keep on praying. I think that the Opposition being confusionists do not like to pray, and so they

urge those who pray not to pray. There is an adage which says that prayers work miracles. I think that prayers have great powers and if we keep on praying we must succeed. I want to assure the Opposition that if they pray with confidence they will succeed, as God helps those who pray well.

Mr Speaker, in my Division we have a very populous area known as the Mbano District Council area. It has a very large population which would take two Members in the allocation of seats.

An hon. Member: What is the population?

Mr Onwudiwe: The population is 165,000 and, in fact, if a correct census is taken it will be more. In the last census many people did not give their names because they were afraid they would be asked to pay tax. So many people hibernated. If the population is correctly assessed it will be 200,000 in that area.

In spite of protests, a part of this area was taken away and joined to another District Council area to make up that area. The place is Eime. It has a population of 56,000 and its area was joined to Etiti District Council, which also has a large population. It has over 72,000 people and, in fact, when the Premier and his Ministers toured that area we presented our difficulties. According to him, he promised to answer these difficulties after the London Constitutional Conference. I would pray the Government that when the case of the Eastern Region comes up in the Federal House of Representatives, the case of Mbano may be brought up. From the standpoint of population we can rightly claim two seats to be allocated to Mbano District Council area.

In fact, my people are not happy because one part of Mbano is taken away and joined to another district altogether. So we are asking our Government here that when they pray to the Federal Government to correct these anomalies, they should consider the case of Mbano so that we should have in due course two seats allocated to it.

With these few observations, Mr Speaker, I support.

Rev. M. D. Opara (Owerri Division): Mr Speaker, I would not have spoken but for the fact that some people were trying to toy with the word "Prayer". It is only the infidel or the agnostic who would not like to pray and who does not know the usefulness of prayer. The Word of God has told us that we ought to pray in season and out of season and that we ought to pray always too. There are many things that you cannot do humanly but by prayer, you can just get anything you want.

What this Motion seeks, Sir, is to pray. We are not forcing the Federal Government, nor do we even force our Regional Government. What the Motion seeks is that this Government prays the Federal Government. We know there are very many anomalies on this question of constituencies for elections to the Federal House, but the anomalies can be remedied. I know that we give certain concessions to the minority areas but there is no use carving out certain people from one district because of their majority number and thereby make them become a minority.

We are therefore asking our Government to pray the Federal Government to reconsider this when next we have another Commission. Even without waiting till then, amendments can be made. When the Chief Whip of the Opposition was making his speech, he said that the Delimitation Commission met and recommended to the Governor-General who can amend. He can still amend the Schedule.

With these few words, Mr Speaker, I support.

Mr J. A. Agba (Ogoja Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to oppose the Motion and we on this side of the House oppose the Motion from the point of view of principle rather than merely speaking and opposing for the sake of opposing. I would like to sound a note of warning to the Government and I put it in Latin and hope that the Minister of Commerce will translate: *Qui non corrigatur pereat*.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Point of Order, Standing Order 2: "The proceedings and debates of the House shall be in the English language, but a Member may present a petition in any other language if the petition be accompanied by an English translation certified to be

correct by the Member presenting the petition."

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member will reduce it into English.

Mr Agba: I had thought that the Minister of Commerce who is a scholar in Latin would really help me to translate it. The simple explanation is: "Let him perish who may not be corrected." It is almost impossible for the Government to see the right side of anything even when the correction is very good. I say that the Opposition Chief Whip has pointed out the principle under which we are opposing the Motion and it is according to the report of the Delimitation Commission. The Motion is misdirected because the Mover is asking Government to pray the Federal Government which is incapable of doing anything as far as this is concerned instead of asking the Governor-General who acted on his own discretion according to the report of the Commission. It is mainly on principle that the Opposition is opposing the Motion as such. We are opposing it because it violates the fundamental principles under which the report was made. I want to say that the Mover of the Motion is showing to the outside world that the Government of the Eastern Region is very inconsistent. It also shows that the people composing the Government of the Eastern Region do not think far and cannot see far. I am not merely making a statement.

I suppose that the man, particularly those people who accompanied the Commission on this constituency commission, really saw the need for the decisions they took. The Government representatives and all others agreed to a principle to have the report for five years before any changes are made. In less than one year an hon. Member, and for that purpose a scientist, has come to table a Motion calling on the Government to pray the Federal Government to change that report which the Members of the Government had helped to compile.

I think this is only showing us to the world as being inconsistent and not knowing what we are doing. After all, before the end of the fifth year new census will have been taken and the census will really show if the Eastern Region had been wrongly represented in the Federal House. Certainly, those people

[MR AGBA]

who would be composing the Federal Government at the time would definitely bring about a change in the representation in the House. What is the use of tabling this Motion at this time when the Federal Election is coming on?

I have no doubt that any far-seeing man in this place will really be led to believe that the reason for this prayer, which is no prayer, at all, because it does not contain the qualities of a prayer, is really to bring about a change before the forthcoming Federal Election. Even if they undertake to pray the Federal Government to do such a thing, I think their prayer will not be heard.

Since prayer has been made the essence of this Motion, I want to say, Sir, that for a prayer to be heard, firstly, it must be directed to the right source, and that right source is the Governor-General in this respect. The second thing is that a prayer must ask or it must be made to ask for something which is possible or probable of obtaining; not something impossible. For instance, if you ask God to make you a jigger—you are already a man—I think that is impossible.

Now Sir, I am very sorry that an hon. Member in this House who is supposed to be a Bachelor of Divinity stood up also to talk about prayer without mentioning the qualities of prayer and what things are necessary before a prayer may be heard. I think, Sir, that, firstly, the man who is asking us to pray is asking us to pray for a wrong thing, and because we are praying for a wrong thing, out of time, out of place, our prayer will not be heard. Secondly, Sir, our prayer is being directed to a wrong source and because the prayer is being directed to a wrong source, at a wrong time and to a wrong place, not only that it will not reach there, but our prayer will not be heard.

Another point, Sir, is that I want to talk of the change. An hon. Member has talked about the change taking place after the Delimitation Commission Report has been published. I want to distinguish a change here. I want to inform the House that an important Government like this, composed of intelligent people and men of integrity, should not be subjected to committing itself to any slight

change, and the slight change here, if I may use the philosophical language, I call an accidental change.

I want to make it known that there are two important changes in anything. One is substantial change and another is accidental change. In accidental change, a big body like Government should not be made to commit itself. It must wait. It must not go out to show its inconsistency and it must wait until the agreed time has come. The agreed time is five years.

If the change, Sir, were substantial I think the Opposition Members would be very unreasonable to come here to oppose such a Motion. Certainly we in the Eastern Region would like our representation in the Federal House to be increased. I, for instance, come from a small Obudu Division. Suppose there were three Members from Obudu, I think the strength would be increased; but one man as the saying goes—"A tree cannot form a forest". So if we had more seats in the Federal House, I think the strength of the Eastern Region would be increased. But this change here which one hon. Member has spoken about is purely accidental and I do not want the Government to commit itself and all the people in the Eastern Region and expose these people in the Region to ridicule.

Another point, Sir, is that I want to say that we have just done our registration this year and that registration has been done in the Eastern Region also. Anybody who has sense at all in the outside world will ridicule this Government when next year this Government comes again and calls for new registration. That is in the event that this Government agrees to pass this Motion, we are only making a mockery of ourselves and in big things of this nature, we cannot afford to be so flexible.

I am praying the Government to ask the Mover of this Motion to withdraw his Motion and not subject the Eastern Region as a whole to public contempt.

Mr Speaker: I think it might be necessary for me to erase from the minds of some of the Opposition Members what seems to me an erroneous impression about this Motion.

I think that the Motion is praying the Federal House and it is competent to pray the Federal House and there is no need to question the competence of its authority to do that.

The Premier: Mr Speaker, may I state quite briefly the stand of the Government on this Motion. The text of the Motion is quite simple and lucid. It says that this House prays the Federal Government to reconsider the question of allocation of seats in the Federal House of Representatives as it affects the Eastern Region generally and Aba Division in particular. If we have to be objective in analysing the Motion, it is obvious that the Motion does not ask this House to pray for an immediate reconsideration of the question. The Motion makes it quite clear that something is wrong in the present structure, and therefore the attention of the Federal Government must be drawn to that which is wrong for amelioration.

Can anything be wrong with such a simple Motion in such lucid language? The Government feels therefore that before rendering advice to the hon. Mover that we reconsider the historical background and also consider the criticisms made on the Floor of this House to find out whether such criticisms are justified; we will then be in a position to advise the hon. Mover.

Going back to the history of this Motion, I think, Sir, we have to consider what was decided at the Conference in 1957, to which the hon. Member, the Opposition Chief Whip, referred. May I, with your permission, Sir, refresh the minds of hon. Members. It is page 16, paragraph 34, of the Conference Report, 1957:

“The Conference set up a Committee, under the chairmanship of the Governor-General, consisting of delegates from all political parties represented at the Conference and including United Kingdom representatives, to consider proposals for an electoral law for the Federation. The Committee reported to the Conference and after discussion it was agreed to recommend as follows:—The Governor-General acting in his discretion should appoint an *ad hoc* Delimitation Commission to make recommendations for the division of the

Federation of Nigeria into single-member electoral districts”. Then it continues:

“The Commission should submit its recommendations to the Governor-General who, acting in his discretion, should amend them as he deems necessary and embody them in a Proclamation determining the electoral districts for the purposes of the ensuing election”.

What happened, Mr Speaker, is that the decisions of the Conference were religiously adhered to, and after His Excellency had received the Report of the Delimitation Commission, the Proclamation was published. This Government was then confronted with a spate of complaints from different Divisions, particularly Aba, Bende, Nsukka, Okigwi, Owerri, Udi, etc. We contacted the Federal Government and we were advised that in accordance with the Conference Report, having published the Proclamation, we had to wait according to the understanding which we arrived at in London in 1957, until after the first five years—that is after the first Federal elections.

This was, naturally, communicated to those concerned. But that did not preclude the possibility, by any of these Divisions, of raising that point between now and the expiration of five years, so that when the time comes for revision of the constituencies, their complaints would be borne in mind. That is where I come to grips with some of my hon. Friends of the Opposition, because it would appear that there is a misunderstanding as to what we mean by the terms we use. For example, the Motion says “pray”. What is the meaning of the word “pray”? If we follow the theological interpretation given by my hon. Friend from Obudu, it would mean something extended to this House, although we do pray every morning.

We have got to look at it from two angles, i.e., what it denotes and what it connotes. It denotes a request and its connotation may be made in its constitutional context, that is, that this House, this Regional House, has no jurisdiction over Federal elections, but we can pray the Federal Government to exercise its jurisdiction in that respect. So that from that context, Government sees no harm in our asking the Federal Government to exercise this particular jurisdiction so as to do

[THE PREMIER]

justice to Aba Division and other Divisions to which we feel injustice has been done.

There is another point of divergence and that is the use of the term "allocation of seats" used in the Motion. I do not see how this led to disagreement with the Opposition Chief Whip because if we look at the Constitutional Conference Report of 1957 paragraph 34 (e) (ii) which he has quoted reads:—

"(e) The Electoral Commission should be responsible for:—

(ii) the periodic review of constituency boundaries after each census has been published, saying that there should be no review for the five years immediately following the initial delimitation of constituencies".

From this we have found that the two Gentlemen agreed on their definition of the term. I am sure what the hon. Member for Aba meant when he used the phrase "allocation of seats" is "constituencies boundaries" because you do not allocate seats to constituencies which have not their boundaries. So I feel that both the hon. Member for Aba Division and my hon. Friend of the Opposition really agreed. If that is the case, that is, there should be "periodic review", I do not see anything wrong in our asking the Federal Government to bear in mind, when it is time to review the delimitation of constituencies, the injustice done to Aba and other Divisions in the Eastern Region.

Now there are some points, Mr Speaker, which were raised by my hon. Friends opposite which I would like to comment on. The Opposition Chief Whip, for example, said that there is nothing the Federal Government can do and in this he was supported by my hon. Friend from Obudu after his theological misquotations.

But is that true? I have here the Report of the 1958 London Constitutional Conference and I respectfully refer hon. Members to paragraph 74 (d) of that Report. This reads as follows, with your permission, Sir—

"The Federal Government should be responsible for legislation concerning Federal elections and the Regional Governments for legislation concerning Regional elections

after independence" that is after 1st October 1960, that is next year:

"the constitution should no longer provide that electoral legislation should be in the form of regulations made by the Governor-General and the Governors. Instead such legislation should be enacted by the appropriate legislatures..."

My point, Sir, is that the agreement on periodic review took place in 1957. Five years after 1957 will be 1962—that will be two years after Independence—so that the Governor-General will no longer be in a position to exercise his absolute power. It will be for the Federal Legislature; it will be within the competence of the Federal Government. Therefore, this Motion is within the concept of our argument and it will also be possible for the Federal Government to review the legislative conditions between now and 1962. There is no need to wait. If you are suffering, if you are not well, you do not have to wait until you are dead and buried before applying a remedy.

Then, my good Friend, Chief Morphy, the hon. Member for Ogoja, said that the *ad hoc* Committee approved the present delimitation and therefore it is too late for the hon. Member for Aba to bring this Motion before this House. I perfectly disagree with my hon. Friend. After all, what was this *ad hoc* Committee? It was an advisory body to advise the Delimitation Commission which was not bound to act on the advice of the Committee. The Committee acted and I am advised that the Committee did bring to the notice of the Delimitation Commission some of the complaints of these various Divisions, that there had been acts of injustice, but the Commission was not bound to act on the advice of the Committee; the Commission simply made their recommendations to the Governor-General. In this particular respect, I think my hon. Friend has misdirected himself.

Then my Friend who used to be on this side of the House and has moved to the other side, the hon. Member for Port Harcourt, pointed out that one reason why this Motion was not in order was simply because the delegates at the London Constitutional Conference had the opportunity to insist that there should be women's suffrage within the Constitution and

having failed to do so, there is no need to come here to waste the time of the House. I hope that I have quoted the hon. Member correctly.

Several hon. Members: Yes.

The Premier: My answer to this is that this particular point is really irrelevant to the Motion, and if at all it is relevant, I want to advise him that the issue was raised in London in 1958 but the Secretary of State called the attention of the Constitutional Conference that in 1957, it was agreed—and it was a gentleman's agreement between all the delegates and their advisers—that the North should be given five years to put their house in order before reviewing this question of women's suffrage. Because of this gentleman's agreement, the Secretary of State ruled it out of order. It is not for me to tell you the political party which raised this matter but I can assure you that it had not come from the other side of the House.

Finally, may I say, Sir, that it was agreed last year, at the Resumed Constitutional Conference that there will be no changes in the Federal Constituency boundaries as delimited by the Federal Delimitation Commission and as declared by His Excellency, the Governor-General, in his Proclamation in the *Gazette*, until after the Federal elections. This being so, this Government agrees with the principle of the Motion, that if Aba Division or any other Divisions in the East feel that they have been wrongly treated, it is perfectly within their right to come before this House and win us over to pray the Federal Government to exercise their powers in their favour. We recognise that there is deep-rooted grievance in some of these Divisions which have complained, and we realise that the Federal Government will be willing to go over this matter again. In that case it will be up to the leaders of the Divisions concerned to make their representations and present their memoranda to the Federal Government.

In view of the fact that we have used this House as a platform to ventilate our feelings, I am to say—although we could disagree on some points—that basically we agree on definition of terms and that the Motion is not fundamentally defective, and the Government

will suggest to the hon. Member from Aba, to withdraw the Motion.

Mr Onwuma: Mr Speaker, having heard the Premier's explanations, I beg to withdraw the Motion.

Mr Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Motion be withdrawn?

Members from both sides of the House: Yes.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

EVACUATION OF PRODUCE FROM OGUTA AREA

Mr G. C. Okeya (Owerri Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is incumbent on me to table this Motion in view of the grave circumstances paralysing produce trade at Oguta, and the economic disaster which the concomitant circumstances portend. The Motion before this House is:

“That this House urges the Regional Government to make arrangements for better evacuation of produce from the Oguta area to the port, either by dredging the river or providing an alternative route”.

Now the Members of this House will like to know where Oguta is; the brief history of palm produce trade at Oguta; why the palm produce trade at Oguta is on the decline, and the economic effects of the diversion of trade at Oguta.

24½ miles from Owerri and 42 miles South of Onitsha is situate the town of Oguta on either bank of the Blue Lake. Adjacent to and surrounding the town are the palm produce centres of Uli, Amaoka, Mbidi, Ubulu, Nnempi, Orlu, Awo, Umunoha, Awa, Izomba, Ejemekulu and Orsu, and these towns send their oil down to this lake. Sir, Oguta is the evacuation centre for these, and at Oguta you have some firms like the U.A.C., G.B. Ollivant, S.C.O.A., African Factors and Produce Buyers who found Oguta the most central produce station in Orlu-Owerri Divisions. Now, the lake itself is about 1½ miles long and it is of interest to Members of this House to know that it is the largest lake in Southern Nigeria.

An hon. Member: What of Awgu River?

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

951

[Evacuation of Produce

28 APRIL 1959

from Oguta Area]

952

Mr Okeya: If he knows of Awgu lake, it is only second to Oguta lake.

This lake also is deeper than Lake Chad in the North. At the junction between the Lake and the River Ulasi, the river branches eastwards via Oseakwa-Ihiala, Atani and then Onitsha. One branch flows down to Kregani via Joinkrama, down to Degema. Another branch goes via Buguma to Port Harcourt. So, Sir, you will find that this lake is a high waterway.

Now it will also be of interest to note that as far back as 1879, a Treaty was signed with the Chiefs and Obi of Oguta to allow the National African Trading Company to trade freely at Oguta. In 1898, The Royal Niger Company established at Oguta to buy and sell. The bulk at the U.A.C. Beach at Oguta today is a concrete evidence.

Sitting suspended at 12 noon.

Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.

Mr Okeya: Mr Speaker, Sir, before the break I tried to establish the following facts: (1) The position of Oguta; and (2) the premier position which Oguta enjoys historically as far as palm oil production is concerned.

Now, Sir, I would like, in support of my Motion, to quote the figures supplied by the East Regional Government. I refer to the Official Document No. 1 of 1958: Self-Government in the Eastern Region—Part II, Data and Statistics. The greatest quantity of palm oil produced in tons from 1952-1957 is as follows in the order of merit (quantity to the nearest ton).

Year	Town	Quantity
1952-3	Aba	41,577 tons
	Oguta	25,717 tons
	Opobo	14,727 tons
1953-4	Oguta	24,717 tons
	Aba	21,740 tons
	Opobo	16,224 tons
1954-55	Aba	49,128 tons
	Oguta	21,241 tons
	Bende	14,096 tons
1955-56	Aba	61,471 tons
	Oguta	19,092 tons
	Bende	14,291 tons

Year	Town	Quantity
1956-57	Aba	51,784 tons
	Oguta	16,783 tons
	Bende	14,188 tons

These figures in spite of the 2nd position (except in 1953-54), held by Oguta, show a gradual decline in the quantity produced year by year. If you examine the tonnages of palm produce evacuated by G.B. Ollivant from Oguta to Abonnema during the period 1953-1958 and part of 1959, the evidence of decline is conspicuous:—

Year	Palm Kernels	Palm Oil
1952-53	2,109 tons	4,718 tons
1953-54	2,042 tons	4,955 tons
1954-55	1,971 tons	2,957 tons
1955-56	1,630 tons	3,283 tons
1956-57	1,292 tons	2,673 tons
1957-58	1,606 tons	2,727 tons
1958-59	432 tons part	391 tons part.

Now these facts have gone to show that there is a serious decline in palm oil in Oguta. What is the cause of palm oil decline at Oguta year after year? There are two factors I have discovered—the natural economic factor, and the time factor. Taking the first factor, we find that the condition of trade is due to the opening up of Oseakwa Ihiala, Orlu, Okigwi, Umunoha, and these are new stations opening now and people are able to divert palm produce. Instead of going to Oguta they go straight to Port Harcourt.

Now, let us consider the time factor. Most of the licensed buying agents evacuate their produce to Port Harcourt by road for two reasons. One to obviate loss in weight of palm kernel and down-grading of palm oil/kernel owing to high set-up of F.F.A.; but this is the position: if at Oguta you buy say a drum of oil it will take you sometimes say three to five weeks for the oil to be delivered from Oguta to Abonnema waterway. You have to take the oil from Oguta down to Abonnema and that will take you about three to five weeks. The result is this: when the F.F.A. is about 3.5 per cent at the port at Oguta, before this oil reaches Abonnema the F.F.A. goes up to about 4 or 5 per cent, in some cases 6 per cent. Now when the F.F.A. goes up on special palm oil the licensed buying

agent is fined £4 per drum. In order to obviate the loss that agents will incur as a result of down-grading, what the licensed buying agents do at Oguta is this: they get oil from the trader and will not pay the full amount. They only pay £15 deposit and allow the oil to remain there for one week before it is tested. The trader will not receive any amount of money until the oil is tested.

Now, the fact is that if you take oil straight to Port Harcourt the oil is tested the same day and payment is made the same day. That is what I mean by time factor. Licensed Buying Agents at Oguta will delay oil for sometime, say a week, at Oguta and before the oil reaches Port Harcourt, it will take three to five weeks. Now this is the position at Port Harcourt. Port Harcourt again is given 4 per cent; if the F.F.A. value is beyond 4 per cent the Licensed Buying Agent will be fined. At Oguta they are given 4.5 per cent and above that the trader is fined. Now at Oguta no trader will buy more than 3.5 per cent but the result is that, as I have told you, before the oil reaches Abonnema F.F.A. must rise, and if the trader goes to Port Harcourt it is cheaper for him.

Now, another point I want to make is that as far as the Marketing Board is concerned, there is a small freight differential at Oguta. People must ask why all these traders at Oguta do not go to Port Harcourt to sell their oil. The Licensed Buying Agents are factors at Oguta. They buy the oil in large quantities and if they send the oil to Port Harcourt the freight differential will be very small so they will lose; instead of that, they continue to send their oil to Abonnema. Besides, the traders who want money quickly will not sell their oil there but they prefer to go to Port Harcourt or Aba.

Another point I now want to make is that that very firm which I surveyed—G.B. Ollivant—lost in 1959 about £4,000 because it has been shown that the oil evacuated by this firm at Abonnema is (*Interruption*) drums the F.F.A. reduced to 5 per cent or 6 per cent. I have this, Sir, to say, because in this survey, take 10 drums—I had drum No. 2133 which date of purchase was 26-11-58; the percentage was checked by the Manager and the Federal Produce Inspector and was found to be 3.5 per cent F.F.A.; it arrived at Abonnema on

22-12-58 at 5.3 per cent F.F.A. Drum No. 2077 was purchased at Oguta on 19-11-58 at 3.3 per cent F.F.A. and was found to be, when it reached Abonnema on 20-12-58, 5.3 per cent. Another drum No. 2078, also bought on the same date at 3.4 per cent F.F.A. was found to be 5.2 per cent when it arrived at Abonnema on 20-12-58. Another drum No. 14, purchased on 17-1-59 at 3.5 per cent was found to be 6 per cent F.F.A. when it arrived at Abonnema on 20-2-59 this year. Drum No. 21, purchased on 19-1-59 at 3.5 per cent F.F.A. arrived at Abonnema on 20-2-59 at 5.2 per cent F.F.A. Drum No. 22 purchased on 19-1-59 at 3.5 per cent F.F.A. arrived at Abonnema on 20-2-59 at 5.1 per cent F.F.A.

Now, you will see that at this time the F.F.A. kept rising. What I want to tell the Government is the decline in oil trade at Oguta which is the main idea behind my Motion. We have seen that the calamity that faced the oil ports of the 19th century is now facing Oguta.

Now, I will ask the indulgence of the Speaker to deviate a bit on this point, in order to show that historically, that was why King Jaja of Opobo opposed the Europeans trading at the time. King Jaja foresaw the danger of a town losing its premier position as the trade in palm produce shifted inland. He opposed the European traders in 1873 and maintained in the Treaty that no trading establishment or bulk was to go higher up the river than the white man's beach opposite Hippopotamus Creek. For many years Oguta had been one of the largest oil trading stations in the Eastern Region. It was the palm produce trade that made Oguta important.

With the diversion of trade and the consequent decline in palm produce, the European firms at Oguta are packing bag and baggage. The S.C.O.A. has folded up; G.B. Ollivant is closing down. The oldest and greatest firm, the U.A.C., is ready to go and has given an indication of this. The problem of unemployment follows immediately in consequence of all this. From 1952 to 1958 more than 1,000 labourers were dismissed, over 50 clerks terminated, 4 beaches closed down, hundreds of canoes lay idle on the beach, stores and hundreds of drums are lying empty today and trade is paralysed.

[MR OKEYA]

Strangers are also leaving Oguta in large numbers and what is really a pity is that last year we talked of Shell-BP leaving Owerri; now it is the question of U.A.C. trying to leave Oguta. That is why I want to bring this Motion to the notice of the Government, so that it can dredge the Orashi River or provide an alternative route. 70 per cent of the oil from Oguta area goes to Abonnema.

Another thing, Sir, that I would like the Government to do is that Government should check the diversion of trade. In the long run, it is going to affect not only Oguta but the whole Region. If we accept the economic theory—what is called economic cycle—I prophesy that in the year 1962 there will be a slump of palm oil at Port Harcourt and if that happens to be the case, you will find that Port Harcourt will be so full of palm oil that the price of palm oil will fall badly in this Region. So I am asking Government to pay attention to this matter so that we may have equal distribution of palm oil evacuation in the Region.

In view of all that I have said, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr K. Kiri (Degema Division): Mr Speaker, I would like to call the attention of this hon. House to what the Mover of this Motion has said. He has given us the background of the circumstances in Oguta and the tonnage of oil that is being exported from time to time from that area. This, to my mind, Mr Speaker, is purely an economic question to which this House, I believe, will give very careful consideration.

You will remember that there was a time when the whole of Southern Nigeria looked to the Oil Rivers Protectorate as the leading community in Southern Nigeria. That was so because we then enjoyed a spectacular position in that it was from the ports of this area that all the produce we had in this Region was exported. At that time the Government of this country, to my mind, was more after the protection of investment in this country than the Nigerian people themselves. I would like to call the attention of Government that in such circumstances two things are bound to happen. It will be to the best interest of the investor to look for places where he will have a

maximum profit; it is of less interest to him what will happen when he moves from one place to the other.

It is the second point, Sir, that I would ask Government to consider seriously; that the well-being of the people has to be taken into consideration in allowing both expatriate and indigenous firms to establish. The movement of economic matters affect, not inanimate objects, but human beings and as a representative of the Rivers people, I realise what we suffered at the time that trade moved into the hinterland. Today, the places that we have heard of as "Grand Bonny" and other places are no longer in the picture of trade.

On the other hand, Mr Speaker, we have to look at the general interest of the whole Region asking ourselves the question: Does the Region gain more by allowing investors to look for markets where they will get a maximum profit? Or does the Region gain more by making a sort of rule to regulate trade in such a way that one section of the community does not suffer because of the other due to the interest of investors? It is this last point, Mr Speaker, that I would like to commend to this Government.

The Mover of the Motion has definitely said that if care is not taken all buyers of oil will move to the privileged market at Port Harcourt and that will create a difficult problem for Government to tackle. It will lead to more population at Port Harcourt and lead to unemployment in rural areas. I believe it is the intention of this Government that as much as possible, rural areas must be cared for so that we do not have hooligans forming all sorts of nuisance in the townships.

Mr Speaker, I believe Government have experts who could go into the matter and study its purely economic and social implications to see whether it will be in the best interest of the people to open a branch at Oguta so that the firms that are operating there do not have to leave the place destitute; on the other hand, whether it will be possible for them to provide other means whereby firms which are situated at Oguta will not suffer as they are suffering at the moment. These things could not be devised outside without studying the situation and I believe commercial interests take pains to do such studies because their business

here is to make profits. The first interest of the Government is the well-being of the people, and that is why the Government of the people should check the ambition of the investor.

I do realise, Mr Speaker, that the purpose of going to Port Harcourt has many advantages. At Port Harcourt I am told that adulteration is a bit more scientific there than we have in other places. It is known that river transport is considered the cheapest and most adequate for bulk goods. My contribution in this matter is that Government should not hesitate to go into the matter and look at it from both sides of the story in the interest of the people and in the interest of the traders around the area. At the same time Government should see whether it is the profit motive that is militating against these firms. If we give encouragement to farmers to move to places where they will make the highest profits, you will find that some of the areas will be deserted.

That is why, Mr Speaker, in civilized countries, Governments place certain industries where economically they would not pay. These Governments were not fools; they did that in order to avoid social problems which may be much more difficult to solve by means of pounds, shillings and pence. And we are at an advantageous position in that our community has not come to that stage where it presents a very big headache requiring experts to solve the problem for us. All we could do now, Mr Speaker, as some Members said during the Speech from the Throne, is as much as possible to diversify our economy, and the only way to do it is not the question of introducing more trades in one area but that of trying to attract investors into the various areas we have in the Region, so that one place will not be so over-populated as to become a piece of social menace.

Mr Speaker, it will interest you that recently even Britain has started to open a sort of pup villages or camps which at one time was in vogue in Communist Russia and other places. These are means of solving social problems. India, too, had a similar one and I think we have a pattern of this in Northern Nigeria, too, if I am correct, that they had to open some villages to settle people. They were doing

that to solve their problems; so I am appealing to all the Members of this hon. House that the Mover of this Motion has genuine intention, not a selfish one for his own constituency, that Government should protect trade and society.

Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Transport (Mr P. O. Ururuka): Mr Speaker, I wish to say that the Government welcomes the Motion and in saying it I would like the House to understand what we welcome and that is "That this House urges the Regional Government to make better arrangements for the evacuation of produce from the Oguta Area either by dredging the Orashi River or improving the road communication to the ports".

In dealing with it I would begin by reminding hon. Members that responsibility for Waterways in this Region is distinctly shared by the Federal Government and this Government.

The following water-ways are the responsibility of the Federal Government:

- (i) The Niger and its affluents;
- (ii) All tidal water-ways;
- (iii) By the recent order of the Governor-General—
 - (a) the main inter-Regional Creek Water-way from Western Region Boundary to Brass, Nembe, Port Harcourt, Opobo-Eket to the sea;
 - (b) the Cross River;
 - (c) the main Creek route from Calabar to the Cameroons boundary.

The remaining water-ways in the Eastern Region of which the Orashi from Atani passes Oguta and Okaki to the point where it becomes tidal are the responsibility of the Regional Government.

My Ministry had previously asked N.E.D.E.C.O. to undertake a preliminary survey of the Orashi with a view to finding out how much it would cost to improve the navigation of the river from Abonnema to Oguta and beyond to Ozubulu: N.E.D.E.C.O. undertook this survey free of charge. They,

[MR URURUKA]

however, reported that a further investigation at a cost of between £10,000 and £15,000 was necessary to establish the feasibility, efficiency and approximate cost of the measures for improving its navigability.

I had therefore to request the Eastern Region Marketing Board to provide the money and when it declined to do so had to ask the Federal Government to carry on from where the Regional Government ended so as to determine if the Orashi was the effluent or affluent of the Niger. In reply, the Federal Government reminded us that N.E.D.E.C.O.'s findings have shown that the Orashi was neither tidal nor international, nor lying as it does entirely within the Eastern Region, is it inter-Regional. The Orashi River, therefore, is the responsibility of this Government.

It is appreciated that its importance in evacuating palm produce is great and if it could be made navigable all the year round to both powered craft and canoes, it would be of considerable benefit to the people of Oguta, to the other towns served by the water-way and to the Region. The cost of this improvement, however, would seem to outweigh the contribution the river will make to the economy of the Region. To start with, about £15,000 is required to carry out a thorough investigation of the best possible way or ways of improving the River. It is feared that the cost of any measure of improvement would be prohibitive. N.E.D.E.C.O. had indicated that it was possible that annual dredging, or provoking greater depths across the flats by using groynes to narrow the channel or pumping water into the Orashi from the Niger will have to be adopted. But as there are no less than 16 flats or sills anyone of these proposals is bound to run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Moreover, Oguta reached its zenith as a produce buying station in the days when the roads in this Region were not so abundant as they are now and when certainly motor transport was not available in the quantity that it is now. As a buying station the figures available show that the quantity of oil bought at Oguta has been steadily dropping over the last few years. The main reason for this is that evacuation of the oil from Oguta by river is, although a cheap method of transportation, a

much more lengthy process than evacuation by road and it appears that buying agents in the area that is served by Oguta prefer to put the oil on to lorries and deliver to Port Harcourt. In this way their money is not tied up for the length of time that it would be if they put the oil onto rafts or canoes and sent it down to Abonnema.

The question, therefore, is not just the problem of dredging the Orashi River, but of determining the best and most economical means of evacuating palm produce from Oguta area. An expert investigation into the economics of evacuation by river or road seems, therefore, imperative in order to establish the merits of one route over the other. Regarding evacuation by road a further investigation will be necessary to show whether the Oguta-Elele-Port Harcourt or the Oguta-Ahoada-Degema route will be more economical. Government has already provided £100,000 in the Estimates for the first phase of the Degema Hulk-Ahoada-Oguta Road. Also the sum of £260,000 has been earmarked in the Development Plan for the construction of the second phase of this road. This will surely be undertaken as the funds become available. The provision includes a ferry service between Degema and Abonnema.

Government has, therefore, accepted the hon. Member's Motion "That this House urges the Regional Government to make better arrangements or investigations for the evacuation of produce from the Oguta Area either by dredging the Orashi River or improving the road communication to the ports".

Mr Okeya: Mr Speaker, to summarise, I would like to thank the Government very much for accepting this Motion. I would also like to add that it would also help us at Oguta if the system adopted at Bansara could be used. By this I mean that at Bansara the oil is stored first at Bansara till the flood season when the oil is evacuated. Now if the Government will also accept this that the oil will be bought and stored before evacuation to Abonnema, it would be appreciated indeed.

I also thank the Government about the Ahoada route. That will be more serviceable to the Oguta people.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House urges the Regional Government to make arrangements for better evacuation of produce from the Oguta area to the port, either by dredging the river or providing an alternative route.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The Eastern Nigeria Sports Commission (Amendment) Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Welfare (Mr E. A. Chime): Mr Speaker, I rise to move that a Bill entitled "A Bill for a Law to amend the Eastern Nigeria Sports Commission Law, 1955" be now read a Second time.

I need not burden hon. Members with a lengthy speech since the reasons for the Bill are self-evident. If the Commission is effectively to discharge its trust clearly, its members must be diligent and that is subsection (1) (a) of Section 6A—honest—and that is subsections (1) (b) and (c) and efficient—and that is covered by subsections 1 (d) and (e).

As to subsection (2), no one would wish to make a person remain a member of the Commission against his will; subsection (2) merely confers unequivocally the right to resign. That outlines the background to section 2.

Turning now to the other sections, sections 3 and 4 are inter-related. They ensure that the Sports Commission can meet as often as necessary but at the same time make it necessary to have the Minister's approval if it proposes to hold more than four meetings a year. As Members know, meetings are expensive things with allowances, travelling expenses and so on. In the interest therefore of economy in what are, after all public funds, it is proposed not to allow more than four meetings unless there is an emergency.

Section 5 is an extension of the idea of economy. From time to time, it becomes quite clear that the Minister must exercise his statutory function and give directions to the Commission. As the Law now stands, he must first summon the Commission and consult with it. Often, however, the directions relate to a relatively trivial matter which would not justify a special meeting and yet

which should not be allowed to stand over until the next ordinary meeting of the Commission. Or it might be of an emergency nature which would prohibit the Commission being convened. If this section is acceptable to the House and passes into Law, prior consultation will no longer be necessary. Nevertheless, I wish to assure Members that as far as practicable, there will continue to be consultations.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed:

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Speaker, I am compelled to speak because I feel it is my duty to draw Government's attention to at least three principles involved over the whole question of nationalised industries. I am drawing Government's attention to this because Government has already accepted one of these principles, namely, the exercise of Ministerial control over our Public Corporations. But, Sir, there are at least two or three other principles which I am sure the Government has accepted but had attempted to prevent the Legislature from exercising its powers. May I say, Sir that in recent years, there has been a great deal of discussion on the subject of how Ministers of State are, or should be answerable in Parliament for the Public Corporations and, conversely, the right of Members of Parliament in relation to these Public Corporations. I want to draw Government's attention to the fact that this matter was considered very important in the House of Commons as far back as the year 1947. Then Mr Herbert Morrison in a speech to the House on 4th December stated three principles. He was then the Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons. I just want to go over these principles which Mr Morrison enunciated:

- (1) Ministers should not be responsible for the day-to-day administration of these Public Corporations;
- (2) A large degree of independence for the boards of the Public Corporations is vital to their efficiency as commercial undertakings;
- (3) A Minister is responsible to Parliament for action which he may take in relation to a board, or action coming within

[MR E. O. EYO]

his statutory powers which he has not taken. Thus, the Minister would be answerable to Parliament for any directions he gave in the national interest and for the action which he took on proposals which a board was required by statute to lay before him.

Now, Sir, I am raising these principles because the recent amendment to our Standing Orders has prevented this House from debating any action which a Minister of State has taken in the discharge of his statutory powers in relation to Public Corporations. I hope that the Government will consider this point very seriously. It is all very well bringing an amending Bill and calling upon the Members of the House to vest certain powers in our Ministers to exercise in respect of these Public Corporations, but it is very immoral to deprive Members of this House of their right to debate any action of a Minister in relation to the discharge of his statutory powers in relation to the public corporations.

Mr Speaker: Is the hon. Member sure that what he is saying is relevant to the Bill?

Mr E. O. Eyo: The Bill before us wants the House to vest the Minister with powers over a public Board; this is strictly in accordance with established principle, namely: exercise of Ministerial control over nationalised industry. Along with that, Sir, is the principle which I have referred to—that having vested the Minister with that power then he is answerable to Parliament, and I am saying that it is immoral having got Parliament to vest the Minister with that power, to prevent a debate on the exercise of the Minister's powers. That is just the point I was raising. You cannot, Sir, come before the Parliament and by legislation vest a Minister of State with power over certain aspects of the public corporations and then you turn round, and say that having vested a Minister with that power—a Minister of State for that matter—any action of his, any direction that he may give in the exercise of his powers, is not debatable by the House.

Sir, you will observe that under Standing Order 11 (12) questions are allowed. The Standing Orders of the House allow Members

to put questions to Ministers subject to certain conditions.

Mr Speaker: Yes, hon. Member, I would like you to restrict yourself to this Bill. I think you are going very far away from the Bill.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I am discussing the principle of the Bill, Sir, namely, the exercise of Ministerial control over public Corporations.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Standing Order 34. The Speaker thinks the hon. Member is irrelevant to the point and that he must desist from that.

An Opposition Member: Is he ruling?

Dr Okpara: I am making a submission.

An hon. Member: How does he know the Speaker thinks so?

Mr Speaker: Hon. Eyo, you have five minutes.

Mr E. O. Eyo: If you rule against me, well . . .

Mr Speaker: I am only asking you to be relevant to the Bill.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Speaker, I enumerated three principles governing the administration of public Corporations and the object of the Bill, Sir, is to get the House to amend an existing law, to vest more powers in the Minister to control a public Corporation. Now, Sir, we are in the course of a debate drawing the attention of the Government to the fact that it cannot accept one of these established principles while refusing to accept others. One such principle is that having vested a Minister of State with Statutory Powers in respect of public Corporations, the Minister is answerable to Parliament. If you rule against me then there is no point in my continuing.

Mr Speaker: I only want the hon. Member to relate his speech to the Bill before the House.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I was drawing attention to the fact that under Standing Order 11 (12) Members of the House can put questions to

Ministers for them to answer. We can put questions to Ministers which they can answer or refuse to answer, but if there is any direction given by Ministers in the exercise of their powers then Members of this House cannot question upon a substantive Motion the exercise of that power on the Floor of this House. So I am appealing to the Premier and his Ministers to reconsider this matter. There are quite a number of these Statutory Corporations in the Eastern Region and it is the suggestion of the Opposition that Ministers should have more and more control over these public Corporations. We are not happy to ask only questions and to be told that as Members of Parliament we cannot upon a substantive Motion debate any aspect of the activities of these public corporations. This is most annoying and unacceptable to us, and I hope that the Premier and his Ministers will give the matter due consideration.

I agree that it will be wrong and frivolous to come to this House and debate matters of day-to-day administration; that will be wrong, but it is the privilege of a Member of Parliament to table a Motion on any matter which is within the Legislative competence of this House or any matter within the competence of the Regional Government.

The Premier: Mr Speaker, I rise to say a few words on the points raised by the Opposition Chief Whip in respect of these Statutory Boards and also responsibilities of Ministers. I would have agreed with him that it is immoral to preclude the House from debating every aspect of the activities of Statutory Bodies, but as he rightly pointed out, we have in our Standing Order 11 (12) the leeway to let this House probe into the activities of Statutory Bodies by means of questions. For example the Standing Order says:

“A question on an industry or undertaking which has been placed by the Federal Government of Nigeria or the Government of the Eastern Region of Nigeria under the control of a Statutory Body must be restricted to those Matters for which a Minister is made responsible by the Ordinance or Law concerned; but within Mr Speaker’s discretion a question relating to a matter of day-to-day administration may exceptionally be

allowed provided that in his opinion the matter is of sufficient public importance to justify this concession”.

I do not agree with my hon. Friend that it is necessary for the Legislature to debate all aspects of Statutory Bodies on the Floor of this House, in view of what he has rightly pointed out that that would lead to abuse of this privilege, but he may say then that that supports his own argument. But my point is that if we know the object of asking questions we will find out that by asking questions we will achieve the same objectives that we would have achieved by having a substantive Motion on the Floor of this House. The only difference is that in the case of a question it is true and to the point, but in the case of a substantive Motion one has to develop one’s topic.

May I refer this hon. House to the views of *Erskine May*; it is at page 357 of the 16th edition. May I, Sir, with your permission, read:

“The purpose of a question is to obtain information or press for action, and it should not be in effect a short speech, or limited to giving information, or framed so as to suggest its own answer or convey a particular point of view; . . .”

The point here is that if any Statutory Body does not live up to expectation, surely it will be open to this House to ask the Minister responsible certain pertinent questions eliciting information or pressing for action. That is acceptable and that is why we did not press for an amendment to the Standing Orders in respect of questions. But when it comes to specific Motions, it will be agreed that it is most awkward for a legislator to begin to debate the day-to-day activities of these Statutory Bodies. As a matter of fact, within my own limited knowledge, I have yet to be informed that this happens elsewhere in the Commonwealth. I will be too happy to have any relevant or pertinent information about this.

Within living memory, I do not recollect the House of Commons having debated a substantive Motion on the day-to-day activities of any public corporation. We feel that the time has come when our Statutory Bodies should be given due protection as the civil service, but in the final analysis no one will

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

967 [Sports Commission (Amdt.) Bill:
Com. and 3R]

28 APRIL 1959

[C.P.A. Meeting]

968

[THE PREMIER]

be precluded from asking the Minister responsible for such Statutory Body questions eliciting information or pressing for any action.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-5 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until tomorrow, at 10 a.m.

May I remind hon. Members that it was agreed that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be meeting after the adjournment now.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr I. U. Akpabio): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at thirty minutes past one o'clock p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Tuesday, 28th April, 1959

Approved School Training

32. **Mr S. E. K. Iwueke** asked the Minister of Welfare, whether as agent of the Federal Government, he is satisfied that the corrective training of boys at the Approved School is in fact strict enough to ensure that the public is not disturbed on their release; if not, what does he propose to do about it.

The Minister of Welfare: The answer to the question is in the affirmative. The boys at the Approved School are trained following the approved scheme which gives them intellectual and handicraft skills. Before the boys are discharged, they acquire a certain amount of skill in the trade for which they were trained and are fitted for employment or private work as opportunity offers itself. Most of the boys have settled down among the people as good citizens following their different trades. Unless the questioner can give examples of cases to indicate where any of the boys, discharged from the Approved School, has become a menace to the public, otherwise I confirm that the training given to the boys at the Approved School is adequate and strict enough to ensure public safety.

Nkalagu Cement Industry—Rent

41. **Mr P. A. Onwe** asked the Minister of Town Planning, how much money per acre is being paid to the landowners in Ishielu Clan in respect of land occupied by the Nigeria Cement Company at Nkalagu; is the Minister aware that the payment of rent is not extended to all the landowners of the area occupied; is he also aware that the real Nkalagu Village of the Ishielu Clan has refused to accept surface rent on the grounds that the boundaries of the land occupied by the Company have not been shown to them; if not, will he take steps to satisfy the people.

The Minister of Town Planning: A surface rent of 5s per acre is paid. The total area of land occupied by the Company is 6818.7 acres, which is owned by four villages as follows:—

Nkalaha Village	...	...	2061	acres
Umuhuali Village	...	...	2653.1	acres
Amezu Village	...	...	961	acres
Nkalagu Village	...	...	1143.6	acres

The amounts due to each village are therefore as follows:—

			£	s	d
Nkalaha Village	...	...	522	13	9
Umuhuali Village	...	...	505	3	9
Amezu Village	...	...	405	3	9
Nkalagu Village	...	...	285	3	9

Rents are paid to the elders of the villages concerned, in their representative capacity. The lands are communal.

Nkalagu village has refused to receive rent for five years, and a sum totalling £1,435 11s 3d is now on deposit with the Sub-Treasurer, Abakaliki.

Nkalaha village has not received rent this year (1959) as Amaezegba, one of the four divisions of the village, claims that the village land occupied by the Company is theirs exclusively, and is not the communal property of the whole village. This is not a matter for my Ministry to resolve.

The reasons for the refusal of Nkalagu village to accept the rent are obscure. The boundaries were surveyed and beacons at the time the mining lease was being negotiated, and they cannot be unaware where these boundaries are. In January this year, the Assistant District Officer showed the boundaries again to the people, but they said that they did not lease any land to the Company and therefore the question of acceptance of rent did not arise.

Nkalagu Cement Industry—Rent

42. **Mr P. A. Onwe** asked the Minister of Town Planning, what is the total area of land occupied by the Nkalagu Cement Company, and was this taken up in consultation with the landowners; has an Agreement been drawn between the Company and the landowners; if so, what are the terms of the Agreement.

The Minister of Town Planning: I have already stated in answer to Question 41 that the total area of land occupied by the Nkalagu Cement Company is 6,818.7 acres. The land was taken up in consultation with the owners and the surface rent payable was fully discussed and agreed upon.

Agreement need not be drawn up between the Company and the landowners. The land is occupied by licence issued by the Federal Government on behalf of the Crown in accordance with Section 3 (1) of Cap. 134 of the Minerals Ordinance. Procedure under the Native Lands Acquisition Ordinance does not therefore apply.

Nkalagu-Ehamufu Road

55. **Mr P. A. Onwe** asked the Minister of Transport, how soon will the Nkalagu-Ehamufu road be put in use.

The Minister of Transport: The Nkalagu-Ehamufu road is the responsibility of the Isi Uzo and Ishielu Rural District Councils. I cannot therefore say when the road will be completed for vehicular traffic.

I understand, however, that the work to make the road motorable on the Abakaliki side under the Ishielu Rural District Council will shortly be completed. The Nsukka section is not so favourably reported on because the Aboine and Ochina bridges constructed by the Nsukka County Council some years ago are in need of extensive repair. However, I would refer my hon. Friend to Sub-head 18 of Head 802 of the 1959-60 Draft Estimates. £90,000 has been provided by Government for reconstructing this road and accordingly I will authorise repairs to these bridges as soon as the estimates are approved by the House.

Tarring of Awka-Orlu-Owerri Road

57. **Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba** asked the Minister of Transport, whether there is any Engineer supervising the tarring of Awka-Orlu-Owerri road, for which N.E.M.C.O. has the contract; if so, is the Engineer satisfied with the standard of the work being done; if not, will the tarring of the road be improved.

The Minister of Transport: This road is being supervised on behalf of my Ministry by a firm of Consulting Engineers who employ a Resident Engineer to supervise this project.

My Ministry has recently had cause to write to the firm concerning certain aspects of the work which presume unsatisfactory supervision. As a result of these representations, I expect an improvement.

Loans

68. **Mr S. E. K. Iwueke** asked the Minister of Production, how many people of Okigwi at home and abroad applied for loans from either the Government or Statutory Corporations in the Region within the last six years; how many of them were successful; what was the amount of loan given to each and under what conditions.

The Minister of Production: Statistics are not available of the number of Okigwi born people who have applied for loans. As regards those who come from Okigwi who were successful I refer the hon. Member to the answer which was given to Question No. 195 as recorded in the daily Hansard of Tuesday, 31st March, 1959.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 29th April, 1959

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Maintenance of Roads

58. Mr P. N. Okeke asked the Minister of Transport, how many miles of roads are maintained by the Eastern Region Government in each Division and at what cost per Division per annum.

The Minister of Transport: In 1958-59 the Eastern Region Government maintained on the whole 2,070 miles of road, that is, 1,388 miles of Trunk Roads "B" and 682 miles of Trunk Roads "A" for the Federal Government. Trunk Roads "B" were maintained thus:

(a) 250 miles of tarred and 360 miles of untarred roads were maintained by the Government directly; and

(b) 142 miles of tarred and 635 miles of untarred roads were maintained by the Local Government Councils on reimbursement basis.

It is not possible to give the cost of roads maintained directly by Government, Division by Division as my Ministry does not maintain roads on a Divisional basis. Furthermore, since reimbursement to Local Government Councils is done in respect of the previous financial year, I can only give the cost of reimbursement for 1957-58. The position is as follows:—

In 1958-59 the cost of direct maintenance by Government is £55,800.

In 1957-58 the cost of reimbursement to Local Government Councils is £67,480.

I will now split the mileages of Trunk Roads "B" and Trunk Roads "A", Division by Division.

Division	Total Mileage of Trunk Roads "B"	Trunk Roads "A"
Aba	38	55
Abak... ..	42	1
Abakaliki	41	57
Afikpo	73	—
Ahoada	172	16
Arochuku	46	—
Awgu	9	30
Bwaka	25	28
Bende	125	12
Opobo	33	—
Orlu	73	33
Eket	41	15
Enyong	67	6
Ikom	17	37
Ikot Ekpene	32	23
Nsukka	112	28
Obubra	40	18
Obudu	19	—
Ogoja	74	26
Ogoni	40	—
Okigwi	38	52
Onitsha	26	46
Calabar	33	85
Owerri	112	36
Udi	15	62
Uyo	45	19
Totals	1,388	682

Eastern Region Government Investment in N.E.M.C.O. Limited

62. Mr M. N. Onwumā asked the Minister of Commerce, what is the value of Eastern Region Government investment in N.E.M.C.O. Limited; will the Minister give in detail the financial position of the Company as at present.

The Minister of Commerce: The Eastern Regional Government as such holds no investment in N.E.M.C.O. Limited. The only public money in N.E.M.C.O. is the £100,000 advanced to it as a loan by the former Eastern Regional Finance Corporation. This Corporation, as the hon. Member is aware, has since been absorbed by E.R.D.C. which has inherited all the rights and obligations of the old Finance Corporation. The loan, of course, will be repaid by N.E.M.C.O. in due course.

[MR NWODO]

As regards the second part of the question calling for details about the financial position of N.E.M.C.O., the hon. Member may not be aware that N.E.M.C.O. is a private Company and in consequence I am unable to speak regarding its present financial position.

Wells in Rural Areas

81. **Mr J. E. Eyo** asked the Minister of Works, whether in view of the fact that it is at present the policy of the Government to supply wells free of charge to the Rural Areas, the Minister will pay back to communities the cost of wells that had already been sunk by community efforts.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works (Mr R. O. Anoke): I am directed to answer as follows:—

All communities which paid contributions for simple well and spring improvements as opposed to pumped and piped schemes have had their contributions refunded. I presume, however, that the hon. Member is referring to wells sunk by communities before the introduction of this Colonial Development and Welfare Rural Water Supplies Scheme and I must inform him that the Secretary of State has laid down rigid conditions for the implementation of this scheme, one such conditions being that no reimbursement is allowed for work carried out prior to the introduction of the scheme, and another being that payment can only be made for work which is planned and supervised by my Ministry.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(1) The 1959-60 Eastern Region Appropriation Bill

(FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY)

page 496

Considered in Committee of Supply (Progress 27th April).

Head 429—Ministry of Education

Question again proposed: That a sum not exceeding £5,670,200 for Head 429—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr M. N. Onwuma (Aba Division): Mr Chairman, Sir . . .

The Chairman: The hon. Member has only five minutes.

Mr Onwuma: Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Education to the Scholarship Programme which he outlined last year. I would like to add that he should try to include scholarship for post-graduate work. I do not see that in the programme. Again, more than ever before, the necessity has become very urgent to go ahead with the building of the University of Nigeria.

Mr Chairman, if there is anybody still in doubt about the standard of education in this country whether it is high or low, please let him attend the Festival of the Arts. He will be convinced that the standard of education of the average school child whether at the age of five or above is high.

Mr Chairman, there is a Board of Education at the moment: I do not know whether that Board is functioning or not. May I draw the attention of the Minister of Education to the condition of teachers? There is what is called the Provincial Education Officers and Senior Education Officers. They used to be in charge of Provinces and now they are no longer in charge of Provinces. Also I would like to refer to Sub-head 1, Item (33) where you have the salaries of Principals. In my opinion, Principals of secondary institutions should earn a salary more than that earned by the Principal Assistant Secretaries in Ministries. May I refer to Sub-head 1, Item (62) and to ask the Minister of Education to encourage teachers whether grade one, two or three as the case may be? I understand that if they are employed by Government they are called ungraded teachers. This has a psychological effect even when they have the certificate. May I also refer to what is called the British Council Office, Dublin. I do not know what that means but perhaps the Minister of Education will be able to explain that at a later stage.

The amount of £100 for Educational Experiments and Investigations, I submit, Mr Chairman, is most inadequate; and what is happening to this Efik-English English-Efik Dictionary? We would like to see it being used as soon as it is possible.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Mr M. N. Yowika (Ogoni Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, my first point is on Primary

Education. Under the Universal Primary Education Scheme we were made to understand that Government would provide £300 for the building of each U.P.E. School. I would like to know from the hon. the Minister of Education whether the 1,521 U.P.E. buildings approved have been built. Mr Chairman, I am saying this, Sir, because in Ogoni Division 53 of these schools were approved. Of these only 32 have been built; 21 have not been built till today, and yet Government is not doing anything to get them built. I would like to know what has happened to the money which ought to have been used for building these 21 schools that are yet unbuilt. The total money ought to have been £6,300. Where has the money gone to ?

Sir, Government policy for building these schools was to provide £300 for each school building; to control the erection of these school buildings through a scheme of inspection whereby it satisfies itself that the new schools are adequate, suitable and built according to Government approved plan. Mr Chairman, Sir, it is rather appalling to hear that many of these schools are still unbuilt till today. I hold the view that this is a commitment: Government has committed itself to build these schools, and I feel Government is bound to fulfil its promise.

In order to refresh the memory of the hon. the Minister of Education, may I with your permission, Sir, read the relevant section of the Minister's answer to my question on this subject.

"The Ministry of Education controls the erection of Universal Primary Education buildings through a scheme of inspection whereby it satisfies itself that all new schools are suitable, and adequate, and built according to approved plan."

The Minister of Education (Mr G. E. Okeke): What is his question ?

An hon. Member: What is the number of his question ?

Mr Yowika: I can give them the number of the Minister's letter if they want it.

Therefore, Sir, I see no reason why Government should not comply with its laid-down policy.

My next point, Sir, is on the result of the Standard VI Examination. Several hon. Members have already spoken on the publication of the result by instalments. While I do not want to dwell on this, I wish to say that this has a lot to tell on the Education Department.

Another observation which I have made is that in the Standard VI Examination result, the clever children failed and the stupid ones who cannot even make one correct sentence passed and they cannot work a single sum and get it right. So, Mr Chairman, I think there is something wrong somewhere. I am calling on the Minister of Education to please look into it so as to avoid its recurrence in the future.

Sir, may I make the following suggestions for future publication of Standard VI Examination results:

- (1) I feel, Sir, that the names of the candidates must be shown on the result sheet;
- (2) The subjects and marks obtained in each subject, must be shown;
- (3) The aggregate pass marks must be shown; and
- (4) The result should be sent to Managers or Headmasters of schools concerned and not to Secretaries of District Councils.

My last point, Sir, but not the least and which is the most important, is the good news which the Minister of Education gave to us in this hon. House that all teachers will be placed on the national scale of salaries. The Minister of Education said that the salaries of teachers in the Eastern Region will be on the same scale as those of their counterparts in other Regions. Sir, we are happy to hear this news but I am asking the Minister of Education that we want to see it put into practice, otherwise Eastern Teachers will be compelled to take a decision in a constitutional manner.

Mr Chairman, thank you, Sir.

Mr M. E. Ogon (Ikom Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the Minister of Education should be congratulated for a number of measures he has taken over the past year and I think that teachers in the Eastern Region will be

[MR OGOŃ]

very grateful to the Minister for placing them on National Scales. It means more pay for the Eastern teachers. Members who are teachers in this Region were given their fair chance. As a matter of fact, when it came to paying them their arrears it cost Government over £2 million.

My only quarrel is that there ought to be a special scale throughout the whole teaching profession—whether in the voluntary agency or in the Government—whereby certain teachers with great experience can look forward to a prospect of getting salaries higher than they are getting now. Some members are asking teachers not to go into politics or not to be studying for other examinations. The reply is that these days young men look at the teaching profession as a stepping stone towards other professions. Nowadays we can hardly find teachers like the late Mr Okolo, who would teach for about 42 years and endure to earn a salary which would never get to that of a Chief Clerk. Such things are very rare now. There ought to be a scheme whereby exceptionally good and capable teachers can look forward for promotion. If that is done we shall hope to retain our best teachers in the teaching profession.

Those who are teachers will agree that the Minister's announcement that in future Standard VI results would not fall below 41 per cent, is not good enough. What he is asking us to expect is this: that every year, even if the children get to the standard or not, 41 per cent must pass. I think that that is a wrong policy. We want the best children to pass. If many children fail it is not the fault of the Ministry. It is for the teachers to work harder. We do not want this system of automatic promotion. Our quarrel was not with the percentage, but we want teachers with sufficient experience of primary school teaching to set the papers. So our point, Sir, is that teachers should be people who have to look to the teaching profession as a career and they should not make it a policy to promote pupils with 41 per cent as that will only amount to automatic promotion.

My next point, Sir, is to congratulate the Minister for what I might call the great scheme

for physical education. We whole-heartedly support this action, much so because the Sports Commission has been added to the Ministry of Education. I think that was a very nice thing to do because much of the activities of this Commission is centred on Education. My only suggestion is that when the man who is in charge of this is transferred to the Ministry he should not be made to start at the minimum of the scale because he will be a Head of Department in the Ministry of Education.

In this connection, Sir, I think we Easterners have every reason to be happy because over the past season our athletes shone in all aspects of sports—in men's competition, children's competition, women's competition and in all aspects of athletics. I think something must be done to encourage the people who were responsible for bringing these athletes to such a high standard.

I also think that it is high time this Region had a Regional Stadium and this stadium should be at the Regional Headquarters. It must in all respects be such a stadium which everybody in this Region will be proud of, and I think the Minister has taken note of this. During the last Women's Inter-Regional Athletic Competition the sports were abandoned because the tracks were flooded and very slippery. Those of us present were very much ashamed and I therefore hope that the Minister will hasten to build the stadium at no distant date.

May I also point out that we are not satisfied with the meagre sum of £10,000 being provided for sports in the Estimates. I do not think this will do since there should be one couch for each Province.

An hon. Member: Which Province?

Mr Ogon: In all the Provinces in the Region, and he should be in charge of couching in the Province and the sum of £10,000 will not do if we are to have experts for this.

May I also congratulate the Minister on the announcement that all Easterners in all Universities in West Africa will automatically be awarded Government scholarship? This is very encouraging indeed and I hope the Minister will see to it that people who receive this

scholarship will be bonded to serve this Region for a number of years after their graduation. I also hope this privilege will be extended to scholars in the United Kingdom, United States, Germany and so on.

Another point is that at a later stage we would like the Minister to let us know whether it is true that the I.C.A. offered to help us with teachers for our Teachers' Training Programme but that the Minister refused.

The Minister of Education (Mr G. E. Okeke): He has got it the other way round.

Mr Ogon: I think this body can be of great help to us in our Teachers' Training Programme and the Minister will do well to avail himself of the opportunity.

I am also informed that the number of Eastern Nigerian students in the United States is rapidly falling. Now, you know that this Region has always had more students in the United States than all the other Regions. At that time, we were being criticised by other Regions for sending students to where they will not improve their education, but I am told now that there are more Western Nigerian students there than the East. I think that we should do all we can to send more of these students to anywhere they can get good education. This Region used to take the lead in education.

I will not join issue with my hon. Friend who has suggested that teachers who have the Ministry of Education Certificates have got the Higher Elementary equivalent. I do not think he is correct, and of course, he has only a teaching experience of ten years and he does not know what he is saying.

An hon. Member: How many years' teaching experience has he?

Mr Ogon: I have had a whole career of teaching. I do not say that these teachers will be placed on the Senior Service although I think those who came after are entitled to this because the first set of girls—about two or three of them who came back from U.K.—were made Education Officers. There must be blame somewhere for promoting the first set.

Now, I want to say, Sir, that if the Minister follows what the announcement says, these teachers when they come back should be

equivalent to Senior Teachers. Then after teaching for about five years, with good report, there is no reason why they should not be promoted. I do not want a bar to be put against them.

Again, Sir, I will ask the Minister to see if they can do anything for a certain set of students in training. This is a very difficult point because I cannot say how much money this will involve, but, Sir, our quarrel—and it is the quarrel of those students who enter the College—is that the promise from the Government that while they are doing their two years' course, they are entitled to their salaries, should be fulfilled. If the Minister can fulfil the contract with these teachers to be paid their salaries for the two years they are in training, that will be alright.

Mr G. E. Okeke: Who signed the contract?

Mr Ogon: Unless it is that a Ministerial pronouncement does not amount to a word of honour.

Several hon. Members: Exactly. It does.

Mr Ogon: Our argument is that no one should be allowed to sink in the middle of the course after once giving him a guarantee.

Mr Chairman, as I said earlier on, I have nothing but praise for this Ministry in the field of scholarship, in the field of primary education and in the field of teachers' salaries. This Ministry has had an all-round success.

Mr P. U. Amaefunah (Awka Division): I rise to congratulate the Minister of Education for his work because both Primary and Secondary School education is now growing by leaps and bounds. Now that we have 99 Secondary Schools and 123 Teacher-Training Colleges in the Region, there is always the difficulty in the recruitment of graduate staff in the Secondary Schools. It is noticed that in most of the Secondary Schools in the Region, graduate teachers often use them as a stepping stone to civil service appointments. Why is that so? The civil service is more attractive to these teachers than the teaching profession and most of them always complain of having no car advances. I would humbly ask the Minister to look into this question and give

[MR AMAEFUNAH]

them car advances on application so that the teaching profession will be attractive to the best brains.

Now, I will also suggest that these teachers should by legislation be tied down to teach for one or two years in our Schools so as to give their best to the rising generation. At present I notice that the Government give them civil service appointments just by the middle of the year. Why should this be done? To my mind, they should at least complete a school year before leaving. Their sudden resignations disrupt school management and organisation.

Mr Chairman, so many boys now sit entrance examinations to these secondary schools. Wherever entrance examination is conducted we find 1,500 boys vying for 60 places in these schools. I would suggest to the Minister to allow some of these secondary schools to run three streams provided that staff difficulty and accommodation are overcome.

Several hon. Members: Standard will fall.

Mr Amaefunah: Standard will not fall where you have graduate teachers. Mr Chairman, the standard falls in secondary schools where you have no stability of staff.

And, Mr Chairman, I will mention that the policy of super-scale posts to some secondary Grade I teachers who have taught for over 25 years or 30 years in secondary schools is not fully implemented. Mr Chairman, it has always been said that the standard of education in Primary Schools is falling. I feel it is not. What happens actually in Primary Schools is that most of these teachers carry their Wolsey Hall notes into the classrooms and try to do their studies in the classrooms leaving the boys alone, and this is because most of the headmasters are not full-time headmasters. They do not control teachers in these schools, because the teachers feel that their fate does not depend on the recommendation of the headmaster, but on passing a higher examination.

Now, I still say that headmasters should be given more powers over these teachers to control them and I think I have to mention that because teachers get this automatic increment, that is why most of them do not care. I would suggest that teachers should get their increments only on the recommendation of Managers in the various schools.

Several hon. Members: No.

Mr Amaefunah: It is also noticed that most of these schools are not visited by Education Officers. There should be a plan whereby these schools should be visited at least twice or thrice a year, so that the teacher should sit up. Even most of the secondary schools are not visited in a year. The Inspectorate Branch should be alive.

Mr Chairman, with these few observations, I beg to support.

Mr S. T. Akpan (Eket Division): Mr Chairman, I rise to associate myself with the views expressed by the Government Chief Whip on the issue of tying Standard Six results to 41 per cent. You will remember that this policy was in vogue in respect of Teachers' Examination and it was condemned by us and I see no reason why it should be brought back when the policy for education is in our hands. After all, the Department has nothing to offer these children when they pass out in Standard Six. It is not like Standard Six of 1920 and 1930, so I quite agree with my Colleague that the Minister of Education should see that only children who do well in the examination are passed.

Mr Chairman, the Premier told us three weeks ago that the Government has decided to change emphasis on policies. I should like to think, Sir, that this change of emphasis should affect educational policy. I would like to put this to you, Sir, that the policy of Government for providing institutions and siting them has been unilateral. All the Government Institutions have been sited in one part of the Region—mainly the Ibo speaking areas—to the utter neglect of other areas. These institutions are:—

The College of Arts Science and Technology,
The Women's Training College,
The Queen's School,
The Government College, Umuahia,
The Owerri Government College,
The Afikpo Secondary School,
The Women Occupational Training School,
The Government Trade Centre,
The Government Technical Institute,
The Government Handicraft Centre,
The Government School of Agriculture,
The Community Development Centre,
The University of Nigeria.

It is only at Uyo that we have a Government Training Centre, and I would like to bring this to your notice, Sir, that that Centre was not established by the Government. Government took over the Institution from the N.A. This means that for all these years not a single Government Institution has been established in other parts of the Region. It appears that the Ministry of Education seems to overlook the fact that this state of affairs hinders the intermingling of the peoples of this Region on the intellectual plane. Sir, as a result, there is a serious lack of infusion of cultures in this Region. This is the principal root cause of what is called agitation. There is no proper understanding nor appreciation of each other by the people of this Region. But what has my father to do here in Enugu; probably until he dies he will never see Enugu? It is the younger generation who should come to better understanding with the people in this section of the Region. The school is the mixing ground and you would not be surprised to hear that even in these institutions that I have mentioned, which are Government institutions in these Ibo speaking areas, you could hardly get beyond 5 per cent of children from the other side. And I am sure, Sir, the percentage is definitely lower than 5 per cent, and in some Government institutions only one could be admitted.

I would even go further, Sir, to show you that this lack of proper understanding and proper appreciation of each other hinders the development of right attitudes amongst our people. I will tell you this in respect of Uyo Teachers' Training Centre. When we had European principals and a few other Africans there, the percentage of Calabar speaking students was about 55, taking cognisance of the fact that in the Ibo speaking areas the Voluntary Agencies like the Methodist Mission, the Niger Delta Pastorate, the Church Missionary Society, the Roman Catholic, had established Teachers' Training Colleges; the only Teachers' Training Centre for the teachers in the whole of Calabar Province was this N.A. Centre. What happened was that in later years when our Ibo brothers became the Principal and Vice Principal of this Centre, the percentage of the Ibo students in the College rose to 95.

I am just trying to make a point that there has been no encouragement to the development of right attitudes amongst us because we have

not mixed well. I think that the time has come when the Government should change its policy and come all out to establish Government Secondary Schools or higher institutions in the other sections of the Region.

Sir, you will see that provision has been made for Umuahia Government College, Afikpo Government Secondary School and Owerri Government Secondary School to become wings of the University of Nigeria. The developments in those Secondary Schools are intended for that purpose, but I would like to draw your attention to the fact that no such provision has been made for any of our Secondary Schools in the whole of Calabar Province. We have good colleges in Calabar Province, such as the St. Patrick's College, the Holy Family College, the Oron Boys' High School, the Hope Waddell Institute and the Etinan School. These Secondary Schools have turned out 100 per cent passes every year. Now, Sir, I am calling upon the Government to establish a Government Secondary School in the old Calabar Province in this financial year, and also to make provision for the development of at least three of these Secondary Schools as wings of the projected University of Nigeria.

The next point is the West African Examinations Council. It beats my imagination why a Secondary School should be refused admission to the General Certificate of Education, or the West African School Certificate examination, just on the grounds that the Council does not recognise a Secondary School as approved. There are some Secondary Schools which have been inspected by the Government Education Officers and approved and those Schools are in receipt of Government grants. One of the conditions for the approval of a Secondary School and as being qualified for a Government grant is that the standard of work must be satisfactory to the inspecting officer. But at the end of the fourth year the management and the tutors are told that their students cannot be admitted to these examinations. One would have thought that when the inspecting Education Officer approved a School and that School was in receipt of Government grant, that should automatically qualify it for examinations. I think it is very demoralising to the management, the staff and particularly the students of a Secondary School to be denied that right when they have paid the exorbitant fees. This West African Examinations Council has

[MR AKPAN]

never inspected any School, and I think the time has come when the Government should take a serious view of the situation and consider the point I have brought before it. This happens because this Council has been allowed a sole monopoly of putting students forward for these examinations. I would suggest to the Government that it is high time it explored every possible means of inviting other Universities in other parts of the world, such as the Yale University, Columbia University and other Universities in America to establish their own West African Examinations Council, so that any secondary school that likes to abandon this London University examination can do so.

An hon. Member: This is a Federal subject.

Mr Akpan: It is not Federal. I am appealing to Government, Sir, to see that this policy is reviewed.

Another point, Sir, is the opening of secondary schools. What we hated at the time of Quinn Young appears to be happening again. It appears the Ministry of Education is beginning to tie down Africans who are anxious to own schools in this Region, by making impossible conditions for them.

The Minister of Education (Mr G. E. Okeke): What are the conditions?

Mr Akpan: I am very happy to say, Sir, that the Minister of Education himself was one of those who aspired in those days to own a secondary school. At that time, he crossed the bridge and now that he has crossed—he is now the Minister of Education and his school has been approved and is running well—it appears that he is now cutting down the bridge to make it impossible for others to cross. I am appealing to the Minister to encourage the Africans who are enthusiastic about owning schools. After all, the Government is not able to provide secondary schools in all the Divisions, and in most of the Divisions, the secondary schools are owned by Voluntary Agencies. Since there are ambitious Africans with the missionary touch and who want to educate their people, I think it is the duty of the Minister to encourage them and not to place impossible conditions on their way.

Mr G. E. Okeke: Name the impossible conditions.

Mr Akpan: How can you ask a man to put down £20,000 before you permit him to open a school? (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Get along with your speech; do not listen to the interruptions.

Mr Akpan: So, Sir, I am appealing humbly to the Minister of Education to come forward and help these people who want to establish their own secondary schools.

I would like, Sir, to mention that in my Division, we have asked the Government for years now to give us a secondary school and Government sometime ago promised to establish a secondary school in every Division. But that undertaking has not been redeemed. Now we hear from the Government that unless a District Council provides 50 per cent of the cost, they would not come in to help. Sir, I am asking Government to redeem the promise they made. The County Council has been abolished and if the District Council wants to open its own secondary school, it will apply to Government; but in respect of Eket Government School, I am appealing to the Minister of Education to convert that school to a full secondary school of “modern architectural design”, to use the words of the Premier.

Yet another point. The other day, Sir, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education mentioned some of the people who have been transferred to the extended scale from the voluntary agency schools and they numbered only seventeen in the whole of the Eastern Region. They are teachers of 25, 30 and 40 years of experience. I think we should take it this way: that now that this matter has been brought very vividly to the Government the Minister of Education will see it fit to create a proper incentive for these teachers, these old service teachers, by extending the number of teachers who should have qualified to be placed on the extended scale.

Mr I. U. Imeh (Abak Division): Mr Chairman, I said earlier in my speech on the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne that the Ministry of Education is one of the best Ministries.

Mr E. O. Eyo: What about the Minister. Is he one of the best?

Mr Imeh: I should like to congratulate the Minister for the able way he holds his Ministry. The way scholarships are awarded is most commendable. I hope that hon. Members in this House who are Councillors will help to educate the District Councils to avoid corruption when scholarship awards are handed over to them. I am quite sure that the Minister will take serious notice of this suggestion. There is one important point here that I would like to mention. One way or the other, many of our students who are private scholars either in the U.S.A. or in the U.K. are stranded. They are afterwards not responsible for their fate. I call upon the Minister to go to their aid. Some of them are repatriated home because of brain derangement. Some people pushed them there. It will be a very good policy if the Minister will go all out to help them.

I have also one or two things to say about the T.I.T.C. It is true that the Minister has changed his policy about the T.I.T.C. I am rightly informed that the Technical Institute is to be separated from the Trade Centre as from the 1st of April—that is this month—and each section will be provided with a Principal. This is a grand idea, but I am told that they will not have Vice Principals; I will suggest to the Minister that each section should be provided with a Vice Principal, so that the tutors or instructors may aspire to such post. When there is nothing in front of them, they cannot put in good service. I therefore suggest to the Minister that provision should be made for Vice Principals in this Technical Institute and Trade Centre separately, so that civil servants working in these Departments may aspire to the post of Vice Principal or the post of Principal. The old policy was that we have one Principal for the two sections, with a Vice Principal; but if they have separated them, please make provision for different Vice Principals.

May I say a word or two about the W.T.C. and Teachers Training Colleges. I am told, and I think it is quite true, that in the W.T.C. you have a Principal at the head but there is no provision for that; and if you go to Uyo you have a Principal but have no Vice Principal. If I am correct, I am suggesting to Government to make provision for Vice Principals. When the teachers are there just hoping to have their normal increment, they have no incentive to

put in good service; but when there is something in front of them, they aspire to get there; not merely to be called upon some time to act for about two months or three months as Principal when the Principal is on leave. That is a very important point which I have in mind and I am suggesting to the Government that civil servants will be very, very happy to expect promotion to the post of Principal or Vice Principal, not merely to act or to be dependent on their normal increment.

There is one point, too, and that is about the grades of teachers in the Government schools. If you look through the Estimates you have what the Government terms Grade 4 teachers, and then you have Grade 3 teachers, and Grade 2, and Grade 1 teachers; but among the Voluntary Agencies you have only Grades 3, 2 and 1. I am talking about these particular Grades 3 and 4 because they have identical certificates—that is Elementary Certificate. Why do they term the teachers Grade 4 whereas if they happen to gain employment under a Voluntary Agency they will be Grade 3 teachers? Why do they create Grade 4 teachers? We have Grade 3—that is Elementary Certificate; we have Grade 2—Higher Elementary Certificate; and then Grade 1—the Senior Teachers Certificate. That is my point, and I should suppose that it is a share waste of time to call a teacher Grade 4 and another teacher Grade 3—both with Elementary Certificate, nothing different. I mean it is just trying to tie down that teacher to a certain scale of salary. So I suggest very respectfully that Government should remove that grade. It is a very important point. Teachers in Government schools who are termed Grade 4 teachers are not very happy.

May I further suggest that this question of long scale should continue in order to encourage our experienced teachers to be supervisors of schools. In most cases, there are teachers who are appointed as supervisors of schools and they come on that scale. I am told that that has been abolished and I respectfully appeal to Government to encourage these teachers who are experienced. The other day when the Minister was answering a question he said we have only 17 of our teachers on the extended scale.

Now, may I make one point about the Disciplinary Committee? The appointment

[MR IMEH]
of the Chairman is welcome indeed, but may I say that sometimes Government tries to ride a willing horse to death? I have no grudge against the man who has been appointed the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, but why try to give one man plenty of work? At the moment, the man who is the Chairman is a member of Privy Council and it was due to that that Sir Francis Ibiem had to resign because of his appointment as the Principal of the Hope Waddell and a member of the Privy Council and his large duty at the University College, Ibadan. Let us have division of labour. We have young men who are experienced and one of them could be appointed to be Chairman of this Committee.

These young men who are experienced should be given responsible posts. You have to learn how to speak by speaking and to write by writing. Therefore, these experienced young men should be appointed to these posts. I have no grudge against the present Chairman. He is a man with excellent qualities.

I would ask the Government to extend a hand to young men who are experienced and who can handle these posts. When they appoint these middle-aged men, they impair their health. They are easily worn-out by attending meetings here and there by air and by car. That is why I say that they are riding a willing horse to death.

One other point is the closing down of primary schools by Managers. Very often we hear that a school has been closed down or has been reduced from senior primary status to junior primary status just because the community are not able to pay the Assumed Local Contribution. I want to say to the Minister that he should step in. There are certain Voluntary Agencies that have been able to run their schools without closing them down. Closing down of schools deters the progress of this Region. The Managers should be given specific instruction to urge the people to pay their Assumed Local Contribution and not to close down the schools. After all, the schools may be reopened, say, after two or three weeks, and the children are expected to measure up to standards. How can they do this or enter into secondary schools if they

are going to continue to have lowering of standards in their schools? Some of the Members here have been managers of schools for several years and know what it means to close down schools. I see no reason why some managers should use such high-handedness. Of recent, in Abak Division, we were informed that some schools have been closed down, and some have been cut—and the children are just left like that.

An hon. Member: Who cut them?

Mr Imeh: The managers. I would call upon the Minister to look closely into this and to have expert advice on this question of closing down and cutting down of senior primary to junior primary schools.

May I finally join my hon. Friend, Mr Onwuma, to suggest to the Minister of Education to raise the fee-free class to Standard Two in 1960, and to pursue the conversion of the five Government Schools to secondary schools, so that my Division will be able to have one which has been earmarked. In fact, I would call upon the Minister of Education to make a Ministerial Statement on the issue before this House adjourns, because we have long expected this.

Lastly, may I suggest that there is no need trying to push Adult Education under the Ministry of Internal Affairs? I agree with my hon. Friend, Mr Onwuma, that it is a part of Education. Call it whatever you like, it is Education. So please remove Adult Education to the Ministry of Education.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, I now propose to proceed with the amendments—eight of them. Mr Akpan has had his chance. I therefore propose to call upon Mr Okeya to move his amendment.

Mr G. C. Okeya (Owerri Division): Mr Chairman, I make this Motion to allow me to reflect on the policy of this Ministry. I am not going to make a political speech: I just want to give the Ministry some food for thought.

In the first place it is my ardent wish to place on record my appreciation of the systematic efforts of this Ministry to implement its policy.

I also thank the Minister for the National Scales for teachers and also for the appointment of a Committee to survey the system of education in the Region. But I have to say that the terms of reference given to this Committee are so long, and I am afraid they may not be adequately covered in so short a time.

The idea of appointing a Committee to survey the system of education in the Region is very good indeed. It is, therefore, my suggestion, Sir, that Headmasters of all Schools, Principals and Vice Principals, Teachers' Unions, Parents Associations and all other organisations where existent should be asked to give evidence before the Commission because this Committee is a very important National Committee and is very important to our system of education and should be given every opportunity to exploit the situation.

Sir, I would also like to comment on the opinion of some people who think that the standard of education has been lowered in this Region. My opinion is that the standard of education is not falling.

An hon. Member: Is he an authority on this?

Mr Okeya: Mr Chairman, we are now in a stage of mass production and if we have mass production there must be some lowering in school...

An hon. Member: Did he say "lowering"?

Mr Okeya: There are many of us here who passed Standard VI in the 1920s and 1930s and if asked to take Standard VI examination at this time would fail flat. So, Sir, to support my opinion that the standard of education has not fallen, I refer to information contained in a letter written to me from the Western Region. The letter is EDU. 292/33 of 14th April, 1959 from the Permanent Secretary (Education Administration), Ministry of Education, Western Region, Ibadan. From the information contained in this letter I am quite convinced that this Region is not behind in Education.

Several hon. Members: Is he comparing us with the Western Region? We can't have it.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Only a country that has no interest in education will compare its standards with the Western Region.

An hon. Member: It is an insult to compare us with the West.

Mr Okeya: Our standard of education is the highest in the whole Federation, Sir. If you consider the ratio of educational expenditure with Regional Revenue, £5.6 million was spent on 2 million children. Considering the results of examinations conducted by the West African Examinations Council one finds that the Eastern Region is better off than any of the other Regions. This is true also of Standard Six results. Coming to the ratio of the teaching staff to the pupils and students, the following information will show people who are of a different opinion with me in this matter to be entirely wrong:

	WEST		EAST	
	Teacher	Pupil	Teacher	Pupil
Teacher Training colleges ...	1	13	1	13
Secondary Grammar Schools ...	1	18	1	17
Primary Schools	1	28	1	36

The ratio in primary schools in the West is better because there modern schools and primary schools are combined to arrive at the figure.

Sir, there is another point I would like to raise and that is in relation to the structure and content of education in this Region. This matter was considered by the former Director of Education, Mr Hussey, and this idea of Hussey is that the present system of Education should be Six-class Elementary School. In the Eastern Region we have 8-year course; in the West it is six years. There is nowhere in the whole world, to the best of my knowledge, that this 8-year system is adopted. I am therefore referring this to the Minister of Education to consider what I call the "Hussey Idea" of Infants I and II, up to Standard IV being under what is called Junior Primary.

An hon. Member: That is out-of-date now.

Mr Okeya: It is not out-of-date.

Now Standards V and VI should form a Middle School or if you like, Senior Primary. This very system we are using now was adopted in 1948 and that system is becoming obsolete. In that system we have four-year Junior Primary—Infants I and II, Standards I and II to remain Junior Primary. Now we have Senior Primary from Standards III to VI. I would like to make it clear that I am in favour of the "Hussey Idea" and that is the only system that will improve the Primary Education System of this Region.

Why? This system—the "Hussey Idea"—will raise the standard of education in the Region. I will explain how. You find that our children who are coming out after passing Standard VI are very young and very small to do anything, so that if they have no chance of entering any Training Colleges or Trade Centres, they remain at home and are quite useless, for they cannot even go to work. So in other words, I am saying that the age at which these children leave school should be raised a bit because too many young children passing Standard VI are useless to their parents at home, unless they have the opportunity of entering into Secondary Schools.

Now, Sir, no difficulties will be created if we adopt the "Hussey Idea" of having a Junior Primary up to Standard IV and a Senior Primary from Standards V to VI where they do more advanced work. This is also in agreement with the Ministry of Education about teaching more advanced subjects in these Schools. My suggestion is that this new system should be adopted. If this system is adopted these Senior Primary students will have the chance to enter Trade Centres, or Agricultural Schools, or other technical schools, etc., which might have to be introduced in future.

Now, I come to what I call the "content". That has something to do with the syllabus. I am not anticipating the Dike's Committee, but the fact still remains that if we consider the syllabus we are using nowadays, in fact the syllabus is really very good—it was framed in 1948—there are a lot of things to think about. Take the syllabus for Standards III and IV: there is nothing in this syllabus for history except biography and the idea is to teach the

Nigerian History, beginning from world biography to Nigerian History instead of beginning from Nigeria to the world. By this system of teaching people they turn it upside down and you find that in this syllabus for Standards III and IV, only one African is mentioned—that is Bishop Crowther. The rest are not mentioned at all.

Take Standards V and VI; you will find most of these syllabuses out of date. In History you find Native Administration, the Chief and his Council, the Resident and his District Officers. These are obsolete. You will also find the Governor and his advisory Executive Council, the Departments of Government and their workers and so on and so forth. Nothing is ever said about the present system of Government.

Now, the fact is this: when the Committee to look into this is to be appointed, the experienced teachers and headmasters will be ignored. For example, if you allow proprietors who are these Voluntary Agencies to work in the Committee—in fact they act in good faith—they will be influenced by their background, which is European, and it is a principle that no matter what a European may be—he may be an expert in his own field—he must have the background of a European; he does not think as an African.

So I am to suggest that when the time comes for this syllabus to be revised, Africans with experience should be consulted; and we need also experts to advise us, not to take wholesale their advice or suggestions. Now, Mr Chairman, you will see that the syllabus really needs some change, drastic change.

An hon. Member: He is now becoming co-operative. He is a teacher.

Mr Okeya: Now I talk about staff. I have just this suggestion to give Government about staff. Some people remarked here about teachers; in fact teachers have been doing their best, but there is a "but", a big "but". Not many of them are paying attention to their school work. I am sorry to say this, but the fact is that everyone wants to get to the top and that is the only way out. If you get your degree, or get your Grade I Certificate that is alright, you get to the top. Now everyone is burning his candle to get to the top.

I do also agree with a Member of this House who said that something should be done and here is where I put a suggestion. The Headmasters and Managers should be given more power to control some of these teachers. You might find that in the course of my speech I criticised Government Schools, but I must be given this benefit of credit for praising Government Schools. You find in Government schools, there is order and discipline; in the Voluntary Agencies there is little or none. Why? It is so because Headmasters in Government Secondary Schools now have big control over their teachers. The teachers are working hard to impress the Headmaster so that he might get a good recommendation from the Headmaster; in the Voluntary Agency School you have no order. Even the Supervisors of schools or even the Rev. Managers have not much control. Now we have freedom, so that teachers (most of them, I do not say all of them) do not even listen to the Supervisors or Managers. So we need a way out.

Another thing I would also say is that teachers leaving training schools, when they come out, fall into that same groove. I would suggest that a teacher leaving school or training college must have his certificate in a year or two, and he must work hard to merit his certificate and so put into practice what he has learnt in the training college. When they come out there is little or no supervision. In fact it is dangerous to them and to the Region.

I feel I must give the Government this view, that teachers when they come out from Colleges do not obey the Headmasters or the Managers or Supervisors. Now the only way to make them work hard is: they pass the examination, they get their scale, but before they earn the real National Scale for teachers they must get a good report from the Ministry of Education or the Education Officer.

Again, you will find, Sir, that teachers in training schools have the most up to-date method of teaching and when they come out they fall into the same groove. These do not make use of the apparatus which they got from training schools; they do not bother about their apparatus, it is only a camouflage. Something should be done. Supervisors and Managers should insist that the apparatus which they got from training schools should be used. They paid for them and they must be brought to school and used.

Another point, Sir, is about Teacher Training Institutions. I feel that the time has come for the Ministry of Education to reduce the number of E.T.C.s—we are producing on the average 1,500 Grade III Teachers every year. If we continue to turn out these teachers in such numbers we shall create a big problem for them, and we shall have to give them pensions. So the best thing is to reduce the number of E.T.C.s. When I say that E.T.C.s should be reduced some hon. Members do not understand what I mean. You have Higher Elementary Teachers and you have E.T.C. Teachers. These E.T.C. Teachers do two years' course, and in this period they know nothing.

An hon. Member: But they are better than Standard Six boys.

Mr Okeya: Yes. They have many things to learn in two years with the result that they know nothing.

The Chairman: There are far too many interruptions. Will you please give the hon. Member the chance to be heard, and I will ask you not to make it necessary for any hon. Member to strain his voice because when your under-tone is so loud he has to strain his voice in order to be heard. This is not very good.

Mr Okeya: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Now that we are on Education everyone likes to talk.

These teachers do two years' course and there are many things to do—Handwork, Rural Science and other subjects in the curriculum. They also have to learn how to teach everyone of these subjects and the result is that they have little or no time to do these subjects well. What happens is that they are rushed out into the teaching field, and if there is no proper supervision over them, in one or two years, they fall off. Some of them, of course, try to enter training colleges to qualify as Higher Elementary Teachers while some prepare for their G.C.E.; but a great many of them do not bother to learn.

I make this suggestion, Sir, in view of the economy of the Region. We need more of the Higher Elementary Teachers because the more qualified a teacher is the better is his teaching, and unless we have enough Higher

[MR OKEYA]

Elementary Teachers to run our Junior Primary Schools the standard will not rise higher than it is at present.

With due deference to the Minister of Education, I beg to say that Grade I Teachers examinations now are too cheap. If you get your G.C.E. Advanced Level in two subjects you are qualified as a Grade I Teacher. I am suggesting, Sir, that one subject should be added to make it three subjects, and this subject should be Principles and History of Education. I suggest this subject because a teacher with all his qualifications and without background of Principles and History of Education is not a teacher at all. I therefore ask the Minister of Education to take up this suggestion because this will make teachers sound and qualify them for their work.

Again, we find that some of those old teachers who have been in the field for many years are looked upon as dull teachers; and that is natural. Why is it? It is because I have seen that some old Headmasters have been in one school or area for many years. They are not respected by those young teachers coming out. They look at the old Headmasters as ignorant Headmasters. I suggest that to encourage these old Headmasters, let them have their pensions and go home or let their salaries be revised to give them a higher scale so that the young teachers will look upon them as something, and I feel that if they become Headmasters they should get about £600 per annum or something in that neighbourhood. That is an incentive.

Another point, Sir, is that since we need now more secondary schools in the Region, I would like also to suggest that once a secondary school is founded by an African or private Voluntary Agency or individual and we find that that school has enough qualified staff and suitable buildings, that secondary school after a year should receive some grant to encourage it. Many proprietors of secondary schools are losing much and it will help the Region if we adopt this system and avoid the old system put down in the 1940's.

Now there is a point I would ask the Minister of Education to think over. It is a question of the place of Government Secondary Schools

in the Region. I have two ideas about Government Secondary Schools: either disband them on economic reasons or cut off their attachment to the apron string of the Ministry of Education. Now, by this I mean, if we want Government to run schools but it is never done elsewhere in the civilised world except where you have, say, agricultural schools in England, and these schools are under State control; all the secondary schools in England or America are run by the Counties and Voluntary Agency. Education in the modern world is a partnership between the Government, the Local Voluntary Agency and the Local Governments. Now, the idea of Government School originally as Sir Hugh Clifford had expressed when he was the Governor of Nigeria, was that the object of having Government Schools was just to guide the Missions and give them a kind of model.

Now, is the Government school an ideal to Voluntary Agency? The answer is no. If it is a model, then give the Voluntary Agency the same equipment, the same amount of money or grant and make them complete, and let them compete and they will be a perfect model. Now, if we do not want to disband them and if the Government intend to run secondary schools, let every Division have a Government Secondary School.

In order not to waste time, Sir, if we examine according to Government's White Paper, Government of the Eastern Region Part Two Statistics 1958, you will find that the grant given in 1957-58 to all the Secondary Schools in the Region is £290,735 (grants-in-aid). Now if you work out the average of 94 Secondary Schools run by the Voluntary Agency, the grant-in-aid is £3,166 to each Voluntary Agency Secondary School. In the same period 1958, if you work out also the average, you will find that the four Government Secondary Schools on the average got £21,235, that is £12,867 in excess of what the Voluntary Agency Secondary School got.

The Chairman: The hon. Member has five minutes more.

Mr Okeya: You will find that in the period 1958 other running expenses for Government schools are £52,650. Government Teacher Training Schools had all the sum of £52,650. In the same period

you will find that the running expenses are £18,030 to all Voluntary Agency Secondary Schools, whereas Government had £52,650. I am proving that this is too much; that if the Government wants to have the Secondary Grammar Schools run by it, it should have it done in every Division. If not, let the schools be cut away from the Ministry of Education.

Another point is that in the Estimates, under Head 429, you find the Inspectorate Division and the Administration Division. The Government is using their teachers in the Government Colleges as Education Officers and then come again to fill their duty posts in the Administration Division and the Inspectorate with them. As a result of this, the African members who are working in the Ministry of Education keep wasting their time and have no avenue for promotion. I am suggesting, Sir, that if teachers in the Government Schools should remain as teachers, let there be an attractive scale as in the Civil Service for them to run on, so that they may retire as teachers instead of going to the administration to fill duty posts. Another alternative is that Government should also call for Voluntary Agency teachers who are qualified to come and fill the duty posts on the principle of parity of treatment.

Mr Chairman, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr D. S. A. Agim (Orlu Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, my aim of filing this amendment is to get an opportunity of making some remarks . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Will hon. Members please give attention to Standing Order 27 (4) which reads: "During a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones". Your undertones are rather too loud.

Mr Agim: Mr Chairman, Sir, I was saying that my aim for filing this amendment is to get an opportunity of making some remarks in connection with our U.P.E. schools. Before I do that I wish to thank the Minister of Education and the Government for the new scales that have been approved for teachers. At present it is like a sealed packet and we do not know what the contents may be, but I believe they will be a timely relief to the

poor suffering teachers of the Region. I also wish to join other hon. Members in congratulating the Minister of Education for the orderly way in which he carries out the policy of his Ministry and the way scholarships are awarded.

Now, I come to the point I want to raise, and that is the matter of the U.P.E. schools. Mr Chairman, Sir, if you examine the other branches of the services of Local Government Bodies, say, Maternity Homes or Dispensaries, you will find that before a Local Government Dispensary or a Local Government Maternity Home opens, you have first of all an office where the work will be done and then next to it, you have accommodation for the officer who will carry out the work. But if you look at the U.P.E. schools, you will find that there is no building nearby for the accommodation of the teachers. The schools themselves are thus uninteresting. So I am asking the Government to ceil and provide dwarf walls to these buildings so as to protect the children from the severity of the weather.

Secondly, accommodation is considered on the basis of the population of many of these U.P.E. schools. I wish to tell Government that the continued existence of these U.P.E. schools is a sort of challenge to the nationalist ideals that set them in motion, and if we want parents to send their children to these schools, we must try to make these schools ideal by satisfying all the requirements. In some of them, the amount of accommodation provided is in the ratio of two to seven so that there is actual congestion. I wish that Government would take part of the unallocated amount in the Development Programme to make sure that there is sufficient accommodation in these schools.

Another point, Sir, is about the teachers themselves who are employed in these schools. Entry into the schools happens to be very expensive for these young teachers sometimes, and when they get into employment their position is guaranteed for one year and at the end of it, for one reason or the other, some of them are not posted and they will be floating about. I feel that the Local Government Bodies should be properly supervised so that when a teacher is employed in the U.P.E. school, his employment will follow the normal rule of employment. The teacher is not a temporary officer and when he is employed he

[MR AGIM]

should be able to look upon that work for his future. Some of these teachers run through great difficulties at the end of the year when they are told that there will be no room for them and yet fresh teachers are employed and there will be room for them.

The equipment in these schools, too, leave much to be desired. I do not think this is the direct responsibility of the Minister of Education, but I feel that a circular should go round to Local Government Bodies to see that there is equipment for the schools. I happened to go to one of them and saw children sitting on logs of wood and writing on bare ground. That is a very bad atmosphere for a child beginning school life.

Sitting suspended at 12 noon.

Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.

The Chairman: I wish everyone would try to be very brief in his speech because we have quite a lot to do. We have the Committee of Supply to go through and we also have quite a number of Bills which should take a long time here. If hon. Members are prepared to give a long speech, well, I will not mind because this is my work, but I would only ask them to be up to the point.

Mr Agim: Mr Chairman, Sir, as I was saying before the House suspended its sitting this morning, I do not see with my Friend the hon. Member for Owerrri that the standard of primary education has not fallen. I wish to examine what I may call a way of curing the defect. The cause is largely on our educational policy in this Region. The educational policy lays undue premium on paper qualifications instead of efficiency and experience. The result is that teachers spend their time trying to acquire these paper qualifications in order to fit themselves in life.

Mr Chairman, Sir, if you were to hold a survey of private interviews with most teachers in the Region, you would find that less than 40 per cent of these teachers would like to remain for the rest of their lives in that profession. Sometime ago, the Ministry of Education made an announcement here that unless teachers read and qualify they should not be advanced. Naturally, teachers in the Region realised that no matter how good they were in their work, no matter how dutiful they were in

their work, if they had not got higher paper qualifications they were nowhere in their work. They started to pay their money into correspondence colleges overseas and spend their time and money trying to qualify for higher incomes. I think this is one of the major causes of the fall in the standard of education in the primary schools.

So if an arrangement could be made whereby teachers will have a hope that with the minimum of the certificates they have (at most up to the Grade I Certificate, which is the highest locally obtainable certificate outside the University) they could reach, if possible, the highest position in the profession, then I think the urge to spend the school time for their own private reading, even at the expense of the pupils and at the risk of the public losing confidence in them, will cease. I do not say that all Headmasters are weak, but some Headmasters may be weak and allow these young teachers to come into the schools even with their lecture notes from Overseas Tuition Colleges. Well, that should not be allowed. I feel it is a weakness on the part of the Headmaster, because I do not think that these teachers are too strong for the Headmaster. If the Headmaster knows that he is upright himself and is also in good relation with the Manager of the school, I am sure that he will be able to control the staff under him. I have been a Headmaster for so many years in the Region and I never allowed teachers under me to flout my authority.

Another way to improve the situation is to review their scales of salary. I said before that I was grateful for the little move that is now made and what I wish to suggest to the Minister of Education is that there should be opportunity of going into extended scale by teachers who have been efficient and consistent in the service for so many years. I do not see the reason why Headmasters who are in possession of, say, Grade II or Grade I Teachers Certificates, who have been in the Service for 10 to 15 years, should not be considered for appointment as Inspectors of Primary Schools. These Headmasters, I feel, are much better qualified to inspect primary schools than a young graduate fresh from the University.

Another thing that I think will create a brighter future for the teachers in this Region is this: I wish these particular posts in

Voluntary Agency schools to be declared by themselves senior service posts—that is, the occupiers of these posts should be placed in the senior service forthwith, and after them those posts should remain as voluntary agency senior service posts, because their counterparts in the Government are also in the senior service. That is—(1) All Principals of Elementary Training Centres should be placed on extended scale. It is certainly a post of sufficient responsibility to justify such remuneration. (2) All Vice-Principals of Secondary Schools and Higher Elementary Teacher Training Colleges should all be placed on the extended scale, where they are not already graduates.

An hon. Member: But they should not come here.

Mr Agim: Mr Chairman, I am going to reply to the hon. Gentleman who suggested that they should not be here. I will be the last man to like to live in this Region if this Legislature is going to be made up of remorseless traders, contractors and businessmen, tempered by a few unscrupulous Lawyers: they will ruin this Region. I feel the place of teachers in this House will ever remain an important one: they form a sort of moderating influence in this House. We are a link between the ordinary man in this country and the big guns.

I want to say, Sir, that if you survey this House, you will find that not less than 40 per cent to 50 per cent of the population of this House are teachers. It is an irresistible urge. If you go into the rural areas where the common man lives, their confidence is invariably placed on teachers. The teachers are good to the people. Although you may find one or two teachers who are not good, generally people rely very much on the laxity of life and integrity of teachers. That is why whenever there is a regularity of representation either in the local councils or in the Legislature, you find the common man or even all the villagers rallying round teachers.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I was giving three points that I would like the Minister of Education and the Government to consider: to declare as senior service posts for Voluntary Agency Teachers, the offices of Principals of Elementary Training Colleges, the Vice Principals of Secondary Schools and Higher Elementary

Colleges and last of all, Senior Tutors of secondary schools and Higher Elementary Training Colleges. These three different types of officers should be placed forthwith on the extended scale.

An hon. Member: Including himself?

Mr Agim: Yes, if it includes me, it will only be a solace to teachers in this Region because I have been in this service for 30 years and a lot of people who are heckling me now were my pupils. They passed under my hammer. I wish to support somebody who said that there will be some sort of like recommendation for teachers to their Managers. Well, that will not withhold their increments but there is a provision in the Education Ordinance that if the Headmaster finds the work of a teacher not satisfactory, he has the right to report that particular teacher to the Manager and the Manager should contact the Education Department. We have something like a Disciplinary Committee in the Education Department whose duty it is to look into such cases to see whether an offence or the attitude of the junior teacher justifies the withholding of increment as the case may be. So that the idea of giving Headmasters more powers than they have does not arise. Unless the Headmaster does not know his job, he should know that there are sufficient powers attached to the post.

Again, Sir, I said before that I am trying to explain one of the causes why there is a falling standard in the school, and that is the lack of bright future for the teachers. The result is that teachers spend their time trying to qualify themselves, and that to the neglect of their duty.

Now, the second of the triple aspect is this: the main thing is the role of the pupils themselves and their parents. We are talking of freedom and somebody spoke before that teachers are abusing freedom, but I am telling you, Mr Chairman, that parents are making their children to abuse the school freedom. We try to abolish the use of corporal punishment in school, but if the child knows that he is not going to be punished or not going to be detained in the school, because detention is an alternative form of punishment, he does not care. Even this question of detention is detested by many parents. When their children come home very often at odd hours of the day, they do not ask them where they have been.

[MR AGIM]

I do not agree with the Member from Ogoni Division who said that dull children—or rather stupid children as he called them—are the people who pass examinations. That is ridiculous. I want to refer him to a model school. I happen to have had the privilege of opening a model school in this Region—that is the Port Harcourt Town Council School. If you look up the record of that school for the last 5 to 10 years you will find that it had 100 per cent pass in most Standard VI examinations. That means that if there is good teaching and if parents and teachers co-operate to control the movements of these children, the result is bound to be good. In that school we have a very strong Parent/Teacher Association, so that every individual child is under the combined supervision of both the school and the parents, and the result of it is what you read in the papers—100 per cent in the Standard Six Examination every year. Mr Chairman, I wish also to say that Headmasters of Primary Schools who have held such a position from 10 to 15 years should also be considered worthy of advancement into the extended scale.

There was a remark about a Body appointed to survey the system of education in the Region. I feel that Body is well appointed. The Body, so far as I am aware, seem to be exploiting all the sources available to them. They have written to teachers' organisations, they have written to principals of colleges, to submit their views. We only hope that they will look into the very uneven structure of voluntary agency teachers' scales.

I want to draw your attention to one particular point. Let us take the Grade I Certificated teachers. These teachers are allowed to teach up to the highest form of the secondary school. In other words, these teachers do exactly the same work as the graduates. I do not want to say too much for them, but from my experience these teachers are more efficient—in other words, by virtue of long experience and training, they are much better than the graduates in actual class room teaching. And yet, according to the scales which obtained in the past—and still obtain, I think—the initial salary of a graduate with a teaching qualification is £42 per annum greater than the possible maximum a Grade I teacher can reach in life.

I will give an example: a teacher with teaching qualification starts life with £630 per annum, whereas a Grade I teacher has his maximum at £588 per annum before the last announcement was made. This maximum can only be attained after a tedious period of 17 years as a Grade I teacher. He does not even reach the minimum of an ordinary unqualified graduate teacher. He is £12 per annum behind an ordinary graduate who comes to teach—no matter the degree. Even a lot of them have degrees that have nothing to do with our schools; for example a lot of them have B.Sc. (Econ); B.Com; and these have nothing to do with the teaching in our secondary schools and yet they draw this big salary.

The result of this, Sir, is that the professional teachers and those who really know what they are doing are disillusioned and when this is the case they do not put in all their best for the education of the pupils. So, Sir, we want Government to bridge the gap between the Grade I teachers' salaries and the graduates' salaries in this Region. Grade I teachers should be placed on a scale of salary very close to the civil service scale of C (E) 2, 3, 4. I think that will be an equitable scale. This is an intermediary scale between the Senior and Junior Service and I am sure no reasonable person will think this too much.

Also, Sir, I want to appeal to the Minister of Education to interfere with Managers of schools who take upon themselves to deduct moneys from teachers' salaries at the end of each month in respect of some Trade Unions in which they are interested. The Trade Unions are workers' organisations and it should not be the business of any Manager of Schools to force teachers to pay into one Trade Union in preference to another. Sir, I happen to be the General Secretary of the Eastern Teachers' Union. I have series of complaints from teachers who have been forced by their Supervisors and Managers to pay into a certain Trade Union in preference to another and if they refuse they will be threatened with dismissal. Mr Chairman this must stop.

I have to curtail my speech in answer to the appeal of the Chairman but this is on condition that the Minister of Education has taken these points into very good consideration, and if this is the case I will not move my Motion.

The Chairman: Does the hon. Member move?

Mr Agim: I do not move, Sir.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Chief I. I. Morphy (Ogoja Division): Mr Chairman, I beg to move that Head 429 be reduced by £100. In moving it I have two points to make but one of the points has been covered by my hon. Friend, Mr G. C. Okeya.

An hon. Member: Is he a teacher?

Chief Morphy: My first point, Sir, is Government policy on scholarship awards. What used to happen in the past was that Government awarded scholarships to people who applied and had been found fit. But, Sir, accommodation is not found for these people in the Universities here in West Africa and overseas, and if no admission can be got for the holder of the scholarship for two years the scholarship lapses. I therefore advise that Government should find them accommodation.

The Government say they are awarding scholarships on Divisional basis. Take places like Ogoja, Obudu, or most of the Minority areas; you will find that, instead of Government finding a place for the people who have these scholarships, the people themselves are left to find these places. So I hope Government will look into it and see that they find places for these people who get scholarships.

The Minister told us that they were going to award 96 scholarships—or that Councils were going to award them—and that there was going to be automatic awards of scholarships to all our students who get into Universities in West Africa. I think that scholarships should also be extended to all who gain admission into Universities not only in West Africa but also overseas. They cannot only send people to West African Universities and find really what they want—the real skilled people in their professions to take up appointments here in accordance with our Nigerianisation policy.

Mr G. E. Okeke: A White Paper will come out tomorrow.

Chief Morphy: Alright. The Minister of Education told us that District Councils were going to award scholarships. District Councils are . . .

Mr G. E. Okeke: I have not said so.

Chief Morphy: Rather the Provincial Scholarships Board will be set up to award scholarships. I know that this Board will be made up of N.C.N.C. boys . . . (*Interruptions*) and what they will do is to award scholarships to those who have the sympathy of the N.C.N.C at heart, and such people who have the sympathy of the Opposition Parties at heart will be overlooked. So what we are saying is that in appointing Members to the Board, Government will do their best to see that members of the Opposition Parties are appointed to this Board.

Another point, Sir, is the curriculum. I think that the Education Committee that has been set up will have to try and see that there is a change in our syllabus because today the syllabus is such that our boys and girls know more of Europe than they know of Africa. If you ask them to tell you what constitutional changes have taken place since 1951 in Nigeria they cannot tell you. So it will be good enough if the syllabus is revised so that our children will know the steps we are taking in this country, and also know our leaders. Could you believe that most of the children at school do not know the life history of somebody like Chief Obafemi Awolowo, neither do they know that of the Sardauna of Sokoto or that of Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe.

An hon. Member: They know about Zik.

Chief Morphy: Nor do they know the life history of hon. Eyo who has dissolved this House two times. We therefore hope that when the Education Committee will sit, they will consider the curriculum and make changes that will enable our children at school to know more about Nigeria than of Europe.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to reduce Head 429 by £100.

Mr A. G. Umoh (Enyong Division): Mr Chairman, I would like to say a few words in support of the Motion by the hon. Member from Ogoja. In the first place I wish to express concern at the alarming number of boys and girls that leave Primary Schools and have

[Mr UMOH]

nothing to do. These young people due to lack of occupation are forced to join gangs of thieves, while the girls take to prostitution. This is causing a lot of dissatisfaction around the rural areas. I feel that there is every reason why the Government should step in to arrest this situation.

There are two things which Government can do to ease this situation. Number one is that Government should help these children by awarding more secondary school scholarships. In the award of secondary school scholarships we understand that recommendation has got to be made by Principals of Colleges. While not doubting the integrity of such Principals, I want to say that there are a lot of intelligent children who due to lack of money cannot get into secondary schools to be seen and recommended by such Principals. I feel that the old policy of setting scholarship examinations should be adopted. The Regional Government should arrange competitive examination for all children to do, and those who qualify for these awards should be awarded scholarships. Thus intelligent boys are given the chance to qualify for these scholarships.

The next thing I think that Government can do to ease the situation is the extension of technical schools. So far we have had only very few technical schools in Enugu and Aba. I do not know if Government will not find it advisable to establish handicraft centres as wings of Primary Schools. This will help a child to learn some kind of handicraft which would employ him after his Standard Six Examination.

The next point I have to make, Sir, is school fees in schools. I know that a lot has been said about this, but the evil of the present rate is so great that I think no amount of repetition will be considered to be too much. Before the advent of the U.P.E. that has broken down, children in Standard 5 were paying £1 a year and those in Standard 6 £1 10s. It is true that at that time parents of these children were paying less tax, but in 1957 parents were told that if they paid more taxes, their children would be provided with free primary education.

Several hon. Members: We have heard much about this point.

Mr Umoh: Sir, they have heard about it, but they have not made use of what they have heard. Parents were told that if they paid more taxes their children would be going to school free. Now, the U.P.E. has failed and parents have had to continue to pay high taxes and more school fees. Take the case of a father who has a child in Standard 5 and another one in Standard 6; he has got to pay £12 school fees after other incidental expenses on books, uniform and other things and along with tax you will find that he is not able really to face the situation. As a result of this, many parents have to decide how many of their children would go to school. Sir, I believe, that the present policy of the Government is reducing the number of literate children in the Region, because since last year thousands of pupils who would have benefited from at least primary school education have been forced out of schools.

I am therefore appealing to the Government that if it is not possible in the foreseeable future to restore U.P.E. up to Standard 6, Government should decide to allow the school fees from Standard 2 to Standard 6 to be as they were before the U.P.E. Scheme was introduced.

Mr Chairman, I should like to associate myself with speakers who have asked that some help or assistance should be given to our private students overseas. I notice in the Estimates for Education, that a provision of £20,750 has been made for this. This is a very good gesture on the part of the Minister of Education, but I am candidly suggesting that judging from what we hear about the plight of these students this sum should be substantially increased.

We hear, Sir, that in some cases these students go mad, and some agree to marry old European ladies in order to obtain help from them to finish their courses. The result is that when they return here they find themselves with old European wives. I feel that this is a very sad state of affairs and I would like something to be done to increase the grant to these external students. If the Government has decided, as we have heard, to help all students in West African Universities, it will be a fine gesture if they extend this help to students overseas. After all, there is nothing wrong in their having gone on their own overseas; we should therefore not allow them to suffer and die there.

The next point I would like to make, Sir, is about Regulation 21 of Education Ordinance. This Regulation provides for grants to Voluntary Agencies to help train their teachers overseas. I see that only £15,000 has been provided for this. This is a very small amount. We all know that the majority of schools in this Region belong to Voluntary Agency organisations and if the number of teachers in these organisations is to be increased, £15,000 is not adequate. Let us suppose we have to provide for one teacher to a Division, even then this amount is not adequate. I therefore feel that if we are sincerely helping the teachers in Voluntary Agencies and do not want them to be sentenced perpetually to the junior service, as my hon. Friend from Owerri said the other day, some substantial amount should be added to this every year in order to enable them to train their teachers overseas.

In this connection, Sir, I would like to say that there are some Voluntary Agencies which are not too keen about Nigerianisation. They like to do things their own way. Perhaps such Voluntary Agencies may not benefit from this. I wish the Minister of Education would take steps to see that Voluntary Agencies do really follow the Government policy of Nigerianisation. If these organisations are willing to follow that policy then there is no reason why they should not be given grant to train their teachers.

Before I sit down, Sir, I would like to congratulate my hon. Friend from Eket for the bold speech he made this morning about the one-sided services in this Region. As a matter of fact, I do not think that speech was meant to annoy anybody, and if we are sincerely looking for the peace and welfare of this Region it will not be wise to say that he was being tribalistic. The fact is we just do not want to recognise what is wrong. We hear that the minorities want a separate State and we do not ask why they want it. The sole reason is that the services in this Region are all going one way. Unless and until our brothers in the Ibo area are prepared to admit that the people in the C.O.R. State area are equally hungry there will be no way out.

Mr Chairman, I understand that even at the moment Voluntary Agency schools and colleges in the C.O.R. State area are forced to accept a

proportion of students from the Ibo area in order to court the sympathy of the Minister in the giving of grants to their colleges. If you go to Calabar, Ogoja and Rivers Provinces you will find that the schools and colleges there have a majority of Ibo students.

Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a very unfortunate state of affairs. We feel that our people pay tax; we are, therefore, qualified for all the amenities that are given to other areas. This is not said to annoy the Ibo man; all we want is the Ibo man to know that as he is hungry so is the Ijaw man, the Ibibio man and indeed everybody else. Mr Chairman, this is the position as it is.

I would like to say just one more word before I sit down. What I have to say is in connection with the Technical Branch of the Ministry of Education. I understand that our young men who are sent to train as instructors in Yaba are put on a scale of £288 while their counterparts from other Regions are paid £315 per annum. It is the appeal of those working in this institution as instructors that the salary paid to them while in training should be the same as that paid in the other Regions of Nigeria. The initial salary of those that have completed this training should be at £408—something a little above what it is at the moment.

There is also the question of lack of promotion in this Department. I understand that when there is an opportunity for securing appointment in the Technical Institute it is a white man who is sent down to take the post. Generally the instructors so sent have to undergo training from the African supposed junior. We feel that this sort of thing is against the Nigerianisation policy of the Government. If the African technical instructors have had a good training in Yaba and have qualified as instructors, I think the Government should arrange to get them promoted to higher scales according to the progress of their work.

Mr M. C. Awgu (Awka Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, during my speech on the Motion on His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, I said that the Ministry of Education carried all before it, and I still say so. But

[Mr AWGU]

there is an all-important matter that needs immediate attention.

I asked a question a few days ago about the number of Secondary Grammar Schools in the Region, Division by Division, and it was answered. At the moment it is the intention of the Ministry to stop the opening of more Secondary Grammar Schools, because it appears there are already too many opened in some Divisions. It would still like to give attention to the Divisions that have none. This may sound unreasonable, but unless we make an important scrutiny of the matter there is bound to be a great injustice done to certain agencies. It is the policy of our Party to give fair share to all, but in this case, Sir, we are far from complying with the policy. We must not be carried away by the mistake already done by the Ministry in a Division like Onitsha where Secondary Grammar Schools are opened almost in every town.

For example, Sir, in Nnewi you have the Okongwu Memorial Grammar School and the Nigeria Secondary School, and I understand that a third one is being proposed. At Oba which is about three miles from Nnewi you have the Merchant of Light Grammar School. At Nnobi, three miles from Nnewi, you have the Community Grammar School. At Alor, barely two miles from Nnewi, you have a Secondary Grammar School. At Ozubulu, about a mile from Nnewi, you have the Zikston Grammar School. At Ihiala, barely four miles from Ozubulu, you have the Abbot Secondary Grammar School. At Ogidi, five miles from Onitsha, you have a Secondary Grammar School for girls.

Mr Chairman, it must also be understood that Schools opened by denominational bodies have religious bias and do not easily admit pupils who have different faith. This must be impartially scrutinised to see that churches have a fair share. I appeal to the Ministry of Education to make time and study carefully the points that I am submitting this morning. It is non-political and unselfish. It is based on N.C.N.C. policy which is fair share for all.

In Awka Division, there are three Grammar Schools centred in Njikoka District Council

area. Sir, from Njikoka to the extreme towns in Orumba, is a distance of 33 miles, and within this area of plenty there is an absolute need for two Secondary Grammar Schools.

Mr Chairman, there has been of very recent date, great embarrassment and disappointment on the side of proprietors of schools over the issue of American graduates in the teaching field not being easily recognised as their counterparts of British universities. Transcripts are not wanted from British University graduates; why then does the Ministry of Education require American graduates to produce their transcripts? We want the Ministry to catalogue American Universities which are the equivalent of British Universities so that graduates from such universities will not have to suffer any inconveniences.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, for two days you have heard from teachers. I must be grateful for your allowing the laymen to contribute. This will enable us to relieve you of the monopoly of the debate on this Ministry.

Before I go on, Sir, may I just warn the Minister of Education not to be carried away by the pleadings of the last speaker as regards this question of American graduates. In this connection, I would say that there are first-rate universities in America and the Minister of Education knows that, but we are not going to plead for bogus American degrees. There is no place for them in this country and there is no place for them in the Eastern Region. We have so many of these M.A. (Administration) M.A. (Sociology), M.A. (Social Science) and so on. If a Higher Elementary Teacher left this country and within a space of four years got a Master's degree, I do not think anybody would cherish such a degree. Why is it that we have not made any complaint against anybody who has read in Britain? There is no chance of getting a cheap admission in any British University. Some of these chaps do not go beyond Standard 6 and yet have the impudence to leave this country with the idea of reading for a Master's degree. I know a chap with Standard 6 who left this country and within a space of two years got M.A. in the United States.

As a matter of fact, I have somebody from my own Division who attended Harvard University in America, who obtained the Ph.D. and after graduating he was appointed a lecturer at the University College Ibadan. He is now Secretary of the Central Bank because he measured up in Banking and Finance. Anybody who wants to read should go to a good University.

I want to pay tribute to the work done by the Voluntary Agencies in the Eastern Region. If you come to the Calabar Province, you will be amazed by the educational achievement of the Roman Catholic Mission. If you go to Uyo and Abak Divisions you will also see the tremendous progress made by the R.C.M. As a matter of fact, all the Divisions in Calabar Province have been improved. My people in Calabar Province are very grateful for the work of the Roman Catholic Mission.

I will put in a word or two for the American Lutheran Mission. If you go to our own area in Uyo Division, you will find that next to the R.C.M. comes the American Lutheran Mission. They have been doing an excellent work. I appeal to the Minister to give more financial aid to the other small voluntary agencies like the African Church Mission, the Zion Mission and the Apostolic Mission. These Missions need more financial aid. I think the Minister will be good enough to consider them.

May I draw the Minister's attention to the dearth of graduate teachers in our Voluntary Agency Secondary schools all over the Region? Sir, if I may argue a case for the Ibibio State College at Ikot Ekpene, at the moment we are left with only two graduate teachers—one in addition to the Principal. I was wondering whether the Ministry could not undertake recruitment for most of these Voluntary Agency secondary schools in the Eastern Region. It is a very serious matter. The Voluntary Agencies, Sir, are not in a position to have outside contact in order to recruit staff. It would be of great help if the Ministry undertakes recruitment in Britain and other places where they can get qualified teachers to come and help in the Voluntary Agency secondary schools.

My next point, Sir, is the question of Science teaching. I think it was our Scientist,

the Member for Aba, who made the point. Sir, Government only makes a grant of £2,000 to the Voluntary Agency secondary schools to build a Laboratory. Well, I do not know who recommended that figure of £2,000. What type of Science Laboratory can one build with only £2,000? There will be a time, Sir, when all the Voluntary Agency secondary schools in the Eastern Region will have to do without any Science teaching, and I will remind the House of what is the position in the world at the moment. All other countries are trying to do everything to catch up with Russia. We have on record, Sir, that Russia is well ahead of all other countries, and if it is true that a place like the United States of America is behind Russia in producing Scientists, well, I do not see why we in the Eastern Region should not start now to encourage the teaching of Science in our schools. I think it is very important. I understand the Federal Government has made a start in Lagos by opening a Science school and it will be of great help, Sir, if the Minister earmarks a portion of the scholarships for the Eastern Region to Science students.

Now, Sir, the next point I want to deal with is the question of water supply to our educational institutions. I do not know whether the Minister has ever been to Calabar. If he has, I will invite him again to Edgerley Memorial School in Calabar. It is the oldest girls primary school in the Eastern Region and at the moment it is run up to Modern Two, but, Sir, the school has not got any water supply. So, the next time the Minister goes to Calabar, will he please look into Edgerley.

The next point is this question of scholarship. What worries me is how the Regional Scholarship Board awards scholarships on Divisional basis. The applicant normally fills the form and forwards to the Regional Scholarship Board. He is invited for interview and the scholarship is finally awarded. But when some of us in those days won Government scholarships we won these scholarships as a result of competitive entrance examination. So that if the Ministry really wants to get good boys and girls for the award of these scholarships, may I suggest that it should be as a result of competitive entrance examination. You have, for instance, six applicants from a Division having had their school certificates and all of them

[Mr E. O. Eyo]
appear before the Scholarship Board. On what basis do you make the selection?

Dr. Okpara: On their result.

Mr E. O. Eyo: May I suggest now that the Ministry is awarding scholarships on a District Council basis. Surely the only way to solve the problem would be to hold competitive entrance examination for the scholarship that is intended to be awarded to a District Council area. But I am opposed to the establishment of Provincial Scholarship Board. Government want to start their racket again. They want to award two scholarships to a Province. There is the Regional Scholarship Board; why these Provincial Scholarship Boards? If you are allocating two scholarships to a Province, hold a competitive examination and allow all the boys and girls from that Province to compete in order to ensure that you get the best candidates. The moment you leave Enugu alone and get down to the Provincial level and then set up a body known as Provincial Scholarship Board, well, Sir, we know how members in the District Councils award scholarships. They set up an Education Committee and the members of the Education Committee go to award scholarships to their own children. May I, Sir, say that the members of these Provincial Scholarship Boards will only award scholarships to their own children.

May I deal with the question of Commercial Schools in the Region? If you look up the whole Estimates there is no provision for grant-in-aid to Commercial Schools in the Region. We think it is about time that the Government should vote some money to the few Commercial Schools we have in the Eastern Region. In this connection, Sir, may I put in a word for a gentleman in Uyo Division who established a Commercial School in Ikot Ekpene round about 1953-54? Sir, he decided to transfer the Commercial School to Uyo. He had the permission of the Minister of Education then to open the school. As the school was running, he eventually decided to transfer the school to Uyo and maybe, Sir, he did not know that he required the permission of the Minister of Education before he could effect the transfer. He put in all the money he had to put up a two-storey building in Uyo Division. You would like to go and see it. All he was told was that he had to re-apply to the

Minister for permission to open the school. Now, Sir, the school had been held up for a number of reasons. I understand that the Ministry of Education has something against this gentleman. But the Chiefs of the area have decided to take over as proprietors of this commercial school, because they have put all their money in it.

I was wondering whether the Ministry would reconsider the whole matter and allow the new proprietors to open this commercial school. We need the school very badly in Uyo Division. I will call upon the Minister to arrange an inspection of this school—I have been there myself. It is just between Uyo and Annua Hospital. If it is true that the Ministry has something against the first man—well I am not arguing that point. He should be dropped. But if it is true that the Chiefs of the area have taken over this school and have put themselves forward as proprietors and owners of the school, may I urge the Minister to reconsider giving approval for the school to be reopened.

The next point, Sir, is the vexed question of school fees in the Eastern Region. Nearly all the secondary schools in the Eastern Region charge not less than £50 for boarding and tuition. My suggestion is that the Government should standardise the amount of fees. Some schools charge £45, some £42, some £50, some £55, for boarding and tuition only. So that if you happen to maintain four boys in the secondary schools in the Eastern Region, you are going to be called upon to pay anything over £200 for boarding and tuition only. And what is worse, Sir, even in the primary schools I have to pay £20 a year for my daughter for boarding only. That does not include the school fees.

There again, I will call upon the Minister to standardise the boarding fees in primary schools in this Region. It is very annoying to have to pay £20 in one school, £25 in another school, £18 in another school. That is in primary school. Then you come over to secondary schools. I happen to have four students in the secondary schools. In two of these, Sir, I am not paying anything less than £52 a year. What we would like the Government to do would be to standardise these fees. If it is going to be £50 this should be charged by

all the schools. I cannot see any justice in one secondary school charging £55 while another secondary school within the same area is charging anything less.

May I, Sir, draw your attention to one very serious omission in the Estimates—there is no provision for inter-regional visits.

I think it would be a good idea for Government to vote some money for our secondary school students to visit the other Regions in the country. They will want to go on a picnic to the University College Ibadan, and they will like to see the College of Technology, Zaria, the King's College, Lagos, and other institutions in the other Regions. In order to do this, and I am sure it will be of great help to the students in our secondary schools, there must be provision for them in the Estimates. This is done in the Western Region. There should be provision to enable our students in the East to visit other Regions.

Now, Sir, a word for the Minister on the provision of £10,000 for the Sports Commission. In this respect I wish to comment on the grant for the building of the stadium at Uyo. Recently the Premier visited Uyo with his Ministers and I am sure he was impressed with the amount of work done there. It is a very large stadium but all the work has been done by the local people. We have only had a grant of £250 from the Regional Government, but I can tell you, Sir, that we have put in over £4,000. Now the work has not been completed and we urge the Government to do something about it.

The next point is the question of admission to Government institutions. If you go over the admission in recent years to the Government College, Umuahia, the Government Secondary Schools at Owerri and Afikpo, you will find that boys from some sections of the Region find it extremely hard to get in. The same is the case in the Queen's School at Enugu. The chances are that most of the boys and girls in the other areas of the Region have not been able to take advantage of these Government institutions.

But, Sir, it is difficult to explain why that has been the case, but I venture to suggest that it is due to the examination centres. If you look

at the centres for the entrance examination to these colleges you will find that in the whole of Calabar Province there is only one centre at Uyo and I think in the Rivers Province it is only at Port Harcourt, whereas in other Provinces you have as many as two, three and even four centres. Now, you will not expect all the boys and girls in Calabar Province to come to Uyo for the examination or expect all the boys from Yenegoa, Degema and Brass to come as far as Port Harcourt to take the examination. So that if the Education Department will give us at least three centres for Calabar Province—one in Calabar, one in Uyo and one in Abak—I think it will help our own children to enter these Government institutions. The same goes for Ogoja and Rivers Provinces.

A word to the Minister of Education. I am happy the Minister has decided to award scholarships to all . . .

The Chairman: The hon. Member has five minutes more.

Mr Eyo: Thank you, Sir, I am happy the Minister has decided to award scholarships to all our students at the University College, Ibadan, Fourah Bay College, Kumasi College of Technology, etc., but if the Government is really serious about its scholarship scheme may I suggest that all the boys and girls who have succeeded in the Higher School Certificate examination should automatically qualify for scholarship? Then there would be no point in holding interviews. If the Government had a policy that any boy or girl in the Eastern Region who has succeeded in the Higher School Certificate examination automatically qualified for scholarship, into a University, then within a very short space of time you would see that the Government would be able to get hold of the right type of boys and girls for recruitment into the Civil Service.

Once again, Sir, may I appeal to the Minister to do something for the Voluntary Agencies—some of these Missions who are doing very good work—and I hope everybody here will join me in paying tribute to the work that is being done by these people in the Eastern Region.

The Chairman: May I humbly remind hon. Members that today is the fourth allotted

day. Monday is the last allotted day for the Committee of Supply. On that day, any Heads not treated, I shall be obliged to put the question. Then you will have no opportunity of debating those Heads. Therefore it is very necessary that you be very brief in your statements; you know we have about 16 Heads more and that is quite a lot. So I shall only call upon Members whose names are on the Order Paper and it will be good if they speak briefly.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): May I invite your attention to Standing Order 66 (9) and (10). I think the idea behind this is that unless a Member wishes to formally move his Amendment, it will be a waste of the time of the House to debate it. If a Member does not want to formally move his Amendment, may I suggest that the Amendment be withdrawn.

The Chairman: That is good, but how are you going to know? You cannot know unless the Member tells you.

Amendment put and negatived.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): I do not think it is worthwhile continuing with the other Amendment Motions. They are of the same Motion, and therefore having disposed of Chief Morphy's Amendment the rest of the Motions coming under the same Head, should be left out. They are the same Amendments on the same Head.

The Chairman: Standing Order 66 (10) says that "when several such amendments are proposed to the same Head of Expenditure they shall be called in the order in which they appear on the Order Paper and each amendment shall be disposed of before the next is called, . . ."

Dr Okpara: Mr Chairman, what we are saying is that they are all the same amendment in that they all come under the same Head, although different hon. Members are moving them; they are all the same Motion: reduce Head 429 by £100, and once we have disposed of the first, the rest should not arise.

The Chairman: I quite agree with the hon. Minister of Production but the question

is that one Member may be able to adduce better reasons than the other, and thereby convince the Members that the Head should be reduced.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Point of Order. Standing Order 66 (10) is in conflict with Standing Order 66 (9).

The Chairman: I do not think so. I take the pleasure of the House to say that we have done that.

Mr J. A. Agba (Ogoja Division): Mr Chairman, I beg to move that Head 429, Ministry of Education, be reduced by £100. My reasons for this amendment are as follows: Regarding the standard of education in Primary school teaching in the Eastern Region, I would suggest to the Minister of Education that Managers of schools should have records of teachers by way of files just in the same way as is done in Civil Service offices. By means of these files each teacher's name will be entered, his progress recorded and when the teacher applies for increment or for upgrading, as some hon. Members have suggested, it will be quite easy for the Ministry of Education to assess the ability of that teacher through his Manager by reference to files.

I said hitherto that in spite of the criticisms on Voluntary Agencies schools, it does not matter whether a teacher served for 20, 30 or even 50 years, you will find that when it comes for that teacher to ask for anything there is no record whatever of assessing what the teacher has been so far able to achieve. I think that is really disappointing. Again, Inspectors or Education Officers as they are called should also help the Managers by having records of what a teacher has been able to do.

The Minister of Production (Dr. M. I. Okpara): Point of Order. Standing Order 25 (4):

"It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a Substantive Motion for rescission."

I submit, Sir, that the hon. Member should not go ahead debating this same point. It has already been decided upon.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of Production, that seems to have some bearing, but it does not occur to my mind that it could not be taken in an elliptical sense.

Mr Agba: I would like to point out, Sir, before I continue my speech, that the Ministry of Education is a very important one. As we are heading for independence in 1960, we are not going to be independent with illiterate people. We want our people to be educated, so that as many suggestions that we can put forward to the Minister of Education by way of helping our people I think the better.

I would like to suggest, Sir, that Education Officers should be more careful in the way they supervise schools. There are quite a lot of teachers running out of schools on school days for certain things, and as a result of this we hear complaints every day that the standard of education is falling and primary schools do not seem to be doing well. The root cause of these things is unsteadiness of teachers in the primary schools, and if the Education Officers are able to go into each school and find out what is happening there they will really improve the attendance of teachers in schools and progress in these schools will be regular and continuous.

In addition to this, Sir, I would say that in Ibadan University now there is a Department for those who would like to read in Education. Graduates as well as senior teachers and those old teachers who have spent long years of service teaching are now offered chances to go there and read in Education. I think the Ministry of Education can also help these people to progress in their profession instead of wasting quite a lot of time taking oversea tuition and paying little or no attention to their classes.

I would now like to say to the Minister of Education that I was very much gratified when he mentioned the fact that he had in mind to build a secondary school in Obudu. But he said something which sounded to me a bit ridiculous and that was that the people would submit to him a plan of the type of secondary school he is to build. As one of the hon. Members said a few minutes ago, enumerating the secondary schools that exist in some parts of the Region, I do not think that those who built these secondary schools submitted a plan

of their buildings to the Minister of Education before the secondary schools were built.

Government Bench: They did.

Mr Agba: If they did, certain circumstances must be taken into consideration. You have got to consider environment and other things. You just do not stick to one thing and say that that thing must be done all over the world; and so I suggest that if the Minister intends building a secondary school in Obudu it will not be quite sufficient for him to wait until the people submit a plan. I think the Voluntary Agency Educationists will be very willing to submit to him a plan through the Supervisor of Schools immediately on request.

An hon. Member: You should submit one.

Mr Agba: If I submit it will be very expensive.

I would like to make the Minister understand that secondary school scholarships came into existence as a sort of compensation to those areas which could not afford people to send overseas and so to enable them get overseas scholarship. As a result of that the Government gave secondary school scholarships to backward areas as we call them. Now as time went on the system degenerated into some sort of what I may call "nepotism" arising from the fact that those people who composed the Scholarship Board began to think of themselves and their own children who have not grown up to the age of going overseas and would also like to give them scholarship to secondary schools. As a result of that pressure brought to bear on the Government that secondary school scholarship should not be restricted to those areas who have no people to go overseas but to every person who wants to go to secondary school, the restriction was removed. That being the case, these secondary school scholarships are not restricted now to these areas which have no people to send overseas but are given to the whole Region Division by Division.

Now we allow that to continue. We are feeling the pinch of it and the pinch we are feeling is this: that not only these backward areas do not get their share of scholarships and secondary school scholarships, but this

[MR AGBA]

year, particularly, it has been cut off completely. I personally agitated for it and have asked and even written and got reply that the secondary school scholarships were going to be awarded; but up to the moment I am speaking not one of such has been given. Although it is contained in the Estimates, quite a lot of students have been sent out of the secondary schools, particularly those who came in with the hope of getting Government scholarship. They have all been sent out. If the Government comes along now to say "All right, we are going to award scholarship", I do not think, considering what is taught in secondary schools, these boys even if they are admitted this year, will do well and the money spent on them will be a waste.

I suggest that if in future the Ministry intends to give scholarships, I think it is better to inform the Principals of Colleges the number of scholarships that will be given to each secondary school so that these boys may be retained there until such time as money is available. The idea of giving these scholarships to Councils or Provincial Boards is encouraging corruption and bribery.

An hon. Member: He is repeating what Mr Eyo has said.

Mr Agba: I know Eyo has said it. I had intended leaving this item till the time we dealt with the Ministry of Local Government, but since it comes up now I think I have to say something about it.

The Councils themselves in the past have been awarding scholarships and those of us who are members of the Council know exactly by what way the Councils award scholarships, and I seriously warn here without further details that it will be very unwise of the Ministry to give out this money to the Councils to award scholarships to secondary schools. I think it worse still to talk of Provincial Board. This has no meaning. When I say a thing has no meaning, I would like everybody who is concerned to go into it and see what I mean by a thing having no meaning. The only thing is if they talk about this Provincial Board, they are not going to be really different from the Councils and it does not matter what system the Ministry will adopt for the Boards to select candidates or to select the

students; corruption and bribery will not go out of it. It is another way of fostering this idea of bribery and corruption. What is wrong in the old way?

In the past, as far as I know, the Principal of Mary Knoll College used to recommend his students to the Government for scholarships, and scholarships were awarded according to his recommendations and everybody felt happy. If Government is going to create this Provincial Board, that is another way of wasting money. When the time comes when we need money for certain important projects, the Government will say there is no money. What is the idea of this Provincial Board? Is it going to sit without money? Perhaps this little amount that will be put into scholarship awards will be taken away and paid to the Provincial Board Members. I think, in this case, we should adopt the old method. In fact I do not think that anything is wrong in the old method of doing these things; I strongly recommend to the Minister that we keep to the old method.

Now that the Minister has been kind enough to tell us that he has got a large sum of money for Schools and the grant of some £6 million, I strongly ask that grants to colleges should be increased. You have young colleges like the Mary Knoll College, at Okuku, Ogoja, which is the only college we have in the place. Students who come to this college depend mainly on scholarship awards from the Government or from the Council. It is really ridiculous to have these school children coming in without scholarships, and they are asked to pay high fees, most of them being boarders.

If there is money for the Ministry of Education to spend on education—as the Minister himself has said, and as is shown in the Estimates—I urge that consideration should be given to backward areas. That will really encourage the people to send their children to the Secondary Schools. There is no point in building a Secondary School in Obudu where no one will go, or after building it, no subsidy to the college will be forthcoming.

An hon. Member: He does not want it.

Mr Agba: I do want it, but I am impressing upon the Government the importance of maintaining the existing ones. Now, I

repeat that I very much want a Secondary School at Obudu, but I also want the Minister to give subsidy for the maintenance of that college after it has been built.

What I said about these Secondary Schools apply to Primary Schools. The fees paid in Primary Schools are really very high and the grants to Schools should be increased in order to lessen the amount of school fees paid by the school children.

One Member has said here that in some areas Managers cut down the standard from senior primary to junior primary. This is because the Assumed Local Contribution is very high. Now, I want to say that the reason is because the people are not able to pay because the . . .

And it being 2.15 p.m. the Chairman interrupted the business and left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress: To sit again Tomorrow.

(2) The Classification of Chiefs Bill, 1959—Second Reading—Adjourned Debate on Question (2nd April)—That the Bill be now read a Second time. *Further deferred until Monday, 4th May, 1959.*

(3) The Eastern Region Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill, 1959—Second Reading—Adjourned Debate on Question (7th April)—That the Bill be now read a Second time. *Further deferred until Monday, 4th May, 1959.*

(4) The Legislative Houses Bill, 1959—Second Reading. *Further deferred until Monday, 4th May, 1959.*

(5) The Provincial Administration Bill, 1959—Second Reading. *Further deferred until Monday, 4th May, 1959.*

(6) The Public Order Bill, 1959—Second Reading. *Further deferred until Monday, 4th May, 1959.*

(7) The Funds and Accounts Bill, 1959—Second Reading. *Further deferred until Monday, 4th May, 1959.*

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Speaker, I want to say that we shall take the Bills on the Order Paper on Monday and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till Tomorrow at 10 a.m.

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

The Ogbo Agawara Society

Mr S. N. Alo (Abakaliki Division): Mr Speaker, I beg to raise on the Floor of this hon. House the question of a society known as the Ogbo Agawara Society, meaning: The devil has no mercy. This society is in my Division and it is all out to go and steal people's property in the night and now being the planting season, if you plant your crops they go all out in the night and uproot the yams. Mr Speaker, the society exists in villages known as Okwefriki, Nkumoro in Isieke sub-clan, Ndiagu Nkaliki, Ndiagu Agbaja and Ndiagu Inyimagu.

Now, Sir, the uniformed Police have been doing everything possible to check the activities of this Society, but where this Society exists is not motorable and before the uniformed Police get to the place, it is difficult to lay hands on them. Now, I am strongly suggesting to Government to come to the aid of these farmers otherwise people will go with the impression that this Society has replaced the Odozi Obodo Society. The lives of my people and their property are in danger.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr I. U. Akpabio): Government is aware that there have been gangs of thieves operating in Abakaliki Division, since Administration was set up there. Government has been urging the Police to set up fresh Police posts and the Commissioner of Police, Eastern Region, has applied to the Federal Government for funds to establish three stations and one post in Abakaliki Division, namely Ezza, Effium, Ezillu and Nwofe (post). Nwofe is the nearest station to the Northern part of Izi clan.

Accommodation will be provided so that the Police can be housed, and do not have to be

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1031 [Ogbo Agawara Society]

29 APRIL 1959

[Ogbo Agawara Society]

1032

[MR I. U. AKPABIO]
changed at frequent intervals. To change Police frequently will destroy the element of civil policing which demands continuity of service in order to obtain the confidence of the villagers, and so restore the necessary respect for law and good government.

Government is also trying to open up the area by a programme of motor roads and Bailey bridges now going on.

If the hon. Member has more detailed information on this Society, he should report at once to the Police for immediate action.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-five minutes past two o'clock p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

Wednesday 29th April, 1959

Health Visitors

51. **Mr J. M. Ito** asked the Minister of Local Government, whether Health Visitors in the Local Government Service are placed on a salary of £150 per annum while their counterparts in the Public Service, with identical qualifications are enjoying a salary commencing at £231 per annum; if so, how soon will the anomaly be remedied.

The Minister of Local Government: Matters affecting the salary structure of Local Government employees or their conditions of service are in the first instance discussed in the Joint Consultative Council which comprises representatives of the Local Government Councils as employers and trade unions representing the interests of the employees. Accordingly, the question of the disparity between the salary scales of Government Health Visitors Grade I and Health Visitors Grade I employed by Local Government Councils came up for discussion at the meeting of the Joint Consultative Council held on 18th

April, 1958, and it was agreed at that meeting by both sides that Local Government Health Visitors should be placed on the same salary scale as their counterpart in the Government Service.

At the same meeting the question of converting the salary scale of Midwives Scale I to Government Scale was discussed, but the matter was shelved.

I have not considered the agreement reached as regards Health Visitors Grade I because of the failure of the Joint Consultative Council to put up concrete suggestions with regard to Midwives Grade I. Both Health Visitors Grade I and Midwives Grade I possess the same qualifications and it would be unfair to Midwives Grade I if the salary scale of only Health Visitors, Grade I were revised.

A meeting of the Joint Consultative Council will be convened in the near future, and it is hoped that agreement would be reached as regards the salary scale for Midwives, Grade I. Thereafter the matter will be given full consideration by me.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 30th April, 1959

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPER

Presented: Eastern Region Scholarship—Eastern Region Official Document No. 3 of 1959—(The Minister of Education).

Ordered: That the said Paper do lie upon the Table.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Epidemic of Epilepsy

20. **Mr D. E. Akilo** asked the Minister of Health, whether he is aware of the recent spread of epilepsy in certain areas in Udi Division, if so, what steps are being taken for the treatment of the victims and also to prevent the spread of the disease.

The Minister of Health: No, Sir. It is highly probable that the hon. Member has been misinformed as to the real nature of the disease which is said to be spreading. It can be stated emphatically that Epilepsy is not one of the recognised infectious diseases; an epidemic of epilepsy is, therefore, a most unlikely occurrence. One case of Canine Rabies was, however, reported from Obinofia in Udi Division week ended 2-3-59, and since then no other cases have been notified. Enquiries are, however, being made to ascertain if indeed there had been any epidemics in Udi Division.

Mr Agba: Is the Minister aware of the fact that there are different kinds of epilepsy. If so, will he tell the House what type is contagious or infectious and which is not?

The Minister of Health: I am advised that all forms of epilepsy have never been infectious.

Amigbo Joint Hospital

48. **Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba** asked the Minister of Health, if he is aware that the

charges for obtaining cards and for attendance as a patient at the Amigbo Joint Hospital are exorbitant, if so, what steps will the Minister take to remedy the situation.

The Minister of Health: No, Sir. The power to lay down scale of charges for services rendered is vested in the Hospital Management Committee. These charges are expected to be fair and reasonable in view of the fact that short-fall grants are paid by Government to these Joint Hospitals, thus enabling their total revenue to be at least equal to their expenditure in any year. This means that a Voluntary Agency in charge of a Joint Hospital cannot run the hospital at a loss to itself. However, the subject of your question will be investigated.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The 1959-60 Eastern Region

Appropriation Bill

(FIFTH ALLOTTED DAY)

Considered in Committee of Supply (Progress 29th April).

Head 429—Ministry of Education

Question again proposed: That a sum not exceeding £5,670,200 for Head 429—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. A. Agba (Ogoja Division): Mr Chairman, yesterday I was talking about the Managers cutting down primary departments in certain areas and reducing them to junior primary. I said that the reason for that was because of the high Assumed Local Contribution payable in each area and the amount of school fees payable by each child, and I want the hon. Member who mentioned that fact to know that it is not the fault of the School Managers but it is the fault of the Ministry of Education for raising the fees and as a result causing high Assumed Local Contribution in each area. I suggest that in view of what the Member complained of and in view of what holds in several places, the Ministry would do well to take two-thirds of the school fees payable by each child from Standard III to Standard VI in primary schools. This

will reduce the Assumed Local Contribution and also will enable the Managers to keep senior primary departments in all schools that they have. I say this because we require Higher Elementary teachers to teach in senior primary departments. Their salaries are really high and where there are Standards 4, 5, and 6, with perhaps double streams in each class, the staff is really great, and the Assumed Local Contribution coupled with the school fees raised from each child is not sufficient to pay the salaries of these Higher Elementary teachers.

In addition to that, much money also is required for the upkeep and maintenance of these senior primary departments. Therefore, I hold it is not the fault of the Managers that where Assumed Local Contribution cannot be paid or paid fully to help them carry out the functions of the senior primary departments, the only thing they can do is to remove as many classes as possible to enable the people of the area to pay the Assumed Local Contribution.

One other person I would like to reply to is somebody who said that Elementary Training Centres should be cut down, i.e., the number should be reduced. I say that this Member is basing his argument from an erroneous point of view. When these Elementary Training Centres were introduced, the Ministry—the educationists—had in mind to replace what they called P.T.C.s which were intended to give first-hand help to children leaving primary schools with a view to entering the teaching profession, and they had a year's training in these P.T.C.s. The E.T.C.s were introduced to replace these ones. As every educationist can see in the Region, even these E.T.C.s are being slowly converted into Higher Elementary Training Centres, because the Region needs far better trained teachers than mere Elementary teachers. To say that the number of E.T.C.s should be reduced now is not a very sound argument, and it is not a helpful suggestion to the Ministry of Education.

I join my compliments with those of one hon. Member who really congratulated the Ministry of Education for what it has been able to achieve so far. But in addition to that, while congratulating this Ministry for what it has been able to achieve—in primary schools and to colleges—I would very much like to empha-

size the fact that water supply and electricity are needed in training institutions and colleges. My simple reason is that in the Abakaliki County College, the students were forced to go on holidays before it was time.

The Chairman: The hon. Member has five minutes to wind up.

Mr Agba: The reason is that they had no water to drink. I say that if the Ministry of Education will think of supplying water to training institutions and colleges, not only will the amount of disease these children incur be lessened but it will also enable our children, after having passed out of these training institutions or secondary schools, to continue with their studies as healthy people and go into universities.

My other point, Sir, is that the Eastern Region, and as a matter of fact the country as a whole, is forging ahead towards full independence in 1960. So I say that while we are advancing towards this independence, we must take all aspects of life into consideration. We have been talking and making suggestions with regard to the running of our secondary schools, our training institutions, industrial schools and so on, but I will also say here that no State can live without God. (*Hear! Hear!*). Since we are, so to speak, talking about Nigerianisation and the rest of it, I hope, Sir, that we will not only be referring to the civil service but we want to consider the religious aspect of it also.

An hon. Member: Show us how to consider it.

Mr Agba: I am putting it to the Minister of Education that seminaries where our priests are trained should also be taken into consideration. We do not want a Communist State; we do not want only the civil service to be Nigerianised; we also want our churches, our ecclesiastical functions in the country to be manned by Nigerians as well.

Several hon. Members: Preach that to your Reverend Fathers. That is not the function of the Minister of Education.

Mr M. N. Onwuma (Aba Division): Do they know that? Why have they been misleading the people?

Mr Agba: I seek your protection, Mr Chairman. As I was saying, Sir, whether they like it or not, man is made up of body and soul and we cannot train the body to the neglect of the soul and hope to get anywhere. The only way to do that, Sir, is through the church. That is my last comment, Sir. Thank you.

The Chairman: Does the hon. Member move?

Mr Agba: I do not move, Sir.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr D. E. Akilo (Udi Division): Mr Chairman, I have a few remarks to make under this Head. Now my attention has been drawn to page E 62 of the Draft Eastern Region Estimates for the year 1959-60, Sub-head 52—Supervising Teachers. This number that is allotted to this class of teachers is to me quite inadequate. They are the forerunners of Provincial Education Officers in the various minor schools where these Provincial Education Officers have no time to reach. As the number stands now, if we divide it among the 12 Provinces, two will be denied visiting teachers because we now have twelve Provinces when we have only ten Supervising Teachers in the Estimates. I suggest, Sir, that as our educational system is very very important and for the growing part of the nature of a child (that is where education starts), the teachers teaching our children must be constantly supervised otherwise these children will be misled. I therefore suggest, Sir, that more supervising teachers must be provided for and recruited as early as possible.

I suggest that more professional teachers should be recruited and as far as I know many of the visiting teachers now in the field are recruited from the Government teachers. The Education Department should recruit more from the Voluntary Agency teachers where we have a host of these efficient and experienced Headmasters who know the worries of the junior teachers and how to give them constructive criticisms.

There was a time when such kind of teachers were being recruited from the Voluntary Agencies, but I think they were not given adequate assistance from the Government.

Imagine a teacher of that nature going on a visit, he had with him his cooking utensils, his sleeping materials and he had to travel on his bicycle. Is that encouraging? I should say "No". During this second attempt of recruiting teachers from the Voluntary Agencies, I feel they must be encouraged on the same line as Government teachers are encouraged. That is my point.

Another point: we in the Eastern Region are lacking in physical education. It is better now that we should have institutions where our children will be trained physically. We are told that a sound mind is found in a sound body.

Now, we are going to have our independence and sooner or later we are going to recruit those who will be our soldiers. If we allow the children to remain just in schools and when they come out, they are recruited as soldiers, that will not be sufficient. We are going to have strenuous training for these children and since such is the case, it is better that Government should now consider establishing physical education schools.

The next point, is on page E 61: Sub-head 1, Item (40)—Education Officers. We have a lot of them quite all right, but I must say that if one goes into the behaviours of these Provincial Education Officers, one finds that they are classified under two heads. There are some of them who had been recruited from among the teachers and these Provincial Education Officers give constructive criticisms that will help the teachers in their class-rooms. There are some others who incidentally started their education from the Junior Primary to the Senior, from the Senior Primary to Secondary School, and from there to the Universities, and they came out as graduates. Automatically they are made Provincial Education Officers. These people give destructive criticisms. They should be made to teach for at least two years before giving them the appointment. Mr Chairman, Sir, how can a layman criticise a Doctor in his work? That is the same thing. Teaching is a profession and because some of them have never handled chalk they come to criticise the teachers who have been trained for four years in some Teacher Training Institutions. That is absurd. We have such kind of Provincial Education Officer around us, in Udi Division. The sooner

he goes away from this Division the better it will be for the teachers because he is only undermining the work of the teachers in this Division. Therefore, we do not want him any more. We want experienced Provincial Education Officers in our area.

The next point, Sir, is Retiring Benefits. I am glad that the Government has made it a policy that all Certificated Teachers should be on pensionable scales. I appeal to the Minister of Education that there are some classes of teachers that laid the foundation of our education. Those that had taught me are still in the field. Why should these people be discriminated against? These are the C.S. Teachers and the old C. Teachers. No matter how small their retiring benefits should be, there should be no discrimination on the lines of pension. They should be given either retiring benefits or pension as well. They have the same need as we have. Certification is only by chance. If they had got the chance when they were teaching, many of them would have been certificated. But because this chance was denied them in their time, it is something good if the Minister in charge will consider this grade of teachers and give them some encouragement—no matter how small.

The last point, Sir, I have is to thank the Minister of Education for the sound policy which he has laid in the Region. The one that is giving everyone joy is the new National Scale that he has just announced, but I have to say, Sir, that we are quite ignorant of the new National Scale yet. It is better that the scale be published so that all will know what it is, because if it favours one group of teachers and denies another group of teachers that is not good. I am appealing to the Minister to publish the new National Scale and I have to sound a note of warning that if the North is not included there is a danger of exodus of teachers. This National Scale should not only include the Centre, the West and the East.

I asked a question *re* exodus of teachers on the Floor of this House some time ago and the reply was "there was no danger", but I am assuring you, Mr Chairman, that there is a danger of exodus of teachers from the South to the North where the salary is more attractive. So let the National Scale be for Nigeria as a whole, otherwise some Regions will suffer.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Mr J. A. Etuhube (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Chairman, I beg to move that Head 429, Ministry of Education, be reduced by £100. I do this because the educational policy of the Eastern Region has very many shortcomings especially in the lower level of education. What do I mean by education? First of all, I mean the education that our people obtain from our institutions. All along we have seen that Members have spoken a lot about education in the infant classes, in the junior primary, in the senior primary, in the college level and in the university. We find too that public opinion has it, and even the Members in this House have all in the same breath expressed it, that the standard of work in our primary schools has fallen. They have spoken quite a lot about scholarship, quite a lot about conditions of service for teachers and many other things.

I wish to speak on education at the lower level because once we lay a sound foundation in any enterprise, we find that the rest of the progress is quite easy. I find that the whole falling down of the standard of work in the primary school has come mostly from the Government. All along, Sir, you will find, for example, the Ministry of Education has issued syllabus for infant and junior primary classes in this Region and the aim of it, Mr Chairman, is the result of discussions between representatives of the Department of Education and the Voluntary Agencies, which seeks to bring up-to-date both the methods of teaching in various subjects and the book lists now available to pupils and teachers.

Mr Chairman, anybody going through this book will note that there is made a well-thought-out method of teaching and the text-books prescribed. Mr Chairman, this book is not being adopted and used in all the Voluntary Agencies in the Region, and the main reason for this is that many of these text-books that have been prescribed for use by the teachers are not available all over the Region.

So many Education Officers who are employed for the service of this Region really do not go out to inspect our schools. There are several schools in this Region that have not been inspected for the past 4 or 5 years. All that happens these days is that when a school

[MR ETUHUBE]

is put forward for inspection and approval, an Education Officer goes there with an air of pomposity. After going through the school, perhaps he may be pleased with one or two things, he puts forward the school for approval and for the next 4 or 5 years that school will not be visited again. The result is that teachers do things as they like—they come to school by 10 o'clock, walk perhaps to the farm and take the children in one or two subjects. The next thing they do is to go home. This is surely very unsatisfactory.

An hon. Member: This is not really true.

Mr Etuhube: It is true.

The point I am making, Sir, is that the standard of work in our schools has fallen because of lack of strict supervision. Secondly, the teachers are not given the correct materials with which to work. Thirdly, Mr Chairman, the number on roll in our Junior Primary Schools, i.e., the number of children in each class, is rather too much for an untrained teacher to take up effectively. The Government should therefore try to reduce the number from 40 to 30 or even 25 so that when a teacher handles a class he does it effectively. We all know that when a sound foundation is not laid the children become useless, so that it is in our Junior Primary Schools that the children learn how to speak, write and do other things. If they should miss these things it will be very difficult for them in the future.

Mr Chairman, I am suggesting that if really we want to have a sound foundation laid we think this is the high time when the Government should never allow teachers who are not experienced or qualified to teach in the infant and junior primary departments, and if these people are to teach in these departments we should have a junior teacher teaching along with a trained teacher so that all the time he will be under the strict supervision of a competent hand. This is the position I think will have very little to do with education in the upper level.

Mr Chairman, another point I would like to touch here is about this National Scale that the Minister of Education has given us. He has put forward the National Scale to teachers but I would, if the National Scale is to come

up as the Minister has said, join hands with others to praise him; but I would not do so at the moment because, first of all, he has not published this Scale for the information of either this House or the teachers. First of all since he made this announcement the teachers all over the Region are all very anxious to know what exactly this scale will be, but what I am saying now is that he should before the rise of this House try to publish this scale and let us know whether he has anything. We do not want him to give us what he calls a National Scale which will benefit some section of the teachers and leave others.

A lot of criticisms have been levelled against this Ministry asking for improved conditions of service for the teaching profession as a whole. I would suggest that the conditions of service for teachers be now converted to go along with that of the civil service so that good citizens of the Region could be retained in the teaching profession. It is high time Government stopped the exodus of experienced teachers from primary schools; we complain that the standard of work has fallen; they should try and keep them there. It is better now that they should do something to retain these teachers so that they really take the teaching profession as a life-time work.

Mr Chairman, another point I want to make is that the syllabus in the senior primary section of the schools is really very foreign. In a subject like History you find a long list of names that are very foreign to us and they are not related to the daily life of our children. We are just being told to teach the history and biographies of several names. These children are asked to read them. They do not find interest in them. They have no interest in such things; they would rather like to know something about somebody who is near to them or who comes from their own place.

An hon. Member: Somebody like Awolowo, a Premier?

Mr Etuhube: Is Awolowo the only Premier your children can learn about?

So that we find that reading from the senior primary syllabus everything looks foreign and our children have little or no interest. We would have expected the Ministry of Education to have consulted the representatives of these Voluntary Agencies and

Education Department to draw up a syllabus that would fit in well with the African life and tabulate the subjects that will be taught there during the year. For example, take up History or Geography—it is impossible for a school teacher to go through the scheme in a year and when the examiners for, say, Standard Six, are to set questions for children to answer, they just open the book and begin to set questions from anywhere. They think that the scheme has been covered; the scheme has not been covered and it is impossible for a teacher to cover it in a single year.

This shows complete lack of interest or understanding or let me say the Education Department has no interest in planning out the work and giving out to the children to master for their progress. What we want, Mr Chairman, is that the little we want to give to our own children should be properly given, because if we do this we will be laying a sound foundation. The Ministry of Education should revise the syllabus for the senior primary departments in our schools.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

*Amendment proposed, to reduce Head 429—
Ministry of Education—by £100.*

Mr Okpokam rose.

The Chairman: Is the hon. Member opposing the Motion?

Mr Okpokam: Mr Chairman, I want to oppose the Motion and in opposing it I would start by congratulating the Minister for the announcement he made two days ago, the announcement about his very generous scheme and also for the relief to the parents of school children and the acceptance of the National Scale of salaries for teachers. I only hope that as far as this is concerned, the figures are not going to be as low as at the moment. I think we should adopt whatever is the highest in the Federation.

On the question of scholarships, may I suggest that it appears not very fair to students who attend Universities in Eastern Europe and in America and Canada and in Western Europe to be excluded from this scheme of automatic award to students who are already studying. I also understand that in future those scholar-

ships should be awarded chiefly to students who attend West African Universities. I am one of those who would like to encourage this because Universities must grow in West Africa as they are growing in Europe. I think it is very unfair to say that once you are not in a West African University you are not entitled to enjoy the award of this automatic scholarship. There are very few of these Universities and they cannot take all who wish to enter them.

It would appear our morals are not very sound; people do not apply themselves fully to the work for which they are paid. We can begin this by teaching our young children, the young ones who are yet in school—teach them to work hard all the time. The teachers should take care that the children work throughout the time they should work and never allow them to waste time. Time is not reckoned in Nigeria. Truth is very bitter, but I feel it must be told and we have to think seriously about this.

I have heard men criticise teachers; they say they do not want teachers in the Local Government Councils and in the Eastern House of Assembly. Well, we have to think a little about this. The men who vote the teachers in are the rural men. They know these teachers. When they are sick the teachers in the villages are their doctors. They rush to them for medicine. They want to know from the teachers whether this or that should be done. It is quite true that where there is neither a hospital nor a dispensary, the teacher is the doctor there. It is the teacher who advises and encourages the ignorant sufferers to go to the hospital so that we in the House of Assembly can do nothing about it. If we want to make any law against teachers contesting future elections to Local Councils or the Legislatures, this is what would happen: our best brains in the Regions are in the civil service. You have the Lawyers—they are the free men; then you have the Doctors; they are very few indeed. The rest of the men are traders, bricklayers, carpenters and peasant farmers. The only informed men you can make use of in your Councils are the teachers, the Lawyers and Doctors. If the teachers are excluded, the Lawyers are very few. In some Divisions, no Lawyers at all. So that the only people to come into this House are going to be your Standard One or Two Certificate holders, the produce buyers or old Treasury clerks, old Court Clerks and retired Court messengers.

[MR OKPOKAM]

These are the men who will come into the House. So it is very unreasonable for anybody to talk of not wanting teachers in the Legislatures and the Local Government Councils. If they do not want them they will be having a very poor House indeed, and one that will not help us at all. I think all our people will be satisfied that teachers are really wanted at the moment. I know that in time to come when we have more professionals, when we have more educated independent men then they can do away with the teachers. At the moment they are really wanted and they should be here.

Another thing that is trying to show itself in the rural areas is the question of the very big difficulty which communities find when they decide to transfer the proprietorship and management of a school which had been run by a Voluntary Agency to a District Council. We all agree that District Councils should take on more responsibilities. If we are going to have District Council Colleges as we now have District Council Teacher Training Colleges, then we must have District Council primary schools so that the children can be drawn from these primary schools to feed the secondary schools and Teacher Training Colleges.

In the old days, whenever any village wanted to build a school, they informed a Voluntary Agency Manager that they wanted to have a school. The man in turn advised them on where to site the school buildings. The people cleared the site and used their money to erect buildings and supplied equipment necessary for the functioning of the school. But the man who applies to the Education Department for permission to open the school in that village was the Voluntary Agency Manager and he becomes known as the Manager and Proprietor of the school. The school belongs to him. The teachers are paid by the people themselves; everything belongs to the people but the school is the Voluntary Agency Manager's. And when the people say: "No, we do not want you to run this school any more; we want to give it over to the District Council" the Voluntary Agency refuse and the Government supports them.

That is what is happening, and I know of a village in Ikom Division which has had no school for three years now. The Voluntary

Agency would not leave the school and the people will not have it. I think Government should consider this very seriously and try to introduce a method by which it would be possible for any community not wishing to transfer their school from a Voluntary Agency to any District Council, to be able to do so. I am not talking of transferring a school from one Voluntary Agency to another Voluntary Agency, but I am talking of transferring from a Voluntary Agency to a District Council.

Mr Chairman, I beg to oppose this Motion.

Question put and negatived.

Mr S. O. Achara (Okigwi Division): Mr Chairman, when the Universal Primary Education Scheme was being modified last year, the then Minister of Education announced that because Science subjects were to be taught in Standards Five and Six, that school fees would be high and, as a result set the school fees at the rate of £6 per annum for pupils in Standards Five and Six. I would like a clear statement from the Minister indicating in which of our senior Primary Schools in this Region Science subjects have been introduced since last year. What are the Science subjects being taught? Geology, or Zoology, or Botany, Physics, or Chemistry? There is no doubt, Sir, that Government has not been able to implement this undertaking. It was an undertaking most solemnly given on the Floor of this House and, so far, Government has not been able to redeem its pledge. I therefore call upon the Minister forthwith to reduce school fees in Standards 5 and 6 throughout this Region to £1 10s per annum as was the case before the introduction of U.P.E. Scheme in 1957.

The next point, Sir, is that this same Government, about four years ago, gave an undertaking on the Floor of this House that it was going to convert all the five Government Primary Schools in this Region into full Secondary Schools. Up till now Government has not redeemed its pledge.

I want the Treasury Bench to be very serious and I want the Government to realise that it is not in keeping with practice in all Parliaments of honour and dignity for Ministers of State to give an undertaking on behalf of Government and for such an undertaking to be

carelessly treated and without consideration for the feelings of the people. I say, Sir, that it is not worthy of this Government and I want the Minister of Education before this year is out—this year I mean, not the end of the financial year but before the 31st December—to convert all the Government primary schools into full secondary schools.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): If not what will happen ?

Mr Achara: I will tell you what will follow.

The other point is that in Okigwi Division, there is only one secondary school built by the people. That secondary school is the direct result of the people's efforts and was opened in 1957. Government policy was then and is still so now that the Government will bear 50 per cent of the cost of such schools and the people will pay the other 50 per cent. The former Minister of Education did well by approving a grant of £3,000 which sort of inspired the people and made them pay the usual rate of 2s per annum readily. I do not think that since that grant was given any other thing has been done. The National Grammar School at Okigwi is facing a very grave situation as a whole. It has not been possible for the Board of Governors to pay the contractors who have built the school and dormitory blocks and this is so because Government has failed in its duty to pay its own share of 50 per cent of the cost of this Grammar School.

I am appealing to Government without any further delay to make a capital grant of £10,000 to meet the situation at this school.

An hon. Member: Will that be enough ?

Mr Achara: It will be enough to meet the debt outstanding there now.

Mr Chairman, last year when the Government announced the modification of the U.P.E., it made curtailments in the arrangement which obtained in some of the Voluntary Agency School Managements. One of such curtailments affected the Methodist Schools in this Region. Prior to this announcement, they had a system whereby six Supervisors were looking after their schools throughout the

Eastern Region. As an economy measure, the Ministry of Education brought pressure to bear on this Voluntary Agency to reduce the number of supervisors to three. When these six supervisors were looking after these schools, developing new ones, paying teachers, and so on, each of them had a lot of work to do. But as an economy measure announced by the Government, three supervisors were called upon to do the work of six. It has not been possible for this work to be so well done as the Mission planned; it has not been possible for these supervisors to visit every school as was the case before; it has not been possible for them to guide the schools. Since the hon. the Minister of Finance has announced that the finance of the Region is buoyant and rosy, and since the hon. the Premier, following the buoyant and rosy nature of the finance of the Eastern Region, has restored the 10 per cent cut made by him last year as an economy measure, I am calling upon the Minister of Education to restore as early as possible the grant given to this Mission so that they will be able to reinstate the other three supervisors.

Sir, I had thought that the Minister of Education would wear a penitent look, i.e., would show penitence. But I find that his face continues to beam with cheerfulness and joy over what in other civilised countries would have earned him immediate resignation from the Government.

Mr Chairman, the publication by his Ministry of the second set of Government Standard Six results this year is regarded as perhaps the worst scandal that a Ministry of that type can entertain—more so when one takes into consideration that this second set of results came out with distinctions for these children. Boys and girls who were published as having failed the Standard Six Examination were three months afterwards advised by the Ministry of Education that not only that they passed the examination but also passed with distinctions. Mr Chairman, the Government did not realise the need for this second set of results until the Premier, his Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, went on a Regional tour, and after bomb shells had been thrown on them, after weighing the popularity of the Party and the Government, they came back in a fruitless attempt to soothe the anger of the people against them.

[MR ACHARA]

After having published the result and after having experienced the hostile attitude of the people during their tour they returned to Enugu to announce that 4,000 candidates have now passed the Standard VI examination. We must condemn with all emphasis at our command, the haphazard way in which the Government conducted the Standard VI examination. This House should, therefore, call upon Government to completely insulate politics from education in this Region. They can afford to play politics with the appointment of Provincial Commissioners, appointment of members of Boards and Corporations, award of contracts, etc., but they cannot, repeat cannot, if they expect respect from the outside world, mix up the question of education with the kind of dirty politics which their Party plays.

Sir, I do not now move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba (Orlu Division): Mr Chairman, I will first of all thank the Minister of Education for having recommended ten secondary school in this Region to have bore-hole water supply. I am happy that some schools in my Division have been included in the list of these schools. But I am calling on the Minister to go round the remaining areas and see for himself the difficulties some secondary schools encounter in getting water with a view to doing something for them. I can observe, Sir, that one important school in my Division has been left out of the schools to have this bore-hole water and I therefore call upon the Minister to save the school from the hardship which the students encounter in getting water. The attention of the Minister has been called several times to look into the situation but no attempt has been made to include the school in the list.

Sir, I have in mind St. Augustine's College, Nkwerre, where there are two secondary schools. One is now running a post-secondary course. You will observe, Sir, that in this school you have boys and girls of 11 and 12 years of age and it happens that these children, especially the girls, go to the stream at five o'clock everyday. If we people here happen to be the parents of these children we must pity their condition. I know many support

me. I therefore call on the Minister to give them the same amenities which others are now having. It is almost five years now since they made representations to the Ministry about this matter but yet nothing has been done. Even they have made an attempt themselves and they now want the Government to help them complete the scheme.

Mr Chairman, I want to comment on some speeches of Members of this House who are teachers. I remember that when I made my first speech I called on teachers not to take part in active politics. Every time here most of them will only get up to attack businessmen and lawyers for no good reason. If you look round the members of District Councils in this Region you will see that the District Councils are dominated by teachers. I have no quarrel, Sir, with any teacher winning his election to this House and resigning his teaching post; I have no quarrel at all with that man. What they should do after winning the election, is to entirely refrain from teaching and face politics. Mr Chairman, Sir, . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Mr Ihekwoaba: I have no quarrel as well, Sir, if the teacher wins his election to a District Council which perhaps will occupy almost all his time in going to the Council's meetings (*An hon. Member: And the Committees too*) as well as Committee meetings. Some of these teachers are Chairmen of the Councils. Whether it is because of fear or favour that the Government allow all these things, I do not know. Mr Chairman, may I point out that in some of these District Councils, these teachers run their campaign to these Councils with two to three hundred pounds, (*Shouts of No! No!*), with the aim of only obtaining £1 per sitting—that is £1 per month, £12 per annum, and if they stay for three years, £36. I think there is a motive behind using about £300 to contest elections which will give them sitting allowance of only £12 per annum. (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order! This is the second time I am calling for tranquillity.

Mr Ihekwoaba: We are being told that scholarships are sold by Councils and if you go to these Councils you will see that these teachers

are the Chairmen of the Education Committees, they are the Chairmen of Finance Committees and they are Chairmen of this and that Committee. I wonder what kind of morals these teachers go back to teach our children in school! They are at the head of a section of an organisation which is made up of corruption.

I have said it over and over again that if these teachers win their election to this House, they should resign from teaching and take up politics. I have no quarrel with that. Just imagine this: how can a teacher who is made a Chairman of a Council run the Council efficiently and at the same time teaching? How many hours is he going to devote to teaching?

An hon Member: That is no point.

Mr Ihekwoaba: Mr Chairman, Sir, I was listening yesterday to hon. Okeya and was wondering what he would say about our educational system, with regard to the present standard. Unfortunately, he first of all started by saying that there was nothing wrong with the standard of Education in the Region, and at the latter part of his speech, he cited somebody—I've forgotten his name—(*An hon. Member: Mr Hussey*) and stated that the standard of Education in this Region was falling and this man recommended certain things to be done which would raise the standard of Education in the Region. First of all, mark you, he said that there was no falling off in the standard of our education.

An hon. Member: He is a graduate, you know.

Mr Ihekwoaba: Mr Chairman, Sir, I would also ask the Government to check how they pass on this question of scholarship awards to District Councils. In my opinion, Sir, this question of scholarship is intended for the children of poor parents. But what is going on in this Region is that it is now going to the children of rich people. So if you have a child who took first or second position and you have not got money to tip these councillors you are not going to have the scholarship, rather it goes to pupils of rich men who have not even passed the test. I want the Government to look into this question.

Mr Chairman, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The Chairman: Now, I think that hon. Members will try to finish with this Head before we go for a break, and for that reason I will allow only a few minutes of speech from each Member and lastly the Minister of Education will reply.

Rev. M. D. Opara (Owerri Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Minister and his staff for the sound and wise programme they have made for the education of our children in this financial year. I will start, Sir, with problems of technical schools. Umuahia and Afikpo have had technical wings attached to the Secondary schools, but I see no reason why Owerri Government School has not got the attachment. Formerly in this House it was promised that Owerri Government School should have a technical wing and we are soliciting that the Minister should not leave Owerri out in the next year's Estimates.

There is one point I want to make about this external examination for Standard VI candidates. If examination is external, it will be external. I understand that the examination for external pupils is limited to the last year's failures. Those children who failed the last examination are the children to take it. I would suggest that if boys have failed Standard 6 and have really failed they should also take the examination, so that they may be able to enter some of the Trade Centres and Technical Schools. When a boy or a girl fails his or her Standard 6 and is not allowed to take the examination again he or she may be at a great loss. The limit may be made for two or three times and no more. I would not like to see a child deprived the chance of taking the examination if eligible.

Another point I want to make is that while we praise the Government for the work it is doing for us in the field of technical training, there is an outside firm which is not a Government concern—United Africa Company—which is doing very good work for us in this Region and even for the whole country. It has been offering scholarships to some of our children and has established technical schools to train some of our boys. I would like to congratulate them through the Minister,

[REV. OPARA]

and I would also ask the Minister if he could co-ordinate some of their work so that some of our children may be sent there if we do not have many technical schools to absorb them.

I want also to say something about the Sports Commission and physical training. The work should not be confined to Enugu; it must be spread all over the Region. If Physical Education Officers can organise vocational training for some Games Masters at the end of which they will be issued with certificates, that will help to speed up the work of physical training in the Region.

The last point, Sir, is about the Trade Centre at Aba. I do not know whether Government has made it known to many schools that that school is for the training of girls. In my area, I have never seen any advertisement for entrance into that Trade Centre. I was informed that there are only about forty girls undergoing training there. If there had been advertisement for entrance to that school I am sure so many girls would like to enter. If the Government is restricting the number, there is no need for it to put up such a building and waste public money. I therefore ask the Government to expand this Trade Centre and increase the number of students so that full use may be made of this establishment.

Mr Eyo Ita (Calabar Division): Mr Chairman, I wish to speak on the need for a new emphasis in our education. The time has come when we should rethink and change our educational aims and policy. Hitherto, our educational system has been serving to produce colonial slaves. Now that independence has arrived, we must overhaul our educational purposes. We must find a new goal and a new direction. Our real aim now should be to produce a new type of people, a people free, prosperous and happy. We educate not for colonial servitude, not for a dictatorship, but for a democracy.

It will be remembered that after independence in America the leaders formulated a socio-political philosophy for their people. In order to carry out their purpose great educators like John Dewey and his disciples

pursued an educational policy aimed at producing a free and prosperous people. They taught their people how to think, how to manage their affairs as an independent people, and made them prosperous with their science and technology. But when I think of their slavery to self, to sex and fear and greed and the bitter inter-racial relationships, I am not so sure that the Americans are very happy people.

We must teach our people to think.

To make them prosperous we must spend much money to give our vast army of youth, over 60 per cent of them, vocational education. Science and technology must be taught for this purpose. In this respect we must remember that we are living in the age of science and technology. We must give not merely scientific knowledge but scientific attitude to life and creative technical skill to make our people productive.

While we thank Government for grants to put up fine science buildings, we must lament the fact that funds are not forthcoming to equip these buildings for the adequate teaching of science. The emphasis on this aspect of our educational needs is surely not adequate. Teachers of science and science apparatus are needed in great quantities and technical schools and colleges must spring up in large numbers to make our people economically free and prosperous.

Finally, we must educate to produce a happy people. This means that we must find an educational *plus* that will produce a new type of people, a people free from the thralldom of self, greed, sex and hate.

Mr R. O. Ukuta M.B.E. (Nsukka Division): Mr Chairman, I think these two days are teachers' days. I know we have good teachers as well as bad teachers. I agree with hon. Ihekwoaba that teachers should be proud of their own profession. In the twenties during our school days teachers were earning 5s, 7s 6d and they were proud of their position, but at present the teachers try to detract from that point of view. Actually, Mr Chairman, it is easy to read and cram and pass an examination but that is not an index of efficiency and painstakingness. Truth is always bitter. If the

concession should be given teachers to receive two salaries under one Crown I see no reason why the option should not be given to civil servants to contest elections.

Well, the many failures of the last Standard Six examination may be attributed to other things, but I myself personally attributed the whole show to the teachers going from Council to Council. When I went to the Ministry of Education for approval for a certain school in my town, there I learnt that a certain headmaster was not in the school for a week during the Education Officer's inspection.

Mr Chairman, since yesterday teachers have been blowing their own trumpets. First of all, I must congratulate the Minister of Education because I am interested in his Ministry. This is because what this Region is at present and will be in future, is and will be determined by the education given to our children. The moral conduct of our school children is degenerating every day and teachers continue to jump up on the Floor of this House claiming to be Alpha and Omega. Mr Chairman, I have to sound a note of warning to the Minister of Education, not to try to allocate funds or scholarships to the District Councils because the District Councils always sell the scholarships. If you check up those children who have won scholarships, you will see that they are the children of well-to-do men and the poor people are denied these benefits.

Mr Chairman, I suggest that in future if teachers want to contest elections, they should resign their jobs. If any Local Government staff wants to contest an election, he first of all resigns his post, and if so, why should teachers be given this concession? Is it because they are in the majority? Sometime ago, the Ministry of Education passed a circular that teachers should not take active part in politics, but when the circular came to the notice of the teachers, they marched round and suppressed it and the circular was withdrawn. I wonder why that should be done!

Mr Chairman, I want to bring to the notice of the Minister of Education . . .

Mr Agba: On a point of order, Mr Chairman. Standing Order 27 (2).

"Members shall not cross the floor of the House unnecessarily nor sit in a place allotted to any other Member."

Mr Chairman, I submit that the hon. Member is not standing in his place.

Mr Ukuta: Mr Chairman, I want to bring to the notice of the Minister of Education the question of exploitation of school children by teachers in the rural areas. I want the Minister of Education to investigate this matter. I want him to take note of this. I understand that the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology has no Latin teacher and it was being contemplated to send the students to Ibadan.

An hon. Member: They have gone already.

Mr Ukuta: That is not good for them. I want the Minister of Education to take note of this and he should not be carried away by the egotism of these teachers. Some of these teachers praise themselves. A dancer does not praise himself but is praised by an onlooker. The teachers do not want traders to come to this House; they do not want Chiefs to come here, and they call themselves academic and science experts.

The Minister of Education (Mr G. E. Okeke): Mr Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank all those who have said very kind words of my Ministry and myself. I do not intend to reply to every point raised on the floor of this House. For the past three days I have seen the enthusiasm of Members of this House over my Ministry and it gives me a very great pleasure. Some Members have tried to say certain things that were very unkind and I do not want to reply to them in the same language. I will only endeavour to reply to a few of their points not covered in my earlier speech.

I will begin first on the statement on the ex-E.T.C. students. The reason for this is that some people feel that sympathy alone is enough. If it is sympathy alone, I have sympathy enough for the students but it is something that will cost some money. As the then Minister of Education was misquoted I will read his speech in this House last year. He said:

[MR G. E. OKEKE]

“For the past few weeks there has been criticism on the decision taken recently by Government in connection with the rate of allowances paid to teachers attending Elementary Teachers colleges. The effect of the decision has been to reduce the allowances payable to ex-E.T.C. students in training and to increase those payable to ex-secondary and ex-Standard 6 undergoing the same course. The matter was first discussed at a meeting of educationists held at Enugu in November, 1955 and attended by senior officials of the Department of Education and representatives of the larger Voluntary Agencies”.

With your permission I will quote an extract from the minutes of that meeting:

“It was generally agreed that the present system of allowances payable to teachers in Grade II training institutions was highly unsatisfactory for the reason that the variation in the rates gave rise to a considerable discontent among certain categories of teachers in training”.

The meeting went on to recommend that ex-E.T.C. teachers should receive an allowance of £45 per annum plus a special allowance to married ones; that ex-secondary six students should receive £45 per annum, and that ex-standard six students who were previously not in receipt of any assistance from the programme should also be paid £45 per annum in their third and fourth years. The effect of this, Mr Chairman, is that whereas we have about four categories of teachers in training—one of which is E.T.C., another is P.T.C., another is Rural Science Teachers, and another is ex-secondary teachers known as pivotal teachers—only E.T.C. students were paid any kind of allowance. It raised dissatisfactory conditions among the students themselves and for this reason it was decided that there should be parity of treatment among all students. For this reason, these four categories have been placed on an allowance of £40 per annum and £40 extra for each married student, making £80 to a student who is in training and it is now, therefore, spread all over the three categories of teachers. That has raised this talk about one class of teachers that is E.T.C.

The cost will be, for the eight months which they now claim £100,000 for one group of teachers, leaving others alone. It was considered that in order to bring parity of service the allowance should be spread over this grade of teachers. I was here last year when this statement was made on the floor of this House and I gathered from the voices that it was with the approval of this House that the decision was taken. If at this stage they feel that something must be done about it, it is not for me to decide here on the floor of this House that I will pay these people anything. I am saying this because most of them are in the gallery now and they have briefed most of them to speak in their favour.

An hon. Member: What is wrong?

Mr G. E. Okeke: Nothing is wrong; but I want to make it quite clear that at the moment it is not possible, but if in future Government considers it possible, I will surely reconsider the case of ex-E.T.C. teachers.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Is he giving a ruling, please?

Mr G. E. Okeke: I am not.

Turning to the second point about the shortage of teaching staff particularly Science teachers, it is true that there is a shortage of teachers and here I must mention that this is one of the cardinal points governing my own decision as to approving more or no more secondary schools. The first thing you must have to consider before you open a school is whether you have the staff or whether you want to open a bogus school which would not be of benefit to the students of this country.

But I must say this, that when the hon. Member from Eket, Mr Akpan, said certain things yesterday he was very unkind to me, because he said that after having opened a school I made it impossible for others to open. The truth, Sir, is that I have never—I repeat, never—refused application from any individual person since I became Minister of Education. What I have done is—I must insist that every applicant must conform with the Law, nothing more and nothing less. That is my duty. If that is what he has in mind, he has got me

wrong. And again I must say also that he was not correct when he spoke of discrimination, tribalism and all that.

As I said earlier, I am not going to cross swords with him or reply him in the same way but I have this to say because he mentioned me in my person, not as a Minister—he said a Minister opening schools. If the intention is not to tell everybody that I have schools of which I am proud, there is no reason why he should mention it at all. From 1947 to date, I have trained out of my own pocket four graduates and I have four now in the Universities and they are being trained out of my pocket and one of them is not known to me. I do not know who he is. I only had correspondence with him and I gave him scholarship just last year. So it is not true that I stand in the way of anybody either to open a school or having his own advantage in education, because my own interest is to see that the children of this country are educated and they must be educated rightly. What we want is a good quality secondary school and not quantity. The number of teachers we have in the country today is so small to go round these secondary schools. For this reason, I have, under Regulation 21 of the Education Law, approved about 250 of what we call reimbursable scholarships to teachers in Voluntary Agencies so that when they come back they will be able to man the schools.

Secondly, I have taken upon myself to indent teachers from America and India to go round these secondary schools and I am glad that hon. Eyo and so many others here know that I have been able to indent teachers for these Voluntary Agencies, so it is not true that I stand in their way. On the contrary, I have done my best.

Another Member, hon. Awgu, came with some criticisms but it is interesting to note that the hon. Gentleman hails from Awka and he found it reasonable to open a school in Onitsha. Why did he not open one in Awka? The reason is that he applied to open one recently at Orumba but it is not enough for people to come to me after putting in their applications and say: "Minister, I want my school to be opened tomorrow. Minister, I am an N.C.N.C." That is not the criterion. The point is that the application must take its normal process. It must go through the

Administrative Officer, through the Health Department, and through the Provincial Education Officers before coming to me. Why did he come to raise this matter? The matter has not come before me and there should be no charge that I have refused to approve. When it does come and if it does not conform with the Regulation of the Education Department, I will surely not approve and that is all. He went on counting the number of schools that are built at Onitsha and he wants his own to be in the same Onitsha. Why not go to another place? I do not want people to come here to mislead others.

Another point is opening of Commercial Schools. I must thank my hon. Friend, Mr E. O. Eyo, for the way he criticised this Head. I very much appreciate it because he did not know and I will tell him why. The person he has in mind is one Mr Uwah. He opened a school at Ikot Ekpene. He applied to open a school as an Industrial Institute but during the inspection, it was found that he had only two students on the roll, and he was warned. When he was checked, in spite of our warning, he continued and later closed the school. What we heard again was that he went to Uyo to open. After investigation, we put him to court and he was found guilty on two counts. If he had not fulfilled the conditions, surely it would be doing injustice to allow him to operate. We have not had the application which he said came from the people of their area. What we have got is an application from the Seventh Day Adventists saying that they wanted to take over a school that does not exist because it has been closed. So far there is no school to be taken over. In other words, there is no application to open one in Uyo and when such application does come in the right way, we shall consider it.

Another point is about closing of schools by Managers. No Manager has the right to close any school. That prerogative is mine, and if any Member has any specific case, he should refer the matter to me.

About the Extended Scale, I would tell hon. Members that we have formed an Extended Scale Committee which will take good care of all the points raised about teachers deserving consideration.

[MR G. E. OKEKE]

Another one is the question of lowering of standards. I do not want to go at length on this particular subject because I did say something about it during my earlier speech. The hon. Member from Orlu, Mr Agim, said that one of the reasons for the lower standard is the low condition of service. I will say that the contrary is the case. In 1948, a Grade II teacher was on the scale of £42 per annum; in 1959, he is on £156. In 1942, a Grade I teacher was on an initial salary of £136; this year he is on £306. Should the standard lower when the rate of salary is higher? The contrary is the case.

Hon. Agba did mention something about allowing certain percentage of the fees to the Managers. We pay the teachers full salaries, and in addition we pay capitation grants to these Voluntary Agencies, and we are not going to allow any fraction of the A.L.C. to them.

Hon. Eyo Ita did mention Science Grant. He acknowledged that we have given grants to build these Science Blocks. His quarrel is that we have not given grants for the equipment. If we have to give grants for the building and for the equipment, and pay the teachers, why should everybody here not become a proprietor or manager of a school? What is the part played as a proprietor if we are to provide everything? They are not yet Government institutions, and that is why we give them grants. Until we take over these schools we are not going to pay everything. Somebody said yesterday that we should give teachers transport and car advances. That is the part for the proprietors to play.

Mr Chairman, some Members mentioned something about Supervisors of schools. What we do is that we have a quota based on the school population of a certain area for each Supervisor. If the Voluntary Agencies employ more than the quota, they have to find money themselves to pay for the extra numbers.

Mr Chairman, I said earlier that I will not take the time of this House by replying to every point raised by Members but I will say this much: If you compare the speeches of Members on the floor of this House barely a year ago with their speeches today, you will

agree with me that we are doing well. I will only promise them that I will do better if my better will be enough to satisfy everyone of them. My Ministry is open to everyone, and Members who have complained so much about my Ministry's attitude towards their constituencies should come to my Ministry to understand more of the intricacies because I can say that some Members have spoken out of what I might call "ignorance".

Question: That the sum of £5,670,200 for Head 429—Ministry of Education—stand part of the First Schedule, put and agreed to.

Sitting suspended at 12.08 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.35 p.m.

Head 430.—Ministry of Finance

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £831,050 for Head 430—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the First Schedule.

The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke): Mr Chairman, in rising to support Heads 430, Ministry of Finance, 431, Pensions and Gratuities, and 432, Public Debt Charges, I will not trouble the House for long. My Ministry does not render services direct to the public: it is concerned with the provision of finance by which other Ministries are enabled to provide the benefits and services which are of interest to the public and therefore of greater interest to the House than the detailed activities of my Ministry.

The total establishment of the integrated Ministry shows little change from the combined establishment last year of the old Ministry of Finance, the former Internal Revenue Department, and the former Accountant-General's Department.

In what is now the Accounting Division, there is provision for an additional Sub-Treasury at Arochuku, and for the upgrading of one or two posts of Sub-Treasurer; otherwise there is no material change.

The main changes in establishment are to be found in the Internal Revenue Division, where the requirements of tax collection have enforced a few increases. Firstly, there are to

be three additional Revenue Inspectors to improve the assessment of incomes and to increase the extent to which the Internal Revenue Department is able to manage its own affairs in the field and reduce its dependence on the Administrative Officers in charge of Divisions to supervise and control the staff. Secondly, there is an addition of 10 Second and Third-class Clerks and 15 Clerical Assistants, who will replace a corresponding number of temporary staff—or in suitable cases this enlargement in the establishment may make it possible to give permanent status to temporary staff who have shown themselves in every way worthy. Thirdly, there is the necessary provision of staff for the new Motor Licensing Offices.

The staff of the Personnel and Finance Branch, while it appears as additional in the Estimates, is in fact found by reduction of the previous year's Headquarters staff of the Accounting Division and Internal Revenue Division.

I come last to the Economic and Financial Policy Division—a small Division but not the less important. I have already commented—in the debate on the Resolution approving the Development Programme—on the creation of a new post of Economic Adviser and the efforts that are being made to recruit a suitable candidate for the post. I would take this opportunity to add that it is on the work of this Division (ably assisted by the hard-worked Printers) that rests the production of the Estimates, the Budget Speech and the Development Programme on which a number of hon. Members have kindly congratulated me.

In particular, Mr Chairman, may I with your permission take this final and only opportunity available to me now to place on record the co-operation I received from my Permanent Secretary, Mr C. W. Fogarty, during his period of secondment to this Government from the U.K. Treasury. Mr Fogarty is an unassuming young man of high intelligence who is extremely devoted to his work. It is unfortunate he has to leave us soon for good. His place I must confess will be extremely difficult to fill. May I take this opportunity to congratulate him on his promotion to Assistant Secretary in the U.K. Treasury and to wish him a yet brighter future in the Public Service of his country. We are grateful to the Secretary

of State who made it possible to have him seconded to us for two tours. Mr Fogarty has done a lot in helping us to lay a good foundation in this intricate subject of public finance on which God willing, we shall continue to build steadily a praiseworthy superstructure. If it were possible to have him back with us sooner or later he will be warmly welcome.

Mr E. U. Eronini (Owerri Division):
Mr Chairman, Sir, I have but little to say on this Head. I am grateful to the Ministry for how it has helped to balance the Budget to make our finances buoyant.

Another point which is of interest is the relief offered to owners of buildings who are living in them. It is very good indeed and it is one of those difficult matters on which only prudence and sincerity of purpose can make decision possible.

Mr Chairman, some of the civil servants own buildings in the stations at which they work, and whilst there they live in their buildings. If they happen to go on transfer, and they give their houses out on rent, they are taxed on the houses and they also pay one-eighth of their salary as rent for the quarters they occupy at their new station. I will ask the Minister to look into this as it may create unwillingness on the part of officers who own buildings at a certain station to go on transfer.

Again, Sir, take the case of a senior officer who owns a building in Enugu and because of concentration and quietness he decides to reside in a Government area. Whilst he lives there he pays tax on his building and his salary and in addition he pays a portion of his salary as rent for the house he occupies. If he had lived in his own house he would only be taxed on his salary and building. You can therefore see, Sir, that there is an anomaly here.

Another thing, Sir, is about relief in taxation for either businessmen or legislators using their own cars. Often one spends no less than £400 to £500 in the maintenance and upkeep of his car, and if he happens to be a Member of the House he gets perhaps £1,000 as an advance to buy a car. He gets as salary and allowance about £940 and behold he is taxed on his whole salary of £800. He gets no car relief for the use of his car up and down. Since the House started

[MR ERONINI]

most of us have covered about 400 to 500 miles visiting our constituencies, yet we are not given any car relief. I therefore suggest, Sir, that we should be given car relief of something in the neighbourhood of what a Minister may draw as a basic allowance in a year. In this connection, Sir, an hon. Member does not get a basic allowance, but he gets tax relief which enables him to maintain and run his car.

I must also, Sir, thank the Minister for creating these motor licensing authority stations. The trouble that some people have to undergo, especially at the beginning of the year, is great. You have to take your car or lorry to some places like Port Harcourt; almost for three weeks you cannot get these cars or lorries licensed, not because you have not got the money to pay, but because there are a lot of cars or lorries which have been made to accumulate to such a number that it becomes difficult to finish up in a day or so. Another thing is that in some stations it is only one person who attends to the public—perhaps he will be the supervisor of car licensing; it must be noted that this must be a man of integrity and would not suffer people or create artificial obstruction and delay so that there would be need again to corrupt some people in order to get their cars licensed. We know that if you do not pay something you cannot get your car or lorry licensed. That is true and with the creating of stations like Owerri and other places as licensing stations it will ease the matter; and we thank the Minister for such action.

Mr O. Arikpo (Obubra Division): Now, Mr Chairman, I wish to thank the Minister for what he has said about Mr Fogarty who is retiring or who has retired. Those of us who have worked with him as Permanent Secretary know that he is a very good and hard-working person, and it is regrettable that he is to leave this Region. We hope, Sir, that the Government will find a very good successor—an able and hard-working fellow.

I would like to express satisfaction on the appointment or provision of the post of Economic Adviser to the Government. My only fear, Sir, is that the salary is such that it is most unlikely that a really able Economist will be attracted. I do not know whether Government is intending to make it a part-

time or a full-time appointment. I have to point out that an Economic Adviser is to be someone of wide experience and great ability and that proves that this £1,000 is just a token payment.

Secondly, I would like to say a word on the fact that the number of Revenue Inspectors be increased. What, however, I should like to know are the qualifications of these officers normally. Is it the work of assessing quickly and... (*Interruption*) a rather specialised piece of work? A lot of injustice is done to tax-payers all over the Region because you know the work of tax assessment is left to the District Officers. Therefore, it is very satisfying to see that the Minister of Finance is proposing to increase the number of specialists in this branch. I only hope that the people appointed are people with sound knowledge and experience.

The income tax assessment system is still very far from perfect and a lot of tax-payers are either under-assessed or over-assessed, and I hope that the Ministry will continue to make efforts to see that a fair system of assessment is established. Following the report the Member for Owerri has just made, I would like to hear from the Minister on the question of assessing buildings put up in the Region by Easterners who reside outside this Region and therefore do not occupy the houses. I think two years ago this matter was raised and Government undertook to do something about it. I do not know whether the Minister has done anything about it; but there is quite an appreciable number of commercial buildings, houses put up already by Easterners who live outside this Region and that is a fair source of income, and I hope that Government will take steps to see that such buildings are properly and fairly assessed.

Mr P. N. Okeke (Onitsha Division): Mr Chairman, I would like to make a remark on what I regard as the "black spot" in the Ministry of Finance, that is the Internal Revenue Division. On the 20th of April, Mr Chairman, I asked the Minister of Finance to give the figure of temporary clerks employed in the Board of Internal Revenue in the Region, and also how many vacancies exist in the permanent establishment of this Ministry. The answer was very revealing, Sir. In the

answer to my question No. 72 the Minister admitted that this branch of his Ministry employs 347 temporary staff and they are distributed as follows:—

Aba	36
Abak	17
Abakaliki	14
Afikpo	7
Ahoada... ..	12
Arochuku	2
Awgu	20
Awka	25
Brass	1
Calabar	14
Degema	3
Eket	7
Enugu	7
Ikoma	3
Ikot Ekpene	10
Itu	3
Nsukka... ..	9
Obubra	4
Obudu	4
Ogoni	6
Ogoja	2
Okigwi	4

An hon. Member: And so on !

Mr P. N. Okeke: Let me finish.

Onitsha	30
Opobo	4
Orlu	10
Owerri	35
Port Harcourt	19
Udi	15
Umuahia	17
Uyo	7

making a total of 347.

On the second part of my question the Minister admitted that there are a hundred and fifty vacancies in the permanent establishment of this Ministry. In the Estimates, there is a provision for one Assistant Commissioner of Internal Revenue. That post is vacant and the Assistant Commissioner is perhaps the only African in that Department who can take over as Deputy Commissioner or Commissioner for some years to come. I understand that the Assistant Commissioner was so frustrated in this Department that he had to leave with the result that, at present, there is no African in that Department who will

be in a position to take over the post of the Deputy Commissioner or the Commissioner in future.

In the Estimates, you have provision for nine Revenue Inspectors and there are five vacancies. I also know that some of these Revenue Inspectors are not happy. Some of them were trained overseas and when they came back, they were placed on scale B 1, 2, 3, whereas their counterparts in the Audit Department are placed on scale A.

In the Estimates, also, there is provision for one Machine Operator Superintendent-in-Training. That post is also vacant. I would like to know, Sir, whether it is because no suitable African has been found to train for this post. I understand that at present a European seconded officer is in charge of this, working as a Machine Operator Superintendent in this Branch of the Ministry of Finance. Why is it that no African is given training so as to be able to take over from this European when he leaves ?

In the Executive Officer (Accounts) Grade, there is provision for 16. There are four vacancies. In the Senior Book-keepers' Grade, there is provision for 6 and 2 are vacant. Senior Staff Officers, there is provision for three and the three are vacant.

An hon. Member: How do you know all this ?.

Mr P. N. Okeke: Look up your Estimates and you will find that they are there.

Among the Staff Officers, Sir, out of a total provision of 28 there are 14 vacancies. In the Internal Revenue Section there are two vacancies of Machine Operators out of a total provision of 18. There is provision for only one Stenographer and that post is also vacant.

Then we come to the grade of 1st Class Clerks. Out of a provision for 60, 30 are vacant. Among the 2nd and 3rd Class Clerks, out of a total provision of 182, 50 are vacant. Clerical Assistants, out of 59, 6 are vacant. Even this branch of Internal Revenue cannot find suitable people to appoint as messengers to help them. There is provision for 2 head messengers in the Estimates and the

[MR P. N. OKEKE]

2 posts are vacant. There is also provision for 172 messengers and 27 are vacant.

Mr Chairman, the interesting side of this aspect of the Ministry of Finance is that the Minister in his answer said that the figures include vacancies which are mostly out-station offices where candidates with requisite qualifications for permanent employment do not present themselves in sufficient numbers.

It is surprising, Sir, that in the Eastern Region, the Internal Revenue Division of the Ministry of Finance cannot find suitable people to appoint as 3rd Class Clerks and messengers, and Mr Chairman, I think I can guarantee right here to provide all the 2nd and 3rd Class Clerks for the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Chairman, I have to raise these points because my information is that most of the workers in the Internal Revenue Division of the Ministry of Finance are unhappy and I am informed that the Expatriate officers in that Ministry do not want the progress of the African workers there. I am informed that an Expatriate in that Ministry does not want to give Africans opportunity to get promotion and that is why an African who had put over 20 years service in the Civil Service of this country had to leave that Ministry to go to the Ministry of Health. This year provision has again been made for an Assistant Commissioner and as things stand it is likely that by this time next year that post will not be filled.

I am saying, Sir, that that is a section of the civil service that needs to be encouraged. Take, for example, the case of Revenue Inspectors. Some of these people are now in charge of stations for tax collection. Some of them are tax collecting authorities who supervise assessments and if you do not place this group of people in a Scale A post there will be temptation for these people to become corrupt. I feel that if there is any department where the workers ought to be properly paid so as to remove corruption it is this Division of the Ministry of Finance.

An hon. Member: They are already corrupt.

Mr P. N. Okeke: Mr Chairman, I would like to say a few words on the assessment of

traders and businessmen in the Eastern Region. I must say, Sir, that there is a tendency on the part of civil servants to regard traders as very wealthy people. If that was the position some few years ago, it is not so now. The index of the position of trade in the Region can be easily assessed in Onitsha which is the largest market in the Region. If you go down to Onitsha many traders are leaving their business and it is because prices are falling every day; trade is now generally bad and most traders find it difficult to make both ends meet. The cause, Sir, is that most of the members of the Assessment Committee are not traders and they have an idea that most of these traders are wealthy and they over-assess them. I hope the Minister of Finance will see to it that traders are assessed according to their income. Unfortunately, most of these traders cannot keep accounts; in fact, the Minister of Commerce spoke the other day about the Accounts Section of the Ministry of Commerce. It is not that traders do not like to keep accounts but many of them cannot afford to employ clerks to keep them with the result that when they are over-assessed they find it difficult to prove their case. They are illiterates. Besides it is very difficult for a literate man to keep accounts for an illiterate. He cannot go through the books.

When I was speaking on the Internal Revenue Division of the Ministry of Finance, I noticed also that in the current Estimates there is a provision for £24,000 for the employment of temporary clerical assistants. I would like to say that there is no need inserting year in year out, provision for these clerks without filling the posts. I am urging the Minister to get these posts filled and if there is still any need for temporary clerical assistants then that will be done. The effect of not filling these posts or filling them with temporary clerical assistants is that these temporary clerks forge tax receipts of their own and distribute them and collect money. This happened in Onitsha last year where some of these temporary clerks forged Government receipts and went about collecting money from the people with them. The matter was handed over to the Police and it was very difficult for the Police to make any case.

I think when you have permanent staff who are properly paid they would be more careful because they know that they have security in the service; but when you employ

temporary clerks who know that after some time they have to leave the Department the tendency for them would be to make as much money as possible within the short space of time.

Mr Chairman, apart from these remarks I have made in respect of the Internal Revenue Division, I have to congratulate the Minister for deciding to waive tax on buildings occupied by their owners. It has brought much hardship to many people and I hope that the Minister will also consider the idea of people being taxed on the rates they have already paid to Local Government Councils. Every year the Local Government Councils assess rates on buildings in most of the Councils. After paying these rates at the end of the year the whole amount which was supposed to have been realised from them is again taxed. I consider this double taxation and I would like to say that in many townships people are finding it now very difficult to own buildings because it does not pay. I hope that it is not the intention of the Government to kill initiative among people who managed to save their money in order to put up buildings. I think this group of people are doing good service to the Government by providing accommodation for the civil servants, and I hope they will be encouraged.

Mr Chairman, I thank you.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Chairman, I just want to draw Government's attention to the structure in the Ministry Division of this Head. You will observe, Sir, that it follows the same pattern of the other Ministries. That is, they have only a Permanent Secretary and then one or two Secretary-Typists. Sir, now that the Permanent Secretary is going away, the Government is going to find it very difficult to fill this post.

May I say that this post is not like the other Ministries where you can have an Administrative Officer of the rank of a Permanent Secretary being transferred from one Ministry to the other. Our understanding of this particular post is that it is a specialist post and in the Western Region, Sir, they have created the post of two Under-Secretaries subordinate to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance. The idea there is to build a complete structure quite apart from the other Divisions in the Ministry. I hope the Government will give consideration to this because if

they do not, and they miss their Permanent Secretary, will the Minister depend on the Principal Assistant Secretary who happens to be the next official to the Permanent Secretary in that Ministry? Quite frankly, Sir, I do not think that whosoever holds that post of Principal Assistant Secretary will be in a position to act in the absence of the Permanent Secretary. Let us create two new posts of Under-Secretaries—people who are really sound in public finance, who can act whenever the Permanent Secretary is not there. You will observe also, Sir, that the salary of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, is the same as the salary of other Permanent Secretaries. He is on Group 5—£2,400. I think it is the only one exception in the various Ministries in the Government service where we should pay a higher salary to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

May I draw Government's attention to the fact that in the Western Region, the officer is on Group 3—£2,880. In the Western Region, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, is also Head of the Civil Service. Here in the Eastern Region that is not the case so that when the last speaker was complaining about failure to fill vacancies in the Ministry, he failed to realise that Establishments in the Civil Service, Recruitment and Training have been removed from the Ministry of Finance and they are now the responsibility of the Premier's Office. Sir, if we consider the new posts of two Under-Secretaries, then the appropriate scale will be Group 5.

I find it rather difficult to accept the explanation that £1,000 has been inserted in the Estimates as a token figure for an Economic Adviser to Government. The point is, if Government really want an Economic Adviser, they have got to decide the appropriate salary they are going to pay to this Economic Adviser. Last time, I think the Minister of Finance said they were hoping to get somebody locally in the Eastern Region to fill this post. Well, if that is correct then we are not surprised to see this figure of £1,000 being inserted in the Estimates.

The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke): Point of Order. I did not say we were to get somebody locally in the Eastern Region but I said that we were trying to get somebody who is a native of the Eastern Region or an African who is properly qualified.

Mr E. O. Eyo: There is no harm in Government hoping to get an Easterner who is resident anywhere in any part of the world but if he is going to be an Economic Adviser, surely the Government should be thinking of the appropriate salary to pay. You may not have this man under the permanent establishment. A real Economic Adviser on contract for five years with the Government should prepare a blue print for the Government.

May I comment on the provision under the Internal Revenue Division. You will observe that there is provision for one Commissioner of Internal Revenue and the next officer is Deputy Commissioner. You heard the last speaker complaining of Africans not being advanced to occupy this post but I would like to make the point that most of these posts under this Ministry are specialist posts. If you want to be the Commissioner of Income Tax, I would suggest that you go and study income tax as a subject. The post cannot be filled by any of our Assistant Secretaries in the Civil Service of the Eastern Region who want promotions on the Nigerianisation slogan. My suggestion is that Government should consider making provision for an Adviser on Internal Revenue. At the moment it looks as if the Commissioner is being advised by the Deputy Commissioner. We need an Adviser on Internal Revenue.

About Motor Licensing Section, I do not know whether that is intended to be a Division but you will see that the top grade people there are First-class Clerks. Well, who will endorse the licences at this office if the top grade people are First-class Clerks? And here I would like Government to be very serious. I hope we are not going to have any more of these delays. How many of us send our drivers to obtain licences and have to wait for one, two or three weeks? It is very insulting for one to send his driver with money to pay into revenue of the Region and then he has got to wait for a whole week or so. I hope the Minister will take a serious view about it. We must get those Officers to understand that we are not prepared to pay one penny to anybody in order to obtain a licence. My instruction to my driver is: if you go to pay in money for a licence and you are not attended to, you just come home till such time that the Police will

get hold of you for not having a licence, then we will go and explain to the Magistrate. If only these people will be responsible and give six hours a day service to the people who go to obtain their licences, the Region will be grateful for this new arrangement, but if one must go before a First-class Clerk, I do not think the arrangement is satisfactory.

Mr S. O. Achara: Mr Chairman, I wish to associate myself with those who have expressed their satisfaction in the manner in which taxes have been collected within the last three months in this Region. I think it is encouraging to note that the Board of Internal Revenue has intensified tax-collection, and both the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and his staff earn my congratulations.

Mr Chairman, I have for about three years been observing that the post of Accountant-General, in my opinion, requires reconsideration. This Department of the Accountant-General's has branches in almost all the Divisions in this Region. It is a very important arm of the Government—very extensive—and I think the salary of £2,220 per annum in my opinion, falls far short of what this high officer should receive. I am appealing to the Minister to reconsider bringing him up to Group 5. I hope it will not dislocate the administration of the Ministry, since the Opposition Chief Whip has asked for reconsideration of the salaries of Permanent Secretaries. I do not think, if the Accountant-General is upgraded, that it will dislocate any internal administration. After all, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, who is on Group 6, is supposed to be under the Permanent Secretary.

The other point is with regard to the relief which the hon. Minister has given those who occupy their own houses. This relief was as a result of public opinion which the Minister has recognised, and I thank him for recognising public opinion and for acting in consonance with the wishes of the people.

Now I come to the question of general tax relief. I thank the Minister for having reduced tax for the lower income group and I hope when we come here in August or September for the Supplementary Appropriation Bill the hon. Minister will be gracious enough to bring a scheme to this House which will provide tax relief for everyone of us, beginning

from the peasant at home to people at the top, such as Ministers. I think this is very necessary especially as the cost of living continues to rise every day. So, Mr Chairman, I beg to withdraw my Amendment. I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):

Mr Chairman, I thank all hon. Members who have paid tribute to my Ministry for the fine work it has done during the year. I am also grateful for the points they have raised. The hon. E. U. Eronini asked if it is proper to tax civil servants on the rents they collect from their houses in which they were living before going on transfer to a station where Government provide them with quarters. He did not think it right for them to pay tax on these rents since they pay 8½ per cent of their salaries in respect of the quarters which they occupy in stations to which they are transferred. I say that it will be wrong not to pay tax on any such rent since the house owned by a civil servant is his own private property and has got nothing to do with his conditions of service. Any civil servant on joining the Service agrees to go on transfer to any part of the Region, and Government will therefore not exempt any civil servant from paying tax of any kind simply because he went on transfer.

The hon. Member also referred to Members of this House being exempted from tax on expenditure for running their cars. I do not think that this is a request which this Government should consider after allowing consolidated allowance to Members.

The hon. E. O. Eyo said something about the salary attached to the post of Economic Adviser. My answer is that the salary is a token one and since the office is such a high-powered one it may be necessary for us to get a contract officer to fill it. Contracts are negotiated, so we cannot afford to fix a salary until the contract is negotiated.

The hon. P. N. Okeke referred to staff matters and he made reference to the Estimates to substantiate his points but he over-looked the fact that in most of these Heads the Items have the letter "b" opposite them and this indicates that they are new posts. Most of these posts are not yet filled. The Estimates are not yet passed and until the Estimates are

passed most of these posts will still remain unfilled. He said that most of these posts have not been filled for years. Only a few of them have not been filled and this is because the Departments concerned are newly created, and as I said in my speech before, these posts are still being advertised and when we get suitable applicants they will be filled.

He also mentioned the question of the Machine Operator being an expatriate. If he had looked carefully in the Estimates, he would have seen that there is one in training and that person is certainly not an expatriate. The intention is to train him to replace this expatriate as soon as possible.

I must thank hon. E. O. Eyo for helping me a lot to answer some of the questions raised by hon. P. N. Okeke. It is definitely true that the work of Income Tax Commissioner is a specialised job and we do not expect to just put anybody in that job because he has served for twenty years—whether he is efficient or not. We are certainly making every attempt to train some Africans who will, in due course, be appointed to the post of Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Then hon. Eyo wanted to know whether the section: Motor Licensing Division was under the Internal Revenue or whether it was a separate Division. Well, it is plain from the Estimates that it is under the Internal Revenue Division and on the question of having only First-class Clerks, as indicated at Page E 68 of the Draft Estimates, Sub-head 1 (76), I would like to allay his fears by referring him to Sub-head 1 (43)—at Page E 67 of the Estimates—where we have a Motor Licensing Officer, Scale B 1, 2, 3. In any case I am so happy to hear from hon. Eyo that he has instructed his driver that when he calls at the Motor Licensing Office to obtain his licence, he should not give a penny to anybody and that he should return if he is not attended. I think that is very encouraging and if everybody in this Region would take the same step and advise his driver not to offer anybody money for licence that will be the best way of killing corruption.

The hon. S. O. Achara raised the point that the Accountant-General's scale is not adequate. I will only point out to the hon. Member that this scale is not special for this Region: it is the

[DR IMOKE]

same scale that obtains in the West, and we think it is quite adequate.

Question: That the sum of £831,050 for Head 430—Ministry of Finance—stand part of the First Schedule, put and agreed to.

Head 431—Pensions and Gratuities

Question proposed: That a sum not exceeding £9,000 for Head 431—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the First Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 433—Ministry of Health

Question proposed: That a sum not exceeding £1,304,920 for Head 433—Ministry of Health—stand part of the First Schedule.

The Minister of Health (Mr E. P. Okoya):

Mr Chairman, in rising to support Head 433—Ministry of Health, I have the following comments to make. Having given in some detail in a fairly long speech during the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill the programme of activities which the Ministry of Health is out to execute during this year—a programme which is certainly not unimpressive—I would like to touch only on a few points before the House considers the Estimates under Head 433—Ministry of Health.

Mr Chairman, during my speech referred to above, I made just a passing mention of the fact that with effect from the 1st of January this year, the former Department of Medical Services has become an integral part of the Ministry of Health, with the Permanent Secretary as the Chief of Staff. I will now proceed to give some more information about the integrated Ministry.

The Ministry functions on the basis of two main Divisions, namely the Headquarters-cum Medical Division and the Rural Health Division. The former Division is internally organised into three sections—the Medical Section, the Administration Section and the Accounts Section.

The Medical Section is headed by the Chief Medical Officer (the present holder of this post retains the title of Director of Medical Services). This Section is sub-divided into three main

branches—Hospital Branch (the Branch directly responsible for the running of our hospitals with regard to the cure and care of the sick); Public Health Branch, which is responsible, *inter alia*, for the hygiene and sanitation of our towns; school health (urban); and for keeping a Medical Statistical Registry vital statistics, registrations under the Hospital Law, 1955, statistics on epidemics, etc.); and the Dental Branch.

The Administration Section, as its name implies, is the central executive body of the integrated Ministry. Headed by an Officer of Senior Assistant Secretary grade, it is responsible for ensuring that the various Sections of the Ministry are in working order and are in fact functioning; all personnel matters are also its care—in fact its main concern. The Section is, as it were, the clearing-house of the Ministry, and it has thus done much to relieve professional officers of considerable administrative and executive duties, thus enabling them to give as much time as possible to professional matters.

The Accounts Section is in the charge of a Senior Accountant.

The Rural Health Division, also sub-divided into a number of sections with Headquarters at Oji River, is in the charge of the Rural Health Adviser. The Division takes care of the Ministry's rural health centre programme, rural health education, school health (rural), anti-malarial projects, sleeping sickness control, yaws campaigns, epidemic control and leprosy control.

With integration, too, an ample devolution of powers will have to be made to the Senior Medical Officers in the field. The Estimates provide for eight such officers. Ideally, each Province of the Region should have in charge of its medical and health services a Senior Medical Officer, but this, as it is, is not now possible. The available staff will, however, be deployed between the twelve Provinces, so as to ensure the maximum beneficial result to the Region as a whole. The Senior Medical Officer in charge of a Province or group of Provinces will have powers.

Since it is proposed to increase their number from four to eight and since they will now be in charge of smaller areas than before, with

the creation of twelve Provinces in the Region, Senior Medical Officers will now be required to do administrative and supervisory duties as well as some clinical work in the hospitals. It is hoped that their experience will enhance the general standard of work in the hospitals and be of much help to the junior Doctors.

Apart from the increase in the posts of Senior Medical Officers mentioned above, an increase of three posts of Specialists is also proposed under Sub-head 1, Item 28, and I consider this justified in view of the high standard of medical attention that every civilised country requires for its people nowadays.

I propose to appoint a body of Medical Officers, mostly Specialists, to examine the question of revising the catalogue of drugs for the Region. The ultimate aim here is to appoint a standing panel of Specialists whose duty it will be to revise once a year the catalogue of drugs, in order that our hospitals may be stocked with drugs reflecting the progressive characteristic of the Medical Science.

Mr Chairman, with the foregoing description, hon. Members will now have obtained an insight into the set-up of the machinery which will tackle this year's programme of work in the field both of curative and preventive medicine. I do not propose to make a lengthy discourse on this programme. I have done so during the debate on the Appropriation Bill. I only wish to refresh the memory of hon. Members that our declared aim is to provide a full and comprehensive medical and health service in this Region, and that we are working inexorably towards this goal.

Mr Chairman, it is universally accepted that of this Trinity—Knowledge, Wealth and Health—that abideth, the greatest is Health, and particularly in the year immediately preceding the year of our Independence, hon. Members will doubtless agree with me that we cannot spend too much towards the betterment of the Region's health.

Mr Chairman, I recommend this Head to the House and I do hope that the House will give it sympathetic consideration.

Mr A. O. Chikwendu (Bende Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am compelled once again

to refer to the case of gross injustice meted to two Pharmacists who went overseas to study for the Doctorate degree in Pharmacy. These two young men first completed a course of training at the Yaba School of Pharmacy and gained their Diploma. They served this Region for two years and later gained scholarship from this Government. They went to the United Kingdom and after five years they gained their degree. When they returned, they waited for six months and this Government could not offer them any employment. They were therefore compelled to direct their application to the University College, Ibadan, where they were offered employment at an initial salary of £880 per annum, and then their case was referred by the University to our Government. Our Government blocked their way by saying that they were bonded students. They had to return here and the Government finally engaged them as Grade II Pharmacists, i.e., Junior Service.

An hon. Member: They studied in America.

Mr Chikwendu: They did not study in America; they studied in the United Kingdom.

I have referred to this case before and up till now nothing has been done. It is revolting that after they have spent 5 years to earn their honours degree and come back here they are placed in the Junior Service; they are not even entitled to a car advance.

Mr E. O. Eyo: What Division do they come from?

Mr Eronini: We do not care about their Division.

Mr Chikwendu: I am asking, Sir, that if the Government cannot offer them positions commensurate with their training, Government should release them. Their contemporary who qualified with them and got employment under the U.A.C. is now on a salary of £1,350. Any contract, Sir, which favours only one side of the contracting parties is immoral. If Government is sincere in its bid to industrialise our Region and to take up effective research into our herbs, I think Government should encourage Pharmacists. I am informed, Sir, that India does not import any drugs from outside. This is because they

[MR CHIKWENDU]

have trained Chemists who are able to explore and to extract drugs from the native herbs. I am, therefore, asking that our Government should give encouragement to our young men because if there is no encouragement many Pharmacists will run away from the field.

Another point I want to make, Sir, is that the number of trained Medical Practitioners in our country is very small compared with the population. It is impossible for Doctors to be able to cope with all the Medical cases in this Region. So, I am asking that Government should encourage them. Government should encourage Chemists, Druggists, Dispensers and experienced nurses to undertake small cases which should not go to Doctors. I am not sentimental, Sir. If dispensary attendants can go to various places and run dispensaries, I do not see why Chemists, Druggists and Dispensers who train them cannot manage such institutions. If Government is serious in implementing the rural health policy, it should find Chemists and Druggists a ready instrument to use to achieve that purpose. Chemists should be encouraged to leave the townships and establish in rural areas.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I will call the attention of the Minister of Health to a gross breach of the forensic pharmacy. I think those who are making that breach are making it out of ignorance. There is what is known in forensic pharmacy as undesirable advertisement, and I do not think the authorities have taken notice of it. There are certain cases which no Doctors, no Chemists and nobody can claim in the public to cure, but you will find people driving in their cars to market places everywhere claiming that they can cure them. I wish Government to direct attention to such matters. The people who make such claims are doing a lot of harm to the patients. They handle diseases which only Doctors can handle by making such false advertisements and deceiving the people. The Ministry of Health should take particular notice of the people I have mentioned.

Dr A. N. Obonna (Owerri Division):
Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to congratulate this Ministry. Most of the points I wanted to raise have been already taken up by the Minister and I think everybody will thank that Ministry for what they have done.

I want to say that the Doctors in the Region would be very happy for the opportunity given them to rise after some years of service and in fact I can assure the hon. the Minister that Doctors in the Region will be delighted by this action. I have spoken at length on this item but I have few things to mention here: that is, that the Minister should see that every hospital in the Region, particularly at Enugu, Aba and Port Harcourt, has a pathology and a Pathologist attached to it. The post of Pathologist is very important in a country like Nigeria where the population increases every day. So that it is disappointing that when you come to a first-class hospital like Enugu, there is no pathology. Not every Doctor is able to cope with emergencies which can hinder child-birth. It gives expectant mothers confidence to know that in the course of delivery, if there is any emergency, there is a Doctor qualified for the job.

So I would ask that an attempt be made to secure the services of Pathologists in these hospitals. To my mind, I think we have only one qualified Pathologist in this Region; she is at Anua hospital. I must confess that the lady Doctor there is very much over-worked. I must seize this opportunity to congratulate that hospital and those Voluntary Agency hospitals for the services they are rendering to this Region. The question of Pathologist—I do not want to over-emphasise on that—I think the importance of it was stressed in this House last year. If people in this hon. House will speak about this Ministry of Health, I think it is the relation between the nurses and the patients. As I said last year that does not very much depend on the Ministry; I think it will just very much depend on the information or propoganda we make so that our people will understand that a good patient makes a good nurse and that a good nurse makes a good patient. I suggest that the Minister takes the only way to stop these complaints, and that is by appointing Medical Boards in every Division or in the Provinces who will look into all these complaints and take action if such reports are given.

I know in some hospitals the patients are fined. Really, I must confess that I have nothing to add to, or to take away from this Ministry. They have done their work for the Region very well and I would like to congratulate the Government very much.

The Chairman: I now wish to close with the Amendments. Does Mr Agim wish to move?

Mr Agim: Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The Chairman: Then, Mr Alo, are you prepared to move?

Mr Alo: Sir, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The Chairman: Then, Mr Achara, you should move?

Mr Achara: Sir, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The Chairman: Does Mr Ihekwoaba wish to move?

Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba (Orlu Division): Yes, Mr Chairman. I want to make a brief speech to point out to the Minister that there is something which I feel is not good in some of the District Councils which are asked to nominate the kind of Company from which they buy their drugs. I would like to ask this Government to see that they make it a rule by pointing out certain drug companies or institutions where District Councils should always go and buy their drugs. Whether they obtain these right away from the Government offices or go to certain places and collect the drugs, Government should not allow them to choose whatever place they feel is right to buy their drugs.

I want to point out to Government that in as much as they have some hand in the Joint Hospitals, they should see that they control the fees that are being charged in these hospitals. There is no reason why Government should invest heavy amounts in a Joint Hospital and allow the management to do as they like. In the Government hospitals, where the charge for obtaining a card is 6d, the charge in the Joint Hospitals is 1s 6d or 2s.

Mr Chairman, I also want to touch the question of Doctors in this Region. The salaries paid to these Doctors are not sufficient

at all. If Doctors in this Region are prevented from private practice, Government should increase their salaries. This question of £972 per annum is not reasonable. Many of the Doctors leave this Region for other Regions where they get better conditions of service and yet we are speaking of scarcity of Doctors in the Region.

Sir, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

The Minister of Health (Mr E. P. Okoya): Mr Chairman, I do not want to take much of the time of the House but I would like to reply briefly to some of the points raised by some hon. Members.

When the case of the two Pharmacists mentioned by hon Chikwendu comes to my knowledge, I will look into it.

Dr Obonna made mention of Pathologists. My Ministry is quite alive to its responsibilities and a Doctor will be leaving Germany today for this Region.

Many Doctors are very keen to go overseas to study to become Specialists. I shall send some of them and they will go and come back as Specialists.

The other points mentioned are not very controversial, and I can assure hon. Members of this House that as soon as this Budget Session finishes, I will set up a Committee to investigate if there is any ill-feeling in the Medical Department so that these ills will be removed.

Question: That the sum of £1,304,920 for Head 433—Ministry of Health—stand part of the First Schedule, put and agreed to.

Head 434.—Ministry of Internal Affairs

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £241,800 for Head 434—Ministry of Internal Affairs—stand part of the First Schedule.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr I. U. Akpabio): Mr Chairman, I rise to move to increase the total provision under Head 434—Ministry of Internal Affairs, from £241,800 by £70,930 to £312,730.

[MR I. U. AKPABIO]

I appreciate that under the Revised Constitutional Instruments, amendments to the Estimates at the Committee of Supply must be limited to Head totals. I shall nevertheless give hon. Members details of expenditure which have given rise to the net increase of £70,930 proposed under my Ministry Head.

First of all, Government has decided that the post of Sports Organiser shown under Head 434 sub-head 1 item 29 together with the provision therefor of £830 shall be transferred to the Ministry of Education. The same applies to the subvention of £10,200 to the Sports Commission shown under sub-head 38. The transfers have actually been carried out but the deletion of these items and sub-heads was overlooked when the Estimates were being drafted. These items and sub-heads will now be deleted from my Ministry Head of the Estimates, and will have the effect of reducing the present total from £241,800 to £230,770. To this balance must be added the following:—

- (a) £55,740 being proposed recurrent expenditure in respect of Government's decision to make the *Outlook* a daily paper:
- (b) £10,360 being recurrent expenditure involved in bringing over the Film Units of the Cinema Corporation and the E.N.I.S. Corporation to my Ministry's establishment, and
- (c) £15,860 for staff to be transferred from the Premier's Office Head where the Information Division was formerly shown. This figure includes Other recurrent charges, for example, £12,500 grant for the Library Board.

All these added up will bring my Ministry to a new total of £312,730.

Consequently, a new Division will be created in my Ministry and will be known as the Information Division. It will have four Branches, namely, Printing, Editorial, Circulation, Distribution and the Cinema Branches.

I now proceed to give further details of breakdown of figures given earlier.

- (i) The following items and provision will be inserted immediately after sub-head 1 new item 69 at page E 83 of the Draft Estimates.

INFORMATION DIVISION

Item		£
(70)	1 Assistant Secretary, Scale A	650
(71)	1 Press Officer, Scale B 1, 2, 3	630
(72)	1 First-class Clerk, Scale D 3	320
(73)	3 Second/Third-class Clerks, Scale D 1, 2 ...	540
(74)	2 Messengers, Scale G 1, 2, 3	200

PRINTING BRANCH

	£
(75) 1 Superintendent of Press, Scale C (T) 6	1,310
(76) 1 Higher Technical Officer, Scale C (T) 4, 5	990
(77) 1 Press Engineer, Scale C (T) 4, 5	990
(78) 4 Technical Officers, Scale C (T) 2, 3, 4	2,280
(79) 4 Printers, Grade 1, Scale E 4, 5	1,640
(80) 1 Assistant Press Mechanic, Scale E 2, 3	290
(81) 4 Printers, Grade II, Scale E 3	1,160
(82) 12 Printers, Grade III, Scale E 1 (B and C) ...	2,000
(83) 4 Press Attendants, Scale G 1, 2, 3	400

EDITORIAL SIDE

(84) 1 Editor, Group 8	1,500
(85) 2 Assistant Editors, Scale C (E) 3, 4	1,500
(86) 1 Advertising Manager, Scale C (E) 3, 4	750
(87) 5 Sub-Editors, Scale C (E) 1, 2	2,000
(88) 2 Press Photographers, Scale C (T) 2, 3, 4 ...	1,140
(89) 12 Provincial Reporters, Scale C (E) 1, 2 ...	4,680
(90) 4 Reporters (Headquarters, Enugu) Scale C (E) 1, 2	1,560
(91) 6 Proof Readers, Scale E 3	1,740
(92) 2 Dark Room Attendants, Scale F 1, 2, 3	240

	£
(93) 2 Clerical Assistants, Scale F 1, 2, 3	240
(94) 2 Messengers, Scale G 1, 2, 3	180
CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION, ACCOUNTS AND STORES	
(95) 1 Higher Executive Officer, Scale C (E) 3, 4 ...	750
(96) 1 Executive Officer, Scale C (E) 1, 2	390
(97) 1 Executive Officer (Accounts), Scale C (E) 1, 2	390
(98) 1 Staff Officer, Scale D 4	390
(99) 2 Stores Assistants, Scale F 1, 2, 3	240
(100) 4 Second and Third-class Clerks, Scale D 1, 2 ...	600
(101) 4 Clerical Assistants, Scale F 1, 2, 3	480
(102) 2 Messengers, Scale G 1, 2, 3	180
(103) 6 Drivers, Grade I, Scale F 1, 2 and Grade II, Scale G 1, 2	630
(104) 20 Miscellaneous Subordinate Staff, Scale G 1, 2, 3	1,800
(105) 1 Investigator/Editor, Scale C (T) 2, 3, 4 ...	780
(106) 3 Commentators, Scale D 3, 4	1,320
(107) 1 Staff Officer, Scale D 4	390
(108) 4 Projectionists, Scale E 1 (B and C) 3	1,090
(109) 1 Assistant Film Production Officer, Scale C (T) Training 1, 2	300
(110) 8 Technical Assistants, Scale E 1 (B and C) or F 1, 2, 3	1,200
(111) 1 Driver/Projectionist, Scale E 1, (B and C) 3 ...	170
(112) 1 Driver, Grade I, Scale F 1, 2, 3 or Grade II, Scale G 1, 2, 3	120
(113) 1 Clerical Assistant, Scale F 1, 2, 3	120
(ii) The items at present numbered 71 to 89 will be renumbered 114 to 132 respectively.	
(iii) The provision of £1,220 under the new Item 128 will be increased by £1,000 to £2,220.	
(iv) The provision of £1,950 under the new Item 129 will be increased by £500 to £2,450.	

- (v) The provision of £5,180 under the new Item 130 will be increased by £1,000 to £6,180.
- (vi) The provision of £7,000 under sub-head 5, Motor Basic Allowances, will be increased by £2,620 to £9,620.
- (vii) The provision of £10,110 under sub-head 6, Local Transport and Travelling, will be increased by £5,350 to £15,460.
- (viii) The provision of £2,200 under sub-head 7, Motor Vehicles, Maintenance and Running Costs, will be increased by £5,700 to £7,900.
- (ix) A new sub-head: Plant, Maintenance and Running Costs, will be created with provision of £1,300.
- (x) The provision of £1,090 under sub-head 8, Office and General, will be increased by £1,370 to £2,460.
- (xi) The provision of £34,700 under sub-head 18: Paper and Materials, will be increased by £8,500 to £43,200.
- (xii) The provision of £650 under sub-head 32: Labour, will be increased by £350 to £1,000.
- (xiii) A new sub-head: "Films, Raw Film Stock and Processing Charges" will be inserted with provision of £1,500.
- (xiv) A new sub-head: Library Board Grant, will be inserted with provision of £12,500.

Finally, consequential changes will be made in several places in the totals now shown at pages E 83 to E 86 of the Estimates.

Though we are not considering the Capital Budget at the moment, the decision to transfer Information Services to my Ministry will mean that sub-heads 20 and 21 of Head 801, Buildings, and sub-heads 40 to 45 of Head 805, Development, General, will in each case, be shifted from the Premier's Office Section to my Ministry's Section of the Capital Estimates.

I will return to the original items within this Head.

The provision for personal emoluments presents no spectacular increase from previous year. Outside the Printing and Stationery Division, there is only one post that was not within the Estimates of the old Ministries of

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1091

[*Appropriation Bill—*

30 APRIL 1959

Committee]

1092

[MR I. U. AKPABIO]

Welfare and Internal Affairs and their associated departments. That is the post of the Registrar of the Advisory Committee on Prerogative of Mercy, which replaces the post of Registrar to the Privy Council, which used to be on the Governor's Head. This Committee replaces the Privy Council and will advise the Minister responsible in respect of capital cases. It will be noted that it is an Advisory Committee. The final duty of making recommendations to the Governor on each particular case rests upon the Minister.

Hon. Members will note that while there is financial provision for a Regional Census Officer, no provision is made for setting up a census in this financial year. This is due partly to the fact that Regional Officers are being used to carry out the duties connected with the Federal election, and also to the fact that it would be difficult to persuade the people

to register again after having done so for the Federal election. It is therefore proposed to postpone setting up a census this financial year and to co-operate with the Federal Government in the holding of a census in 1961.

And it being 2.15 p.m. the Chairman interrupted the business and left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress: To sit again Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.
(*The Minister of Production, Dr M. I. Okpara*).

Adjourned, accordingly, at seventeen minutes past two o'clock p.m.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday, 1st May, 1959

The House met at Nine o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

The 1959-60 Eastern Region

Appropriation Bill

SIXTH ALLOTTED DAY

Considered in Committee of Supply—(Progress 30th April).

(In the Committee)

Head 434.—Ministry of Internal Affairs

Question again proposed: That a sum not exceeding £241,800 for Head 434—Ministry of Internal Affairs—stand part of the Schedule.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr I. U. Akpabio): Mr Chairman, yesterday I spoke on the question of census in this financial year; today I wish to begin with the establishment of Executive Officers. There are apparent increases in the establishment of Executive Officers, 1st Class and 2nd Class Clerks in the Administration Division. Taking Higher Executive Officers for example, there was one post in Community Development and one post in the Printing and Stationery Division. Consequent upon the absorption of the Ministry of Welfare and upon integration, the present establishment is shown as two which is the same as before. As for clerks, far from there having been an increase, there has been a net decrease of two.

There have been some increases in the Printing and Stationery Division. It will be observed that Sub-head 1 (37) Superintendent of Press has been increased by one Supernumerary post. This post will lapse on the completion of the present Expatriate Officer's tour on contract and is to enable a Nigerian understudy to be trained to take over the substantive post.

It is the aim of the Ministry to increase production in the Press as economically as

possible. One way of achieving this is closer supervision. That is why the number of Technical Officer posts has been increased. They will mainly be filled by men now under training in the United Kingdom.

The Government is put to considerable expense by the necessity of sending typewriters to Enugu to be repaired in the Typewriter Depot. It is therefore proposed to open a sub-depot in Aba. This will save freight costs from the southern areas of the Region. The cost of repairs should also be less because, with shorter journeys, there should be less damage due to careless handling or bad packing. This sub-depot will contribute incalculably to the greater efficiency of Government offices because of the more rapid turn round of defective equipment. That is the reason for the additional chargeman shown under Sub-head 1 (47).

It will be observed that there is considerable increase in the number of Book-binding Assistants. The Press is taking over more of the Internal Revenue's printing which used to be done by commercial firms both in Nigeria and overseas. This will result in a net saving to Government, but it is necessary to increase the staff to handle tax forms and books.

Finally, it will be observed that one post of Senior Stores Assistant, Grade One has been created. This is in order to provide a pyramid promotion in the Stores Section.

Turning now to other charges, those of the Printing and Stationery show an apparent increase compared with 1958-59 due to the transfer from the Board of Internal Revenue sub-head of £26,500 for special tax on stationery and the decision to charge import duty directly against the sub-head concerned and not against the omnibus sub-head which used to be shown in the Accountant-General's Head of the Estimates.

Hon. Members will observe with interest a contribution of £250 for the services of the Federal Fire Inspector. Three recent fires—one in Onitsha town, one in Aba Market and one in Afikpo Division—have focussed the attention of the public on the dangers of loss by fire. The Government has had the question of fire services under review but has regrettably come to the conclusion that for the time being,

[MR I. U. AKPABIO]

the financial position is such that the establishment of a Government Fire Service must be postponed. Nevertheless, the services of the Federal Fire Inspector are available to any local government body which, in discharge of its responsibilities to its ratepayers, decides to embark upon its own fire brigade.

Mr Chairman, I commend this Head to the sympathetic consideration of the House.

Question proposed: That Head 434—Ministry of Internal Affairs—be increased by £70,930.

Mr M. E. Ogon (Ikom Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to say that I feel terribly disappointed at the meagre sum the Government is spending on publicity—the sum is not enough. If Government spends £5 million on Education, more than £3 million on Health and £6 million on buildings and road development, I feel the people are entitled to know what the Government is doing or has done for them over the past few years. There is no doubt that Government should gear up its publicity at the Regional, National and International level.

Sir, Members might think that publicity is not important. It should be realised that foreign bodies come to this country and give aid; so they wish to get information at first hand. Unless Government has an Information Service that will work twenty-four hours a day in order to supply information to all outsiders, it will not be working in the best interests of the Region. I therefore feel, Sir, that Government should have a team of Public Relations Officers. I am not asking the Government to pay £25,000 as the West did to a Publicity Firm to advertise its leadership to the House of Lords. We should not do this. What we want, Sir, are properly trained Nigerian Public Relations Officers who will work twenty-four hours a day in order to supply accurate information. As I said earlier on, the people are entitled to know what the Government is doing for them because if they do not know they are bound to be misled by false propaganda. I therefore urge the Government to be alive to this aspect of its responsibility by making money available to this Ministry.

I will also ask, Sir, that the Minister should start the new Information Service on a completely new trail. He should not feel bound

to inherit any of the present workers if they are proved to be inefficient because if he should do so, he will simply be putting the new wine of the present Information Service into the old bottle of E.N.I.S. The Minister should be given a free hand to organise the present Information Service with the very best of men.

I also have my doubt, Sir, whether the salaries offered can procure capable hands because other national Presses offer very lucrative salaries. I know of an Editor who earns £2,500; therefore I do not think that a Government running a paper can afford to be second-class. If you look at the Estimates you will find, Sir, that the salary of a Public Relations Officer is £600 per annum. I do not think, Sir, that this salary can get the Government a capable officer. I therefore ask the Government to raise this salary in order to attract a good Public Relations Officer or it should cancel this post.

Again, Sir, there is another thing and that is that our Information Branch in London in the Commissioner's Office ought to be strengthened and made really effective. It ought to be given equipment with which to work. We need to publicise Nigeria there, if it is possible, to place one man in the Nigeria Office as a Regional Officer to publicise this Region there. Government should do all they can to see that this country is published.

I also want to ask the Minister to listen very carefully to what I have to say on community development. There are two things Sir, which we in Ogoja Province lack much. Apart from the Co-operative department, next to that is community development. We have only 17 miles of Trunk B road in the Division, but the people by their own effort have been able to put more than 55 miles of road in use. Those roads might not be all-season roads, that is, first-class roads, but the mere fact that one can push one's car through even if it is sunk on the road is a good idea. Now many of those men are still willing and they are working hard to build new roads but, Sir, unless they are given assistance and given this quickly enough, they will get frustrated.

You see, if a village clears a road to six miles and there is a bad bridge on the way and they cannot afford the money to construct this bridge, within 9 months or 2 years, their labour

is a waste in that the road grows into bush again. It is very important that the Minister or Government should make money available to encourage self-help in this area. I think that this Ministry has now become very important as we look to the future; and within next year we shall come back to see what has been done.

The Chairman: We are dealing now with the amendment.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Chairman, I should like first of all to congratulate the Government on the decision to remove the Information Service Division from the Premier's Office to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. If you have a look at the Memorandum to the Estimates at page E 192, you will find the proposal to merge the Information Service under the Premier's Office and we agree with the Government's new proposal to remove it to the Ministry of Internal Affairs; but, Sir, the Minister in his speech failed to make a statement as to what the position is *vis-a-vis* the Eastern Nigeria Information Service Corporation. On this may I invite Government's attention to the Annual Report 1956-1957 of the Eastern Region, Volume One page 50. With your permission, Sir, may I read:

"At the beginning of 1956-1957, the Eastern Nigeria Information Service was still a Government Department. But on 1st June, 1956, the Department was disbanded and a unique experiment within the Commonwealth whereby Government publicity services are entrusted to a Statutory Corporation instead of a Department of State was embarked upon."

I am laying emphasis on the point that the whole thing was a unique experiment within the Commonwealth whereby Government publicity services are entrusted to a Statutory Corporation. Sir, I hope Government will admit that this unique experiment has been a failure. I cannot for one moment understand why the Government would want to entrust its publicity services to a statutory corporation. What we are looking for, is the building up of Information Service as a Government Department. Is it being suggested that alongside with this, we are still going to have the E.N.I.S. Corporation as a separate organisation?

If I may agree with the Government Chief Whip, Sir, we are prepared to vote any sum of money. I mean that Government is entitled to ask the Legislature for any sum of money for Government publicity. But, Sir, are we going to run two parallel organisations—one, the Government Information Service under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the other, the E.N.I.S. Corporation as an entirely separate organisation outside the Ministry of Internal Affairs? Why I am laying stress on this point is that Government recently conducted an inquiry into the activities of the E.N.I.S. Corporation and in His Excellency's Speech we were told that the Government was considering the Report. I hope Government will lay the Report on the Table of this House.

Sir, I have in front of me the Estimates of the Western Region, and it is interesting to see the large vote for Information Services under the Ministry of Home Affairs there. We would like to see our Government do like the Western Region. But, Sir, to build up a huge Information Service Division under a Government Department and at the same time run an Information Service under a Statutory Corporation is what we cannot understand. The Region is self-governing and there is nothing to stop the Government bringing the staff of the E.N.I.S. under the new organisation. The difference is that if they do that, the employees of the E.N.I.S. will come under the Information Service Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and they will become civil servants. We will not be hearing the allegation that the Chairman or the Information Officer or an employee of the E.N.I.S. is playing with public funds. That will not happen if it comes under a Division of a Government Department, and with a clever and energetic Minister who will just have the Division directly under his thumb, I do not see why Government should not succeed in carrying out its publicity. We on this side of the House are urging the Government to reconsider this proposal and let us have one Information Service organisation in the Eastern Region.

Now, Sir, the Minister wants to have votes for a section of the Cinema Corporation. Here again, Sir, we on this side of the House do not understand why we should vote money under the Ministry of Internal Affairs for a section of the Cinema Corporation while we have, at the same time, the Cinema Corporation.

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

This Corporation was established on the 1st of July, 1956. The E.R.D.C. made a loan of £100,000 to this Corporation.

Sir, we have as Chairman one who is supposed to be a full-time Chairman, earning a salary of £1,500. This gentleman should have been of more service to the Region if the Government had made use of him in the Education Department. He holds a Ph.D. degree in Education, I understand. But what do we find? An organisation has been built up, namely, the Cinema Corporation, and this gentleman is just there at the head as the Chairman. What does the Corporation do? At page 6 of the 1957-58 Report, paragraph 25, with your permission, Sir, may I read:

“On the 18th of May, 1957, the Chairman and the Secretary of the Corporation left Enugu by air for the United Kingdom and the Continent on a business trip on behalf of the Corporation. This was in accordance with the decision of the seventh meeting of the Corporation on 9th May, 1957, which also authorised a sum of not more than £4,000 in connection thereof. The trip lasted 26 days inclusive.”

The Corporation had a loan of £100,000 to build cinemas, I suppose, in the Eastern Region. The Chairman and the Secretary went on a business trip to the United Kingdom and the Continent. The trip cost the Corporation £4,000.

Now, Sir, what has this Corporation done with the loan of £100,000? If you have a look, at page 3 of the report, there are certain Films, two of which are of interest. One is headed: “Second burial at Ukpör”. “A five-minute colour film on the second burial ceremonies of Chief Ume Okoli”. The next film, Sir, is called: “Our Heritage”. “Fifteen-minute colour film on the Ofala celebrations at Onitsha and Nnewi, and the installation of Chief S. C. Ezenwa of Awka-Etiti, 1957”.

The Minister of Information (Mr B. C. Okwu): Mr Chairman, Sir. On a point of Order. Standing Order 25 (2). The hon. Member is discussing the Cinema Corporation which is under the Ministry of Commerce. This has nothing to do with the proposal to

transfer the Corporation. He is discussing the Report of the Cinema Corporation which is under the Ministry of Commerce.

The Minister of Commerce (Mr J. U. Nwodo): Mr Chairman, when I discussed my Head I did move this House to reduce my Head by about £1,560 in respect of the staff of the Cinema Corporation who were being transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. That was the appropriate time for me to discuss it.

Mr E. O. Eyo: You remember, Sir, that when the Minister of Commerce made his amendment, I did ask for your guidance and you asked me to wait until the Minister of Internal Affairs moved this amendment transferring that section of the Estimates to his own Head of the Estimates, and it is on this, Sir, that I am speaking. Government is asking the House to vote money to pay certain employees of Government who have been seconded to the Cinema Corporation. It is now open to us to criticise that aspect of Government policy of seconding civil servants to a Corporation.

Mr Ogon: Point of Order, Standing Order 18 (6) (c)—Manner of giving Notice:

“Any such notice shall be submitted to Mr Speaker, who shall direct:—

that it be returned to the Member who signed it if it seeks to debate any aspect of the activities of the Public Service Commission, or the Judicial Service Commission, or any Statutory Corporation, or any matter not within the executive authority of the Regional Government, or as being in Mr Speaker’s opinion inadmissible”.

The Chairman: I am not of the opinion that the meaning of Standing Order 18 (6) (c) can be interpreted to affect the Motion.

Mr E. O. Eyo: On page 3 of this Annual Report, the second film is called “Our Heritage”—a fifteen-minute colour film on the Ofala celebration at Onitsha and Nnewi, and the installation of Chief Ezenwa of Awka-Etiti in 1957. All I am trying to show is that there is waste of public funds on production of useless films.

May I then draw your attention to the financial state of that Corporation? I am referring to the Balance Sheet published with the Annual Report. You will find that out of a total of £100,000 loaned in 1956 that on 31st March, 1958 the Current Assets showed cash at Bank £52,496; cash in hand £24 6s 10d. Within the next year or so this £52,000 will have been expended. What will happen? Government will then want either the E.R.D.C. or this Legislature to vote more money, another £100,000. Why not bring this Cinema Corporation under this Ministry? Why are we running this double organisation to produce one thing? The Cinema Corporation is intended to produce films as far as I know but there they have a Chairman on £1,500 a year doing nothing. Why not bring this Chairman under the Ministry of Internal Affairs so that they will be in a position to control his activities? On the Balance Sheet you will find that the Corporation failed to pay the salaries of Government officials seconded to the Corporation. If I may draw your attention to the comment in the report, it is stated at page 10 that the salaries of seconded officers stood at £6,674.

This is what the Auditor said:

"We have examined a letter addressed to the Corporation from the Accountant-General, Ministry of Finance, under date 29th July, 1958, stating that there is a liability of £6,674 in respect of salaries of Government seconded officers for the year ended 31st March, 1958".

The year ended 31st March, 1958, and the Accountant-General had to write on the 29th of July, 1958, drawing the Corporation's attention to its failure to meet its own liability to the tune of £6,674 in respect of salaries of Government seconded officers.

Now, Sir, what explanation has the Corporation got to give? Surely if this Corporation were under the Ministry of Internal Affairs there would not be any need for anybody to complain of this liability.

If I may come back to the question of Government Publicity, as I said earlier on, Sir, we are prepared to support any vote to enable Government to carry out its own publicity; but there seems to be some confusion

on the Government side. They seem to be confusing Government publicity and party publicity. There is confusion on the Government side between Government publicity and N.C.N.C. publicity. Now, Sir, our objection is to the policy of the present Government wanting us to vote money in order to enable the Government party to finance party publicity.

Sir, if I may cite recent instances. You remember last year there was a crisis in the N.C.N.C. Dr Mbadiwe decided on a show-down with his leader. Our view is that that had nothing to do with the Government of the Eastern Region. That incident of June 14th, 1958, had nothing whatsoever to do with the administration of Government in the Eastern Region; but what did we see? The *Outlook* immediately came to the rescue of the National President of the N.C.N.C. The Premier decided to go on a tour of the Eastern Region with all his Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries to explain his own side of the story of the crisis. Now, Sir, what had the crisis in the N.C.N.C. to do with the Government? The result was that the Premier with all his Ministers, all his Parliamentary Secretaries, and, I even venture to say, some of his Party leaders were on this tour which was a purely political tour. Now, Sir, while on this tour (I think the tour lasted for three weeks) each Minister was entitled to three guineas allowance a night and eight pence a mile for mileage allowance; each Parliamentary Secretary was entitled to two guineas a night subsistence allowance and eight pence a mile for mileage allowance. And the whole army of them toured the Region for three weeks explaining why the National President of the N.C.N.C. should not resign. We say, Sir, that it was not proper; that the cost of that trip, Sir, was not a proper charge on the public funds of the Region. That is the trouble, Sir.

I am very much in sympathy with the National President of the N.C.N.C. because he happens to head an organisation which is not in a position to finance party propaganda and organisation. Everybody will admit that. Therefore we must pass the bill to the taxpayers of the Eastern Region! If only the Premier will draw a line between his political tours of the Region and his official tours of the Region, I think, Sir, we on this side of the House will vote money for Government

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

publicity only. It is not proper for the Government Chief Whip or anybody on the other side to continue talking about Government publicity when, in fact, what they mean is N.C.N.C. party publicity.

We returned from the London Constitutional Conference . . .

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): N.C.N.C. is the Government.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, you have heard the explanation that the N.C.N.C. is the Government and therefore the Government should use public funds to finance the N.C.N.C. I am very happy, Sir, that what has now been stated has been admitted by the N.C.N.C. I thought that either the Premier or a senior Minister would deny this but the Leader of the House has admitted it.

Now, Sir, we returned from the London Conference last year and the Premier decided to tour the Region to explain to the Region the decisions of the Conference. When the Premier decides on an official tour, is it necessary to take all his Ministers ?

Dr Okpara: Why not ?

Mr E. O. Eyo: Is it necessary for him to take all the Parliamentary Secretaries? (*Shouts of "Yes" from Government Bench*). Mr Chairman, do not forget that each Minister in the Region tours on his own to explain Government policy to the people of the Region. Our point is that now that the Government has decided to build up a Publicity Division under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, it is the duty of the Government to educate the people of the Eastern Region of Government policies—Government decisions, as distinct from N.C.N.C. propaganda. We all know what is meant by propaganda; that is dealt with at the party level especially during electioneering campaigns when we would expect the N.C.N.C. to come out as a party and conduct its campaigns to the electorate. But to come out under the cloak of official tours and charge the expenses against the funds of the Region is improper.

We will support any vote for the Ministry of Internal Affairs for Government publicity.

I do not know whether the Minister of Internal Affairs will now be the Government spokesman because in the past we have been having a series of releases. At one time we have releases by the Minister of Information, the next moment we have releases from the E.N.I.S. If I make comment on the releases by the Minister of Information, our view is that almost every release made by the Minister of Information contains only half truth if any truth at all.

If I may draw your attention to a recent incident, yesterday, Sir, I was in my chalet and a member of the E.R.D.C. came to me and asked me if I had been invited to a ceremony to open the new office of the A.C.B. I said: yes, I had the invitation. Do you know what this man said? He said that at the opening ceremony they were going to nationalise the A.C.B. And what did we hear over the radio—that the E.R.D.C. has acquired the A.C.B. It was broadcast yesterday and this morning, and unless the Minister of Information comes out with a statement of fact, the people of the Region and the people of the country will accept the broadcast which was made yesterday and today. That is the sort of thing we expect the Ministry of Information in the Eastern Region to do—to give out only correct information.

Mr J. W. E. Anaba (Obubra Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I find it a little bit difficult to associate myself with those who spoke in favour of this Ministry. The material benefit for which this Ministry was set up has not been extended to my constituency. It has become a self-evident truth that this Region, along with other Regions of the Federation, shall see a new day on the 1st of October, 1960. This gratifying gesture should have been preached to the people of the rural areas by the so-called Welfare Officers.

Adult Education is really a necessity in my Division. Since Adult Education was introduced the people of my Division have not heard anything about it. It is now high time that this amenity should be extended to my people.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would also like to mention the case of our sons in the Spanish

Island of Fernando Po. Year in year out, Mr Chairman, this Region continues sending Commissions of Inquiry to enquire into labour conditions of our sons in the Spanish Island of Fernando Po. The reports of these Commissions have always been adverse. But Government has refused to take action. It cannot be disputed that these Nigerian labourers are being flogged by their so-called task masters without judicial or medical authority. In view of the fact that we are now on the threshold of independence, the exportation of this useful man-power could be used in tapping our own resources. This unnecessary emigration will no doubt reflect on the result of the forthcoming census. During the 1958-59 Budget Session, when I asked the Government to restrict the exodus of women, it was ridiculed on the floor of this House.

An hon. Member: It will continue to be ridiculed unless he gives us good reasons.

Mr Anaba: I will soon give my reasons. This, Mr Chairman, today has affected Ikom, Ogoja and Obubra Divisions. It will be noted with much sorrow that some of the villages in Ikom which were formerly in Obubra are becoming extinct.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Does he want us to control the movement of the women? What of the men?

The Chairman: Does the hon. Member think that what he is saying is relevant to the point under discussion?

Mr Anaba: Yes, Sir. I think this question comes under the portfolio of the Minister of Internal Affairs.

May I take this opportunity to call upon the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs to negotiate with the Immigration Authority over this matter. Not only women are concerned but men also and when I am talking, I refer to both.

If the days of Clarkson and Wilberforce are gone, according to history, I do not see why they should reincarnate in the Eastern Region by a political awakening. Mr Chairman, I will not be ashamed to mention this matter

several times on the floor of this House—I mean the question of men and women leaving the Eastern Region, especially from my Division, Ikom, Ogoja . . .

Mr J. A. Agba (Ogoja Division): Do not mention my Division. Mr Chairman, I protest.

Mr Anaba: Mr Chairman, Members from these Divisions are protesting and heckling. Although it is shameful, Sir, I feel I must do justice to my conscience by mentioning this matter here.

Mr Agba: Point of Order, Sir. Standing Order 25 (2) reads:—

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

The Chairman: Standing Order 25 (2) is really relevant in this case. I consider that the hon. Member's speech is not relevant to the matter under discussion. Order! Order! The hon. Member can get on but he should confine his speech to the matter being discussed.

Mr N. L. P. Apreala (Brass Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, having listened attentively to the speech of the Opposition Chief Whip this morning, I feel he and his people have been entertaining a lot of fear any time the hon. Premier and his Ministers tour this Region. There is no need to be afraid of such Ministerial tours. I feel they have entertained fears because they had been telling a lot of lies and deceit to the masses especially in the rural areas. Realising that the hon. the Premier and his Ministers' tour would clarify many points and educate the people of this Region on Government policy and activities, the Opposition do not appear to be happy, because all the lies told by them to the people, which have been spread as propaganda, would be known to the masses. That is why there is unrest in their minds. We are not convinced that these official or political tours of the hon. the Premier and his Ministers are wasteful to the Region unless there is the allegation that they are going to the Divisions to make private business of theirs. Their tour is intended to educate the

[MR APREALA]
people politically and explain and clarify Government policy.

Mr Chairman, I would like to make one or two important points. There was an Inquiry set up by Government some three years ago to look into the question of bride price. The Inquiry went round all the Divisions and made several recommendations. It will interest you to know that all these recommendations have been implemented by Government except one.

An hon. Member: Which one is that ?

Mr Apreala: That is the matrilineal system of marriage and inheritance. I would like to impress on, and make an appeal to, Government and in particular to the Minister concerned, to see that this very recommendation on matrilineal inheritance is implemented forthwith. With your permission, Mr Chairman, I would like to cite the relevant provision in "Self-Government in the Eastern Region Part I: Policy Statements", page 12, under Legislation affecting social customs:

"The aim of the Ministry is to ensure, by a publicity campaign to educate the public, that the following laws are strictly enforced: The Limitation of Dowry Law, the Age of Marriage Law, and the Abolition of Osu Law, Government is giving consideration to a regional law to prevent the evil effects of the system of matrilineal inheritance".

It is a year ago now since this promise was made by the Minister of Welfare but till now nothing has been done. People are really interested in this particular recommendation on bride price because it has so affected our rapid progress and social outlook. After all, we are neither he-goats nor cocks. What really happens now is that children are more owned by the wife than by the husband which should not be so at all. It is disgraceful that a father should maintain and train his child by giving him all necessary education and in some cases giving him enough money to trade, thus making his life attractive and prosperous only to see in the end that in case of earlier death of the son, it would be the mother and her family who would claim the son's money and property while the father is

yet alive. This has brought a lot of misunderstanding and unforetold miseries which in some cases even lead to bloodshed. This has also discouraged so many fathers who are narrow-minded from giving the best type of education to their children and in some cases has caused the withdrawal of a boy or a girl from school. Government should pass this promised Regional law to remedy the disgraceful custom now existing. The Atribas of Bende Division suffer the same.

Mr Chairman, I would like to say a few words on the Information Service with particular reference to the Mobile Cinema Unit. We are not so much interested in seeing these Units going round urban towns alone. After all, urban towns have got a lot of opportunities of seeing films.

An hon. Member: There is no road there. If he gets a road to Yenagoa we will give them to him.

Mr Apreala: What about the rivers ? The Government officials can go by Government launches and after all, the most important personalities in this Government are the hon. Premier and his Ministers and a lot of them have been visiting that area; how much more of employees of the Service ? They can certainly go there and make use of these units. There was a time they went last year and they went as far as part of Degema Division and came back with a lame excuse that the Head of them who was touring had some examination to take and therefore they returned and were not seen again.

Now, this particular cinema has two important functions to play. One is the amusement or enjoyment it will give to people who see the film, and then number two is the instructive side of it. After all, there are lots of people in the rural areas who still believe in folding their hands and expecting the Government to do everything for them. If they go to urban towns and see better roads and bridges in them, some think it is the Government that has done all these things for them; but much depends on community development. If they go round and show the films in rural areas, I think a lot of people will learn much, and community efforts in their areas, as they are at the moment, will be encouraged.

We invite this Unit to come into our place in launches. We have a common boundary with another Government and I do not think it will be sentimental to say that they are paying regular visits to our Western Ijaw brothers, and in fact, it lets us down to see that our own units for which we have voted a lot of money, do not come round to our own area, but we only see one coming from another Government. I think it is not so much negligence on the part of the Government but the people (workers) are not interested to come. After all, these films are meant to be shown to people in rural areas rather than urban towns.

An hon. Member: Mosquitoes will not allow them to stay there.

Mr Apreala: Mr Chairman, I am serious in addressing you and would not like to be tempted by the other hon. Member on my left to blow another fire in this House again. After all, we should allow the sleeping dog to lie.

Mr Chairman, my next point is on Adult Education. I am not interested in this scheme at all.

An hon. Member: Why?

Mr Apreala: What is the use educating people whose days are even numbered? In fact I do not want this scheme, for if you happen to go into one of these places where the Scheme is established, you will notice that there are lots of them who are not attentive to their instructors. Whilst some are listening to their instructors, many of them are thinking of what is happening even at home, not so much of what is being taught. I think if this money is spent on even educating many of our children who failed the Government Standard VI examination, it will be money well spent. After all, many of these pupils are intelligent. There is a common saying that examination is not a true test of one's knowledge. I think that if this money should be made use of in paying some teachers to brush up such pupils who failed this important examination, the Region will benefit more than training some people who are really too old to learn.

Government, Sir, should think seriously of giving opportunity to those who failed their

Standard Six examination and who, due to the inability of their parents, are unable to continue their education, by making this money available to them. I would like to mention that many boys and girls in this Region have been doomed for life. This is due to the fact that some of them were successful in the entrance examinations to secondary schools but failed to pass the Standard Six examination. I know of a case where a girl was successful in the entrance examination to a girls' school, but failed the Standard Six Examination. The girl even paid a deposit of £2 to the girls' school, but when she failed the examination, this amount was forfeited. Therefore, if this money can be used to bring these people up, I think it will serve the Region better.

Mr C. A. Abangwu (Nsukka Division): Mr Chairman, I would like to take this chance to thank the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the comparative peace in the Region in the last year. There was only one black spot—the Abakaliki Division which I referred to in my speech on the debate on the Speech from the Throne.

My suggestion that an Inquiry ought to be held in the Division in respect of the Odozi Obodo Society was reinforced by the speech of hon. Alo that a new dangerous Society was springing up in the same Division.

It is surprising that this Society was going on for some four years but the Government or the Police or the Ministry had not been able to unearth it until only last year. We hope this will not be repeated in future. However, I heard the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs say that more Police posts would be set up at Abakaliki. This may be good, but I submit that this is not enough. There should be a provision for more amenities in the area. There should be more schools, roads, welfare centres, etc., so that the people of Abakaliki may be enabled to see the other side of modern civilisation. This is the most important way of combating this menace.

I now turn to the Regional Census.

Last year, Government announced that a Regional census would be conducted soon. I consider this important. In the past, people

[MR ABANGWU]

had erroneously connected census with taxation, with the result that the figures were usually low. Now that they have realised that census helps them to get amenities from the Government, the situation has changed—thanks to the propaganda set about by Government and other agencies. My Constituency has requested for the early holding of a regional census because their figure is much less than it actually is. You can understand this. I therefore hope, that Government will redeem the pledge to hold an early census of the Region.

A further point, Sir, is connected with the Department of Printing and Stationery. Sir, Members of the legal profession complain that this Department is not co-operating enough. Law reports published here and in the United Kingdom are not in stock. The bound volumes of the Eastern Region Laws for 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957 and 1958 are not available. Each is sold for £1 1s and so I think we are not only losing money but we are doing disservice to the Region and the legal profession. I think it was last year or early this year that the Federal Government had a number of Nigerian Law Reports and the W.A.C.A. Reports. The Eastern, as well as other Regional Governments, were asked to clear their own quota. The Eastern Region Printing Department failed to clear them and so lost the commission payable. The result was that lawyers in the Region had to place orders of their own and lost a lot by postage and carriage. Members of the Legal profession are not happy about this. It is hoped that will improve.

The next point I would like to mention is in connection with the Department of Social Welfare. Very often in the Courts we have a good number of children who should be sent to Remand Homes. But it is impossible to place all these children because of lack of accommodation in the existing Remand Homes. There is a great need for more of these Homes. As an example, there was a case known to me in Enugu Magisterial District in which two children had to be sent to Calabar for only a week or two because there were no places here for them. When they have no guardians or parents with them, you will agree that this is depressing. I hope something will be done to this.

Mr Chairman, I thank you.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, I think I owe it as a duty to the people of this Region to see that the expenditure under the various Heads are gone through within the time prescribed by Standing Orders, in order to save any illegal expenditure. I must therefore use my discretion and call upon the Minister of Information to wind up.

The Minister of Information (Mr B. C. Okwu): Mr Chairman, I would like to speak briefly in order to enable Members of the House to appreciate what the Government has in mind by the proposal to expand the publicity machinery of the Government, and also to transfer the Information Division to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It does appear to me that some Members do not appreciate the importance of having adequate and reliable publicity machinery for the Government and the people of the Eastern Region. In the first place, when I spoke to the Motion on the Speech from the Throne, I did indicate briefly a number of things which the Government intends to do. I would like, in the interest of the Members of the House, to speak more in detail of the plans Government has in hand.

In the first place, we recognise the obligation on the part of the Government to ensure full publicity for the Region and for our people. We realise that the people of the Eastern Region are entitled to know wherever possible what the Government is doing, to enable them to assess the efforts of the Government to meet their needs and also to know the problems that confront the Government. I am prepared to concede that in the past, due to a number of factors, mainly financial, it has not been possible to meet these very important needs of our people as much as Government would have liked to. It is also important to give efficient publicity to the Region and to the people in order to enable the outside world to know something about our own way of life, the Region's attractions and its potentialities and the possibilities for those who are interested in a career in our Civil Service. There has been a great deal of appeal by Members from both sides of the House for foreign investment. I have done a bit of travel or travels outside this country, and I was shocked to find that very little is known of our people and country in places from where assistance can come to us. It is with this aim in view that Government

decided to increase substantially the vote for its publicity.

Sir, Government also recognises that the people are entitled to get accurate information and Government is not going to shirk its responsibility to supply same. I would like at this stage to explain Government's plan. It is not only through one medium that information reaches the people. There are many media of information and Government is interested in all of them, and all we are proposing in the first instance is that the *Outlook* will be turned into a daily newspaper. I would like Members to appreciate that it is not intended that Government will as such operate the *Outlook* as a daily newspaper. When hon. E. O. Eyo spoke, he wanted to know the future of the E.N.I.S. as a Public Corporation, in view of the fact that it is intended to transfer members of the staff of the E.N.I.S. to the Government. I would like him to know that it is not intended to wind up the E.N.I.S. as a Corporation, but the E.N.I.S. as a Corporation will have a new assignment. The new assignment intended is the publication of the *Outlook* as a daily newspaper.

We are also interested in television and broadcasting. Plans about these have reached an advanced stage, but we have not finalised our programme, and as soon as full agreement is reached with those concerned, it will be the responsibility of the E.N.I.S. as a Corporation to take care of these media.

But the Information Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs will confine itself to a pure and solid work of publicity, both within and outside the Region. We are carrying publicity right inside the villages. I assure Members of the House that those in the rural areas, of all people, are entitled to be catered for and I am giving them the assurance that this is precisely what this Government has in mind.

Members of the House will agree with me that when we undertook our historic tour of the Region under the leadership of the Premier, people did come out *en masse* to request a comprehensive tour of the kind which we undertook. I was bitterly disappointed to hear hon. E. O. Eyo trying to interpret this tour as part of the N.C.N.C. campaign. I want to tell

him that, we as a Government, have a responsibility to our people. It is our desire to succeed and since we are in power, we are only interested in the best methods of succeeding. There is nothing preventing him from criticising our methods, but we have no apology to anybody here or outside for that tour, and, subject to the Premier being available, I assure him that we are going to repeat that tour again and again. When they come to power and decide not to tour, that is their own business, but as far as we are concerned we are satisfied that it is the wish of the people of the Eastern Region that we should meet them the way we have done as often as possible. (*Interruption*).

The Chairman: I think the interruptions are enough now; let us hear the hon. Minister.

Mr Okwu: Mr Chairman, I can understand the apprehension of Members of the Opposition and I am assuring Members that we are going to repeat this performance. The Members of the Opposition have had the monopoly of going to all nooks and corners of the Region to tell all sorts of lies against the Government without being challenged. They told our people fantastic stories about the Premier, about the Government, but when the people were enabled to meet the Government right inside their compounds to hear the truth, the Opposition Members started to criticise us. During the tour, I was amazed to see that there was no occasion when Members of the Opposition appeared at the places we went to prove us wrong or contend our claims.

Mr E. O. Eyo: What for?

Mr Okwu: Remember it was an official tour and if they had the guts they would have put up some appearance in order to prove us wrong on the spot. If we said anything that we did not achieve or anything that was contrary to our policy, they could have come out to refute us. They should remember also that their Premier—the Premier of the West—is now undertaking an official tour of the Western Region, going from Council to Council and they have not criticised him. They now turn round to criticise us for doing precisely what their own Premier is now doing in the Western Region.

I wish to explain that there is no intention on the part of the Government to make the Cinema Corporation part of the Information Division of the Premier's Office. The position is that

[MR OKWU]

when the E.N.I.S. was converted into a Corporation and the Cinema Corporation was established, that part of the former E.N.I.S.—the Film Unit—which was a Government Department, was transferred to the Cinema Corporation. This was intended to be a profit-making organisation for purely commercial purposes.

Now the new plan is to take back from the Cinema Corporation both the Documentary Film Unit and Mobile Film Unit of that Corporation and transfer them to the Information Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs so as to provide the machinery whereby people in villages will be able to see the documentary films showing the activities of the Government and the various spheres of life in the Region. The Cinema Corporation will continue to exist and it is going into partnership with a foreign firm and it is busy with this arrangement. This new set-up will go ahead with the production and showing of films for commercial purposes.

It is also intended, Sir, to introduce Rediffusion services all over the rural areas so that people who are not able to buy radio sets will be able to know what is happening around. We also intend to extend the Information Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to London and the United States of America to take care of the publicity needs of the Eastern Region both in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America. The reason for this (whether we belong to different political parties or not) is that if there is any misrepresentation of the Eastern Region abroad, it will affect all of us. Those Members who read the stories in the *Times* and the *Drum* will agree that the incidents at Abakaliki were misrepresented. What the Government is trying to do is to see that this misrepresentation of the happenings in the Eastern Region is stopped by establishing information service in U.K. and U.S.A. I have in mind one story which I came across while I was in the United Kingdom. It was on television. One team of experts came to this Region from the B.B.C. to make some film which was shown in the B.B.C. television service. What shocked me when I saw this film in London was that these gentlemen went around to look for dirty spots, and, what was more, they went to an unfortunate community in the North (Shaw-shaw people), took pictures of these fellows and allocated

them to the Eastern Region. The most serious aspect of this show was the title of the film—“Our Heritage”.

The B.B.C. wanted to show to the U.K. audience what the Region looks like now that they, the British, are about to transfer power. “Here are the people who are going to inherit power from us, now that we are about quitting”, the pictures subtly convey.

I have this more to say. I think the world would be the better if all concerned, Black and White, tried to build up goodwill. Nothing can be gained by misrepresenting a people or making a caricature of a place. After all, our progress within the past fifty years of British Administration has been most phenomenal. We have been able to accomplish, in spite of our differences, in spite of our difficulties, within half a century, something that borders on superhuman feat. I must say that. For anybody to imply that the Shaw-shaw people are the people who are going to take over power is immaterial because, whether we are ripe now or not, on October the 1st, 1960, we are bound to take over. It is nobody's business whether we are ripe or not. All we know is that it is divinely ordained that we have a right to run our own affairs.

That apart, I wish to end up by saying that, as Members are aware, we have in this Region the U.K. and United States Information Services. These two countries have extended their Information Services to our Region and I must say that we very much welcome the gesture and we wish to take this opportunity to say to the officials of these two Information Services that they are most welcome to the Region and that they will be given our fullest co-operation to enable our people to understand their own way of life and also to enable them to understand our own way of life.

The Minister of Commerce (Mr J. U. Nwodo): I will be very brief Mr Chairman. The Chief Whip of the Opposition made certain references to the Cinema Corporation and I consider these references to be ill-conceived. I think it is the highest act of impudence and disservice to the people of this Region for Members of the Opposition, who are paid to level genuine and constructive criticisms on the acts of Government, to come here on the floor of this House and not only deliberately distort the facts but make

mischief and mislead the people of the Region. I think for the long time this House has been sitting the Opposition have sufficient occasion to play to the gallery, but I think they must realise that we are having in the gallery those who are men of integrity, who are able to read between the lines; men of balanced judgment; and that people who come here to distort facts are not worth their salt.

Now, Sir, the Opposition Chief Whip made three points: one is about the funds of the Cinema Corporation and its administration; the second point is about film production, and the third point is an imputation on the character and integrity of the Chairman of the Cinema Corporation.

Truly, the Opposition Chief Whip acknowledged in this House that the Chairman of the Cinema Corporation is a person of high standard of integrity and education but that he made a trip to Europe costing about £4,000. He never told the House for what purpose this trip was made to Europe. The law establishing the Corporation made it mandatory that the Corporation should appoint a General Manager right from its inception. I think it was wise of the Board of the Cinema Corporation to have found it necessary by the time of the inauguration of the Corporation to appoint one man both as Chairman and General Manager. I do not think anybody could have cast aspersion on that sort of business which was carried out by the Board of the Cinema Corporation. Dr Okala has been acting in this dual capacity both as the Chairman and the General Manager of the Cinema Corporation and I made it clear that it was mandatory under the law that the Corporation should have both the Chairman and the General Manager. The Chairman made a trip to Europe as was told the House but what was the purpose of this trip? Under the very paragraph which was read, you have to refer to page 6:

“The purpose for which the trip was undertaken included:—

- (i) Conference in London with leaders of the Film Productions International of California and the Associated British Pictures Corporation of film production and distribution plans;
- (ii) Negotiation for purchase of finished films and generally cinema equipment;
- (iii) Recruitment of personnel;

(iv) Discussion with heads of various film companies and manufacturers of Cinema equipment on matters of mutual interest;

(v) Arrangement of film coverage of the Nigeria Constitutional Conference in London.”

These were the purposes for which the trip to Europe was made and the Opposition Chief Whip has cleverly evaded giving these facts to the House. He merely said that the Chairman and the Secretary of the Cinema Corporation visited the United Kingdom and probably for a pleasure trip, and spent a sum to the tune of £4,000. Why was it that he did not find it convenient to make clear to the House the purpose for which this trip was made to Europe? That is one aspect of the fallaciousness of his speech. He also mentioned that the only film which the Cinema Corporation has been able to produce, so to say—the sum total of this visit, was the burial ceremony in Ukpok. In the same report, Sir, may I bring to your notice that the films which have been produced by this Corporation are in this order:—

Page 3 of the Report. You have it and would like to look at it:

“The following sound films were produced and released during the year under review...” Before I read, Mr Chairman, the number of films which the Cinema Corporation had produced, may I say that under the law establishing the Cinema Corporation it is provided that the Corporation should make films which have bearing on the character, customs and traditions of our people. Even by convention, and ordinary commonsense, we ought to know this, that once we are going to have the film production of the Cinema Corporation, the essence in it must be to make films depicting our culture and our tradition, something which we can leave as a heritage to the next generation. Under the law establishing the Corporation, it is already indicated and this law was passed by this House of Assembly. The law states that the Corporation shall have power “to produce cinematograph films including documentary and educational films, films recording current events and films designed to help Nigerians in all parts of the Eastern Region understand the ways of living and the problems of Nigerians in other parts;...” That is one of the specific assignments given to the Cinema Corporation and the gentleman

[MR NWODO]

of the Opposition has not been honest enough to point this out; rather, he preferred to tell the House that the Cinema Corporation has done nothing in all its life time other than to produce films showing a burial ceremony at Ukpor. Knowing fully well that the Cinema Corporation has done more than the production of Ukpor funeral film, why has the Opposition Chief Whip not had the courage to enumerate other films which have been produced by this Corporation.

Mr Chairman, these are the films in their order:—

- (i) Second burial at Ukpor and you all agreed that second burial in this country is something of importance in our culture and tradition and it is connected with the purpose for which this Corporation was established.
- (ii) Eastern Nigeria General Elections 1957: Fifteen-minute colour film on the election campaigns of both the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons and the Action Group, the polling and the opening of the Eastern House of Assembly.
- (iii) *Happy Horison*: Ten-minute colour film on Yaws campaign in the Eastern Region. The production of this was started before the Vesting Day of the Corporation on 1st July, 1956; it was completed and released by the Corporation.
- (iv) *Towards a new Nigeria*: Seventy-minute Black/White film on the Nigerian Constitutional Conference, London, 1957.
- (v) *Our Leaders meet the Students*: Ten-minute Black/White film on a party given to Nigerian and Cameroon Students in London by the Premier of the Eastern Region, 1957.
- (vi) *The New Elect*. Ten-minute Black/White film on the Consecration of the Rt. Reverend Dr J. C. Anyogu at Onitsha as a Roman Catholic Bishop.
- (vii) Hogan Kid Bassey comes home: 15 minute Black/White film report on the arrival and reception of Hogan Bassey in his home town, Calabar, 1957. Is there anything wrong in this? Another point, Calabar Hospital Diamond Jubilee—15 minute Black/White film

on the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Calabar Hospitals, 1957. Is there anything wrong with this? And many other things like that.

Mr Chairman, on the finances of the Corporation, Sir, the Opposition Chief Whip pointed out that the Corporation had a loan of £100,000 from the E.R.D.C. or the defunct Finance Corporation, and told the House that of this loan there is now a balance of £52,000 in the bank and £24 cash in hand. That is all. Then he proceeded to anticipate that by next year the money would have all finished. That was where he stopped. How can people come here to mislead the House—men who are known to be honourable in their status and who feel that they should enjoy the confidence of at least their constituency? How can they in their career as politicians in this country deliberately come here to distort facts, make mischief, degenerate the debates of the House into personal antagonism, tribal hatred, knock heads together? This House cannot be used as a forum for political campaign.

In this particular regard, I want to say, Sir, that of the £100,000 loan given to the Cinema Corporation, which amount was for both fixed and working capital, the following expenses were made: Resulting from the discussions which the Chairman and members had in London they had been able to buy cinema equipment worth £5,198. There are motor vehicles for the Cinema Corporation worth £994. There is office equipment worth £440. There are prints worth £4,580. Spare parts £478. These are fixed assets. Then, according to him the cash in the Bank is £52,496, while cash in hand is £24. The total assets at 31st March, 1958 stood at £73,462. Plus these fixed assets which the Corporation has, do we realise that the funds of the Corporation have not been badly administered in any form at all? The information I would like to give to the House is that this Cinema Corporation, of recent, resulting from a series of discussions which they have had with overseas interests, have now come to an understanding whereby they are going to form a company with entrepreneurs from overseas to run cinema theatres in this Region. The bases of negotiations and matters of detail have not been quite obviously concluded, and it would not be proper to disclose these details at this stage.

This is not the place and it will never be the place for the Opposition Chief Whip to start his mischief-making calculated only to incite the public against this Government. It seems he is very much used to talking irresponsibly in this hon. House, even when we have distinguished personalities from overseas in our galleries. We must speak in this House with a sense of responsibility. I must make it plain, and this is a warning to my hon. Friends in the Opposition, that there will be no room again in this House for irresponsibility in any form.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr I. U. Akpabio): I am very grateful to my hon. colleagues who have spoken so ably in explaining the true position of things. The way the Opposition, especially their Chief Whip, have spoken goes to show why the Government makes it a point of duty to tour from time to time to enlighten the people. What I am saying is: supposing the Opposition Chief Whip had spoken and this House adjourned without coming back to this question, then people would go away with the impression that the only work of the Cinema Corporation is concerned with "The Second Burial at Ukpok".

Now that the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been integrated with other Ministries, the Cinema Corporation, the Social Welfare and the Information Service, I have left the Ministers who were responsible for these Departments to speak on them. As I said before, I am very grateful to Chief Nwodo and Mr Okwu who have helped me explain everything, to the disappointment of the Opposition who took interest in twisting facts. I am sure the Opposition Chief Whip must have been really impressed after their speeches. I will not take the time of the House so much because a greater part of the work has been done by Chief Nwodo and Mr Okwu but I would like only to comment on some points raised by Members.

First of all, I am grateful to the hon. the Government Chief Whip who spoke at length asking for more money for advertising the activities of this Government. I quite agree with him that as a result of the recklessness and irresponsibility of certain mischievous elements, this Region has from time to time been misrepresented to the outside world and more publicity

is really needed to advertise the Region. I will in fact be very pleased if the Government will give me more money for this.

As for Community Development, the hon. Minister of Social Welfare has already outlined Government policy in his speech. Government is quite willing to help any community who are willing to help themselves at a 50/50 basis.

I thank Mr E. O. Eyo for saying that he and his colleagues opposite are willing to support voting more money for the publicity of the activities of the Government of this Region. But I wonder whether he will be willing to find an Editor for this publicity who will not use his office to publicise the Government party as he had in the past accused all organs of the Government of this Region.

The hon. the Deputy Speaker of the House, the other day, said something about the problems at Abakaliki. As I said before, Government has been trying to do all that it could in order to improve the conditions at Abakaliki. Members will remember my answer to the hon. Member who raised the point. I told him that Government is now contemplating having many Police posts at Abakaliki, and at this juncture, I am advising that any such undesirable cases should be reported to the Government for prompt action.

Hon. Abangwu suggested extra social amenities like roads, etc., for Abakaliki. I said the other day that Government is constructing more roads.

The Deputy Speaker also made mention of the Printing Department. I have been waiting for the House to express some appreciation of the efficient work of the Government Printer who has now made it possible for us to read today in printed form, speeches which hon. Members made the previous day. I think this Department deserves some thanks.

Another point I would like to raise is the suggestion of Mr Appreala about adult education. I was ashamed when he said that this adult education should be stopped because it is a waste of time educating people whose days are numbered and I think this is unfortunate.

Several hon. Members: Very unfortunate indeed.

Mr I. U. Akpabio: Why I say this is that it is due to the name we attach to the Adult Education, which as a matter of fact, does not only mean teaching old people how to read and write. It also includes something like improvement of industry, and many other things. I visited many Adult Education Centres when I was in the United States. I saw that even some women who did not want to sew could be taught how to make other things. They could be taught co-operative farming and other trades. So it all depends on the meaning we attach to this Adult Education.

Mr Chairman, thank you.

Amendment to increase Head 434—Ministry of Internal Affairs—by £70,930, put and agreed to.

Question proposed: That an increased sum of £312,730 for Head 434—Ministry of Internal Affairs—be inserted in the Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Sitting suspended at 10.55 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 11.15 a.m.

Head 436.—Ministry of Local Government

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £93,570 for Head 436—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule.

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): Mr Chairman, I beg to move that the total provision under Head 436, Ministry of Local Government be increased by £1,470 to £95,040. This will increase the number of Executive Officers by two as compared with the Printed Draft Estimates and allow for other consequential expenditure. I shall give the details later in my speech.

The Estimates for my Ministry reflect the improved financial situation and I am happy that a modest amount of expansion has been possible. They reflect also in their format the internal organisation as an integrated

Ministry. The process of integration created no difficulties for my Ministry. It never had separate departments in the same way that other Ministries had, with separate staff and separate organisations. The creation of Divisions in the Ministry merely served to emphasise the branches or departments that already existed—except for the Examination of Accounts and Valuation Divisions about which I shall have more to say in a moment.

Hon. Members will note an increase in the number of Executive Officers. One more is required for general duties in the Ministry whilst provision is made for 4 more Executive Officers (Accounts) to undertake field work. Two years ago, 17 posts of Examiners of Accounts were approved. For the sake of economy, the number was reduced to 9 in 1959–60. We have faced considerable difficulties over recruitment but the recent appointment of 3 Senior Local Government Treasurers to these posts has improved the situation considerably. I have inserted 13 posts of Executive Officers (Accounts) and Higher Executive Officer (Accounts) in the 1959–60 Draft Estimates. This will enable 4 more officers to be engaged. My intention is to have one Executive Officer (Accounts) in each of the new Provinces and next year when I hope to increase the number of these officers to the original 17, it will be possible to post extra officers to the busier Provinces, although officers of my Ministry, Executive officers (Accounts) will be controlled locally by Provincial Secretaries who will allot them priority tasks.

Now that a cadre of Executive Officers (Accounts) is being built up, an Internal Audit Service for Local Government Councils is gradually taking shape. Not only will these officers carry out regular checks and examinations of councils' accounts in their Provinces, they will also be required to give on-the-spot training to the Treasury staff with whom they come in contact. I have said several times in the past that the evidence of laxity in the control of Local Government funds is widespread and that many Treasurers have a very imperfect knowledge of their job. There are also many irregularities. It is my hope—and certainly is my intention—that this team of Executive Officers (Accounts) in the charge of a senior officer in the Ministry will provide an inspectorate that will both control and instruct and in

time raise the standard of Local Government accounting to a more satisfactory level.

I am happy to announce that the hitherto vacant post at the Head of this Division will shortly be filled by an experienced Nigerian officer who is being specially seconded from the Audit Department.

Hon. Members will notice a completely new Division in the Ministry—The Valuation Division. The valuation of property for rating purposes has been a problem which has grown in complexity over the years. Rates on property valuations are levied in all the large towns in the Region and as smaller towns expand and develop they will wish to do the same. At present the methods employed by Councils for assessing tenements vary from place to place. The Federal Valuation Officer, whose advice I have sought, considers that a uniform system should be applied, and since these days industrial and commercial property and plant make assessment a very complicated matter, a professional officer with a trained team must control and guide valuation and revaluation.

My plan is to have a Regional Valuation unit on the lines of the existing Federal unit. I hope that whilst we are recruiting our own officer, we shall be able to secure the services of a Federal Valuation Officer on loan so that an early start can be made with the building up of the unit. The first task will be the revaluation of Government property in the Region and then the systematic revaluation of all property in the large towns where either the Assessment Ordinance or Part XIII of the Local Government Law have been applied. The unit would also be responsible for training and advising Appraisers and the staff of Councils. All this would take several years and it is important therefore that we start as soon as possible. Apart from the general need to have a comprehensive system of assessment throughout the Region, it should be borne in mind that Councils are undoubtedly losing justifiable revenue so long as faulty and unscientific methods of assessment obtain in their areas. The actual staff of the Valuation unit shown in these Estimates is based on the recommendations of the Principal Federal Valuation Officer.

The increases under "Ancillary Charges" are consequent upon the increases in staff

I have referred to and the fact that they concern touring officers.

Under "Other Charges", two new items appear—Sub-heads 9 and 16. They are straightforward and do not, I think, need any further explanation. Contributions in lieu of rates are paid to Councils, where the Assessment Ordinance has been applied, by the Federal and Regional Governments for Government property within the Councils' areas. With the co-operation of my hon. Colleague the Minister of Works, it has been possible to bring the register of Government buildings up to date so that the contribution payable to Councils bears relation to the property owned by the Governments. This has caused a considerable increase in the contributions but it is nothing less than what the Councils deserve. There is also a further increase to cover contributions in respect of Abakaliki Urban District Council which is introducing property rating this year.

I should like to say a word on Local Government Training. Sub-head 14 is principally to enable me to assist Local Government Councils in sending staff on further training courses. The training of all grades of Local Government staff and the provision of refresher courses constitute one of the fundamental problems of Local Government. The number of trained and experienced staff is inadequate for the large number of Councils we now have. It is therefore too often the case that responsible posts—particularly Treasury posts—are held by persons who have insufficient knowledge of the job they are expected to perform. Hence, the generally unsatisfactory standard of accounting work. I would, however, draw the attention of hon. Members to the provision for an Institute of Administration under Sub-head 4 of Head 801 of the Capital Budget. It is hoped that this Institute will serve the needs of Local Governments by offering regular courses for Secretaries and Treasurers on the practical aspect of their work and together with the Inspectorate provided by Local Government Commissioners and Executive Officers (Accounts), will be the means of raising the standard of efficiency of the Local Government service to a commendable level.

Under special expenditure, there is a new sub-head—Subsidies to County Courts. Government has decided that any deficit incurred in the running of a County Court shall be made

[CHIEF ONYIUKÉ]

good from Government funds. Such payments will be made to the Councils concerned annually in arrears. The provision in these Estimates is for 1958–59. The provision for Special Grants is for the redemption of old promises. Last year when I was speaking on a similar occasion, I explained that grants amounting to the total authorisation of £164,100 were promised to Councils after a careful scrutiny of schemes and that payments were made when a Council had a detailed scheme ready to put into operation. Government is morally bound to make good its promises and we are now discharging the last of the liabilities under this sub-head. I expect this sub-head to disappear entirely next year.

Finally, I should like to refer to the provision of loans to Local Government Bodies which is included in Head 808 of the Capital Budget. Hon. Members are also referred to the relevant section of the Development Programme 1958–62. It is gratifying to know that adequate loan funds will be available this year to assist Councils with worthwhile capital projects which they cannot finance from current revenue. I shall, of course, require applications to be supported by acceptable estimates and to be properly documented; I intend this money to be spent on real development.

The total increase of £1,470 which I am moving is made up as follows:—

Sub-head 1 (7) the establishment to be increased by one to 2 Executive Officers with provision of £830, an increase of £400.

Sub-head 1 (18) the establishment to be increased by one to 11 Executive Officers with provision of £5,810 an increase of £590.

Sub-head 5 Motor basic allowance to be increased by £210 to £6,000.

Sub-head 6 Local Transport and Traveling to be increased by £270 to £6,000.

For Head 437: The past year has been an unstable one for Local Government finance. The reduction in grants due to the need for economy was accompanied by the effects of the abolition of the former County Councils. County Staff and functions were divided amongst the District Councils as were the assets and liabilities of the dissolved Councils.

Some Districts did quite well out of the allocation of assets, others found that they received only liabilities. But all had increased functions and responsibilities. The pattern of prosperity has therefore been uneven. At the same time a steady pressure was maintained upon Local Government bodies in general to develop their functions and to undertake new services. There was a tendency amongst the more fortunate Districts to regard the windfall of County assets as the cure not only for all troubles but for all time too. It was therefore necessary to apply restraint in dealing with supplementary estimates in order that ambitious projects should not in the end make things worse for Councils because of the sharp increase in recurrent costs.

It must always be remembered that the revenues of Local Government Councils are strictly prescribed but the demands on them limitless. Councillors, people and staff all combine to squeeze the last pound out of the Treasury and for good measure Ministries seek Local Government participation in Regional schemes such as secondary schools and teacher training colleges, rural hospitals and health centres and so on. So that with limited revenue, reduced grants, high overheads and excessive demands made of them, Local Government Councils cannot be said to have a particularly easy time.

It is therefore a source of great satisfaction that the cuts which were imposed on Grants to Local Government bodies in 1958–59 have been restored in 1959–60. This means that it is possible to calculate the grants to Councils on the former basis of 6s per head of population in the Municipalities and large Urban Districts, 4s 6d per head in the smaller Urban Districts and 3s per head in the Rural Districts. Hon. Members will notice that provision has been made for new Councils whose establishment was approved during 1958–59. Almost every Council has an increase of grant over what was paid in 1958–59. The few who have not owed the reduction to the maintenance of rural water supplies about which I wish to make a few comments.

Hon. Members will note that there is a deduction of £33,200 in the allocation for grants for the cost of maintaining rural water supplies. My hon. Colleague, the Minister of Works, will doubtless comment on this when introducing his Estimates but I think it would be

appropriate for me to make some brief comments since they affect Local Government bodies closely. Hon. Members are referred to Eastern Region Official Document No. 5 of 1958 entitled "Rural Water Supplies in the Eastern Region". In that White Paper, a total of 1,520 wells and spring improvements is mentioned; they were financed by Colonial Development and Welfare money. Unfortunately, the maintenance of these water points, which was the responsibility of the Local Government Councils has been sadly neglected and about 60 per cent of them are unserviceable, representing a considerable waste of capital outlay. Moreover, one of the conditions of the Colonial Development and Welfare grants was that adequate arrangements for proper maintenance should be made. In spite of pressure on Local Government Councils, only three or four have deposited funds to purchase the necessary equipment for well maintenance. Therefore a condition of the grant is not being fulfilled and it is important that this omission should be rectified without delay. There are also pumped and piped projects under the present scheme and clearly if Councils cannot maintain wells they will be quite unable to maintain more complicated systems.

Government has therefore decided to take over the maintenance of all rural water supplies but as the principle has been established that Local Government bodies are responsible for such maintenance, the cost of the maintenance is being deducted from the grants to Councils. The estimated cost of maintenance in 1959-60 is £33,200, which is about £15 per water point. This is divided amongst the Councils in each Division. Next year when accurate figures for each Council area are supplied by the Ministry of Works it will be possible to calculate the cost per District Council and make adjustments for this year. As more and more rural water supply undertakings are completed the annual cost to Local Government will increase.

Another matter which my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Works, will tell you about is the decision of Government to take over the maintenance of all Trunk Roads "B". Previously these roads were maintained by Local Government Councils and Government reimbursed them 100 per cent of the cost of maintenance.

The Draft Estimates of Councils have been scrutinised in my Ministry and they have now

practically all been approved. The Finance Division of the Ministry has had to deal with 100 sets of Estimates since 1st January and this has imposed a very heavy burden on the officers. A large number of estimates have had to be modified because of unrealistic proposals or over-optimistic figures for revenue, or both. My aim has been to ensure that each Council balances its budget by a reasonable margin and has a sufficiently adequate working balance to enable it to pay its way before rate money starts coming in. One difficulty should be appreciated by hon. Members. District Courts under the Customary Courts organisation are the responsibility of District Councils. It is quite clear that they are going to be expensive. The following actual example will illustrate the position. In a certain District Council area there are four Courts. Under the Native Court system, the cost of court members' sitting fees was in 1958-59 about £400. In 1959-60, it is quite likely that these Courts will become District Courts. The estimated cost of Court members' sitting fees using the new rates for Customary Courts is almost £2,400. Therefore, there can be no complacency in Local Government Councils. Although grants have gone back to where they were before there are greater calls on revenue. For that reason, I have aimed at the highest balance compatible with realistic estimates.

Finally, I should like to say a word about rates. The people of this Region have many demands on their pockets—tax, assumed local contribution, fees for this and that and rates. Having considered the matter, I propose to maintain the 15s maximum general rate which obtained in 1958-59. A study of the rates returns will convince anyone that by and large, Councils are a great deal better at spending money than collecting it. With a few exceptions, most Councils' rates are heavily in arrears; in some cases dangerously so. And this is where the estimates of Councils become unreal. The opening working balance at the beginning of a financial year pre-supposes a 100 per cent collection of revenue in the preceding year. If revenue collection has been bad, the estimates become largely meaningless because if there is insufficient money, services cannot be paid for no matter what provision is made for them on paper. Whilst therefore I agree that Local Government Councils do not have an easy time with all the demands made upon them, they could be in a far better position if

[CHIEF ONYIUKÉ]

they approached revenue collection more seriously and with greater determination. Their well-being rests largely in their own hands.

Mr Chairman, hon. Members will note that the explanatory details to this Head are not quite up-to-date. I still have to make adjustments because of the creation of the new Anambra and Ogbaru District Councils in Onitsha Division and some slight re-arrangement is also made necessary by the new definition of divisional boundaries. I hope to have this done in time for it to be included in the approved printed Estimates. The total provision under the Head will remain unchanged.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, Sir, it is with regret that we have to oppose this amendment. Not that we would not like to support an increase to the vote, but, Sir, we wish to seize this opportunity to draw the attention of Government to the fact, that two votes in this Ministry have been misused.

I hope that I will not be accused of character assassination or of being mischievous. I am relying wholly and solely on facts from the Ministry. I am not inventing a story. Sir, on the Hospitality Vote, there has been a move to write off the "Election Expenses" of the former Minister of Local Government. I have a document here to show that on the 13th of March, 1957, the former Minister of Local Government submitted an order for one case of Whisky and one case of Beer to the U.A.C. two days to election—the Minister lost the election. But the bill for £28 8s was passed on to the Ministry! On the 1st November, 1957, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry advised the Minister that it would be improper to pay a sum of £28 8s from the Hospitality vote. The Minister on the 6th of November, 1957 stated his views and ordered that Dr Esin should be called upon to pay this debt. A letter dated 14th November, 1957 was addressed to Dr Esin informing him of the view of the Ministry that this was his election expenses which should be met by him.

Sir, on the 18th January, 1958, a first reminder was sent to Dr Esin; on the 13th November, 1958, a second reminder was sent to him, but there was no reply and the Permanent Secretary had to write this to the Minister:

"Hon. Minister, you will recollect the matter of a bill for drink purchased by Dr Esin which was not a proper charge against the Hospitality Vote. Nothing has come of our efforts to get Dr Esin to refund the amount. You will please direct".

That was on the 29th December, 1958. The Minister replied:

"In view of Dr Esin's position, the debt is a bad one and should be written off".

This was dated 2nd January, 1959. Now, you will compare this with the view held by the Minister on the 6th of November, 1957. He said then when writing to his Permanent Secretary:

"Seen. The date of the voucher is 1-4-57 and the bill is on 13-3-57, which I think is election expenses. Please write him to clear his debt, for no money in our Ministry".

That was on the 6th of November, 1957. A year and two months later, the Minister held this view, that "in view of Dr Esin's position, the debt is a bad one and should be written off".

Sir, the matter was passed on to the Ministry of Finance for approval to write off. This matter was referred to the Accountant-General who wrote back on the 20th of February, 1959, as follows . . .

An hon. Member: Why did he not bring all the files here?

Mr E. O. Eyo:

"Permanent Secretary, Local Government. Application for write-off of this amount should be submitted to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance. I should point out to the Permanent Secretary, Finance that if I take accounting action to write-off this bad debt, it will be revealed in my Annual Report and thereby come to the notice of the Public Accounts Committee."

This was dated 20th February, 1959.

Sir, here you have a former Minister of State incurring his own personal election expenses, two days to the General Election of 1957. The Minister held the view in November, 1957 that this debt could not be met from public funds and yet, fourteen months later, the Minister reversed his decision and ordered that the sum of £28 8s should be written off. And but for the action of the Accountant-General, I can assure you, Mr Chairman, that this sum of £28 8s would have been written off. The only thing holding up the writing-off is the warning by the Accountant-General that if he did write-off, he would be compelled to bring it before the Public Accounts Committee.

The next point, Sir, is the use to which the vote for soft furnishing for the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary has been put. There is evidence that this vote has also been misused. I am relying, Sir—and here I draw the attention of the Premier because we on this Side of the House view this very seriously—on the evidence that in December, 1958, the Minister placed orders for various goods, ranging from khaki drill, white shirting, etc. There was a clash in the Ministry after his attention was drawn to the fact that it was scandalous to use this vote for his own private needs. Here, may I quote the Local Purchase Order No. 11476 of December, 1958.

An hon. Member: What date in December?

Mr E. O. Eyo: Well, I do not know the date in December, but if he wishes he can check up the Minister's file. It is file 1380.

The Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo): File 1380?

Mr E. O. Eyo: We are bringing up this because when we criticised the policy regarding the use of Hospitality Vote, we were accused of making desstructive criticism, but if it is true that a Minister of State did make use of his vote for soft furnishing to purchase khaki drills, white shirting and other goods and a Government Official wrote that it was scandalous to do this, I do not see why we should be accused of making destructive criticisms. This has leaked out to the public and I am

raising this in the House in order to get the Government to know how we feel about the matter. I hope that by Monday the Premier will know the position and will be able to assess the accuracy of the information that has reached us. But I can assure you that all these have leaked out to the public and it does not speak well of this Ministry. Time is against me and I would like to continue on Monday.

While on the first point and in order to get the Premier to have the details checked, I will quote a letter No. 1340/18 of the 14th of November, 1957 addressed to Dr E. A. Esin by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government.

"Sir, I am directed to inform you that a Bill No. 134648 of 13th March, 1957, for the sum of £28 8s 0d being the cost of one case of White Horse Whisky and one case Heinekens Beer was recently submitted to this Ministry for settlement by the Manager, U.A.C. (Provisions Department) Oron. This expenditure is observed to have been incurred by you only two days before the election after which you ceased to be a Minister. As this is believed to be part of your election expenses, I am directed by the hon. Minister to request you to refund this amount to the Regional Government.

2. Will you please inform me in due course the Receipt Voucher particulars on which you made this refund.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) ???

Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Local Government

Dr. E. A. Esin,
c/o The Methodist Hospital,
Iquita Oron,
Eket Division."

And it being 11.45 a.m. the Chairman interrupted the business and left the Chair to report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress: To sit again on Monday, 4th May, 1959.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till 10 a.m., on Monday.

The Minister of Commerce (Mr J. U. Nwodo): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

Opening of Secondary Grammar Schools

Mr M. C. Awgu (Awka Division): Mr Speaker, yesterday when the Minister of Education was replying to my speech on the Ministry of Education, I was indisposed and was not in the House. So I beg, this morning, to say something for purposes of clarification, lest the House may misunderstand me. So, for the good of all of us, I am stating very briefly that when I said that Ministry made a little mistake in allowing Secondary Grammar Schools to be built almost in all the villages in Onitsha, I never said it with any ulterior motive or biased mind. I said: now that that has happened, he with his team of experts in the Ministry will study impartially and carefully how best to ameliorate it. This done, such a Division as Awka that needs secondary schools, will be given its fair share. That is what I meant because if the Roman Catholic Mission has a Secondary Grammar School, it will be difficult for pupils from Protestant parents to attend.

Mr Chairman, at the onset, I made it clear that my speech on the Ministry of Education was non-political and unselfish. What I humbly asked of the Ministry was to study impartially and carefully how the schools were built, Division by Division, under the following categories:—

- (a) schools built by Roman Catholic Mission;
- (b) schools built by Protestant Missions;
- (c) schools built by African Agencies that are non-denominational but Christian in tone.

About my opening a school in Orumba, my last communication with the Ministry was that I must wait till the commission set to enquire into the system of education in the Eastern Region finalises its recommendations. I am the last man in this hon. House to mislead people.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! I am relying on Standing Order 4 (3) to ask the Member not to continue. The relevant part of that order says:

“Any other business, if unopposed . . .”

This seems to me to be unapproved business and therefore cannot continue.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes to twelve o'clock noon.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 4th May, 1959

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, in accordance with Standing Order 68, the Committee of Selection having met on the 27th of April and nominated members of the various Committees, I have the pleasure to inform you this morning that I have nominated Mr M. U. Etuk to be the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

Local Government Contracts

75. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Local Government, what are the fundamental tenets that guide the award of Local Government Contracts; to what extent were these tenets adhered to in the award of contract for Aba Drainage Scheme.

The Minister of Local Government: The fundamental tenets that guide the award of Local Government contracts are (a) the prices tendered; (b) the financial status of the persons tendering; and (c) their technical ability to carry out the contract. On the ascertainment of these facts by the Chairman of a Tenders Board, he reports same to the Board. The Board uses its discretion in recommending the person or persons to whom the contract should be awarded. Where the amount involved is above £500, the recommendations of the Board are forwarded to the Minister for approval. He may or may not accept the recommendations of the Board.

With regard to the award of contract for the Aba Drainage Scheme, in which the amount involved is £55,396 19s 0d, the normal principles were adhered to. The Board recommended that the contract should be split into two; one to the African Industrial Enterprises, and the other to Messrs Dolcino and Company. After due consideration was given to the

Board's recommendations, the Minister exercised his discretion and awarded the contract to the African Industrial Enterprises.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(1) The 1959-60 Eastern Region Appropriation Bill

(SEVENTH AND LAST ALLOTTED DAY)

Considered in Committee of Supply (Progress 1st May).

Head 436.—Ministry of Local Government

Question again proposed, That Head 436—Ministry of Local Government be increased by £1,470.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Chairman, last Friday I raised two issues on which we are relying to oppose the increase of vote to the Ministry and while I dealt on the misuse of Hospitality Vote I omitted to read to the House the correspondence from the Parliamentary Secretary to his Minister. With your permission, Sir, may I complete the chain of correspondence by reading this:

“Hon. Minister,

Whilst everyone is in sympathy with Dr Esin I cannot see any justification in asking you to agree to the payment of a sum of £28 8s just incurred by the Doctor only two days to the election. Further, he has already reduced our votes to nonentity. He should be asked to settle this account himself.

???
Parl. Sec.”

This was dated the 1st of November, 1957.

The point here, Sir, is, supposing Dr Esin had won the General Election of 1957, he would probably have returned to that Ministry to head it as a Minister and it is obvious, Sir, that this sum of £28 8s and possibly other sums incurred by him during his election campaign, would have been charged to this Vote.

Sir, the next point that I wish to deal with is the question of misappropriation of Local Government funds and the steps taken by the Ministry. I have a case in Eket Division

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

where the Examiner of Accounts has reported certain misappropriation of funds in the Oniong-Nung Ndem-Awa District Council. The amount involved was over £1,500 and various surcharges. The report of the Examiner of Accounts was submitted to the Ministry months ago and no action has been taken.

I have also, Sir, a case in my own District Council at home, the Ibesikpo Asutan District Council, where the Secretary-Treasurer was short to the tune of £303 and last January the Secretary-Treasurer prepared a voucher and treated this amount as an advance to himself. The Examiner of Accounts discovered this and reported the matter to the Ministry. As far as I know, Sir, no action has been taken.

Sir, what is more annoying is the fact that you have these Secretary-Treasurers, Chairmen of Committees of Councils when in trouble with their Councils coming to Enugu and returning to the various Councils in the Region to brag that they have made it up at Enugu. Sir, I do not want to waste your time by citing instances but I am sure the Government is aware of several allegations of bribery and corruption.

Sir, the most alarming is the one in connection with the choosing of a site for a Rural Health Centre at Uke in Onitsha Division. That has become scandalous and I do not think Members of the Government will claim that they have not heard of the rumours surrounding the choosing of this site. The rumour, Sir, is that £1,000 was involved and our view here is that it is rather embarrassing if Government choose to be indifferent to these allegations of bribery and corruption.

We have instances of employees of Local Government Councils being called upon to go on transfer, but the next thing that those who feel they have got very good stations do, is to proceed to Enugu and on their return, directives are issued from the Ministry to say that such and such a fellow should not go on transfer.

The Chairman: The hon. Member has five minutes to wind up.

Mr E. O. Eyo: What we cannot understand, Sir, is why it is that no action has been taken on all these rumours.

The Attorney-General: Point of Order. Mr Eyo made mention of £1,000 without giving the facts. He should not make wild allegations, he should give us the facts.

An hon. Member: That is no point of Order.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I do not think I am before a Judge or a Magistrate to give evidence. All I am saying is that Government cannot claim to be ignorant of the fact that there is a strong allegation surrounding a sum of £1,000 involved in a matter in which the Minister personally intervened over the choosing of a site for a rural health centre at Uke in Onitsha Division. If there were a Commission of Inquiry standing, then I would be in a position to give evidence. I am telling the Government of this rumour if they have not heard of it.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Standing Order 25 (7). The hon. Member should not make wild allegations. "No Member shall impute motives to any other Member".

The Chairman: I think that would be quite correct if mention had been made specifically about any Minister. I am not aware that Mr Eyo has made mention of any particular Minister.

The Minister of Production: The hon. Member should not stand up in this House and thus make wild allegations, hanging in the air, without pin-pointing the facts, to show whether the allegations were substantiated or investigated.

The Chairman: Yes, that is why I ask the hon. Member if he can still help the Government in this matter.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I do not think it is fair to accuse me of making wild allegations. I am speaking on the Ministry of Local Government. I am making allegations which go to support our decision to vote against this Head. I am saying, Sir, that the Minister of Local Government personally intervened in a dispute

over the site of a rural health centre at Uke in Onitsha Division. I go further to say that there is an allegation that £1,000 passed in that business.

Several hon. Members: To whom?

Mr E. O. Eyo: It is now left to the Government. Having made that allegation, I think it is asking too much from me to go any further. If the Government is really interested, I think it is their place to investigate the matter.

Sir, is the Government not aware of the scandal in the award of a contract in the Aba Urban District Council? Newspapers have been reporting and serious allegations have been made. Is the Government also not aware of that?

Government Bench: We are not aware.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Sir, if the Government is really interested in the matter, the Government should accept the challenge to set up a Commission of Inquiry.

The Chairman: Mr Eyo, it is time.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Sir, I hope you have taken account of the various interruptions.

Mr G. I. Oko, M.B.E. (Awgu Division): Mr Chairman, I rise to congratulate the Minister of Local Government for his energetic Eastern Region Ministerial tours and the general interest he has shown for the improvement of Local Government Councils in the Region for the past year. Speaking for the Local Government Councils in this Region, I can assure him that his activities and interest towards these Councils are appreciated. I would suggest that the other Ministers should follow his foot-steps in order to know the wishes of the people for the better running of this Government.

Training of Local Government Staff: I have to stress the need for the training of Local Council Government Staff in the Region, especially the Junior Staff, and this is in view of the fact that the Local Government Councils are the integral part of this Government; without the efficiency of the Junior Staff, the working of these Councils will be difficult.

Every encouragement should be given to the training of the Staff which will help to improve the standard of the service of Local Government and therefore promote the good name and interest of this Government.

Senior Service for Local Government Councils: The creation of Senior Service posts for the Staff of Local Government Councils is desirable. This will be an incentive for them to work hard to get to the top. The time is overdue to promote some of these hard-working officials to Senior Service posts. Those of their counterparts in the civil service have had their promotions—some as District Officers, Senior Interpreters, and so on. Some of the senior staff of the Councils had their training overseas, whilst some of those promoted to the posts of District Officers, Senior Interpreters and Agricultural Supervisors had no training overseas at all. Are these senior officers of the Councils not the pioneers and promoters of the Local Government administration in this Region? What consideration has the Government for making the post of Local Government Staff attractive? What incentive?—high salary, pensions, gratuities, or what? The answer is “none”. I therefore strongly suggest that an incentive goal be earmarked for the uplifting of the hard-working senior staff of Local Government Councils. Matters affecting the staff service conditions of the Local Government Councils and policy should be formulated by the Government for this purpose.

The Awgu Community Development Training Centre: This should be transformed to be known and called the Awgu Public Administration Centre, the reason being that the Administrative Officers, Surveyors, Councillors, Staff of the Government and Councils, Sports Commission and so on, are being trained at this Centre. If these are acceptable it will be in keeping with the system in Northern Nigeria Institute of Public Administration now at Zaria, where even Expatriate Officers recruited from overseas by the Northern Government are trained for twelve months before entering Administration.

The Staff of this Awgu Centre are doing more than is expected of them and they deserve every consideration by this Government. They have been carrying out satisfactorily the construction of Bailey bridges, training of students, wide tours of the Region,

[MR OKO]

and demonstration of Cinema shows. Mr Chairman, I do not want to be personal but I feel I will fail in my duty if I do not mention the following personnel who have been the life-wire of this Training Centre—I refer to Messrs S. C. Riggs, the former Principal, now the Community Development Secretary to this Government, and the present Principal Mr N. A. Ndu, M.B.E. These hard-working Officers really deserve public commendations.

Mr Chairman, before I take my seat I would like to refer you to page E. 95 of the Draft Estimates, Awgu Regional Block Grant. I want to point out that the population of Awgu District Council is 132,198 whereas the new Achi District Council is 1,800. It beats my imagination that Achi village with a tiny population of 18,670 would be granted £4,603 *per capita* rate of 3s and Awgu District Council with a population of 132,198 would be left with only £17,338. Sir, this is an injustice, and it has got to be rectified. It was surprising to see that Achi got a share of the surplus of 1958-59 Block Grant when that Council was not in existence. I would like the hon. Minister of Local Government to make a statement to this effect, and thereby rectify the anomaly.

Finally, Sir, I want to make it abundantly clear that the people of Inyi and Awlaw in Awgu Division have declared their stand and that is to remain with the Awgu District Council. The petition to this effect was passed to the hon. Premier and the Minister of Local Government two days ago. The petition speaks for itself.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, I wish to remind you that this is the last allotted day for the Committee of Supply. I would very much appreciate it if you tried to be more brief today than usual. I wish to point out to you Standing Order 66 (15) and to let you know that at the hour of the interruption of Business I shall proceed with the other Heads; we still have 11 Heads not done. Probably you might want to say something about one or two particular Heads, but if time is wasted you may not have the opportunity to debate the Heads that come after 2.15.

Mr M. E. Ogon (Ogoja Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I will be very brief. I do not want to speak on the vituperations made by the

Opposition Chief Whip; but, Sir, I want to draw attention to the fact that last Friday the Opposition Chief Whip had to read from Ministry file and it is an index of the loyalty of some of our civil servants to the Government of the Eastern Region. It is only that aspect of it, Sir, that I intend to touch briefly. We have had the nasty experience last Friday of listening to accurate quotations from a Ministry file. Whatever we want to do in this country if we must have to progress our civil servants must be very impartial and must not allow politics to becloud their vision in the carrying out of their duties. It is only in that aspect that I want to ask the Premier and his Government to take a very serious view of what happened.

Now, before the Minorities Commission came on some of us from the supposed C.O.R. State area raised the note that there are people supplying Government information to the Opposition in this Region. We were accused of intimidating our civil servants. I want to say that what happened on Friday proves our contention to be very true, and please, Sir, it is very shocking if we create the impression that the African civil servant or whoever is responsible for these things is incapable of becoming a true civil servant. That is the only point I want to raise.

Rev. O. Efiog, C.B.E. (Calabar Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to speak on this Head 436—the Ministry of Local Government—and that for the interest of peace, law and order in this Region. The Ministry is of supreme importance in an Independent State, and this Region rises or falls economically and politically on the training given its people at the Local Government level.

Local Government Councils constitute the foundation of our Independent State on which rest all our other Government bodies, for the Members of Regional and Federal Legislatures, House of Chiefs and the Senate are recruited or drawn therefrom. The fact that one reads dry philosophy does not minimise the importance of Alphabet as the threshold to all book knowledge, also membership in the highest Parliament does not detract from or diminish the importance of Local Government Councils.

In dealing with people at Local Government levels, let alone chieftaincy matters, the Minister should maintain an open mind with utmost circumspection and sense of sacred responsi-

bility, otherwise, he may through inadvertence, want of reliable and adequate information, cause serious and irreparable injuries on the structure of our social order. I said it once here, let me repeat. If any piece of legislation brings N.C.N.C. Government into disrepute and indicts it with having sinister and questionable objectives, it is the Ordinance which empowers this Minister to appoint chiefs in his absolute discretion. I pointed out also that the Minister is unduly meddling in chieftaincy matters. In replying the Minister played a lot of politics. With your permission, Sir, may I quote him:—

“Have I deposed any chief like the Action Group in the West?” (*Shouts of “No” from Government supporters and “Yes” from the Opposition*) . . . “Government knows the Ntoe of Big Qua as a responsible leader who can manage the affairs of his people and that is why he has been made one of the joint Presidents of the Urban District Council.”

I beg to submit, Sir, that the Minister does not know the Ntoe or the Muri at all, apart from facial appearance. In any case where does the Minister derive the system of joint Presidency of Local Government Council? Where else is it practised? Why not have joint Presidents in the Onitsha Urban District Council. The fact that the Minister of Local Government is a responsible leader does not entitle him to share the Presidency of Executive Council with the Premier; both of them are Ministers, but the Premier is only first among equals. The analogy explains the case of Etubom, Nto Muri.

Sometime last year this Ministry issued directives to show that the Presidency of the Calabar Urban District Council would be rotationary among the Obong, Ntoe, Muri, note the order—Obong, Ntoe, Muri. The Efik people were rudely shocked because the Obong of Calabar has never in all history rotated seat with Ntoe, Muri and Etuboms. The rotation has invariably been among Etuboms, Ntoes and Muris. This is exemplified in (a) The Presidency of Native Authority Council; (b) its Executive Council; (c) Native Court; (d) Native Court of Appeal and (e) the Urban District Council Committee on Native Laws and Customs from the inception of that Council, and in each case the Efik Etuboms preponderate in number. In all these instances, the Obong never participated in the rotation as he is above the category

of Etuboms, Ntoes and Muris. Let the Minister of Local Government refute this or prove me wrong. By custom, the Obong cannot rotate seat with Etuboms, Ntoes and Muris. The Efik people could not know how this joint Presidency came about. A thing which has never happened. They therefore wrote the Local Government Minister that that arrangement was not acceptable to them. G. I. Jones's Report confirms the existing practice of grouping Etuboms, Ntoes and Muris together, they being classified as village heads, and emphatically recommended Obong of Calabar to be the sole *ex-officio* President of the Calabar Urban District Council. Not long after this the Minister of Local Government's pride being wounded, he published a reversed or inverted order not Obong, Ntoe and Muri again but Ntoe, Muri and Obong, as if to say: who dares challenge my indisputable and absolute authority? In passing, is this how we are going to rule ourselves? This new order putting the Obong, a First-class Chief under Ntoe and Muri aggravates the situation. It is *infra-dig* purposely prepared to spite the Efik people at home and abroad.

For your information let me describe the Obong of Calabar so that we may gauge in a measure the extent of injury this Ministry can do in complete ignorance. The Obong of Calabar is the political and spiritual head of Efik people numbering over 50,000. The Efiks wield a tremendous influence for good in this Region in particular and in the Federation in general. The late Governor Bourdillon said that they in the United Kingdom heard of Calabar before they heard of Nigeria; they saw Western civilization over 600 years ago. Macgregor Laird addressing the British House of Commons in 1842 confirmed this early contact and association. It was in the same year that King Eyamba V and King Eyo II wrote Her Majesty Queen Victoria to send someone to teach them Book knowledge and Christian Religion. Calabar was the political and administrative capital of the Oil River Protectorate. Political exiles of note were interned in Calabar in the sure hope that these people of high culture were able to exercise humanity and urbanity over these unfortunate victims of fate. In this way the Oba of Benin, Chiefs of Gold Coast and Ashanti and a noble woman from Brass found refuge in Calabar, the last but not the least my late friend

[REV. EFIONG]

Mr Herbert Macaulay, the Father-founder and first President of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons was confined in Calabar in 1915.

Efik language is widely spoken throughout the whole of Calabar Province, part of Ogoja Province, and part of Cameroons—Usek-Aret. It is the language of Trade, Education, Government and Christian religion. Efik is used in the N.B.C. It is worthy of note that Quas and the Ejaghans speak Efik automatically without learning, not so with the Efik person in respect to Qua dialect. The same thing holds good with the Efut dialect, with this to add: that the Efuts have now completely lost the knowledge of their dialect; they only speak Efik. The Holy Bible in Efik, Efik Church hymnaries are in use in all the territories above mentioned; other literatures, in Efik are widely used too. In Quas and Efuts, Efik is used in schools and churches; all matters like court cases are done in Efik, and records kept in Efik. The Efiks produced the first batch of professionals in this Region. In 1924 three youngmen, all Efiks, qualified as barristers and practised throughout the country; so we gave incentive to the rest of the Region. The first Ibo lawyer, my friend Mr Justice Mbanefo, arrived in this country in 1937, thirteen years after. They also produced the first medical doctor, the first certificated teacher in the Region and the first woman civil servant thus opening the way for women to enter Nigerian Civil Service.

Several hon. Members: Look up to the Chairman.

Mr D. A. Nnaji (Udi Division): Point of Order, Sir: 25 (1) "A Member shall not read his Speech". Mr Chairman, he is Secretary to the Obong of Calabar.

The Chairman: Thank you; but I rather think that the hon. Member is violating Standing Order 25 (2). Please, Rev. Efiong, will you speak now strictly to the Head.

Rev. Efiong: Most schools and hospitals in Nigeria and the Cameroons were staffed by the Efiks bearing the torch of light to their fellowmen in darkness and alleviating the pains of those in their beds of languishing. An Efik man was a member of the Nigerian Council of Lord Lugard's days. Calabar and Lagos were the only two communities in Nigeria accorded elective representation to

the Old Legislative Council of Clifford's Constitution—1922. The Efik people are a chosen people to serve their fellowmen in this country, and they want no more than to serve. The first two indigenous persons awarded O.B.E. in this Region are Efiks.

When Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Calabar the Obong of Calabar was the first natural ruler to be presented to them, and, as I said before, W.A.C.A. judgment stated that the Efiks, Quas and Efuts are the subjects of the Obong and up to date nobody has appealed against that judgment. To crown it all, the Resumed Nigerian Constitutional Conference in London declared the Obong of Calabar as a First-class Chief. That a man of such status, ruling such a type of people, is not given his due recognition by the Eastern Government beats the world's imagination. In the face of all these stubborn facts the Minister of Local Government made Ntoe of Big Qua, a Village Head, to supersede the rest of nine Ntoes, Muris, Etuboms and finally the Obong of Calabar whom Ntoe of Big Qua calls his father. Where is democracy? Where are the fundamental human rights?

This action is causing dissension, discord and lack of peace among the Natural Rulers of Calabar Division. The Quas themselves sent a petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies during the Resumed Nigerian Constitutional Conference in London last year strongly and most emphatically repudiating this state of affairs.

The Efiks are a law-abiding and constitutional people who seek always to support the Government in power. They voted Prof. Eyo Ita and Eniang Esien into the Eastern House of Assembly in 1951, both N.C.N.C.; voted Mr U. O. Ndem into the Federal House of Representatives, also N.C.N.C.; the Calabar Urban District Council has been N.C.N.C. controlled from its inception to date. Ask the hon. Premier to produce the written advice of the Obong to him which he promised to treasure all his life and craved and obtained the Obong's permission to reproduce it for distribution to his colleagues. Witness how dearly the Efik people love him; they regard him as a prototype of man, a magnificent specimen of humanity copiously talented and endowed to fit him in almost every walk of life, and highly qualified to lead the people to a promised destination where peace, unity, happiness, prosperity and

unalloyed love exist in abundance, but the hon. Premier has woefully disappointed and let the Efik people down in his many performances. Without trying to find out why the Efik people are not so enthusiastic about the N.C.N.C. as before, he starts to chastise and victimise them left, right and centre; before him the Obong is now a nonentity.

A true and well-bred Efik man is a rare person; he detests and abominates arrogance, partiality, nepotism, and victimisation, prostitution and parade of power in any form or shape as a sure sign of weakness and inferiority complex.

This whole confusion or topsy-turvy arises from the fact that the Premier's advisers are always his own satellites, who ever dance attendance to his person to deceive him with sugar-coated falsehood, gossip, and flattery. This is the pitfall where kings, leaders, warriors and politicians have stumbled and destroyed themselves in every age. This class of people constitute the greatest enemy of this Region as well as that of our hon. Premier. These obsequious people attend the Premier to obtain some favour and cheat him into hospitality. They tell him impossible things about A.B.C. and D., Obong of Calabar, etc., and without hearing from the Obong the Eastern Government castigated the innocent Ruler. Let me submit emphatically that the Obong of Calabar, a man of noble character, over eighty-eight years of age is altogether insulated from Party politics. I will prove that anywhere and any time. (*Interruptions*).

Mr S. G. Ikoku (Enyong Division): Mr Chairman, may I call for your protection here for the speaker.

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Rev. Efiang: Now if the Government of this Region totters and stumbles, if impression is given to the outside world that this Region is incapable of exercising impartially modern parliamentary democracy, and if this Region suffers from violent disunity, the fault is at the door of our hon. Premier who plays politics with almost everything, even our sacred and traditional institutions, and permits the cankerworm of flattery, falsehood, gossips to eat away the divinity in him. It shudders and horrifies one to know that our hon. Premier after deliberately sowing seeds of dissension

and agitation can come to the floor of this hon. House to appeal to hon. Members for cessation of all agitations, and that in a most forensic, inflammatory and sentimental oration. My sincere advice to the Premier is that he should reorientate his soul and all will be well again, and to us all I would urge to do to others as we would others do to us for righteousness alone exalts a nation.

The Chairman: In order not to cause much disturbance, I would appreciate it if you would try as far as possible to relate your debate to the subject under discussion.

Rev. Efiang: My subject is clear: that the Ministry of Local Government is interfering very much with Local Government Bodies and chieftaincy matters unnecessarily. I want to say, Mr Chairman . . .

An hon. Member: Standing Order 27 (5). (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Hon. Members, I think I have given you quite a lot of time to do something very unparliamentary, and I think the House should be ashamed of itself. I would like order, please.

Rev. Efiang: Mr Chairman, I was on this point that the Premier plays politics even with sacred and traditional rulers.

The Chairman: I would like hon. Members to give me time to do my work. Rev. Okon Efiang, you are very irrelevant. Please be relevant, otherwise I shall have to ask you to discontinue your speech. Speak to the point, please, and leave out all wild things. This is not an opportunity for it at all.

Rev. Efiang: Mr Chairman, if I go out of the point please direct me and give me your usual protection. I said all these agitations in the Region are traceable to one man . . .

The Chairman: That has nothing to do with Local Government.

Rev. Efiang: Now, in conclusion, Sir, I appeal to the Minister of Local Government to remember Calabar in the distribution of social amenities flowing from his portfolio, and he should re-think the whole situation and let the Obong of Calabar to be the sole President of Calabar District Council. The time has

[REV. EFIONG]

come for the Minister to accord the Calabar Urban District Council financial autonomy not because the Western Region has given financial autonomy to their Local Government Councils but I think it is high time politics was not played in our Local Government Councils and I appeal to the Minister of Local Government to do his best to prevent party politics being played at Local Government level.

Mr R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E. (Nsukka Division)

Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to speak on one point about the Local Government Tenders Board. The Local Government Tenders Board tie the hands of Councils. Sir, I have in mind a bridge which was damaged in my own area some time ago. The Local Government Council have not been able to repair this bridge because they are not allowed to spend money up to £50 or above £50. They cannot therefore buy timber to do the repair since it will cost considerably more than £50. The Local Government Tenders Board keep on writing unnecessary letters saying they have not given any approval to have this work done. Even the Board rarely meet and if they meet at all they take no decisions.

I am, therefore, appealing to the hon. Minister of Local Government to modify the instrument establishing this Board to make it possible for a Council to spend up to £1,000. Even the Doctors in my area cannot buy drugs to cure the people and my people are suffering. So I think that the Board is no asset to the Local Government Bodies in this Region. I therefore think it more useful that each Division should have its own Local Tenders Board with the Local Government Commissioner as the chairman. At present the Senior District Officer, Udi, is the chairman of the Nsukka, Awgu, Udi Local Government Tenders Board and because of the composition of this Board I do not know who is to be blamed in this matter. This Adada Bridge provides a short cut from Ukehe to Nkpologu and you can just imagine what hardship has been brought on my people by the absolute non-concern attitude shown in this matter by the Tenders Board.

Sir, I have to tell you that all Europeans in Enugu used to spend their week-ends at Adada

swimming, but since this bridge became damaged none of them has been coming and I can just imagine how displeased they have been about it all. I am appealing to the Minister to look into this my complaint and make it now possible for each Division to have its own Tenders Board.

This is the only point I have to make, Sir.

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyike): Mr Chairman, I am glad I now have the opportunity to reply to the accusations made against me by the Opposition Chief Whip. I am very pleased to state that after all careful scrutiny by the Chief Whip including his ransacking of my Ministry files he has nothing to find except what he has told the House. I take these accusations one after the other.

He accused me of writing off a former Minister's debt of £28 8s. These are the facts: On the 6th of November 1957 a bill for £28 8s incurred by Dr Esin for drinks two days before the election, was referred to me. I maintained that it was election expenses and he should be asked to pay that amount. This was my view which I honestly held. I might have been wrong or right but it was my view. You will note that this amount was incurred on the 10th January, 1957. For two years this amount was not recovered in spite of my ruling and all attempts to recover it according to my Ministry, failed. On the 29th December 1958, the matter was again referred to me. I will read the minutes referring the matter to me. My Permanent Secretary minuted this to me:

"You will recall the matter of drink purchased by Dr Esin which was not a proper charge against the Hospitality vote. Nothing has come out of our efforts to get Dr Esin to refund the amount. You will please direct."

Mr Chairman, for two years this amount was not recovered in spite of all efforts to do so by my Ministry. I held the view that if this amount could not be recovered after two years it was a bad debt. If it was a bad debt then I suggested it should be written off. This was my view. It was for the various Ministries concerned to accept the view or not. Is a Minister not entitled to express his opinion on

an issue like this? Is a Minister to be thrown overboard for holding a view on an issue like this? Must a Minister be accused in the way I have been accused, because he expresses a view? I have no power to write off a debt and it was for those who have that power to take or reject my view. If I am condemned because I honestly expressed my view I will gladly take the verdict. If I wanted to defraud or to abuse my office I could not have insisted that this amount should be refunded by Dr Esin. I did not write it off. If I did it should not have been taken to the various officers concerned who asked us to make further attempts to recover this amount by registering another letter to him. The matter is still in hand. And on the 30th April a letter was written to Dr Esin to pay this amount under registered cover.

These are the facts. Let the House judge. If it is the ruling of this House that a Minister should never express his honest opinion and that I have erred by expressing my opinion let this House say so. I will be prepared to take the ruling of this House.

I now turn to the accusation that I misused my Hospitality Allowance. It is said that I used my Vote to buy various goods ranging from khaki drill, white shirting, etc. The Opposition Chief Whip said he did not want to be accused of character assassination or being mischievous. But that is exactly what he was doing. I am pleased to note that I am not the only person to fall a victim to his character assassination. But I am glad to say that the facts prove my innocence. What are the facts? In December 1958, I ordered for certain goods from G.B. Ollivant which were delivered to me. That Company sent the bill to my Ministry. The Ministry referred the bill to me with a local purchase order No. 11476. I asked the Ministry to cancel the local purchase order for all the goods, as it was only the two last items that concerned the Ministry. This was done and the Ministry paid £28 5s vide payment voucher No. MLGT902/1958/59 and I paid £55 15s to G. B. Ollivant as per receipt No. 182/63 here in my hand. There was no argument and no mention that it was scandalous. All is false.

In this connection I may mention to the House that I have had occasion in the past to buy goods for my personal use in my Minister's

quarters. I bought in 1958 a bed amounting to £90—see G. B. Ollivant Invoice No. 180/84, here in my hand. I have chairs and tables in the Minister's quarters which belong to me and which will be removed by me when I leave the Ministry.

The Opposition Chief Whip is used to scandal but I am not. I was a man of means before I came to this Ministry and shall still be so if I leave it. Perhaps the Opposition Chief Whip may tell this House what he was before he came to this House and what he will be if he leaves it. The only thing scandalous in all this is that the Opposition Chief Whip should torture innocent facts to suit his mischief. Nothing will suit him more than to drag every Minister to the mud. I am glad he has sneaked into my Ministry files and the facts which exist prove my innocence.

If any of the things I bought for soft furnishing is questionable, Mr Chairman, I would like soft furnishing to be defined. The sooner Mr E. O. Eyo dies the better for the progress of this Region in particular and Nigeria as a whole.

Mr Chairman, today he is jumping like a monkey, saying that in Enyong Division, Oniong-Ndem-Awa District Council funds were misappropriated and in Ibesikpo Asutan District Council that the Treasurer stole £303 and were all reported to me but I took no action. Mr Chairman, this is news to me. I have never heard of them. He made various allegations of bribery and corruption. I think he knows where to make his report for appropriate action. It is a pity he should connect me with matters of bribery and corruption. He made mention also of £1,000, which he said passed in a Health Centre site struggle in my area. I do not know whether he meant my constituency.

An hon. Member: Uke in Onitsha Division.

Chief Onyiuke: I now understand the devil of the Opposition. With regard to the £1,000 about Uke, that is news to me. What I know about Uke is that Uke belongs to Onitsha Northern District Council, and Onitsha Northern District Council passed a resolution that the Health Centre should be built in Uke; later they rescinded the decision and it

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1155

[Appropriation Bill—

4 MAY 1959

Committee]

1156

[CHIEF ONYIUKÉ]

is now to be built at Umuoji. The people of Uke petitioned that the member for Umuoji was present when the former resolution was passed and I found out that the Council had not yet had six months to rescind its former decision and so gave instructions that the first decision must stand. If they gave Mr Eyo £1,000, that is for him to prove.

He made mention of employees of Local Government Councils who were transferred and when they came to Enugu, they went back bragging that the transfers had been cancelled. He does not know that I do not transfer them. How can they come to me to cancel their transfers? If the transfers were made by the Councils and they came to Enugu and I quashed them, then what the Opposition Chief Whip said would be true.

He talked about Aba Urban District Council drainage contract award. That was a question in this House which I have answered. If he says that there is any suspicion about the award of contracts let him take steps.

Mr Chairman, I am very grateful to hon. Oko for congratulating me for my tours, because I have covered all the District Councils in the Region twice and some thrice now. When he was congratulating me the Members opposite were heckling him and I wondered for what. They should be very grateful to

Question put: To increase Head 436 by £1,470.

Committee divided.

Ayes 56. Noes 15.

Division No. 6.

Mr C. A. Abangwu
Mr O. U. Afiah
Chief G. N. Agbasiere
Mr D. S. A. Agim
Mr D. E. Akilo
Mr H. U. Akpabio
Mr I. U. Akpabio
Mr D. O. Aligwekwe
Mr S. N. Alo
Mr J. W. E. Anaba
Mr R. O. Anoke
Mr N. L. P. Apreala
Dr N. Azikiwe

Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe for making it possible for them to come into this House and rub shoulders with Onyiuke III, the Owelle of Nimo.

The Opposition Chief Whip had the impudence to accuse me of bribery and corruption—an ex-convict; I do not understand him.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I am better than he; I can prove that to him.

Chief Onyiuke: Better than myself? My children are almost double the number of all of them opposite.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Opara): On point of order. Standing Order 27 (5). The hon. Member is not speaking, but he keeps on making interruptions.

Chief Onyiuke: If not because of the privilege given to him by the House he would have found himself in prison again.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Go and sit down.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, I am not very happy about the very bad behaviour this morning. As a result of this, I shall be forced, rather reluctantly, to take strict measures. It is not very parliamentary for a speaker to take very severe measures against a Member who makes allegations against him. I therefore ask Members to behave themselves.

11.20 a.m.

Ayes

Mr J. U. Nwodo
Mr P. O. Nwoga
Mr J. H. E. Nwuke
Mr M. U. Obayi
Dr A. N. Obonna
Mr M. E. Ogon
Mr C. A. Okafor
Mr J. O. Okeh
Mr G. E. Okeke
Mr P. N. Okeke
Mr G. C. Okeya
Mr G. I. Oko, M.B.E.
Mr E. P. Okoya

Mr E. Chidolue
Mr A. O. Chikwendu
Mr E. A. Chime
Mr E. Emole
Mr U. Enyi
Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba
Mr I. U. Imeh
Dr S. E. Imoke
Mr R. O. Iwuagwu
Mr S. E. K. Iwueke
Mr S. O. Masi
Mr D. A. Nnaji
Mr D. O. Nnamani
Mr V. A. Nwankwo

Dr M. I. Okpara
Mr K. J. N. Okpokam
Mr B. C. Okwu
Chief S. E. Onukogu
Mr P. A. Onwe
Mr N. O. Onwudiwe
Mr M. N. Onwuma
Chief A. N. Onyiuke
Rev. M. D. Opara
Mr E. W. Udonkim
Mr R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.
Mr J. O. Umolu
Mr P. O. Ururuka
Mr L. O. Uzoigwe

Tellers for the Ayes:—

Mr J. E. Eyo
Mr K. Kiri

Noes

Mr S. O. Achara
Mr J. A. Agba
Mr S. T. Akpan
Mr H. U. E. Edelduok
Rev. O. Efiang, C.B.E.
Mr M. U. Etuk
Mr E. O. Eyo

Mr S. G. Ikoku
Mr E. Ita
Mr O. O. Ita
Mr O. B. Nalelo
Dr W. N. Onubogu
Mr M. N. Yowika

Tellers for the Noes:—

Mr A. G. Umoh
Chief I. I. Morphy

Question proposed: That an increased sum of £95,040 for Head 436—Ministry of Local Government—be inserted in the First Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 437—Grants to Local Government Bodies

Question proposed: That a sum not exceeding £1,117,300 for Head 437—Grants to Local Government Bodies—stand part of the First Schedule.

Mr M. N. Yowika (Ogoni Division):
Mr Chairman, Sir, I am speaking on Government's policy on Head 437. I feel that Government has been fair in the distribution of grants to Local Government bodies, but may I say, Sir, that the making of the grants is one thing and the wise expenditure of these grants by the Local Government Bodies concerned is another. By wise expenditure, Sir, I mean the spending of the money for the purposes for which it is intended.

Mr Chairman, may I know from the hon. Minister of Local Government what steps he has taken in the many cases of misappropriation, corruption and inefficiency which are common in most Local Government bodies? Take, for example, Sir, the Khana District Council. In 1957–58, this Council levied rates on the tax-payers, ranging from 8s in certain areas to 13s in others and kept no record of the amount of money collected. I asked the Minister of Local Government to tell me how much money was collected and how the money was expended but up till now he has not told me anything.

Secondly, Sir, I have pointed out before that Government approved fifty-three Universal Primary Education buildings for Ogoni and gave £300 for the erection of each of the buildings. Twenty-one of these schools have not been built till now. The Minister of Local Government is aware that certain Councils have misappropriated this sum of £6,300. May I know what steps he has taken about this?

[MR YOWIKA]

Thirdly, in November last year the District Council terminated the appointment of all its labourers without notice and without even a week's salary in lieu of notice. The hon. Minister of Local Government knows of this but took no steps.

Mr Chairman, there are several other cases which will ache your ears and the ears of hon. Members of this hon. House if I mention them, but since I do not intend to cause you and hon. Members any pain I have to refrain from mentioning them.

Several hon. Members: We would like to hear them.

Mr Yowika: There is a recent case of some Local Government employees who have taken active part in politics and the Council took a decision and terminated their appointment. On the 9th of March this year some of these men who were involved came down to Enugu to see the Minister so that nothing was done about their case. The result was that the Council's decision was ignored.

Mr Chairman, may I say that the cases I have mentioned are sufficient to move the hon. Minister of Local Government to institute a Commission of Inquiry probing into the affairs of the Khana District Council. So, Sir, I feel that Government should not only give grants to Local Government bodies but should also undertake the responsibility of seeing that the grants to these Councils are wisely spent. I have said earlier about my appreciation of Government policy in the distribution of grants to Local Government bodies. I would say also that Government has been fair to all Local Government Councils except Ogoni. I will tell you what I mean, Sir. May I draw your attention to the Draft Estimates before the House—the 1959-1960 Draft Estimates, page E. 95, Head 437.

For purposes of comparison, may I take five Divisions: Aba, Abak, Abakaliki, Degema and Ogoni. I am dealing with the grants for 1958-59 and 1959-60. In 1958-59 Aba Division received a total grant of £60,782; this year 1959-60 Aba will receive £61,960—an increase of £1,178. Abak in 1958-59 received £32,086; this year 1959-60 Abak will receive £34,325—that is an increase of £2,239. Abakaliki Division in 1958-59 received £65,887; this year Abakaliki will receive £70,797—that is

an increase of £4,911. Degema in 1958-59 received £16,159; this year Degema will receive £21,315—that is an increase of £5,156. Ogoni in 1958-59 received £21,549; this year 1959-60 Ogoni will receive £21,798—that is an increase of £249.

Now, Sir, compare the grants. Let us take the last two I have mentioned—Degema and Ogoni. Compare the grants for Degema and Ogoni and you will see that Degema which received £16,159 in 1958-59 will receive this year £21,315—that is an increase of £5,156. Ogoni which received £21,549 in 1958-59 will receive this year £21,798—that is an increase of only £249. This is most unfair, Sir, especially when it is remembered that Degema Division has a total population of 117,529 whereas Ogoni has a total population of 156,717. Sir, I feel this is most unfair to Ogoni and I would like to know from the Minister of Local Government on what basis he made his calculations.

While on this, Sir, may I remind Government that Ogoni is a separate tribe with a distinct language, culture and tradition of its own and should be known and recognised by Government as such. I observe that Government always forgets Ogoni when planning for the distribution of amenities. In the whole of Ogoni Division there is no Pioneer Oil Mill, no Industry, but if you go along you find that in other Divisions there are three or four Pioneer Oil Mills. This Ogoni Division is situated in an Oil Palm Belt and Government knows of this. But the Government deliberately refused to do anything for the people. Sir, what I am saying is that it is about time that this Government stopped despising the people of Ogoni and gave them their fair share in everything. I am appealing to Government that in their distribution of amenities, they should see that Ogoni is given her recognition and given her share.

Mr Chairman, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr S. N. Alo (Abakaliki Division): Mr Chairman, I have just only one point to raise and that is in connection with Block Grants to Councils. I would like the Minister of Local Government to reconsider the method of making block grants to newly established urban district councils. As shown in the Grants to Local Government Bodies, there are six newly established District Councils, namely, Abakaliki Urban District Council, Umuahia-Ibeku, Ikom, Opobo, Ugep and Oguta Councils and these

Councils cannot stand on their own without sufficient funds in order to carry on the heavy duties in the Council.

Mr Chairman, we are very grateful that the method of block grants has been increased by the Minister which he said is 3s for District Council and 4s 6d for Urban District Council, but with such young councils that I have mentioned, their block grants should be increased to about 6s per head. That will enable the Councils to have sufficient money to plan their areas into modern townships.

Mr Chairman, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise what I consider an issue of policy. It is the question of the finances of Local Government Councils generally. Our view is that the Local Councils in this Region are not given ample elbow-room financially. They are too much tied to the apron-strings of the Regional Government and I can admit that this is a very controversial issue not only in this country but also in many other countries of the world. The issue is to what extent the Local Government Councils should be financially autonomous. I am submitting here that we have made our Local Government Councils a little too dependent on the Regional Government for their finances and as a result, Local Government Councils initiative will be stunted.

Looking through the grants you will find that the grants given constitute something like 30 per cent to as high as 50 per cent of the revenue of our Local Councils. No doubt, we would like to have the Regional Government making grants to the Local Councils; but I think the Local Councils should be given greater financial autonomy to enable them to exercise their civic rights and initiative as Local Councils. I do not see what is wrong with giving the Local Councils absolute authority over their rating. Right now, Sir, the Regional Government has placed a ceiling of 15s on rates by District Councils. What is there against a District Council which carves out a development project within its area of authority, and the people in that area are prepared to pay for this development project

and they find that it is going to cost about £1 or £2 per head—what is wrong in that Council having the right to levy such rates in order to provide this amenity? Right now there is a ceiling of 15s. You can not go beyond 15s.

We have all agreed that in a welfare state the people have to pay for their amenities. If that principle is accepted why not allow Local Councils to pay for whatever amenities their people want? Why should the rate of progress in Aba be tied to the rate of progress in Abakaliki? Why should the rate of progress in Yenagoa be the same as that in Obudu? Surely, if Obudu people are prepared to pay for amenities let them do so, and if the people in Yenagoa do not want to pay for amenities that is left to them. That is the principle I like, and I would most humbly submit to Government to adopt it.

About tax, the whole point is this: the Regional Government is responsible for income tax, and they take decisions at this level. But the Local Government Councils are responsible for rates and if the people at the local level are prepared to have extra amenities and pay for them what is wrong in the District Councils levying rates accordingly? What is the big idea for not granting them this right? The money which those councils get from the levies will be used to provide the amenities for the rate-payers.

I would like to suggest, Sir, that in keeping with this theory of increased financial autonomy for Local Government Councils that such things as vehicle licences should be handed over to the Local Government authorities. Every Divisional Headquarters should have the right to collect vehicle licences and to retain the proceeds.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Mr Ikoku: Why No! No? This is done elsewhere. The position now, Sir, is that when vehicle licences are collected, the money is sent to Enugu. The same is the case with minor items like Goldsmiths Licence fees and similar things. As a result, Sir, the District Councils just have no means of raising money locally; and if you ask any District Council today about providing certain amenities at the local level, the common answer is that

[MR IKOKU]

“Enugu will not give money”. The hands of these Councils are tied. They should have the right to levy rates themselves in order to provide certain amenities.

Sir, a corollary of this is the disparity in the rate of grants payable to District Councils. Urban District Councils get 4s 6d per head of population while Rural District Councils get 3s per head of population. I want to know from Government the principle on which they have based this discrimination. The people in the urban areas have got more rateable property. They rate buildings in Aba, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, etc., and yet they provide more revenue for them whereas the Councils in the rural areas have no such property to rate. Why should they then be penalised by being made to receive only 3s per head of population, while urban dwellers are given 4s 6d? The result, Sir, is that the urban areas continue to be developed while the rural areas continue to stagnate. In fact, if Government wanted to discriminate it should have been in favour of the rural areas and not against them. It is much cheaper, for example, to provide electricity at Aba than at Ikem. This is obvious. Some of these Urban Councils' projects cost much less because the bigger the scale of production the less the cost and therefore the Rural Councils have to carry greater overheads. So, as I said before, if the Government wanted to discriminate it should be in favour of the rural areas.

Lastly, Sir, I must humbly submit that an amount of roughly £100,000 given out by way of loans to all District Councils in this Region is ridiculously small. I think there are about 89 District Councils in the Region. If my memory serves me right, you will find, that the rate of loan granted to each District Council is much less than £1,500. I am asking the Minister to tell this hon. House what can be done by a District Council in its area of jurisdiction in a whole year with £1,500. They can do almost nothing with it. I therefore appeal to the Government to think seriously about raising its loans fund and thereby making more money available to these District Councils by way of loans.

Now this request of mine can be tied to my earlier plea for financial autonomy to Councils.

Why should Government not reward a Council which is prepared to raise a considerable sum of money locally? Why should such a Council not be rewarded by granting it a large sum of money to develop its area?

If a project is to cost £50,000 and the District Council is prepared to raise about £30,000, surely, such a District Council has shown enough financial responsibility to benefit from the loans fund of the Government. But if we do not give them this financial autonomy, they will not be in a position to raise this money and so whenever we try to canvass in the local areas, they say: well, Enugu should finance the whole thing, but Enugu is not in a position to finance 100 per cent of all development in Enugu. Why should we then not bring about the change in our financial policy as regards Local Government Councils?

Sitting suspended at 12 noon.

Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Chairman, I was trying to call for a review of the financial structure of Local Government Councils in the Region. Before I conclude, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to one or two points. One is of general importance and the other concerns Enyong Division. In the case of Enyong Division, Sir, there had been some agitation for an Upper Eburutu Rural District Council. I observe, Sir, that a Commission was set up in 1955, headed by Mr P. F. Grant, which investigated the matter thoroughly and made recommendations that an Upper Eburutu District Council should be set up. Later on, Mr G. I. Jones made his investigation into the chieftaincy in the area; and we accepted Jones's Report. Mr Jones went on to recommend that Natural Rulers should sit in the Upper Eburutu District Council.

In July last year, the people of this area sent a petition to the Ministry of Local Government asking that their claims should be looked into. I remember, Sir, that the Premier did solicit for an end to the demand for new councils, but, Mr Chairman, you will see from the date of the Grant Report that this agitation started as far back as 1954. It is not a recent agitation, just started for political reasons; and I humbly

urge the Minister to give urgent consideration to problems connected with the agitation for the Upper Eburutu District Council.

My last point is the question of Local Councils. We have District Councils and we have Local Councils, and I regret to observe that most Local Councils are dying out. They are not attracting as much attention from the people as should be the case. We have tried to find out the causes for this, but I do not think that any one reason could be given. However, I feel, Sir, that the mere fact that Local Councils are not taken into consideration with regard to sitting allowance, etc., is the reason why Local Councils no longer attract important personalities at the local level. I would suggest that something should be done. The Ministry should make a thorough investigation into the matter and find out ways and means of rejuvenating our Local Councils as the lowest rung in the ladder of democratic government.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Question: That a sum not exceeding £1,117,300 for Head 437—Grants to Local Government Bodies—stand part of the First Schedule, put and agreed to.

Head 438.—Ministry of Town Planning

Question proposed: That a sum not exceeding £163,690 for Head 438—Ministry of Town Planning—stand part of the First Schedule.

The Minister of Town Planning (Mr E. Emole): Mr Chairman, as the Minister charged with the responsibility for Town Planning, I wish to explain the activities of the Divisions which come under my portfolio, and also define Government policy with regard to these Divisions.

The Ministry of Town Planning was brought into existence under its present name a little over a year ago. The new name indicates a wider responsibility than before. The Land and Survey Divisions had hitherto been almost the sole activities of the Ministry; but in keeping with the rapid development taking place in this Region, two new Divisions have been established and added to the Ministry: these are the Town Planning and the Administrative Divisions.

The Director of Surveys and the Commissioner of Lands are now called the Surveyor-General and the Principal Land Officer respectively. The Town Planning Officer will be recruited shortly; and a newly appointed Accountant is at the head of the Administrative Division.

In accordance with the principle of integration within Ministries, the activities of the four Divisions are now co-ordinated by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry to whom the Heads of the Divisions are therefore responsible.

In my speech in this House sometime last year I said, Sir, that my hon. predecessor in office had occasion to refer to the Survey Division as the "Cinderella" of all the other Government Departments. The attitude my predecessor in office was describing is not peculiar to the state of affairs of the Government of this Region nor to that of any other Government within the Federation. It appears to be a general attitude in many other parts of the world, and is most probably due to the unfortunate lack of a proper appreciation of the importance of Survey Service in the development of any country. Consequently whenever a Government is able to provide amply for its Departments, the Survey Department is usually the last to be considered; and if it becomes necessary, in the interest of economy, to resort to austerity, the axe usually falls on the Survey Department first.

Yet it is a fact, Sir, that without an adequate and efficient Survey service, it is almost impossible to carry out development projects either after a world war or in a rapidly developing country like ours.

It is the policy of this Government, Sir, that its Survey Division will no longer be allowed to work under serious handicap, in view of the vast development projects envisaged in the Region for which the efficient services of the Division will be in even greater demand than now.

As an index of this policy the Headquarters Office of the Survey Division is no longer in a wooden bungalow, almost in a state of dilapidation, and in an obscure place; a magnificent Headquarters building costing £26,000 has been completed and opened, and now provides pleasant as well as adequate conditions for

[MR EMOLE]

work for officers of the Division. The building I am referring to, Sir, is only a stone-throw from this House, and I am sure many hon. Members of this House must have seen it and admired its splendid architecture without realising that it is the abode of our "Cinderella" who now means to assert herself.

Furthermore, in comparison with the deplorable staff position of the preceding years, 1958 was quite remarkable for the improvement in staff of the Survey Division. The number of "Senior Service" officers is now increased to seven, and there are nine officers under training in the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology and two in the United Kingdom. It is, however, not to be expected that this increase in staff will be adequate to cope with the many tasks which confront this Division: the increasing demand for Survey services in connection with the development projects of the Region far outstrips the recent increase in the establishments of the Division. During 1959-60, and in a few years to come, emphasis will still therefore have to be on the drawing of junior staff for posts in the Senior Service.

During 1958 the bulk of the work of the Survey Division was cadastral, that is the demarcation of boundaries of plots. This work entailed considerable touring throughout the Region.

The improvement in staff has made possible the formation of a small topographical section which is responsible for compiling and revising large-scale map-sheets of the townships in the Region. It is intended to build up this topographical section so that work may be started on the revision of old, and the compilation of new, medium-scale map-sheets. Preparation for this work is already in hand.

The Drawing Office at the Headquarters has been equally busy with the training of recruits and the introduction of new methods of production. A survey of the "Independence Layout" in Enugu is in progress, and is expected to be completed shortly.

Mr Chairman, before leaving the Survey Division I must record my appreciation for the excellent work done by the Survey Division under the direction of Mr D. M. Y. Armstrong.

Mr Armstrong came on secondment from the Federal Survey Service to this Region at a time when a sad calamity suddenly left the Survey Division without a Head, and every effort to fill the post of Director of Surveys was in vain. He is now required back in the Federal Survey Department and has left. Fortunately an able relief has been appointed, and I have no doubt that the high standard of work of this Division will be maintained.

The Land Division of the Ministry has been kept busier than ever before. The demand for building plots has reached an unprecedented height. Such is the demand that in many towns all the plots in the old layout on Crown Land have been taken up, and it has become necessary to design new layouts either by using up marginal Crown land or acquiring more land. The amount of work entailed is such as would require almost double the present staff of the Division to carry it out efficiently.

Unfortunately the Division suffered serious reduction in its staff during 1958. The Headquarters staff of four was reduced to two. The Senior Land Officer retired from the service in May, 1958, and in July, the Commissioner of Lands proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement. The mature experience of the two most Senior Officers of the Division was therefore lost. With the headquarters staff thus seriously truncated it was difficult to imagine how the increasing volume of work could be carried out with competence. But, thanks to the resources of the Division, a Nigerian Officer within the Division was appointed to act as Commissioner of Lands and another as Senior Land Officer.

Notwithstanding this handicap in staff, added to the fact that the Division has now been 100 per cent Nigerianised, work has continued with unabating energy and competence.

During 1958 a total of 1,008 plots were made available in layouts throughout the Region, and of these 929 have been allocated. A further 603 have been surveyed and await the provision of services before allocation.

It is the policy of the Government to relieve congestion in old towns and channel activities into special layouts. Accordingly further layouts were designed, namely, the Amadi

Extension in Port Harcourt, six small layouts in Enugu and the Umuahia-Ibeku Commercial Layout. Many more layouts are in course of design.

The policy of providing modern amenities in layouts on Crown Land is not confined to the big towns, but is being carried into other administration headquarters and business towns where plots are in demand, or where agricultural and commercial activities indicate the possibility of Government realising its outlay by means of premium and ground rent. For instance, at Ikoma and Abakaliki new layouts on Crown Land are being designed, and a layout of 78 plots has been planned in Degema to relieve congestion at Abonnema. At Ikot Ekpene a layout of 200 plots has been designed and road work is in progress.

At this point, Mr Chairman, I wish to reiterate the principle and procedure governing the allocation of plots to applicants:

- (a) All applications for plots on Crown Land are made to the local Land Officer and a copy is forwarded by the applicant direct to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Town Planning. This procedure ensures that every application for a plot reaches the Permanent Secretary.
- (b) It is the Minister of Town Planning himself who allocates plots after carefully considering each application; and the allocation is based upon the principle of need and financial ability of the applicant to develop the plot that may be allocated.
- (c) Each successful applicant is required to make the following payments in respect of the plot allocated to him:—
 - (i) *Preparation Fee* which is fixed at £3 per plot.
 - (ii) *Stamp Duty* which varies according to the number of years of the lease and the rent payable: it is fixed at £1 for every £25 of rent for a lease of 99 years.
 - (iii) *Registration Fee* which is fixed at £1 10s per plot.
 - (iv) *Premium or Development Rate* which depends upon the cost of developing the layout in which the plot is allocated.

- (v) *Rent* which is payable yearly and varies according to the size of the plot, the area in which it is located, and the purpose for which it is required.

No applicant is required to make any payment in respect of his application before that application is considered; and no other payment is required of a successful applicant other than the payments I have just enumerated.

With the encouragement being provided by pioneer industrialists such as Williams and Williams, etc., it is hoped that foreign capital will be attracted into this Region. In anticipation of this, consideration is being given to acquiring land in suitable places for development as industrial estates. A start has been made in Port Harcourt, and negotiations are under way for experts to plan the layout.

The Administrative Division, headed by an Accountant has been established in the Ministry for two main reasons. It will be responsible for the accounting duties of the Ministry and also relieve the other Divisional Heads of much of the administrative work they had in the past been combining with technical work.

The revenue of the Ministry continues to grow: a total of over £300,000 is expected during 1959–60. It is necessary that the business of collecting such a large sum of money from various sources in the Ministry should be the responsibility of an Accountant. He will devise ways and means of collecting rents, fees and premiums. Already a policy has been devised whereby rents, fees and premiums are collected within thirty days of issuing the letter offering a plot to an applicant, and it is working well.

I have already said that very rapid development is taking place all over the Region, particularly in towns. The old established towns are expanding and new towns are springing up. There is already a strong tendency for slum areas to spring up on the outskirts of the big towns: this is clearly the case in Aba. In some of the smaller but expanding towns modern buildings are being put up among mud and thatch village houses with no provision for roads, drains, or open spaces.

[MR EMOLE]

If this rapid development is left unregulated it will result in chaotic conditions. It is the policy of the Government to prevent the occurrence of such chaotic conditions, and steps are being taken to plan the towns into zones for various different purposes and to plan proper layouts. This will prevent having residential and industrial buildings mixed up together, and will provide for uncongested housing areas. For these reasons a Town Planning Division has been established in the Ministry, and the fact that the Ministry takes its name from this Division indicates the importance of the work of the Division.

The Nigeria Town and County Planning Ordinance was enacted about twelve years ago in order to provide for the creation of planning authorities with wide powers to control and plan development within the areas of their jurisdiction. The basic principle underlying the Ordinance is that proper planning increases the value of the land planned, and therefore those persons benefiting from the increased value of the land should be called upon to pay planning rates to finance the planning schemes.

A number of town planning authorities has already been established in the Region, but most of the planning schemes so far carried out are on Crown Land. There is no reason, however, why such schemes should be confined to Crown Land or to towns, and it is a healthy sign of the general awakening of the people that more towns, even in rural areas, are anxious to have two planning authorities established in their areas.

The Town Planning Division of my Ministry will be charged with, among other things, the responsibility of offering expert advice to planning authorities.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I wish to thank all those who have expressed appreciation for the work done so far by my Ministry. I can assure them that with the co-operation of the hon. Members of this House and of the general public, my Ministry will endeavour to do much more to make this Region a beautiful and healthy place.

Mr D. S. A. Agim (Orlu Division): Mr Chairman, I am taking this opportunity to

comment on the allocation of plots in Orlu Division. I wish to thank the Minister of Town Planning for developing layouts in Orlu and splitting them into plots, but there is only one point that I wish to draw his attention to, which does not meet with the approval of the people of Orlu, and that is what he calls "Development Rate". Mr Chairman, Sir, in Orlu—as the Minister himself will bear me out—the prospective landlord has practically no hold of anything like material income such as in the way of rent as is the case in urban areas. We wanted that place to be made out into plots, in order to beautify the headquarters of our Division, not so much as to make money out of these plots as is possible in places like Port Harcourt, Aba, and so on, and we were just taken aback by the huge sum of £150 for the development charges only.

I approached the Minister and he told me that that sum was so heavy that he himself was startled at it, but on making inquiries, he found that it included the amount used in securing the land from the original owners before it was divided into plots. While I do agree that some expenditure was made in connection with the acquisition of the piece of land, I am submitting, Sir, that we have a sum of £7 10s per annum per plot and the owners will continue to pay this £7 10s or any revised rates in the future and the amount will continue to be refunded from the income derived from this £7 10s. So that dividing the cost of actual planning of the place and the cost of the land wholesale on the people who benefit from this allocation, I think, is too heavy to start with. So I am submitting, Sir, that the Minister of Town Planning should reconsider this with the Minister of Finance and reduce this sum of £150 to some reasonable amount like, say, £50. Then part of the ground rent collected each year will be used for refunding the sources from which the money for the purchase of the land was originally got.

Many people of Orlu Division are very very happy that the place has been planned and that plots have been laid out too.

Another thing that I would like to say is in connection with Port Harcourt. The people of Port Harcourt are very happy that Gborokiri plots are being allocated. There is grudge from some of the squatters who were not able to get these plots but, of course, I cannot vouch

for their ability to develop the plots. The only thing I would like to do is to appeal to the Minister to look into some of their complaints and see whether some of them are in a position to develop plots, and if so to consider them.

Mr Chairman, with these few remarks I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr S. O. Achara (Okigwi Division): I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr H. U. E. Edelduok (Eket Division): Mr Chairman, I just want to say a few things. I consider that this Ministry is a very important one. I therefore would like to say that Oron and Eket in my Division are overdue for planning. It is over ten years now since the Government proposed that Eket and Oron would be planned but it has not been done up till now. I appeal to the Minister to set up a town planning authority at Eket and Oron to plan those two places, especially Oron. Oron is situated at the terminus of a long road from Lagos and serves as an important base in this Region. I think the Minister in charge will find it necessary to pay attention to the planning of Oron and Eket as soon as possible.

I also want to say that other towns especially in the COR State areas should be planned because when towns like Eket and Oron are planned, they will help to be of some use and would prevent the influx into townships like Enugu and Aba. I want to suggest to the Minister in charge that not only big towns should be given attention but also big villages. I feel that when big villages are planned enough land will be freed for agricultural purposes and will enable this Region to provide more food for its growing population. Also improved sanitation will result. Therefore, I think the Minister in charge will take note that not only big towns but also villages and small towns should be planned.

With these few observations I beg to move that the Head be reduced by £100.

*Amendment proposed to reduce Head 438—
Ministry of Town Planning by £100.*

Mr K. Kiri (Degema Division): Mr Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment and to call the attention of the Minister of Town

Planning to sub-head 1 items 14 and 29. Prior to this time, in that Ministry there was a Commissioner of Lands, then there was at that time also an Administrative Department and the Survey Department; but now we have the Administration, the Town Planning Division, the Land Division and the Survey Division. I observe that in the previous year the Commissioner of Lands was not receiving a salary in any way inferior to the Surveyor-General who is under Group 6 but in the present one we find that the Principal Land Officer is under Group 7 whereas the Surveyor-General is in Group 6. From enquiries I have been informed that both in training and in qualification the Surveyor-General is not in any way superior to the Principal Land Officer who is now in Group 7. I think in order to encourage the present holder or the one acting in that capacity it would be fair enough that both officers should be under one Group.

The reason why I have to call the attention of the Minister is that the Principal Land Officer, even though we have a Permanent Secretary now, is still doing the work of Commissioner of Lands and at that time that we had the Commissioner of Lands in the Ministry of Town Planning we still had a Permanent Secretary. It would be wrong now to argue that because we have a Permanent Secretary part of the administrative work hitherto done by the Commissioner of Lands is now done by the Permanent Secretary. After all, this Department is indeed a technical one and it would be difficult for the Permanent Secretary who has not studied the land tenure in the various places in the Region to be able to advise the Minister on Land, particularly now that I am made to understand that this particular Department is at present responsible for town planning. They do the planning before the Surveyor goes to the field to survey according to the instructions given by the Town Planning Section. How dare we then make the Head of the Town Planning Division inferior to the Head of the Survey Division?

I am suggesting, Sir, that in fairness to both officers and not to make the present holder of the office of Principal Land Officer feel that he is being discriminated against (probably because he is an African) the Surveyor-General and the Principal Land Officer be placed under Group 6. Furthermore, I think it is the intention of this Government to provide equal opportunity for those who do equal work. It

[MR KIRI]

is difficult for the Minister to prove to this hon. House that the Surveyor-General who is under Group 6 is carrying out more essential work than the Principal Land Officer who is under Group 7.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba (Orlu Division): Mr Chairman, in support of what hon. Agim has said, I want the Minister to approach the Government to see that the premium rate asked by the Minister that the people to whom plots were allotted in Orlu Government Station should pay is subsidised by Government and the Government should draw the amount through the annual rate which shall be paid by these plot owners. Nobody to whom this plot is allotted is prepared to pay this amount which ranges from £160 to £180 because the price is too exorbitant. Even in Port Harcourt where people do enjoy commercial plots, they have not been asked to pay such a heavy amount. How much more of an area of rural nature. This will make some people who come from such an area and who want their area to be laid out to withdraw from calling the Government to do so because of this high rate. Therefore I am asking the Government to reconsider their decision and have the amount subsidised.

Mr P. A. Onwe (Abakaliki Division): Mr Chairman, in the first place I congratulate the Minister for making it possible for Abakaliki to be plotted, but I want to say that this area which is said to be plotted is bit by bit being let out. I do not know whether the people who now take up plots in this area do so under the same agitation put in by others and as far as that goes, I want to say that it was not made explicit that copies of the application made from day-to-day should be forwarded to Enugu so that not everybody who had applied had a copy of his letter in Enugu. I think the Ministry should put up some notice however short so that people should be made aware of this.

I do not know whether we have a land planning authority at Abakaliki. If that is so, I would like the Minister to make a statement to that effect, because we would want the plots to be let out and distributed so that those who had no plots originally could be given preference and not people who have built two, three, four or five plots just because they have

enough money to acquire the plots. Everybody should be given equal opportunity.

I want to draw the attention of the Minister to what is going on at Nkalagu at the moment. At Nkalagu we have Cement Industry and such industry should naturally draw the attention of the people from all parts of the country with the result that everybody is trying to make a home at Nkalagu and people have built houses here and there with all sorts of plans and the whole place is looking nasty. The District Council at Ishielu wanted to make an attempt at getting a piece of land planned but the way they went about it was wrong because they simply jumped into one block and started clearing and surveying.

I am asking whether it would be possible for the Ministry of Town Planning to acquire land adjacent to the Cement Industry, plan it and let it out to the people instead of allowing them to build anyhow. That will help people to start from the beginning to avoid what in future may be considered as block area. Alternatively, Local Councils can be subsidised by way of grant or loans and they themselves will be able to carry out the project. I want to inform the Minister that the people of the area are quite prepared to give as much land as may be required for the project.

Mr S. N. Alo (Abakaliki Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to make some observations about the Ministry of Town Planning. It is high time that the Government should review the land acquired by Government at the time when the white men had full control of the primitive people in this Region. I say this because it was said that the land was given out rent free by the people. This, I am sure, was not fully explained to them before they signed such leases. I should say that it is not our custom to sell or lease out land to strangers, and our people had that opinion when they were asked by the white men to allow them to settle in such and such a town. I would wish the Government to review this matter because it is obvious that the people did not give out the land rent free.

Mr Chairman, another point is that we from Abakaliki are grateful that the Minister of Town Planning is arranging to set up a Planning Authority in Abakaliki. I would wish to register this point that most of the original

land owners were forced out of their villages because of this question of land acquisition in Abakaliki. I would suggest to the Minister that those who were so forced out should be favourably considered when such plots shall be allocated.

Mr Chairman, another point I would like to make is that we have reached a stage where we should have a comprehensive map of this Region showing all the big towns. Right up to now, Sir, there is no map to show a local council area or a district council area. If such is made available it is easier for the Government to understand the problems of communication.

Mr Chairman, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr E. Chidolue (Onitsha Division): Mr Chairman, I rise to make some observations on this Ministry. It is a Ministry with which I am actively connected and I would like to see it progress.

In the first place, Mr Chairman, the hon. Minister has given the explanation for giving this Ministry the name "Town" Planning. I wish to say that I do not agree with him. Many a time in this House when we bring up certain questions we are either referred to the Federal Government, the Northern Region Government or the Western Region Government, but in this particular case, you find that in the Federal Government, Northern or Western Region Governments, they always use Land and Survey or Land and some other department joined together. There is no case of Town Planning. The point I want to make is that the ordinary natives do not understand what we are talking about when we say Ministry of "Town Planning." Even in the Secretariat you will find that people who go to look for the Ministry or the Minister himself, on seeing "Ministry of Town Planning" become confused and are forced to go to the Survey Department or the Lands Department.

I would like, therefore, to call the attention of the Minister to page E 99 of the Draft Estimates and there he will find there are four Divisions making up the Ministry—Administration, Town Planning, Land, and Survey Divisions. The Administration Division has 7 sub-heads, Town Planning has only 1 sub-head, Land has 15 sub-heads and Survey has 24 sub-heads. It beats my

imagination, Mr Chairman, why a Division with only one sub-head should be made to dominate others with 15 to 24 sub-heads. I think the emphasis should be on land because without land there will be no town planning, there will be no surveying, there will be no administration and even right here without land there will be no Eastern House of Assembly. So I think, Sir, that emphasis should be on land or perhaps on Land and Survey as it is in other Regions of the Federation.

An hon. Member: It is late now.

Mr Chidolue: It is not late at all.

I would also like to say that I welcome the change of the name of the Head of the Survey Division from Director of Surveys to Surveyor-General. My hon. Friend, Mr Kalada Kiri, has made comparison between Surveyor-General and the Principal Land Officer. I think he was wrong. For example, if two people with identical qualifications are sent for training in order to qualify as Surveyor-General and Principal Land Officer, all things being equal, the man who went to do Estate Management will come back just in three to four years' time fully qualified whereas it will take the other man five to six years to qualify as a Surveyor. Study in surveying is considerably more tedious than in Estate Management. I want, too, to emphasise that when they come back the man who went for Estate Management can easily fit into his own Division but if you look at the Draft Estimates, you will find that before a man becomes Surveyor-General he will first start as a Surveyor, that for many years, then he becomes Senior Surveyor, that for many years, then he becomes Principal Surveyor, and that for many years too, before he becomes a Surveyor-General. In the Western Region the Surveyor-General there has put in about 28 years service before being promoted to his present post.

The hon. Minister explained that for many years he had difficulty in recruiting a Head for the Survey Division or what was called Director of Surveys formerly. For this reason the Region had to accept on secondment one Mr Armstrong from the Federal Government. Even the present Surveyor-General is a man who had put in so many years service in Nigeria and retired 10 years ago. I think the only reason why we were forced to bring him back to Nigeria was because the Minister could

[MR CHIDOLUE]

not succeed in getting somebody who had sufficient experience to be the Head of the Survey Department. I think that is the more reason why people should appreciate the importance of head of Survey Department. I will not continue to make comparisons lest I might be tempted to lower the prestige of the Principal Land Officer.

An hon. Member: He is a Surveyor too.

Mr Chidolue: No, he is not.

My other point, Mr Chairman, is about the policy for plots allocation in this Region. The present Minister of Town Planning is a very honest man as we all know, and most of us are very pleased with his quiet disposition. But the point I want to make is that it is for the Minister to see that some of the policies which do not satisfy people are changed. You find that in some townships, when plots are being allocated, some people who had plots before are not allowed to have plots but there are many layouts different from one another, and as time progresses you might like to own a plot in another layout, perhaps of a better type. For example, where you have plots measuring 50 feet by 100 feet and later you change your mind to own bigger plots of one acre, it is reasonable that you be considered for a plot in a suitable layout. I think it is unfair not to allow people who had plots measuring 50 feet by 100 feet to be considered because this is a different type of layout and those who built on 50 feet by 100 feet plots, as life progresses, might like to shift to a place which is more spacious. I think everybody here knows that plots measuring 50 feet by 100 feet are just good for commercial purposes or for people who want to give them out on rent to small tenants, but for actual residential purposes, they are not very good.

Another thing is that sometimes the argument that somebody has had a plot before does not help because some people who have not had a plot before, when they are given, many a time they do not build on it. They rather keep it for a year or two or even three and then sell it at a very exorbitant price. I think that some time limit should be given within which period if a man does not build on his plot, Government should take it away from him and give to someone who is prepared to build.

Several hon. Members: There are provisions for that.

Mr Chidolue: That is always so on paper. I feel that if it is made a condition that people who had an old plot should sell it before they are given a new one, many of them will be prepared to do so, provided they are given better plots.

Mr Chairman, Sir, another point I would like to mention is this question of layout where communities have some communal land. Under the Town Planning Ordinance, especially in a place like Enugu, it is a condition that before you lay out your land and sell to people, it must be approved by the Town Planning Authority. The trouble is that many a time, sketch plans are sent to the Town Planning Authorities and no prompt action is ever taken. I know of so many cases where these plans have been deposited for over one year and no steps have been taken. Where people are willing to make use of their land or to sell it to other people, they cannot do so. I appreciate the difficulty because the Minister says that a Senior Town Planning Officer is expected soon. Perhaps that might ease the situation but even then, I want to make another remark that in the Draft Estimates we have one Senior Town Planning Officer. I think if we have also in the Estimates provision for a Town Planning Officer or Assistant Town Planning Officer working under this Senior Officer directly, there will be somebody ready to take over the job, if the Senior Town Planning Officer is sick or leaves this country suddenly.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, is the question of model villages. We allow our small urban areas to build indiscriminately and there are no streets. The result is that after so many years you find that any efforts to improve that town will be difficult. Those of us who have taken the trouble to study what it cost the Federal Government to improve Old Lagos, know what I am talking about. The slum clearance in Lagos is costing the Federal Government quite a big sum of money and in places like Onitsha and Calabar, where you have the old native way of planning, you find that it is impossible for Government to improve these areas unless they can afford to reserve a very huge amount of money for paying compensation. So I am suggesting to the Minister that efforts should be made to lay out model villages before it is too late.

Mr Chairman, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr J. W. E. Anaba (Obubra Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to contribute my small quota to this debate. In doing so, Sir, I would first of all thank the Government for having set up this Ministry. The sole intention of this Ministry, I think, is meant to promote decency in the eyes of a stranger, a visitor to the Eastern Regional capital. But then, what about the Provinces?

The people of the rural areas do not know the routine activities of this Ministry and it should therefore be the bounden duty of the Minister to make a wide tour of the rural areas of this Region to explain the use and mission of his Ministry.

For example, Sir, the Government has acceded, or soon will accede to the request of the people of Ugep in my Division to enjoy an autonomous Local Government. That is to say, Ugep would have to manage its own affairs without financial assistance from Obubra District Council. This town was planned roughly as far back as 1940 by some one who usurped the right of another person *in absentia*—a Medical Officer for that matter. Although it was not the wish of the people for their town to be planned owing to ignorance, the Medical Officer used his office with the help of the Police to demolish some part of the town. In view of the fact that Ugep, the only town in Obubra Division of which we are very proud is now on the threshold of domestic autonomy, may the Government consider the advisability of replanning this town so that it may fall in line with her urban counterpart in other provinces?

I would like to use Ugep to demonstrate my points as she is one of the most pushful towns in my Division: in commerce, education and in other matters of communal interests. Should my humble suggestion be accepted by Government, no doubt other villages will definitely follow by way of community development without having to call upon Government to come forward for aid.

Independence amenities should not be made to start and finish in Enugu and only in Enugu.

The Minister of Town Planning (Mr E. Emole): Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to answer the question raised by hon. Ihekwoaba

and hon. Agim that the development charge of £150 a plot for the layout in Orlu Town is too much. The Government layout at Orlu originated from a strong appeal to Government by Orlu Community for the layout of the Crown Land at Orlu, which will enhance the prosperity of the town. Government acceded to the request and proceeded to acquire land with very great difficulty mainly on account of Orlu-Umuana Market dispute. The cost of development is as follows:— Compensation to owners of buildings, Market stalls, economic trees and crops £8,868 1s 7d; road development £672; further compensation and road development £960; total, £10,499 1s 7d.

Government policy is that the cost of development for any new layout must be recouped from the development charge in the form of premium levied on plot holders in the layout. There are 70 plots in the Orlu layout, nine of which have been frozen for allocation to the Umunas at a nominal rent. The premium at £150 for each of the remaining 61 plots would amount to £9,150, which is less than the total expenditure incurred by Government on the layout by £1,349 1s 7d. So I think that hon. Members will be congratulating the Government for subsidising this amount to the tune of £1,349 1s 7d, because it has never been done anywhere else.

The sum of £1,349 1s 7d is being spent by Government to subsidise developments in Orlu, and I am sorry, Sir, if the people there consider the amount of £150 too high for them. If they want the area to be developed they must finance it—there is no other way out. Government has already spent up to £1,349 1s 7d; I cannot therefore see why they should complain.

Hon. Edelduok said that his area is not developed. In fact it is the policy of the Government to see that all corners of the Region are developed. What is holding up Government in carrying out its plan is lack of technical men who are to carry out these projects. As soon as they are employed the whole scheme which the Government have planned will be carried out in full scale and Eket and Oron will be considered.

Hon. Kalada Kiri mentioned the salary attached to the post of Principal Land Officer and Surveyor-General. This is hardly within

[MR EMOLE]

my province—it is a matter for the Public Service Commission and the Establishment Section. They must have taken some factors into consideration before fixing the salaries and I do not want to be drawn into that. As we are speaking, I know the authorities concerned must have heard us and have taken note.

Hon. Onwe complained that some of the plots in Abakaliki have been allocated. Apart from two plots which were allocated to the E.C.N. no plots have been allocated in Abakaliki. These plots were allocated to the E.C.N. because the people there want light. When I toured Abakaliki Division, I had discussion with the Local Council there. I announced that Government was still contemplating on setting up a Planning Authority for Abakaliki. This is still being considered and as soon as possible an announcement will be made about it.

The hon. Member also mentioned that a slum was developing around Nkalagu. Government is very anxious that a slum does not develop there because of the major industry which is being carried on at Nkalagu. I promise that everything possible will be done to arrest slum development in the area.

Hon. Alo wants Government to review existing Agreements. It is true that some of these Agreements were drawn up when the people seem not to have understood... (*Interruption*) but Government cannot upset the existing Agreements. It is not possible to upset any Agreement which has lasted for so many years.

As regards land acquisition, wherever land is acquired, it is usual to see that the original owners of the land are given some consideration or compensation. I have just mentioned a case in Orlu. That is the policy and it is being carried out everywhere.

Question, That the sum of £163,690 for Head 438—Ministry of Town Planning—stand part of the First Schedule, put and agreed to.

Head 439.—Ministry of Works

Question proposed: That a sum not exceeding £1,260,080 for Head 439—Ministry of Works—stand part of the First Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Question, That an increased sum of £12,454,360 be inserted in the First Schedule put and agreed to.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Head 801.—Buildings

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £1,233,740 for Head 801—Buildings—stand part of the Second Schedule.

The Chairman: I crave the indulgence of the House to plead with the Leaders of the two parties as regards the behaviour of this House. I was originally a school-master by profession and later a member of the Legal Profession. I am used to order and not used to disorder; and I was very much perturbed by some Members' behaviour this morning. I appeal strongly to the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition to have a meeting with their Parliamentary Councils and instruct Members that it is absolutely necessary that they should behave well in this House. Any Member standing to speak should please try to avoid provocative words, or what are called "words of heat."

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Chairman, I rise to move to reduce Head 801 by £107,000. The reduction is in respect of two items on this Head. Sub-head 160—Residence for Premier £20,000; Sub-head 161 Residence for 11 Ministers £87,000.

Sir, if you have a look at Sub-head 164: Extension to Premier's lodge, you will find that actual expenditure up to 31st March, 1958, was £20,390; and we are called upon to vote a further £2,000 to complete the extension to the Premier's lodge, which is estimated to cost £34,310. This, Sir, is in respect of extension only.

Early in 1954, the Government purchased the front building of the Premier's Lodge from the then Eastern Region Production Development Board at £12,000, so that in all it has cost the Regional Government some £46,300 for the present Premier's Lodge. The latest proposal, Sir, is to build a new residence at the estimated cost of £30,000 and the House is being called upon to vote £20,000 this year. The £87,000, Sir, is in respect of residence for 11 Ministers for whom it is proposed to spend a total of £187,000.

Now, Sir, it is further proposed that when these new quarters for Ministers have been erected the existing houses for Ministers will be handed over to civil servants and that the existing Premier's Lodge will be converted into a V.I.P. Rest House. Sir, our view is that we have left undone certain things which we consider to be very vital and I presume Government will see with me that it has not got funds.

May I invite your attention, Sir, to Head 801 Sub-head 82 extension of Trade Centre buildings in Enugu. Sir, I beg your pardon! Sub-head 81: expansion of the Technical Institute buildings, Enugu. There is a balance of £24,000 to complete the project. In our view, Sir, this project should be completed this year if only we vote all the amount for it, and we regard the institute buildings, Enugu, as a matter of priority.

Sir, Sub-head 83: Grants-in-Aid (Special Purposes). Provision for this year is £12,500 and balance to complete the project is £25,000. Ministry of Health, Sub-head 100—Dental Centre, Aba; provision for the current year £3,500, balance to complete the project £3,000. Sub-head 101—Operating Theatre, Arochuku, provision for the year £100; balance to complete project £3,900. Sub-head 102—Maternity Ward, Arochuku Hospital, completion £1,500 provided for this year; balance to complete the project £1,810. Sub-head 107—Operating Theatre, General Hospital, Owerri, provision for the year £2,000; balance to complete the project £5,000. Sub-head 109—Maternity Ward, General Hospital, Port Harcourt, provision for the year £3,500; balance to complete project £3,500. Sub-head 113—Rural Health Centres, Capital Grants, provision for the year £5,000; balance to complete project £5,000. Sub-head 115—Voluntary Agency Hospitals, Capital Grants, amount for the year £10,000; balance to complete project £5,000. Ministry of Works—Sub-head 150—Completion of Works Yard, Uyo, vote for the year £14,000; balance to complete project £14,000. Sub-head 151—Works Yard and Office, Annang and Ogoja Provinces, estimate for the year £5,000; balance to complete project £10,000. Sub-head 152—Works Yard and Office, Degema, provision for the year £5,000; balance to complete project £10,000. . . . (Interruption).

Several hon. Members: The hon. Member is wasting our time reading the whole Estimates.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Sub-head 153—Works Yard and Office, Owerri, estimate for the year £8,000; balance to complete project £14,000.

Now, Sir, the point I am making is that if you add up the amount said to be held up as balance to complete the projects, you have a total of £128,710 and I have chosen those items as projects we consider are of top priority. We do not accept the explanation that these things will not be done because there is no money. Sir, if Government will only forget this year about voting £20,000 for the Premier's residence and £87,000 for Ministers' residences, we will have £107,000 available to complete all these projects that I have read out to you. So that, from our view, Sir, we are asking the Government not spend this £120,000 this year but to convert the amount to meet the other projects.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Chairman: The Amendment is that Head 801—Buildings—be reduced by £107,000.

The Premier (Dr N. Azikiwe): I have accepted in good faith the criticisms made by the Opposition Chief Whip in moving his amendment, but in view of his previous points in this House, when he spoke on a different Head, suggesting an increase in the salaries of the Members of this House and an increase in allowances, I feel that it is another attempt to play politics. I feel, Mr Chairman, that we have grown up politically and on issues of this nature Government and the Opposition Parties should see clearly. There is no reason for coming here to waste the time of this House, as the hon. Member has done. If we have to look at this issue clearly we will admit that the buildings where we have the Ministers of this Region even at present are the worst compared with the buildings in other parts of the Federation, including the North. I am open to correction. The same thing too with the Premier's Lodge. It has been rightly said that the Premier's Lodge was acquired from the E.R.D.C. It was never intended to be the Premier's Lodge, but was accepted, due to, shall I say, the excessive modesty on the part

[THE PREMIER]
of the present Premier. I thought that there was no need to put up another building, but we know that in another Region, a sum of £100,000 was earmarked last year for putting up a Premier's Lodge in the North . . .

Several hon. Members: In the North ?

The Premier: Certainly in the North. I say another Region; the North is another Region. We know that in another Region the Premier has increased his allowance from £300 to £800 a year because there is no Premier's Lodge.

Several Opposition Members: Claim an allowance.

The Premier: I do not want any allowance; I am not going to be the Premier of this Region for ever. We want a Premier's Lodge that will be compatible with the dignity of the office; and we want buildings for the Ministers which will be compatible with their dignity. What we would have expected from the Opposition is to agree with us on this particular issue because they know the fact; but to come out at the last hour to ask for an increase in the salaries of Members and their allowance is playing politics.

Mr Ikoku: You are blackmailing the Member.

The Premier: I am not blackmailing the Member. I am stating the fact so that Members will know whether to take the criticisms seriously or not. The Opposition Chief Whip has pointed out that the present building will be turned to V.I.P. Rest House. The buildings of the Ministers will be taken over by Parliamentary Secretaries and those of Parliamentary Secretaries will be taken over by Civil Servants. Members of this House will also agree with me that the present houses for Parliamentary Secretaries are really unworthy of the dignity of their office. It was done when we had a poor sense of economy.

Mr Ikoku: Eyo Ita Government !

The Premier: It was not the Eyo Ita Government. It was the building of the

Ministers' houses that was the responsibility of the Eyo Ita Government but the building of the Parliamentary Secretaries houses is our own responsibility.

For these few reasons I feel that the criticisms are not well taken and we feel that the items in our Capital Budget for over a period of three years are really in order. The suggestions made by the hon. Member for an increase in the vote of Education and Health, I feel, are really irrelevant because it is right to cut this out so as to increase other Heads of the Estimates which he has asked us to increase.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Chairman, I am happy that the hon. the Premier has clarified the position with regard to Parliamentary Secretaries, but I draw his attention, Sir, to the White Paper on the Development Programme. It is stated there that when the Ministers quit their present houses those houses will be taken over by Civil Servants. It is on that, Sir, that we disagreed. We are of the opinion that when the Ministers do leave their existing houses the houses should go to the Parliamentary Secretaries.

An hon. Member: He does not like civil servants ?

Mr E. O. Eyo: It is not a question of liking civil servants; it is a question of parliamentary priority. I can assure the Premier that the amendment to reduce the Head was made in good faith, and now that Government has decided to come to the rescue of the poor Parliamentary Secretaries, I withdraw the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Original Question put and agreed to.

Head 802.—Road and Bridge Construction

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £1,320,780 for Head 802—Road and Bridge Construction—stand part of the Second Schedule.

Mr H. U. E. Edelduok (Eket Division): Mr Chairman, I am sorry time is against us; therefore I have to speak very briefly. What I want to put up to this hon. House is this question of Eket-Oron Road. I have witnesses

here. My first witness as to the horrible condition of this road is our hon. Premier. Last time he visited Eket he had to go the other way. He came through Oron; he was unable to go back through Oron because the road is so bad. I am trying to point out to this hon. House that of all the roads in this Region that of Eket is the worst, and that in 1957 in the County Council, the then hon. Minister of Transport made it clear to the people of Eket Division that in 1958 Eket-Oron road would be tarred. That was a statement issued by the Government: but the Government has failed to fulfil its promise.

I think we are entitled to amenities because of the tax we pay, and this year the Eket people want the road to be tarred without fail.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 803.—Urban Water Supplies

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £322,000 for Head 803—Urban Water Supplies—stand part of the Second Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 804.—Industrial and Commercial Development

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £422,750 for Head 804—Industrial and Commercial Development—stand part of the Second Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 805.—Development, General

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £470,150 for Head 805—Development, General—stand part of the Second Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 806.—Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £2,329,520 for Head 806—Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes—stand part of the Second Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 807.—Renewals

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £26,790 for Head 807—Renewals—stand part of the Second Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 808.—Loans

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £180,000 for Head 808—Loans—stand part of the Second Schedule.

Question put and agreed to.

Question, That the sum of £6,325,730 stand part of the Second Schedule, put and agreed to.

Postponed Clauses

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 amended—(a) by leaving out in line 5 the words “four hundred and forty-four thousand, seven hundred and thirty”, and inserting therefor the words, “four hundred and fifty-four thousand, three hundred and sixty”;

(b) by leaving out “£12,444,730” and inserting therefor “£12,454,360” in the marginal note to the Clause. (The Minister of Finance).

Clause 3 amended—(a) by leaving out in line 2, the words “four hundred and forty-four thousand, three hundred and thirty” and inserting therefor the words “four hundred and fifty-four thousand, three hundred and sixty”;

(b) by leaving out “£12,444,730” and inserting therefor “£12,454,360” in the marginal note to the Clause. (The Minister of Finance).

Clauses 4 to 7 agreed to.

Title amended in line 2, by leaving out “forty-four thousand, seven hundred and thirty” and inserting therefor “fifty-four thousand, three hundred and sixty”.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with Amendments and pursuant to Standing Order 66 (17) the Minister of Finance moved: That the Bill as amended be now read the Third time and passed—and Mr Speaker put the Question thereupon to the House without amendment or Debate.

Question agreed to.

(2) The Classification of Chiefs Bill, 1959—Second Reading—Adjourned Debate on Question (2nd April)—That the Bill be now read a Second time. (Further deferred until Wednesday, 6th May, 1959).

(3) The Eastern Region Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill, 1959—Second Reading—Adjourned Debate on Question (7th April)—That the Bill be now read a Second time. (Further deferred until Wednesday 6th May, 1959).

(4) The Legislative Houses Bill, 1959—Second Reading. (*Further deferred until Wednesday, 6th May, 1959*).

(5) The Provincial Administration Bill, 1959—Second Reading. (*Further deferred until Wednesday, 6th May, 1959*).

(6) The Public Order Bill, 1959—Second Reading. (*Further deferred until Wednesday, 6th May, 1959*).

(7) The Funds and Accounts Bill, 1959—Second Reading. (*Further deferred until Wednesday, 6th May, 1959*).

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Sseaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 10 a.m. Tomorrow.

The Minister of Education (Mr G. E. Okeke): Sir, I beg to second.
Question proposed.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

Chieftaincy Dispute in Kalabari

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, I would like to raise, for the consideration of the House, and primarily the consideration of the hon. Premier, this question of an inquiry to be conducted into the chieftaincy dispute in Kalabari. Mr Speaker, Sir, I refer to the *Eastern Outlook*, the official organ of the Eastern Government, of the 30th April. On the front page is the news release. With your permission, may I read:

“The Eastern Region Government has appointed Mr N. Uwechia, Crown Counsel, as the Sole-Commissioner to enquire into the Kalabari Chieftaincy Dispute. The terms of reference are:—

- (1) To examine and report on the claims of Chief J. T. Princewill Amachree to be the Amanyanabo of Kalabari.
- (2) To enquire and report as to whether the said J. T. Princewill Amachree is entitled to be the Amanyanabo of Kalabari.
- (3) To make recommendations to the Government. The enquiry is expected to start this week”.

I must say right away, Sir, that we are not challenging, and we cannot challenge, the right of the Government to institute a commission of inquiry into any chieftaincy dispute in the

Region. All the same, there are certain considerations which weigh very heavily on our minds, and we would like the hon. Premier to give very serious thought to these considerations.

The first, Sir, is the question of the composition of the Commission of Inquiry. This is a case of a Sole Commissioner. But we do think that the matter is such an intricate one that we would require a much more powerful Commission to go into this affair. We have our reasons. The first is that this matter of the Kalabari Amanyanabo Chieftaincy Dispute has been to the Region's High Court—the Port Harcourt High Court for that matter—and the High Court has pronounced on it. That therefore involves the verdict of a High Court Judge. It is probable that the Inquiry may find it necessary to reverse the verdict of this High Court Judge and I submit that I do not think it is very proper to appoint a Sole Commissioner of the rank of a Crown Counsel with a duty which might involve setting aside the verdict of a High Court Judge.

My second point, Sir, is that the issue is a very controversial one and requires going into Kalabari laws and customs and therefore the Government will be helping itself if it puts on the Commission somebody with a real expert knowledge of Kalabari customs and traditions. I do not know where they can find such a person but I would like to suggest that an Administrative Officer of the highest class with experience of the Kalabari area should have been appointed to serve on the Commission.

Thirdly, Sir, and this emphasises our point of the composition of Inquiries, this Kalabari chieftaincy issue is a subject on which the Government has taken a decision at governmental level. This Government decision gave rise to court action. So that what I am trying to point out is that Executive Council decision is involved, the verdict of a High Court is involved, the customs and traditions of the people of Kalabari are involved and therefore it will not be very proper or helpful to appoint a Sole Commissioner of the rank of Crown Counsel to inquire into the dispute. I would suggest humbly to the Government that they should think about the advisability of getting an officer of the status of a High Court Judge to handle this case and he should be helped by an Administrative Officer—one of the Senior Administrative Officers with experience of the Kalabari area.

The Premier appealed for an end to unnecessary agitation in the Region and I think this is a case in which he should give a lead. That is, he should set up a Commission of Inquiry which will make it impossible for any aggrieved party, as a result of the findings of the Commission, to drag politics into this chieftaincy dispute. I am saying this because the Sole Commissioner now appointed is not a competent person to handle the case. Of course, I do not doubt his integrity, but there is no doubt that whatever his findings on the issue you will find that politics will be dragged into it.

My fourth point, Sir, is the timing of the Inquiry. The press release I have just read says the Inquiry will start this week. I will suggest, Sir, that the whole matter looks a little bit rushed. Surely, if they want Kalabari people to come and give evidence which will help the Inquiry to find out the real truth, they should give them time to prepare. But, Sir, that is even not my main ground of contention. It is that this matter was decided by a Port Harcourt High Court Judge . . .

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): How many times will he mention that point? He has mentioned it twice here.

Several hon. Members: He should not waste our time. He should sit down if he has nothing else to say.

Mr Ikoku: . . . and the High Court Judge gave his verdict, but the thing is not so much on the High Court Judge's verdict but on the fact that an appeal has been lodged against his verdict, and this appeal has not been determined and therefore the matter is still *sub judice* and it will therefore be improper to hold an Inquiry at this stage. Surely, the wisest thing for the Government will be to appoint this Inquiry when the appeal has been determined. After all, we are told that one of the conventions of our system of Government is that we should not pronounce on matters which are *sub judice*, and I am submitting, Sir, that this matter is *sub judice*. The Commission of Inquiry can go into it but it cannot do so now. It should do so after the appeal has been heard.

These are the points I respectfully bring to the attention of this House. I am not a Judge; I am not an authority on Kalabari customs. All we want is a first-class Report to be produced and in fact the handling of the Kalabari

chieftaincy dispute should constitute a standard for handling all other disputes about chieftaincy in the Region. I am saying that we cannot solve the problem of Kalabari by creating a system which engenders further political confusion. That is my point.

The Premier: Mr Speaker, I fully share with my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, the need to reduce to the minimum agitations which tend to give an impression that this Region is very unstable. I agree with him that on an issue of this nature, it is necessary that someone with the status of a High Court Judge should be placed in charge and that since it affects customary law, all the facts should be obtained in order to be fair to all parties concerned. I will then say that the facts adduced by my hon. Friend support the stand of this Government and because of that, I am humbly submitting that his whole point is misconceived because it is based on facts which are irrelevant.

His last point was that the Inquiry instituted before the appeal against a judgment of the High Court is heard, is *sub judice*. I respectfully beg to differ. The issue before the Port Harcourt High Court was not whether Amachree IV, Amanyanabo of Kalabari, is the Amanyanabo of Kalabari, but whether Amachree IV as Amanyanabo of Kalabari has been recognised by the Government in accordance with the Recognition of Chiefs Law, 1956. These are two separate and distinct issues and it is on the latter that appeal lies but the former is not *sub judice*. We are not asking the House, and we have not asked Mr Uwechia, to determine whether Amachree IV has been recognised by the Government in accordance with the Recognition of Chiefs Law, 1956. This is a very fine point which I would like my hon. Friend to distinguish.

Having made this point, I go to the next. He says that the Government has taken a decision on Governmental level; therefore Government is an interested party. I beg to differ. But then he says that if we decide to appoint a Commissioner, he must have the status of a High Court Judge. I agree. Mr N. Uwechia is a fully qualified Legal Practitioner with a degree of LL.B. (London). He has been a Magistrate for many years and has the status of a High Court Judge, having

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1195 [Chieftaincy Dispute in Kalabari] 4 MAY 1959 [Chieftaincy Dispute in Kalabari] 1196

[THE PREMIER]

been qualified for over ten years. (*Applause*). The Opposition Chief Whip raised the question whether he is qualified or not to be a Judge. He has the status . . .

Mr E. O. Eyo: He has not.

The Premier: He has the status of a High Court Judge and if it pleases either His Lordship the Chief Justice or the Judicial Service Commission, he can be appointed to act as a High Court Judge because he has that status. If there is a vacancy and there is the need for a substantive appointment, he is fully qualified to be considered. Therefore, the question whether he is a Judge or not does not arise. He has the status which makes him fully qualified to be appointed an acting Judge or a Judge. So let us not split over that.

Then he mentions that he does not disagree with the Commission of Inquiry, but said that it involves Kalabari customs and therefore somebody who understands Kalabari Customs should be on the Commission. I agree, but the point is that it is a fact-finding Commission. It is a Commission that is charged with responsibility to examine and report on the claims of Chief Amachree to be the Amanyanabo and therefore the Sole Commissioner will be able to get all the available facts and make recommendations to this Government and this Government is not bound to act upon it.

This Government is not bound to act on the recommendations of the Commissioner, although if the recommendations are weighty then there is no reason why the Government should not give such recommendations full consideration. That is why I feel that while I agree with my hon. Friend and he agrees with us, his point is misconceived in that we have examined the source of the issue before the Port Harcourt High Court with the terms of reference of the Commission of Inquiry. Now to the main point; I have proved to this House and we really agree that the Government is on a sound wicket. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, according to the Recognition of Chiefs Law, 1956, Section 4 which was amended in 1958, it says—

“Whenever the Minister is of the opinion that a dispute exists as to the person entitled

to be a chief or to be appointed a chief he may refer the matter to the Governor in Council. Upon reference being made under the provisions of this section, the Governor in Council may after such inquiry as he thinks fit recognise a person to be a chief”.

Now some of the people who lived in Kalabari led, no doubt, by that professional agitator, Chief Bob Manuel, questioned the rights. . .

Several Opposition Members: No! No!

The Premier: I know what I am saying. It is not what the Opposition said, because I received several telegrams from him.

An Opposition Member: He is their spokesman.

The Premier: Self-appointed spokesman.

Mr Speaker, he challenged the right of Amachree IV to be the Amanyanabo of Kalabari and so the Minister responsible referred the matter to the Governor in Council and was mandated by the Council to institute an Inquiry to find out whether Chief Bob Manuel's factions are right or whether Prince Amachree is the fourth Amanyanabo of Kalabari. We are acting according to the dictates of the Law and we have not done anything amiss. We do not say that Amachree IV is or is not the Amanyanabo of Kalabari until this Sole Commissioner has verified the facts and reported to the Government, then the Government will be in a position to determine from the evidence before this Commission whether Amachree IV should be the Amanyanabo or not. Therefore, I submit that we on both sides of the House agree that there should be no political agitation in this Region to give the impression to the outside world that there is instability. Whenever there is cause for dispute, this Government, which respects public opinion, should seek to obtain all the facts and then act in accordance with public opinion. I say that if we do this we shall continue to maintain our prestige and record of being the most democratic Government in the Federation of Nigeria. (*Cheers*).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned, accordingly, at twenty-five minutes past two o'clock p.m.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 5th May, 1959

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Maternity Home at Ezamgbo

47. **Mr P. A. Onwe** asked the Minister of Health, whether he is aware that the Maternity Home built at Ezamgbo does not satisfy the needs of Ishielu as it serves only 18,000 out of 128,000 people of Ishielu; if so, what arrangement is the Minister making to recover the money from the Council since for a year now the Maternity has not been in use.

The Minister of Health: In 1957 the Ishielu District Council sought to open a Maternity Home at Ngbo. The Council was asked to submit building and site plans of the proposed Maternity Home for consideration, but nothing further has been heard from the Council on the matter. Again, towards the end of 1958 my Ministry was approached by the Ishielu District Council to open what the Council said would be the second Maternity Home in Ishielu District Council area. As the Council's letter on the subject issued from the Council's offices at Ezamgbo, it would appear that the hon. Member has this letter proposal in mind when asking his question. The Council has since been asked to submit building and site plans of the proposed Maternity Home, but it has not yet complied. The Maternity has therefore apparently not started to function, as it has not yet been registered by my Ministry.

As no grant has been made by my Ministry to the Ishielu District Council towards this Maternity Home the question of recovering money from the Council does not arise.

Welfare of Mental Patients

50. **Mr S. E. K. Iwueke** asked the Minister of Health, whether he will allow a survey to be made to ascertain the number of certified mental patients in the Region with a view to providing suitable arrangements for their treatment and welfare.

The Minister of Health: Certified mental patients in this Region are accommodated

in the Prison Lunatic Asylums at Enugu, Port Harcourt and Calabar and in the Mental Hospital at Calabar. Of these four institutions, only the Calabar Mental Hospital is owned and administered by the Eastern Regional Government, the other three being Federal institutions. Furthermore, the mental patients in these institutions are of two classes, namely criminal lunatics and civil lunatics. Constitutionally, custody of criminal lunatics is a Federal responsibility, while this Region is responsible for civil lunatics. The survey mentioned by the hon. Member cannot therefore be instituted without the concurrence of the Federal Government, firstly because the Prison Asylums are Federal institutions and are administered by Federal Officers and, secondly, because the Federal Government is responsible for criminal lunatics. Efforts are however, being made to get the concurrence of the Federal Government to conduct the survey desired.

Hospitals and Rural Health Centres

92. **Mr P. N. Okeke** asked the Minister of Health, how many hospitals and Rural Health Centres have been built in each Division between January, 1956 to December, 1958; what is their total cost per Division.

The Minister of Health: Fourteen hospitals have been built since January, 1956 in this Region, and nineteen Rural Health Centres, excluding the seven which had been established in the Hygiene Demonstration Area of Nsukka Division before 1956, have also been built in the same period. With permission, the particulars will be supplied to the hon. Member in writing and circulated in the Official Report.

List of Hospitals and Rural Health Centres built since January, 1956

HOSPITALS		
Hospital	Division	Cost £
Yenagoa Hospital	Brass	69,000
Ikrom Joint Hospital (Registered 20-7-56)	Ikrom	25,000 (Govt. Grant)
Queen Elizabeth Joint Hospital, Bende Umuaahia. (Registered 6-12-56)	Bende	192,157 (Govt. Grant)

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1199	[Oral Answers]	5 MAY 1959		[Oral Answers]	1200	
[MR OKOYA]	<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>Cost</i> £	<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>Cost</i> £
	Ahoada County Hospital. (Registered 17-6-57)	Ahoada	10,000 (Govt. Grant)	2 Neni, Nawfia (Building in Progress)	Awka	
	Joinkrama Hospital (American Baptist Mission)	Ahoada	unknown to Min. of Health.	2 Awka-Etiti, Alor (Northern Onitsha D.C.)	Onitsha	6,400
	Pamol Hospital, Calabar (Registered 27-4-56)	Calabar	unknown to Min. of Health.	2 Osomari, Oraifite (Southern Onitsha D.C.) (Building in Progress)	Onitsha	3,500
	Shell B.P. Hospital, Owerri	Owerri	unknown to Min. of Health.	1 Obanliko (Obudu D.C.) (Building in Progress)	Ogoja	4,040
	Prince of Peace Hospital Oguta. (Registered 13-6-57)	Owerri	unknown to Min. of Health.	2 Iboko (Izi D.C.), Onueke Imoha (Ezzikwo D.C.) (Building in Progress)	Abakaliki	—
	St. Andrews Hospital, Okigwi (Registered 21-7-57)	Okigwi	unknown to Min. of Health.	1 Amakohia (Etiti D.C.) (Building in Progress)	Okigwi	5,000
	Marcus Memorial Hospital, Aba. (Registered 21-9-57)	Aba	unknown to Min. of Health.			
	St. Mary's Hospital, Aba. (Registered 5-11-57)	Aba	unknown to Min. of Health.			
	Niger Hospital, Diobu (Registered 8-12-58)	Ahoada	unknown to Min. of Health.			
	Riverside Hospital, Onitsha. (Registered 26-3-57)	Onitsha	unknown to Min. of Health.			
	Central Township Hospital, Onitsha. (Registered 3-8-57)	Onitsha	unknown to Min. of Health.			

RURAL HEALTH CENTRES

<i>Health Centre</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>Cost</i> £
1 Ibagwa (Igbo-Eze D. C.)	Nsukka	2,000
4 Affa, Olo (Abaja-Ngwu D.C.) Agbani, Obodo Nike (Nkanu D.C.)	Udi	11,250
2 Maku Owelle (Building in Progress)	Awgu	4,713
2 Nimo, Ugwuoba (Njikoka D.C.)	Awka	10,810

Mr Speaker: May I crave the indulgence of the hon. Members to this simple thing. From experience, I think that the aim of both Government and Opposition is to achieve facility and good Government for Nigeria as a whole, and I would, therefore, like you when you discuss certain topics in this House to remember that you are debating as statesmen and not as politicians. I have always held the idea "Politics outside the Chamber, Statesmanship inside".

I am saying this because before me there are things which might be a little excitable and I would like Members to behave themselves very well today, so that we may have a nice time. Let each Member remember that the effective way of replying to a debate or speech is to get ready to marshal the arguments in his own terms and not by unnecessary interruptions. I always consider it a cowardly way of putting forth argument by interruptions. You should, therefore, get ready your own argument in your own terms so that you might be able to marshal your argument correctly. Again I would plead with the Leader of the House to see that Government Members behave themselves very well today.

AFRICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND RESEARCH

Mr G. C. Okeya (Owerri Division):
Mr Speaker, I beg to move the Motion standing

in my name: That this House urges the Government of the Eastern Region to investigate the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research in the Eastern Region and ascertain the role played by Dr Kingsley Ozuomba Mbadiwe, directly or indirectly, in furthering the aims and objects of the Academy in the Eastern Region, and to probe into the funds and accounts of the Academy in so far as the Eastern Region is concerned, and report to the House.

Sir, an American author—James Russel Lowell—born 1819 and died 1891 said:

“Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide, in the strife of truth with falsehood, for the good or evil side.”

I table the Motion with the most honest intentions and sincerity of purpose. I want the nation, nay, the eight million people of this Region, to know whether the bogus political demagogue had really vindicated himself and realised the aims of the African Academy of Arts and Research. In the *Daily Telegraph*—the mouth organ of the D.P.N.C.—Dr Mbadiwe said that hon. Members in the East are political sinners. Sir, with your permission I beg to quote page 2, col. 2 of November, 1958:

“Are you an Honourable Member from the East? Sinner. You, you are the political sinner because you see evil and condone it. You are the political wretch, because you compromise with illegality and injustice in order to secure your diabolical existence !”

As one of those nationalists who rallied round Dr Mbadiwe in his campaigns for support, I had an insight into his bogus organisation. I challenge the opposers of this Motion to bring facts and figures to disprove what I am going to say on this Motion. I want no mud-slinging, but naked truth.

Now, here is a man who, a few years ago, designed to establish an Academy. The Motion before the House, Sir, is: that this House urges the Government of the Eastern Region to investigate the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research in the Eastern Region, to probe the role played by Dr Kingsley Ozuomba Mbadiwe directly

or indirectly in furthering the aims and objects of the Academy in the Eastern Region; and to probe into the funds and accounts of the Academy in so far as the Eastern Region is concerned and report to the House. It is a very simple Motion—very honest.

The mover of this Motion was a Zikist, yea, a nationalist who rallied round Dr Mbadiwe in the campaign for support of this Academy. By then I was a teacher at St. Charles Training College, Onitsha. I had an insight into the workings of this organisation. I know there will be a lot of mud-slinging but I do not want to indulge in it. I want points contrary to what I am going to say this morning. Now, in this Motion, I stress four important things:

- (1) I am calling upon the Government to investigate the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research in the Region.
- (2) To ascertain the role played by the President, Dr Mbadiwe, directly or indirectly in furthering the aims and objects of the A.A.A.R. in this Region.
- (3) That the Government should probe into the funds and accounts of the A.A.A.R. in so far as this Region is concerned.
- (4) That the Government should report to this House the outcome of its investigations.

Hon. Members would like to know:

- (1) Why I table this sensational Motion.
- (2) The founder of the African Academy of Arts and Research.
- (3) The origin of the A.A.A.R.
- (4) What influenced him.
- (5) What are the aims of the A.A.A.R.
- (6) His activities in the United States and in Nigeria or West Africa.
- (7) The funds and collections raised by Dr Mbadiwe and the duping of innocent farmers and traders.

[MR OKEYA]

Finally, Government's view on the accounts of the collections as given in the *Nigerian Gazette*, January 27, 1951.

Now, what is my aim behind this Motion? (1) The African Academy of Arts and Research was said to be founded in order to encourage its aims and objects. We are going now to examine the aims of this Academy and to see whether the founder has realised these aims and objects. (2) Dr Mbadiwe toured the Eastern Region to foster the aims and objects and I would challenge the opposers to prove that he did not tour or that he did not collect money for this purpose, while he offered to award scholarships to Nigerians under certain conditions: subscription of funds; a consideration for membership in the Academy or eligibility to enjoy such scholarships.

It is now desirable, Sir, in the public interest, not only to assess the activities of the Academy in the Eastern Region, but also to ascertain the names of the subscribers to these funds from the Eastern Region and make sure what benefits they derived from the funds. We should make sure, too, of the actual benefits they derived by subscribing to the Academy. In the public interest, Sir, it is desirable to know whether the requirements of the Public Collections Ordinance of 1948 and 1954 have been observed.

Now, I come to Dr Mbadiwe himself, the founder of the African Academy of Arts and Research and I am going to depend on what the Doctor wrote in the magazine meant to bolster up this Academy. The name of the magazine is *Africa Today and Tomorrow*, April, 1945. The magazine has as its motto or symbol the sun giving the light to all people; the eagle as a symbol for strength and the elephant to show that the elephant never forgets. In this magazine, Dr Mbadiwe wrote: Sir, I beg to quote: "On December 31, 1938, seven students, including the writer, left Nigeria, West Africa to further our studies in America."

Where did Dr Mbadiwe draw his inspiration? I will say this because this will give us the background to see whether his intention and aims were honest. He drew his inspiration from the following sources. This is what he said: Sir, I beg to quote:

"We left for the land of Uncle Sam with a new knowledge and admiration for its accomplishments and achievements, brought home to us by Mr Nnamdi Azikiwe, who left to study in America when it was considered an adventure of the wildest risk. He returned full of buoyancy and hope, and to the amazement of all was soon on his own as a newspaper proprietor and publisher. At the present time, he has established four daily newspapers giving employment to thousands of his countrymen . . ."

"Mr Azikiwe's philosophy can best be explained in his own words as he addressed the share-holders of his company, which recently declared 7½ per cent dividend on ordinary shares and 10 per cent on founder shares, unparalleled achievement in the history of newspaper publishing in West Africa . . ."

In the same book page 32—the World Federation of African People incorporated in the United States, the African Museum and Culture Association of Birmingham and Alabama, the American Culture and African Education by Dr Nwafor Orizu and WASU by Sholanke—Now I want to give you the background of this Academy and its aims. He says on page 17—

By these aims the House and the Commission will judge whether this aim had been realised.

He wrote it himself—The African Academy of Arts and Research. Why the Academy? This Academy was formed for the following purposes:—

- (i) to publicise African culture, music, dancing, painting and sculpture in all its forms;
- (ii) to stimulate the African in the appreciation of his own culture as a means of enabling him to take leadership in matters within his means;
- (iii) to develop in youth on both sides of the Atlantic in the present thinking, creative endeavour, research and decisive action;
- (iv) to build an extensive library, an institution that will ease the deserving African achievement;
- (v) to act as a medium of information on matters relating to political, economic and commercial conditions in Africa;

- (vi) to encourage the educational and cultural education within the people of the United States in the interest of Africans;
- (vii) to create cultural centres in the United States and Africa which will provide such information on all phases of African life and to arrange for visits of the people of the United States to Africa and the people of Africa to the United States and to provide a centre here for African students;
- (viii) The last is to incorporate their mutual aid with other organisations and institutions or associations which have similar aims and sincerely support the cause of African people.

Now, in measuring the sources of inspirations we have seen that associations like the WASU, the African World Conference and other such African organisations have such aims. The question now is, in founding the Academy, was the founder sincere?

Now, as regards the activities in Africa, what were the activities of the African Academy of Arts? In the very book which is the very judge of this Academy may I quote: Mrs Roosevelt said: "I think it is a very courageous thing that these young students are doing in founding the African Academy of Arts and Research. I think that this Academy can do a great deal in bringing to us a knowledge of the peoples in Africa. I know that everyone here today is enjoying what they are hearing."

Now listen; Mrs Bethune had this to say:

"I have been studying through the Council of African Affairs, as headed by Paul Robeson and directed by Max Yergen, of the big influences that we, as Americans, must put upon the problems that are confronting the Africans, and to see these African students themselves tonight in action, expressing themselves in this cultural way".

Now, the summary or the gist of what this Academy in America is, was given by Alain Locke, a famous American scholar, author, editor and philosopher. I beg to quote: "For us in America, the dance is but one of the arts". And what did they do?—The festival

they organised in Carnegie Hall where many of our Nigerian students organised that dance, and Mrs Roosevelt was invited to be the Chairman of that occasion. That was the only activity as far as this Academy is concerned in America.

Now, the hon. Doctor himself said that in 1943 this Academy was born and he came to Nigeria to spread its activities. What did he do in Nigeria? He toured the whole country showing films. What were the contents of these films—That Festival in America where he shook hands with Mrs Roosevelt.

I was at Broadway Cinema at Onitsha. People paid three shillings standing, five shillings sitting; and he collected that very night £143. Now, he went to Owerri, called the people there, promised them scholarships and afterwards that evening they gave him £100. And he went to Ariba and other places. He went to the North also but he was mainly concerned with the Eastern Region. When the Commission is set in motion, the Commission will investigate into the Banks where he deposited the money he collected: The A.C.B., B.W.A., and the Barclays Bank where he deposited the money not even in the name of the Academy but in his own name.

Now, Sir, it will be of interest to give from this publication (*Nigerian Gazette*—January to December, 1954) the accounts rendered by Mbadiwe about the African Academy. Now in this publication the accounts are divided into four parts:—

Schedule A (*Part of the Schedule*):

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF COLLECTIONS OF DONATIONS

(This is given in Government Notice No. 1269—Public Collections (Regulations, Ordinance, 1947; Registration Authority, Colony—W. Fowler). Now, you see that the amount realised during his tour is as follows:—

Lagos and Area	...	£1,140	18s	10d
Northern Provinces	...	£4,169	1s	4d
Eastern Provinces	...	£4,035	6s	8d
Western Provinces	...	£261	5s	9d
Cameroons	...	£650	0s	0d
Miscellaneous	...	£92	19s	7d

The total is £10,869 5s 2d.

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1207

[*African Academy*

5 MAY 1959

of *Arts and Research*]

1208

Some hon. Members: Too small!

Mr Okeya: Well, it is too small; he did not give an honest account; that is why I am tabling the Motion. It is more than that.

SCHEDULE "B": GENERAL ADMINISTRATION WIDE TOUR EXPENSES.

Here, the founder gave a wonderful mathematical calculation. Total rents, rates and taxes came to £419 9s 0d. Cables, telegrams, Stamps, Stationery and Printing and Advertisements came to £110. Donations to Schools, etc., are as follows:—

	£	s	d
To a League School	10	0	0
To IHEME School... ..	25	0	0
To Egbe Omo Oduduwa	10	10	0
To Relief Fund and Aid	14	2	0
To Students—Epele, etc.	4	4	0
To IHEME College, etc.	50	0	0
To One Mrs Lawson, (for what I don't know)	10	0	0

(*Laughter*).

SCHEDULE C: Total assets of the Academy came to £1,039 0s 0d. Two Academy Shares purchased from the African Insurance Co. Ltd. at £5 a share. I am sorry the accountant did not get this magazine. If you get that magazine, you will find at page 81 the membership with the bank, the African Academy of Arts and Research incorporated—New York 18, N.Y.—date unknown. "I am in sympathy with the purpose of the Academy. Please enrol me as a fixed depositor."

Foundation Donation—1,000 dollars or more.

Opening—£500.

Contingencies—500 dollars.

Now he mentioned share—£25. Well, is this organization a company or a buyer of shares? (*Laughter*).

In Schedule B—Under Education and Research in the United States and United Kingdom:

	£	s	d
African House Academy Headquarters, N.Y.	1,373	6	6
Remittance and Advance to Academy Administrative Secretary, N. Okoro—Studies U.K.... ..	220	19	3

(612)

	£	s	d
Sundry Client, one G. C. Iko-kwu	1,647	12	3

(*Laughter*).

Now, Sir, any person who has an elementary knowledge of accounts will see that any trader can balance his income and expenditure very easily.

	£	s	d
Receipts as per schedule A	10,869	12	2
Sundry Deposits with Academy Education in the U.S.	16,948	12	6
Balance (As per Schedule "E")	134	7	8
Total	17,083	0	2
Remittances, Passages, Bank Charges and so on came to	17,083	0	2

The account was signed by C. V. Kwaku, Esq., The Prospect Hills, Auditors and Accountants, Lagos; and signed by K. O. Mbadiwe, Esq., The President of African Academy of Arts and Research, Nigeria, W.C.A.

Now, Mr Speaker, the following report of the Auditor appointed under Regulation 14 of the Public Regulation 1948 is hereby published for general information. This relates to the statement of account by the Public Collection promoted by Mr K. Ozuomba Mbadiwe, President of the African Academy of Arts and Research, published by the Colony Registration Authority under the Public Collections Regulations Ordinance, 1947:

"African Academy of Arts and Research: Report on the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period May, 1948 to May, 1951.

Receipts—Schedule A: No receipts appear to have been given for any of the donations received even though most of them were for sums sufficiently large to warrant the issue of printed receipts. The receipts are supported by lists of donations in respect of Lagos and Colony, and the Province of Cameroons. But there is nothing to support miscellaneous collections or receipts from sales of buttons and the Eastern Region. Paragraph 2 of Regulation 5, 1948 has not been complied with. This is very serious.

I am unable to agree with the figures in the following instances:

	£	s	d
Eastern Provinces:			
Amount in account	... 4,035	6	8
Amount on Lease	... 3,620	6	10
Western Provinces:			
Amount in account	... 261	5	9
Amount on Lease	... 651	13	5
Cameroons:			
Amount in Account	... 651	0	0
Amount on Lease	... 499	15	0

Cash Advance: There is nothing to indicate the nature or purpose of this transaction."

The lists of donations received at Jos total £1,198 18s 9d but was later reduced by £200. This it was stated was due to two cheques returned. The collection at Jos was on the 14th January, 1949. Yet when the subscription list for Jos was published in the Pilot of 16th June, 1949, the full collection of £1,198 18s 9d was shown, although it must have been known by the time that the two cheques had been dishonoured by the Bank.

Contrary to paragraph 9 of Regulation 5, 1948 in a number of cases the gross proceeds of the collection were not brought to account and as receipts.

The following amounts were deducted as expenses:

	£	s	d
At Ondo	... ..	11	0 0
Akure	... ..	2	3 1
Benin ...	... ..	4	8 0
Sapele	... ..	23	8 0
Warri ...	... ..	18	4 0

If you come again, Sir, to Schedule B—it says:

"Vouchers have not been produced to cover all expenditure in accordance with paragraph 14, Section One of Regulation 5, 1949.

Rents, Rates and Taxes:

Rent, 15 Montgomery Road, Yaba—£150. There is no voucher to support this payment, nor does there appear to be any lease or agreement signed with the owner. Lease—113 Hundred Foot Road, Aba—the sum of £240

was paid to K. O. Mbadiwe for the lease of the property, although no written agreement appears to have been entered into."

It is pertinent to point out that the sum was used in connection with Greater Tomorrow Transport Company Limited and the African Insurance Company Limited.

Now, those of you who have been attentive to the aims of this Academy, how did Greater Tomorrow Transport come into the Academy? God knows.

Township Rates.—£72 13s 6d paid in respect of No. 15 Montgomery Road, Yaba. This item represents payments of Township and Water Rates, ground rent on plot of land, and costs (16s 6d) in an action over the house. It is not usual for expenses of this nature to be met by the tenant; they are the obligations of the landlord.

Electrical dues, Installation.—£65 7s 4d. There are supporting vouchers for the expenditure of £26 10 7d only.

Cables, Telegrams, Stamps.—A perusal of the telegrams, the charges for which form the greater part of this item, indicates that there has been unnecessary extravagance in the use of this expensive form of communication. There is also no doubt that some of the telegrams have been unsuitably charged to this account.

Stationery and Printing.—Of the total, £74 11s 3d, only £46 17s 3d is supported by vouchers.

Telephone.—There is a voucher for 11s 8d only to support this account."

Then Sir, under Schedule B—continued—the Report goes on to say:

Insurance Cars.—I am unable to agree with the figure £114 6s 9d in the accounts. The insurance rate of the Kit Car is £15 per annum making a total of £45 for the period October, 1948 to October, 1951. That of the Saloon A 8999 is at £16 10s per annum making a total of £49 10s for the same period.

Motor Repairs, Overhauling.—Of this very large item of expenditure £510 12s 10d, I can trace evidence of payment of £402 2s 4d only.

[MR OKEYA]

Further, among the supporting bills there is evidence in at least one instance that the repairs charged to this account were in respect of a Hudson Car No. G 1700, which at that time was registered in the name of K. O. Mbadiwe."

Now, Sir, if you go on you will see that the Auditor expressed dissatisfaction in the way the money of the Academy was handled. To summarise, I am asking the Government of the Eastern Region to probe seriously into the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research as far as the Eastern Region is concerned. This probe will reveal how many subscribed into the pocket of the Academy; who were awarded scholarships and whether these people did actually get the scholarships; into what bank was the money collected deposited and finally, Sir, whether the collections were made in accordance with the Public Collections Ordinance.

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr M. N. Onwuma (Aba Division): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion, if for nothing else, Sir, for the evil intentions behind it. Sir, during the last meeting of this House, there was an attempt on the floor of this House to drag this hon. Gentleman, Dr K. Ozuomba Mbadiwe, and his new Party, the D.P.N.C. into disrepute. One would have thought the N.C.N.C. had enough opportunity on that occasion. What you are witnessing today, Sir, reveals in its entirety the philosophy of the N.C.N.C. The hon. Mover of this Motion, Sir, has deliberately failed to tell us when all these evils were done by Dr Mbadiwe and his Academy. It is on that point, Sir, that I would like to address you.

When did all these things happen and why are we debating a Motion on them only today? Sir, the Motion urges the Government of the Eastern Region:

- (1) to investigate the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research in the Eastern Region—How they will do that, I don't know;

- (2) to ascertain the role played by Dr Kingsley Ozuomba Mbadiwe directly or indirectly in furthering the aims and objects of the Academy in the Eastern Region—He has read out a report to explain the role;
- (3) to probe into the funds and accounts of the Academy in so far as the Eastern Region is concerned—How they will do that, I don't know; and
- (4) to submit a report to this House.

It is very interesting, Sir, that the N.C.N.C. of all political parties, would have the boldness to demand a Commission of Inquiry into one's conduct and the activities of an organisation and then report to this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, who is this hon. Gentleman? May I introduce Dr Kingsley Ozuomba Mbadiwe, M.A., B.Sc. LL.D., former First National Vice President of the N.C.N.C., former N.C.N.C. Federal Minister of Communications and Aviation, former N.C.N.C. Federal Minister of Commerce and Industries, and now the Leader of the dynamic and militant Political Party, the D.P.N.C.

Sir, I can assure you that the Government will do nothing about this Motion because if it does, the inquiry will drag in the top leaders of the N.C.N.C.

The African Academy of Arts and Research was founded in November . . .

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Although it is part of our custom when addressing others to point at them, I think it is out of order. Please try to restrict yourself and avoid pointing. You can speak without pointing at anybody.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Speaker, the African Academy of Arts and Research was founded in November, 1943—sixteen years ago. Now, what was the purpose? To foster understanding between Africa and the United States by striving to erase popular misconceptions about Africa through the widespread objective dissemination of accurate information of the economic, cultural and social life of that country and to provide the centre for African students. The Academy, Sir, had a programme. The programme envisaged: Education and Cultural

Exchange, Arts and Festival, Research and Information, News and Public Relations.

Sir, what about its membership? General membership 1 dollar; active membership 5 dollars; contributing membership 10 dollars; sustaining membership 25 dollars and patron membership 100 dollars.

I will now, Sir, read to you the names of Members of the Board of Directors. I will only, without bothering you too much read these:

Rev. James H. Robinson—Chairman of the Board;

Dr Alain Locke—First Vice-President;

Dr A. George Daly—Second Vice-President;

A. A. Austion—Treasurer;

and then I will only deal with Nigerian Members of the Board of Directors:

Nnamdi Azikiwe,

K. Ozuomba Mbadiwe,

Mbonu Ojike.

Sir, I submit that if there is any accusation against the Academy of Arts and Research, all those charges and accusations must be levelled against the Board of Directors. Sir, one of the Directors is our Premier, and I submit that alongside with Dr Mbadiwe, the Premier must appear before the Inquiry to defend the Academy.

An hon. Member: Our Premier will not appear before such a Commission.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Sir, I have in my possession, a copy of a speech delivered by our Premier to the Board of Directors of the African Academy of Arts and Research on the 10th June, 1947. I will just read the testimony of our Premier to Dr Mbadiwe on his achievements and the achievements of the Academy of Arts:

"In the second place, this is the first opportunity since my membership on this Board to be in your presence. I have followed your activities and reports that reached me in Africa with great interest.

I am happy to be here and I feel you should be congratulated for the work you are doing.

"The Academy has come to stay and stands as a symbol of unity between Africa and America and *vice versa*.

"An organisation of this nature deserves to live. Its aims and objectives are pregnant with the idea of making human beings appreciate fellowship and understanding.

"I do not hesitate to say that the Academy has helped foster mutual goodwill between Africa and America. When I say America, I include the West Indies as well. Those of us in Africa have followed your manifestations in bringing all coloured people closer together, whether they be in the South, Caribbean, Central or North America and we are happy to join hands with you in the present struggle . . ." (*Interruption*).

Mr S. G. Ikoku (Enyong Division): Mr Speaker, may I draw your attention to the warning you gave us at the commencement of the Motion. When the mover of the Motion was speaking, we kept absolutely quiet.

Mr Speaker: Can you quote any Standing Order?

Mr Ikoku: It was your admonition to the House.

Mr E. O. Eyo: If I may continue to quote this excellent testimony, Sir:

" . . . Without an attempt to flatter anyone, Africa owes many thanks to Mr Mbadiwe for his energy and tact in being able to get around the American and West Indian Negroes who are interested in their African ancestry and to have formed this organisation and to have secured their support not only within the race, but outside of the race. I think it is a privilege on my part to make this confession publicly.

"I thank you all for sticking with him through thick and thin. I know that an organisation such as this must have barriers, but the fact that you have reached this far proves that you have worked hard and deserve success. We in Africa owe Mr Mbadiwe

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

homage and I am sure that when he returns he will influence the Africans about their responsibility to the Academy.

"I shall have time to go into further details with you on the Academy within the near future and by careful observation I do not flatter anyone when I say that I am satisfied and I cast my lot with you without any regret and so long as we live let us synchronise the aims and objectives of the African Academy of Arts and Research".

The Premier (Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe): Mr Speaker, what the hon. Gentleman is reading is a forgery; I challenge him to publish it. I have the original statement I made.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I will publish the original.

Mr Ikoku: He will publish it and the Premier will ask for damages in Court.

The Premier: I accuse him of breach of parliamentary privilege.

Mr Speaker: Before an hon. Member called my attention to this I was almost thinking whether the hon. Member was making an amendment to include Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe; otherwise it seems to me a little irrelevant to point to a particular individual in the whole Motion.

Mr E. O. Eyo: May I submit, Sir, that since we are debating the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research any charges levelled against that organisation are proper charges against the Board of Directors. In the course of my speech I wanted to show you, Sir, that all this story you are hearing today is for a political purpose, and I cannot convince you, Sir, unless I bring evidence to show the testimony in the past of the activities of Dr Mbadiwe and his organisation. This is exactly what I am doing.

Sir, on the 27th June, 1947, the Academy of Arts and Research in America threw a dinner party to receive the Premier and his colleagues who were on this tour and there again, Sir, as a member of the Board of Directors he delivered a speech and I think it is

relevant if I may quote one or two sections of his own opinion of Dr Mbadiwe and his organisation.

Mr Speaker: Do you not think, hon. Members, that he would properly bring that under the amendment to include the Directors?

Mr E. O. Eyo: I do not think that anybody has any right to direct me how to conduct my debate. I can bring in any amendment if I choose to, and if I choose not to, it is my privilege as a Member of the House to conduct my debate the way I like.

Mr Speaker: But I think I have to draw your attention to the amendment; if you continue to introduce any matter which in my opinion is irrelevant, I shall ask you to discontinue your speech.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Sir, I am debating the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research. That is the Motion. The activities were from November, 1943 and I am now dwelling on one aspect of its activities in June, 1947.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Speaker, Standing Order 34. He should desist from doing that. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Point of Order. Hon. Members I have deprecated the use of the word "nonsense" and the word "shut-up" in any debate. Mr Eyo will continue his speech.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Speaker, on that occasion, on the 27th June, 1947, the Premier as a member of the Board of Directors of this organisation addressing a dinner gathering which was composed of men from a cross section of the United States said:

"I am of the opinion that the African Academy has vindicated itself as a vehicle of understanding between the peoples of West Africa and the United States by establishing its office in this metropolis and staging festivals, not to mention its other activities and it has interpreted Africa more realistically and placed African

culture on a higher level of appreciation. This organisation deserves support and encouragement. I am aware of the difficulties with which the Academy must naturally be confronted but the fact that it has tried so far gives hope for the greater future. If the Academy continues it must have a programme of positive action planned well ahead and organised on a more permanent basis than at present. This should enable it to carry out its great mission as Ambassador between the two countries . . ."

An hon. Member: What of the accounts ?

Mr E. O. Eyo: I am coming to the accounts. . . "Let us recognise at once that the task of the Academy cannot be restricted to this Continent alone. It must be a two-way traffic. This implies bridgeheads in Africa and America, in order to make co-operation worthwhile. In addition to its professed aims and programme, the Academy can embark on certain projects in order to earn regular income with which to operate on a satisfactory basis. Purchasing of houses is one way out. Publication of periodicals is another. . ." Now he comes in: "I am authorised to say that the Zik's Press Limited are prepared to shoulder one-half of the cost of its production and distribution on terms to be mutually arranged."

Now, Sir, there is sufficient evidence before you to show that the Premier was stressing the point that he was authorised by his Board, which had nothing to do with the Academy, to invest. I am saying that that goes further to reinforce my argument that if there is anything wrong it is not only with Dr Mbadiwe but the Premier is also answerable.

Just one more point, Sir. You will hear evidence of the Bank transactions on this issue and it will interest you to know that one of the causes at the time why the A.A.A.R. was not able to remit money to students was due to the failure of the African Continental Bank, at a time when the Premier was Chairman and Governing Director, to remit money to the students.

Sir, I wish to deal with one more aspect of this. There was one Nigerian who was awarded a scholarship—a prominent Easterner who happens to be the personal physician to the Premier, who was educated from the funds of

the A.A.A.R. So that if the Academy has done nothing at all it has succeeded in providing the Premier with a personal physician.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member has five minutes more.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I have in my possession, Sir, a letter dated 27th June, 1946—three years after the Academy was founded.

It reads: "University of Toronto,
Department of Pathology and Bacteriology,
The Banting Institute,
Toronto, Canada.
27th June, 1946.

"My Dear Mazi Mbadiwe:

Thanks for your letter of 19th June informing me of the scholarship awarded to me by the New York Alumni Associates of Methodist and Accredited Schools through your generous and kind recommendations . . ."

"It is no exaggeration to say that without Ojike's great contribution and now yours, it is unquestionable that I would not have found the means wherewithal I could finish my medical career. May I again thank you from the very bottom of my heart . . ."

"... Your founding the Academy and maintaining it, a feat which only generations will most admire and look with reverence, your contacts in America, your published book, Ojike's attempt at Nigeria's . . ."

"Your suggestion of adopting me as a Herbert Macauley scholar is very interesting. It is an honour which I must not turn down. In doing so, you are paying the first tribute—a glorious memorable tribute to perhaps the greatest Nigerian fighter for freedom . . ."

Now, Sir, this letter is signed by Okechukwu Ikejiani. The story, Sir, dates back to 1943. 1943 to 1958 when Dr K. O. Mbadiwe—known to the whole world as "Knock Out"—decided to part company with the N.C.N.C. From 1943 when he founded this Academy in November to 14th June, 1958, the N.C.N.C. had nothing against him. Now that he has decided to fight and is at the moment gathering momentum, all that this party can do is to

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

use the floor of this House to assassinate his character.

In conclusion, Sir, may I say again that if there is any case to be made against the African Academy of Arts and Research, the Board of Directors and not Dr K. O. Mbadiwe as an individual will be held responsible, and, on that score, I do not see how the Premier can get out of it. I will go further to say, Sir, that we are only wasting your time by debating this Motion. I bet you, Sir, after passing this Motion, nothing will be done about it. If anything is done, I hope that all the evidence will be made available to this House.

Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

Mr Speaker: I have a little doubt, hon. Members, but I may discuss it with the Leaders of this House. Standing Order 25 (1) states:

“A Member shall not read his speech, but he may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes.”

It appears to me that the last speaker was reading something. In my view, it may be a good thing if papers to be read before the House are first of all brought to the Speaker, and the Speaker will satisfy himself that such papers could be read.

The Premier: Mr Speaker, Sir, I can assure this hon. House that it is not my pleasure to speak to this Motion because I had not intended to be present or to speak to the Motion simply because I feel that in this struggle for freedom in Nigeria, there are certain things which are better left unsaid. Two factors have influenced me to change my mind. One is a publication in the *Daily Telegraph* of last week which falsely alleged that I had given instructions that the Secretariat be ransacked and to look up all the *Gazettes* to find how to make a case against Dr Mbadiwe—a thing which is farthest from my mind and which I had never contemplated. I feel that I should speak in view of the fact that for reasons best known to those responsible in the Public Prosecutions office, newspapers had been publishing false news without anybody calling them to order, even though it is an offence under our Newspaper Law for any newspaper to

publish false news or statements known to be untrue. That is the first reason and I decided that I would be present to listen to what the House had to say about this because it is not my habit (as those people who know me well will vouchsafe) to be present when affairs affecting any person I have had the privilege of regarding as a personal friend for over a number of years are being discussed.

The second factor is the statement made by the Opposition Chief Whip quoting from a document which it is alleged is a forged one and at the same time making a statement which I feel should be corrected here. The statement is to the effect that as a member of a Board of Directors, one cannot get away from it.

Now, Sir, I want to say that when Dr Mbadiwe began with his Academy, he wrote to me as one of his sponsors, not financial sponsor, but as one of those who could make it possible as his brother to send him to America to study. I was the one who sponsored him to my former University and he had the privilege of using my name as a patron. I did it with others also who had returned from America. I did it with the late Ojike in connection with his African Development Corporation. I gave him my name freely to collect forms to tell people that “Zik is interested” in such commercial undertaking even though I had nothing in the African Development Corporation where only my name was the goodwill used in order to sell the Corporation to America and also to sell it to Nigeria. It is not my intention to reveal this secret but in view of the evil disposition of the Opposition Chief Whip, I felt bound to say this, not necessarily to embarrass Dr Mbadiwe, because I should not have bothered. I did it with Professor Chukwuemeka’s connection with the N.E.M.C.O. My name was used freely but besides the legal aspect of it, you may have Directors on the Board but when it comes to criminal acts that have been alleged so falsely and conclusively . . . (*Interruptions*). He should please keep quiet.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Well, do away with us.

The Premier: He has no right to interrupt if the Speaker says he should keep quiet.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Speaker will interrupt.

The Premier: If Mr Speaker asks him to keep quiet, he will keep quiet.

Mr Speaker, whether the Opposition Chief Whip wants it or not, I am bound to expose him, as I have been doing from time to time, to show his knavery. He cannot come to the House and use forged documents in order to mislead the House. He did it last time in connection with the E.R.D.C. for an alleged writing-off of £750,000. Nothing came out of it, because the Government felt there was no need to come to the Committee of Privileges and accuse him of a breach of privilege.

The other point, Mr Speaker, is that the Opposition should know that where you have a Board of Directors (you may have five or ten), where any criminal act is alleged, if that act is participated in by a Director without the knowledge and consent of the other Directors, the other Directors are not liable. There are many Lawyers here; unfortunately the only one they have is not there but there are many Lawyers on this side of the House.

Some Opposition Members: How many lawyers ?

The Premier: Mr Speaker, the Deputy Speaker is a Barrister-at-Law, the Minister of Town Planning is a Barrister-at-Law, and, besides, the Gentleman who dignifies this House with his presence as Chairman is a Lawyer. I did not say Government Members; I said in this House we have persons learned in the Law; so they ought to know whether what I am saying is right or wrong, that a Director is not liable for the offence committed by any particular Director without his knowledge and consent. Therefore, Mr Speaker, that aspect of the debate of the Opposition Chief Whip which seeks to include me in the activities of the Managing Director of the African Academy is basically defective because it does not take into consideration the legal implications. As a matter of fact, if he made that statement outside, he could be sued for scandal.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I have been sued before.

The Premier: It makes no difference to him whether he is sued or whether he is in prison. He cannot fall lower than he has fallen, and so he is just a problem which will have to be solved.

I will proceed, Sir. Having cleared that point I want to say this, Mr Speaker: that another statement was made by the Opposition

Chief Whip which is false. He led this House to believe that the Academy granted scholarship to Dr Ikejiani, and yet the evidence he portrayed showed that the Lincoln University of Alumni Association (that is the new name for Alumni Association) actually came to the rescue of this young man through the Academy; but it does not mean that the Academy awarded the scholarship; and that was the impression he tried to create in this House.

Now, the hon. Mover of this Motion has quoted from the *Gazette* instances in an Auditor's Report which showed irregularities in accounting on the part of Dr Mbadiwe. The question is: why was he not prosecuted? (*Interruption*). When the going was good, Mr Umoh, you had the opportunity to make good in life. I will suggest that you do not interrupt.

Mr Umoh: I am entitled to heckle.

Mr Ikoku: He is still making good.

Mr Speaker: I am appealing again to the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition Chief Whip so that they may be in order.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is a bit unfair to us.

The Premier: Mr Speaker, I do not yield. (*To Mr Ikoku*): I am speaking. You are not on a point of order. I am speaking. I am not yielding. Please sit down.

Mr Speaker, what we expected from anybody who dares to oppose this Motion is to controvert the argument of the hon. Mover that the statement made by him is not true and not to come here and use the "two cocks". That does not answer any argument. The Motion seeks to ask this Government to investigate and that is why I am speaking. Unless argument is forthcoming from their side or from any other side of the House saying why this investigation should not take place, this Government has decided that with all the facts adduced here, the Government will proceed to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the allegations made by the hon. Member.

Before I take my seat, as I said before, I am not interested and have not come here to speak ill of Dr Mbadiwe. Whatever he does, he has his own conscience, but this much I have

[THE PREMIER]

to say, that even at the time I was connected with the Academy, I also helped and that is what they do not know or what they had not wanted to know. At this dinner which was held not by the African Academy alone but in collaboration with the Lincoln University in July, 1947, I spoke and said that the Academy would live up to expectation. And before I left, I called Dr Mbadiwe on 5th July, 1947 before I went to the plane which took me to the United Kingdom for the Pan Nigeria Delegation, and I told Dr Mbadiwe that I appreciated his efforts in making my stay in the United States pleasant and I gave him a cheque for 75 dollars; and not only that, in appreciation of what he was doing in the Academy, I gave him a cheque dated that day—8th July, 1947 for 300 dollars. I am making this statement not because I want to embarrass Dr Mbadiwe or the Academy but because I read in the *Daily Telegraph* which actually made me to attend this meeting, although I had made up my mind not to attend, that I was probing the path of Dr Mbadiwe by ransacking the files in the Secretariat to get the *Gazette*, forgetting that only 12 years ago when I was in the United States, the Academy of Arts was my host and bore the expenses of my stay there. I was sent to the United States not only as a delegate of the N.C.N.C. but I was sent by my country, and before I left, I gave a donation of 75 dollars to Dr Mbadiwe and 300 dollars to his Academy.

An Opposition Member: What is the total?

The Premier: Whatever is the total, I do not mind. It is a gesture and I am sure unlike the Opposition Chief Whip, Dr Mbadiwe, no matter what may be his fault, is not ungrateful. If you give him a gift, he will not come and tell you that you have done nothing: unlike yourself.

An Opposition Member: All of us?

The Premier: Not all of them. I have mentioned those of them in the forefront who have tried to be ungrateful unlike Dr Mbadiwe.

Mr E. O. Eyo: He prevented the prosecution.

The Premier: I did not say that I prevented the prosecution. Please don't interrupt me. He should not take advantage that the

Speaker is new; therefore he should not make unseemly interruptions.

Mr Ikoku: Thank you.

The Premier: I am not talking about the Leader of the Opposition. I am talking about the Opposition Chief Whip who is usurping his position.

Mr Speaker, I know that the Opposition Members are very much embarrassed, and I know from their reaction that they did not expect this Motion to come up. I am sure there is a safe hand, because somebody who has something like the discarded accounts of the Academy may soon speak and as a medical practitioner, should be able to give some preventive measures so that the patient does not suffer from *Angina*. (*Laughter*).

However, we will want the Opposition to controvert the argument that the funds of the Academy were subverted, that the Auditor's account is not true, or is not accurate, so that the Government may be satisfied in not conducting this Commission. Otherwise, the Government is going to conduct the enquiry, not so much because it wants to go into the past of Dr Mbadiwe but because it is convinced that some of them who are trying to defend him today are doing so because they want to push him to ruin. The Commission of Inquiry reporting back to us, we will handle him all right.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to say that Standing Order 34 enjoins the Speaker in the House and the Chairman in any Committee to be responsible for the observance of the Rules of Order in the House and Committee respectively, and not the Leader of the Opposition. So I was a little unhappy when the Leader of the Opposition referred to me as being unfair. There is no intention to be unfair, and there is no reason to be unfair. At the moment I am not asking him to withdraw; on another occasion I shall have to.

Mr S. O. Achara (Okigwi Division): Mr Speaker, the aspect of this Motion I would like to deal with is that which gave rise to the auditing of the account of the African Academy of Arts and Research to which the hon. the Mover of this Motion referred when he was quoting from the *Gazette* which I suppose must have reached him from the Office of the Premier.

Mr Speaker, you will like to hear what happened with the first remittance made to students in the United States through the African Continental Bank, Ltd., Yaba because it was following complaints, telegrams and messages sent by the students of the Academy from the United States that led to the inquiry which was held on the auditing of the accounts. On the 26th September, 1950, a total of £3,350 was deposited in the African Continental Bank, Yaba, and was to be transferred to the United States as follows:—

£2,600 to Lincoln for the students in the Lincoln University.
£750 to other Universities.

An hon. Minister: Will he name them?

Mr Achara: Sir, this money was paid into the bank on the 26th of September, 1950 . . .

The Minister of Education (Mr G. E. Okeke): So he was told.

Mr Achara: . . . and the letter with which this money was paid is here, and with your permission it reads as follows:—

“15, Montgomery Road,
Yaba Estate.
26th Sept., 1950

The Manager,
African Continental Bank, Ltd.,
Yaba.

Dear, Sir,

Kindly transfer the amount on schedule handed you yesterday to the various universities. Total to Lincoln University amounts to £2,600 0s 0d. Total to four other universities £750 0s 0d. Total £3,350 0s 0d.

Please debit our account. Transfer should be by cablegram.

Yours truly,
Sgd. K. Ozuomba Mbadiwe
President A.A.R.”

So, Sir, all the money collected during the tours of the Academy in Nigeria was deposited in the A.C.B.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr P. O. Nwoga): Point of Order, Sir. Standing Order 25 (2). The hon. Member is dragging us into something else. He should speak on the substance of the Motion.

Mr Speaker: Go on, Mr Achara.

Mr Achara: Thank you very much, Sir.

As I was saying, all the money collected by the Academy was paid into the A.C.B. Mr Speaker on the 11th of October, 1950, the President of the Academy of Research received a cablegram from Lincoln University that this money which was transferred since the 26th of September had not been received.

“Money transferred by cablegram.”

An hon. Member: Not money, but paper.

Mr Achara: At the time of the transfer of this £3,350, the Credit Account of the African Academy of Arts and Research was more than £9,000 and out of that more than £9,000 account, the President gave directives that the sum of £3,350 should be transferred by cable to the United States and the bank failed woefully to do this. After one month, Sir, on the 11th of October, 1950, the President wrote to the Manager as follows:

“The Manager,
A.C.B. Ltd.,
Yaba.

Sir,

I have just received a cablegram from Lincoln University that money forwarded by you has not been received.

I am greatly embarrassed. Such delay damages the entire work and reputation of the Academy.

Could you do the following:

1. Investigate by cablegram from your Bankers the cause of delay.
2. Cable President Lincoln University that money had been despatched, otherwise my students face deplorable hardships.

Pray advise me immediately what I could do. The copy of the cablegram is herewith attached.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) K. O. Mbadiwe.”

The argument I am leading to, as I said before, is that at the time the President sought to transfer £3,350, the Credit Account of the African Academy of Arts and Research was to the tune of over £9,000 with the African

[MR ACHARA]

Continental Bank. At that time, Sir, the Managing Director of the A.C.B. was the Premier himself sitting there in the Manager's Office day in day out.

Mr Speaker, the last correspondence to which I would like to refer is the reply which the Bank Manager gave on the 11th of October, 1950, telling the President that there was no cause for him to be anxious about the transfer, that their Agent—an alleged Agent—in the United States was handling the business of the transfer. The name of the Agent was not disclosed. On the 12th of October, following this most unsatisfactory explanation by the Manager, the President of the African Academy of Arts and Research addressed the following letter to the Premier, then the Managing Director of the A.C.B.:

"Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe,
Managing Director,
African Continental Bank Ltd.,
Yaba.

Dear Dr Zik,

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to the Manager of the A.C.B. Ltd., Yaba, with reference to the sum of £3,350 transferred through the A.C.B. Ltd. to various Registrars of American Universities and of which the sum of £2,270 is for Lincoln University.

Yesterday I received a cablegram from Lincoln University which reads as follows:

'Handed in at Oxford Pen at 10.00 a.m.
Received at 10.39 a.m.

Nothing received to date University patience not inexhaustible. Academy students condition worsening. Further delay suicidal'

(Sgd.) Academy Students
Lincoln.'

An hon. Member: Whose writing is that?

Mr Achara: The letter continues:

"Hence the copy of my letter to your Manager. Your Manager replied promptly but only assured me that there was no cause for anxiety over the issue. I think there is sufficient cause for anxiety, that a cable transfer made since the 28th September 1950 ought to have reached the Registrar of Lincoln University by now.

"I will appreciate if you will authorise a cable to be sent immediately to Lincoln assuring them that money has been forwarded and also to your Bankers to find out the cause of delay.

"I am greatly embarrassed and trust that your prompt attention will make things easier."

An hon. Member: Who wrote that letter?

Mr Achara: That was in 1950, after this transfer had been made out of a credit account of over £9,000. Whatever happened to that money we do not know, but suffice it to say that at the time of this transfer, the African Continental Bank was facing a very grave situation. I have said that the object of this is to show the cause why this inquiry into the accounts was set up. Students who were sent overseas and who had expected remittances had nothing, and it was possible to transfer this money through other banks, but in an attempt to help an indigenous Bank and to help someone who was desirous of help, this money was transferred through the African Continental Bank. Since the mover of this Motion ushered his Motion we expected something. We thought there was something going to be found, but it is all emptiness, reading about figures published in *Gazette* of 1949. Mr Speaker, if these accounts were audited and these were the records, why was it that the Government that set up this auditing of the accounts did not take any action.

The Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo): It was not time then.

Mr Achara: When I am talking here, I do not want disturbance from him. He is not an elected Member here.

The Premier: Standing Order 25 (6). It is insulting. The hon. Attorney-General is deemed by the Nigeria Order-in-Council 1954-1958 to be an elected Member of this House. (*Interruptions*). They should not interrupt when I am raising a point of Order. The point, Sir, is that as far as the Constitution is concerned, the hon. Attorney-General of this Region is an elected Member of this House and the hon. Member says that he is not. The Constitution is our organic law; it is the

highest law of the land. My point is that it is insulting to say that the Attorney-General is not an elected Member of this House. May the hon. Member withdraw it, Sir.

Opposition Bench Members: How many votes did he score?

Mr Speaker: I do agree that it is offensive and insulting to use such language to any Member and I do not know whether the hon. Member did so in ignorance, not knowing the particular law that is quoted. If he did so purposely, he should withdraw it; but if he is actually ignorant, we can forgive him.

Mr Achara: He is deemed to be an elected Member.

Several hon. Members: Is he withdrawing or not?

Mr Achara: Mr Speaker, I have personal respect for you and because of that respect I have to withdraw.

I have read these letters to show you why the Inquiry is about to be held.

Several hon. Members: Withdraw the statement.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member withdraw the statement?

Mr Achara: If the Speaker wants me to withdraw the statement, and because of the respect I have for him, I withdraw it.

Mr Speaker: Thank you.

The Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo): The hon. Member does not seem to have withdrawn the statement.

Some hon. Members: Yes, he has.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Speaker, if you ask him to withdraw the statement, let him say "I withdraw", otherwise we cannot accept it; and if he does not do so he cannot speak.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Member, I suppose you have withdrawn the statement?

Mr Achara: Certainly.

I do not intend to debate this Motion further. When the Inquiry is set up, if ever this Government will set up any, the Inquiry will go into the conduct of the Board of Directors of the African Academy of Arts and Research, and the man who inspired this Motion, this lover of K. O. Mbadiwe who does not want to harm or undo him, will give evidence. He was one of the Directors and if anything was wrong with the A.A.A.R. he has as much responsibility as Dr Mbadiwe who was also one of the Directors.

Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

Mr Speaker: May I point out that in future I will not like hon. Members to use insinuating words because insinuation is no point.

Mr J. A. Agba (Ogoja Division): On a point of Order. Standing Orders 26 (1) and 34. You will notice, Sir, particularly the Government side, when they raise a point of order they stand there and make comments. The particular section to which I want to draw your attention is:

"... A Member rising to a point of order shall simply direct attention to the point he desires to bring to notice and submit it to Mr Speaker...". And section 34: "Decision of the Chair is final".

I cannot understand the Minister of Production standing up to give you directives and say that the hon. Member should withdraw his statement and unless he withdraws it he will not continue with his speech.

Mr Speaker: Thank you very much. It depends on whether the direction was in order. The Speaker has his discretion.

Mr M. E. Ogon (Ikom Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, before I go on again to quote from the relevant *Gazette* I would like to read an extract from an article by Dr Mbadiwe, President of the African Academy of Arts and Research, writing on page 17 of his Magazine in April, 1945. He said (he was quoting Dr Azikiwe's biography and giving him support).

"So long as we have men of integrity who are willing to serve sincerely and without

[MR OGON]

any mercenary motives, but with a sense of moral values, we need not mind the vapourings of those who doubt the capacity of the African to control finance and use same for the ultimate benefit of the community. . ."

Our whole case as quoted by the Mover of the Motion is that from the report of the *Gazette* he has not followed Dr Azikiwe's philosophy and we are trying to prove that this man is not a man of integrity. We are trying to prove that he was not serving sincerely and that he has an ulterior motive in the whole project and until Opposition Members reply to this point they have not replied to our own case.

Now it is not necessary to quote what Dr Azikiwe said to Mbadiwe in America because the whole basis of our case is that Dr Azikiwe made a speech in Washington before Mbadiwe ever came back. He came back trusting he is a good man. He went over the whole country and collected money and after that, as a matter of fact, the conclusion of the report was that he defrauded the public. I do not agree with my hon. Friend for Okigwi that this money was deposited with the A.C.B. Now, the report in the *Gazette* shows the Bank to be the National Bank of Nigeria Limited, and at the time shows the Bank balances have been compiled with the Bank's payment. In the case of the National Bank Limited the balance appearing in the Cash Book was £502 10s 0d. It was explained to me that that was the figure and the difference between that figure and the one shown in the account was £398 8s 5d.

Also, Sir, if you read Schedule D you are going to find out that Schedule D is a section given to expenditure under Scholarship. If you read Schedule D you are going to find out that from the duplicate bank note there is evidence that the amount was saving from academic point of scholarship: £800 to New York, £200 to New York and other money paid to Dr Darley; so there was no money as a matter of fact paid on behalf of the Nigerian students in this account. There is evidence in this account. I am reading from Schedule D of the *Gazette*.

Sitting suspended at 12 noon.

Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.

Mr Ogon: I started off earlier, Mr Speaker, by wanting to make some quotation and I quoted to show that even at the National Bank of Nigeria Ltd., at the time of the report of the Auditors, the balance which the A.A.A.R. had was £398 8s 6d. Sir, such a balance does not support the allegation by the Member for Okigwi that the whole cause of the fear of the students was because the A.C.B. Ltd., could not pay this money.

What are the facts, Sir? The facts are that at the time Dr Mbadiwe sent this telegram to the students he had no account in Lagos with the A.C.B. Rather, he approached the Bank to give him an overdraft so that he could get out of his quandary. Now the Bank Manager—not the Managing Director now—of that Bank naturally refused and said that Dr Mbadiwe should have his money paid in, otherwise he was not going to transfer any money. By the way, Sir, Dr Mbadiwe asked the Manager to send a telegram and to debit his account. With this instruction to debit his account he sent a telegram to the students and said money was coming. So the Bank Manager refused to transfer any money until this money reached his hand. So you could see, Sir, Dr Mbadiwe asking the Manager to send money to the students when he had no account in the Bank. But that is not the point I am trying to make.

The main point is about shares of the A.A.A.R. What does the auditor say about that? Dr Mbadiwe had shares in two firms: one, the African Insurance Company Ltd., and the other, the Greater Tomorrow Company. There is no indication here about the profits. What happened to the profits, Sir? I hear that the last of these shares was sold at Onitsha for £5. But it is interesting to note what the auditor said about these shares. He said: "It will be observed that K. O. Mbadiwe, President of the Academy and Promoter of the Collection, is intimately connected with the two companies, the shares of which have been bought for the Academy. Under no circumstances can the purchase of these shares be said to further the purpose for which the Public Collection was made." That is the comment of the Auditor.

The facts are that the Elephant House, Aba, was one of the properties purchased of funds collected for the purpose of the Academy. That house is the house where Dr Mbadiwe

is living and it is the headquarters of the D.P.N.C. These facts were not known to us then, but they are becoming glaring everywhere today.

Now, Sir, take No. 10—Insurance of Cars. The Auditor said:

“I am unable to agree with the figure of £114 6s 9d in the accounts. The insurance rate of the Kit-car is £15 per annum making a total of £45 for the period October, 1948 to October, 1951. That of the Saloon A.8999 is at £16 10s per annum making a total of £49 10s for the same period”.

It does not amount to £114 6s 9d. I can quote many other heads, Sir, but it is not quite necessary now.

I want to say, Sir, that there has been no argument from the other side to refute this very serious allegation. When Dr Mbadiwe was with us, there was no evidence forthcoming to impeach him, but the moment he left us contrary to the wishes of his people who voted him to office, there were evidences and repeated requests that this Government should investigate his activities. So that the facts are now coming out day by day and with the passing of this Motion, Sir, more facts are bound to come to light.

Now, Sir, look at the activities of this organisation in America itself. We have had no evidence to say that there was any scholarship awarded. And what happened to Africa House in the United States? The story about Africa House is that some West Indians out of pure nationalism—people who wanted to help the black race, land of their ancestors—sold this house which has not been paid for till today and this house was to be used as a medium for the students who then found their plight to be fruitless.

I want to say, Sir, that all the letters quoted by the Opposition Chief Whip only go to confirm what Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe has said: that all along he was helping Dr Mbadiwe. From the inception of this idea, he has been helping Dr Mbadiwe. Our attitude to this Motion is not that the aims and objectives of the African Academy of Arts and Research are deceptive. Nobody says so. It was a very noble idea but, unfortunately, it was run by

men who are dishonest. I am saying therefore, Sir, that it is not necessary to present these letters against this Motion.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to say sincerely that I can only compare the activities of the President of the African Academy of Arts and Research with the famous Al Caponi and Billy Hill. His activities with this company when properly investigated can only be equated with them. Here is a gentleman who runs five million people in order to foster his own ends; whereas the Odozi Obodo Society killed people by macheting, this man killed others by hunger and sufferings.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture (Mr D. A. Nnaji):

Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Motion. In doing so, Sir, I wish to say that if there is anything that has prevented Africans from investing in and patronising African enterprise, it is the role played by Dr Mbadiwe in this African Academy of Arts and Research. You will see among the Africans, Sir, that when anybody tries to establish any business, they will say:

“Perhaps if I invest my money in this business, it would be like that of the African Academy of Arts and Research”.

This gentleman might have been very pushful because he went to the United States and learned some sort of tricks. Not everybody that went to the United States will be subjected to a Commission of Inquiry. Professor Eyo Ita was educated in America and nobody will query his character. The hon. Member on the Government Side, Mr Kalada Kiri, was educated in the United States of America but nobody will question his character. The same for Hon. Udonkim and the Minister of Internal Affairs; nobody can question their character. You may be interested to know that out of the people whom Dr Mbadiwe approached in Enugu here to help him to organise the African Academy of Arts and Research, I was the one who approached the people of Nkanu. This man came with bogus promises of giving scholarships to many people and asking many people to invest in the Academy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, when this man came I was appointed a *protem* secretary and I organised the people of this township as a whole to

[MR NNAJI]

patronise the Academy because I was a member of the Zikist Movement which was the organisation to push forward the ideal founded by the leader of the N.C.N.C., Dr the Hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe. When we met in the African Club here, a big crowd gathered to listen to our big man, the so-called big man. Mr Speaker, some of these people who were present donated £250 to become life members.

An Opposition Member: How much was his own?

Mr Nnaji: There were other people who gave £500 to support the Academy. This man went so far as to ask me as the Secretary of the Nkanu District Council to make the Native Authority contribute towards the Academy. When the matter was brought up he offered scholarship to an Nkanu boy and that boy never went to America because that scholarship never materialised. The Nkanu D. C. took a decision that as this man was sent to America by Dr Azikiwe through his inspiration, that he must be a genuine man. They believed that Dr Azikiwe knew him very well. The Nkanu N.A. voted a large sum of money to be given to this man. When it came to the D.O., Udi he turned it down and said that it was a private concern and that if any individual councillor was prepared to invest in the Academy he should do so individually. Then they contributed money and gave to this man, and he gave no receipts.

Mr Speaker, I had expected that the Opposition Members of this House would have come out openly to accept this Motion if they have nothing to hide. That was not the usual disposition of hon. Achara. That was not his usual dynamic demeanour in this House. All the Members of the Opposition are shivering when they speak on this Motion.

An Opposition Member: This is not Nkanu court.

Mr Nnaji: They are shivering because they know that if this Inquiry is set up it will have enough to do with the leader of the D.P.N.C.

Mr Speaker, I would like to make it clear that the Mover of this Motion never consulted the Government Party as such before sending

the Motion to the Clerk of the Eastern House of Assembly. There was no time when the Members of the Government Party met and decided that such and such Motion should be tabled in order to embarrass or to implicate or incriminate anybody. But what the Opposition Chief Whip was trying to prove was that it was the N.C.N.C. as a party which organised the Motion; which is far from the truth. We have never met over this Motion and asked anybody to table it. It was as a big desire on his part to bring facts in order to make Africans realise that certain people who are being suspected of having taken part in these fraudulent activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research have nothing to do with it. That was why he brought up the Motion; and you will just see what the Chief Whip of the Opposition said.

This was the very thing published in Mbadiwe's Paper called the *Daily Telegraph*—such *Telegraph* through which a telegram was sent to Washington—a false telegram. They published, Sir, that the Premier has directed that all the offices in the Eastern Region should be combed. How did the Premier know about that? They come here to incriminate people, to assassinate the character of good people in this House. The Premier shall be the last man to go after an individual like Mbadiwe whom he had acknowledged here as a man with whom he had worked for several years. If there is anybody to be pursued (if the Premier were such a person), Eyo would have been the man to be pursued, because everybody knows the role Eyo is playing in this House. He wants to topple the Government.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Point of Order, Sir. I am relying on Standing Order 25 (9), Sir.

Mr Speaker: Mr Nnaji.

Mr Nnaji: Mr Speaker, you will see that his aim is to overthrow the Government. He has no other aim of coming to this House than to attack the Premier from whom he has taken much—to whom he should have been grateful. The Premier has always been the target of attack in this House and we are too lenient, otherwise if we are not being held back, Eyo would have been smashed to pieces outside this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion is not a contentious one. The Members of the Opposition should, if they have nothing to hide, support it. (*Interruptions*).

Dr Okpara: On a Point of Order. Standing Orders 25 (5) and 27 (5).

Mr Speaker: Thank you. I shall pay attention to them.

Mr Nnaji: Mr Speaker, as I was saying, what I had expected of the Opposition was that if they had nothing to fear or hide, they should have supported this Motion and we could have proceeded to other business, because a drowning man or woman does not breathe his or her last until he or she goes to the bottom of the river. That is the position of some Members of the Opposition. I think the time has come for the Speaker to take a firm stand because these Opposition Members are taking advantage of the allowances being paid to them.

Mr Ikoku: The allowances have not been approved.

Mr Nnaji: Mr Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, I would say that the Mover of this Motion has abundantly made out a case for the Greater Tomorrow to answer. There is no doubt about that. The document read before the House this morning is a conclusive evidence which has proved that the money had not been applied to the purposes for which it was collected. I want the Government not to wait and dilly-dally because they have thrown a challenge that this Government cannot set up a Commission of Inquiry. This challenge must not be accepted by this Government otherwise, we shall cease to be a Government.

Dr W. N. Onubogu (Onitsha Division): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As a matter of fact, I came prepared with an open mind to give as much facts as I find to help the House over this case because if it is a question whether money has been misappropriated somehow, I think the House is entitled to know. Mr Speaker, I hope you will stop small flies from interrupting. I am saying, Sir, that I was shocked when the Premier said that the Government had made up its mind to proceed with the Commission of Inquiry. That shows that the whole thing is concluded. We just come here

to waste the tax-payers' time. I am saying that it has been proved and the Premier admitted that he is a member of the Board of Directors. He has not resigned. Till tomorrow, he has not resigned. Whether he is party to this charge or not is up to the Commission to deal with. I am saying that my hon. colleague has already proved to the House the difficulties put in the way of this man to send money to America. In other words, they made it impossible for the Academy of Arts and Research to function. The Mover called it an all-important Motion but I say it is a frivolous Motion—frivolous in the sense that he has not mentioned the names of those who paid the money and who were not sent to America.

Mr Speaker, the Government Bench want to create a noise. If they want to sling mud we will do so from here. I like to be heard in silence. The Premier has referred to a gentleman with a cash book who may probably give the facts. I am standing to give the facts now, and I do not want to be interrupted. The Mover of the Motion did mention the people who inspired Dr Mbadiwe. Is that what we come here to hear? Is it not true that Dr Azikiwe inspired Dr Mbadiwe? Not him alone, he inspired a lot of people. He even said that he wanted to emulate the people who acquired and ran the W.A.S.U. He got the Africa House and students live there. We are now hearing a new story from the Government Chief Whip that the house was sold but the money was not paid. Are they claiming the money from him? The last Warden of that House was Mr Unaka, now Assistant District Officer, Afikpo.

Mr Speaker, I hope that people who come to the House should speak as honourable men. Somebody has said that when the going was good these facts did not come out, and after the Auditor's Report published in 1951 no arrests were made. The Premier said that he restrained the hands of justice. (*An hon. Member: He did not say so*). That was precisely what he said. Now that they have full powers they want to tie the man down and punish him. What type of independence are we expecting next year? Why limit the Inquiry to the Eastern Region alone where the circle of influence of the Premier is? I say this with a very heavy heart. I am not related to him. When three of them—three

[DR ONUBOGU]

great sons of Africa, of Nigeria, of the Eastern Region—were in America, big hopes were raised, and we expected great things when they returned—not things like this. I am saying, Sir, that I have here the names of the people who benefited by this Academy.

Government Bench: Read them out.

Dr Onubogu: Those who were not able to go over to the United States for one reason or the other had their money refunded.

Several hon. Members: No, no.

Dr Onubogu: Those who got there and became ill and could not make use of the money provided for them had their money refunded.

I have to say, Sir, that some of these people, and even the Mover of the Motion himself who said he helped Mbadiwe to go round, were people who went round collecting money from people and putting it into their own pockets.

Mr Speaker, if you allow me, I will read to you a letter written to Dr Mbadiwe by the Secretary of the Owerri Division Joint Executive Committee, Lagos. This is in respect of a gentleman of high rank in the N.C.N.C. and a Federal Minister. This man collected money from Owerri people and put it into his own pocket. With your permission, Sir, it reads as follows:—

Dr Okpara: Standing Order 28 (1).

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): What does it say. We can't have all this "Point of Order, Point of Order" when we are discussing something very serious.

Dr Okpara: It is the Standing Orders that check their recklessness here.

Mr J. A. Agba (Ogoja Division): I know how he is feeling now.

Mr Ogon: He is feeling very well.

Mr Speaker: Order, order. Dr Onubogu, you are very responsible. I would like you to be relevant to the point under discussion. Has the letter you want to read anything to do with the Motion?

Dr Onubogu: Before I continue, Sir, just stop me if on reading the letter you decide that the letter has nothing to do with the Academy.

Mr Speaker: Has it anything to do with the accounts of the Academy?

Dr Onubogu: Yes, Sir.

An hon. Member: See him laughing, Sir; it has nothing to do with the point under discussion.

Dr Onubogu: Sir, the letter reads:—

"Owerri Division Joint Executive Committee, Lagos

The Secretariat,
c/o R. C. Iwuchukwu, Esq.,
126, Clifford Street,
Yaba.
27th October, 1955.

Hon. K. O. Mbadiwe,
Minister of Communications and Aviation,
Lagos.

Hon. Barrister Njoku: Refusal to render Account

Sir, I am directed by the Owerri Division Joint Executive Committee, Lagos, to report and bring to your esteem notice, for purpose of medication, the non-co-operation which amounts to refusal of Hon. Amanze Njoku to refund the sum of £200 which he collected from my Committee since April, 1949.

2. Sequel to the offer of a number of scholarships by you to Owerri Division in 1948, my Committee (O.D.J.E.C.) initiated a move which resulted in the inauguration of an all embracing Owerri Division Central Education Council and the collection of about £800 on the first instance by different bodies of the Division. Out of this my Committee (O.D.J.E.C.) Lagos, contributed £200. It is believed that the total amount involved is about £1,800.

3. Hon. Amanze Njoku was elected Chairman of this O.D.J.E.C. with the specific duty of concretizing and implementing the Education Scheme to meet the generous offer of Hon. Mbadiwe and satisfy the yawning of my people, in making it possible for a number of our sons and daughters to benefit of higher education.

Subsequent events proved the Council a failure. Other officers elected along with Hon. Njoku were hon. E. U. Eronini, Treasurer, T. E. Amakaihe, Secretary. But hon Eronini had written to the effect that the Chairman did not hand him over the money collected. In other words, he was basking as Chairman *cum* self-appointed Treasurer.

He has started refunding the money to some N.A. contributors but has failed to refund our own despite our several letters to him in demand of the sum.

Since 12th April, 1954, . . .”

Mr Ogon: Point of Order, Mr Speaker, Standing Order 28 (1). I want to say, Sir, that you asked the hon. Member whether what he was reading had to do with the accounts of the African Academy of Arts and Research. He said yes, but reading through his letter, he has made no mention of the accounts and I am humbly submitting, Sir, that what he is reading is irrelevant to the Motion.

Dr Onubogu: After all, Dr Azikiwe never went round offering scholarships.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works (Mr R. O. Anoke): Standing Order 25(15)—

“All Ministers shall be referred to by the designation of their portfolio . . .”

We know that he is Dr Azikiwe but in this House, according to our Standing Orders, he should be addressed as the Premier.

Dr Onubogu: I said Dr Mbadiwe.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Dr Onubogu: If I said Dr Azikiwe, it was a mistake. Sorry. I was referring to

Dr Mbadiwe. I said that he never offered any other scholarships to these Owerri people and that happened in 1949. They can raise any amount of points of order; they will never push me out of my line.

“On the 12th April, 1954, my Committee filled his Form dated 10th April, 1954, which he said would qualify us for a refund. Since then we had written to him several letters to which he could not reply.

On the 21st October, 1955, he treated the delegates sent by my Committee to collect this money from him with discourtesy and contempt.

My Committee is therefore humbly appealing to you to mediate in this matter by appealing to him to refund with interest our £200 which he collected from us since April, 1949.

My Committee will be forced in two months time to take any other steps necessary for the refund of this sum.

(Sgd.) R. C. IWUCHUKWU
Secretary”

This gentleman will come to the proposed Inquiry to give evidence.

I read this to show you what happens when people tour and pose around as the leaders of their people. As soon as Dr Mbadiwe toured, they started collecting money. I am saying that what the former letter-writer, the former newsvendor said here, is a blantant lie. He made mention of people paying £500 without mentioning the names of the people. How many of them could afford to pay that sum then? After all, we are Easterners and we know all about the people of this Region.

Sir, the Mover of this Motion said he would call people of Ohafia and Abriba area to give evidence. Mr Speaker, here is a stamped receipt signed by Kalu, President, and I. Imo, Financial Secretary of the Ohafia Progressive Union. That was done on 20th May, 1952.

An hon. Member: Pass it round.

Dr Onubogu: I did mention earlier that those who were unable to benefit by the scholarship scheme had their money refunded.

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1243

[African Academy

5 MAY 1959

of Arts and Research]

1244

[DR ONUBOGU]

With your permission, I will read a letter from Ohafia Progressive Union, care O. Kalu, Esq., Ohafia Central School, via Bende. Your area, Dr Okpara.

“Ohafia Progressive Union,
c/o O. Kalu, Esq.,
Ohafia Central School,
Via Bende
20th May, 1952

“We the under-signed, representing the Executive Officers of the Ohafia Progressive Union and the General Membership hereby acknowledge the receipt of the sum of £200 2s 6d from K. O. Mbadiwe, President of the Academy of Arts and Research, being the balance of students account deposited by Ohafia Progressive Union to the African Academy of Arts and Research on behalf of their sponsored students to the African Academy of Arts and Research.

“We here certify that neither, K. O. Mbadiwe nor the African Academy of Arts and Research has any further financial obligations to us.

“On the strength of the above, we here certify that our account with the African Academy is correct and we give this certified note in testimony.

We are on behalf of Ohafia Progressive Union.

O. KALU, *Present* I. IMO, *Financial Secretary*
N. E. NSA, *Witness*.

Mr Speaker, I have a thousand and one such receipts and if Members insist I will bring them, but I think it will be a waste of the time of the House. I have already said that the Mover of this Motion made no point. At times, I wish we were in a Law Court, so that an ordinary submission of no point case would have been entered and we would have left the Court a long time. You cannot just come here and make wild allegations, whereas the account had been checked in 1951 and you did nothing.

An hon. Member: There are no stamps on the receipts you tendered.

Dr Onubogu: In this Ibo country go and try to collect huge sums of money from ordinary citizens without receipt and see the result. They want a Commission, we agree; let them pass it and go and prove their case. But I am saying, Sir, that I do not like the way we are treading. In 1957 it was proper for the Premier and the much respected L. P. Ojukwu to stay the hands of Justice. Now that Dr Mbadiwe disagreed with Dr Azikiwe just on a matter of principle, on a matter of the Party policy which could be made up at any time if the two heads agree—because of that, this matter was revived. Well, people said that they are embarking on total annihilation of human beings; I do not agree they will succeed in doing that.

Mr Speaker, if you will allow me I will just read the names of a few of those scholars who had been benefited by the scholarship scheme:

1. Ochiogu Onyekaba	...	...	1949	City College, New York.
2. Peter Mbadiwe	...	...	1949	Union College, New York.
3. B. Y. A. Andoh	...	...	1949	Wilberforce University.
4. E. B. Ekunseitam	...	...	1949	Lincoln University.
5. Rosalin Eronini	...	...	1950	Swethmore College.
6. Osuji Njoku	...	...	Feb., 1949	Brooklyn College.
7. Presli Pabi	...	...	1949	Brooklyn College.
8. B. O. Rotimi	...	...	1948	Syracuse University.
9. Bassey Okon	...	...	1949	Defiance College.
10. E. B. Okafor	...	...	1949	Lincoln University.
11. C. C. Okoye	...	...	1948-50	Fort Valley College.
12. C. C. Okoye	...	...	1950-51	Lincoln University.
13. Raphael Nwokobi	...	...	1949	Lincoln University.
14. E. A. Ofodile	...	...	1949	Lincoln University.
15. C. A. Nnubia	...	...	1949	Lincoln University.
16. Charles N. Lemdi	...	...	1949	Lincoln University.
17. Ukoha Igweukoha	...	...	1949	Lincoln University.

18. Z. A. Duru	...	...	...	1949	Lincoln University.
19. N. Uka	...	...	...	1949	Lincoln University.
20. Abai N. Abai	...	...	...	1950	Lincoln University.
21. James Nwobi	...	...	...	1950	Lincoln University.
22. Francis Chigbo	...	...	...	1950	Lincoln University.
23. Michael Ochuba	...	...	...	1950	Lincoln University.
24. O. Okorie	...	...	...	1950	Lincoln University.
25. Chuku Odu	...	...	...	1950	Lincoln University.
26. D. N. Uwa	...	...	...	1949	Syracuse University.

Frivolous Motions here, Sir, are too frequent. I would like to make it clear that we, the Opposition, are not against any genuine Motion which calls for investigation. But a Motion like this, which does not state that a student paid say £800 or £1,000, so that investigation can be made, is worthless.

Government Bench: He should submit his Cash Book.

Dr Onubogu: I cannot give them my Cash Book, they will give it to the Commission.

I said, Sir, that I came here with an open mind to help the House, but I notice, Sir, that the case has been closed before it started.

Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose this Motion because it is frivolous and malicious. This is not the way to fight a political opponent. If they want to fight him, let them go to the masses and vote him out.

The Minister of Commerce (Mr J. U. Nwodo): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Motion. I would like just to return the challenge which has been offered to the Members of the Government Bench by a Member of the D.P.N.C. to the effect that if we want to fight Dr Mbadiwe politically we should go and ask the public to vote him out. The challenge which I am returning to him is that I am prepared at this moment to tender my resignation from this House if he would accept the same challenge to tender his own resignation and let us go back to our constituencies. (*Hear! Hear!*).

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Speaker, I rise to move the adjournment of the House to allow the resignations to be handed in.

Mr Nwodo: Mr Speaker, Sir, the arguments which have been adduced by the Opposition against this very Motion have not been

interesting in many ways. They have not helped their case, and not only that they have not helped their case but the argument has rather reinforced the very fact that there is the necessity for setting up an Inquiry to investigate the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research and the role played by Dr Mbadiwe in collecting the funds and disbursing the funds for the purpose of furthering the aims of this very organisation.

When the last speaker, Dr Onubogu, spoke here giving the list of the beneficiaries of the scholarship of the Academy of Arts and Research, one would have thought that he would have made his case clear to the House if he had told in each case how much money was spent on the head of each of these students who benefited by this scholarship. It is very important because the essence of this Motion is to investigate the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research, the role played by Dr Mbadiwe directly or indirectly in furthering the aims and objects of the Academy in the Eastern Region and to relate these activities to the disbursement of the funds collected by the said organisation.

My speech, Sir, will therefore be centered on three main points:

- (1) The total amount collected by the African Academy of Arts and Research;
- (2) The expenditure of these funds collected by the African Academy of Arts and Research and
- (3) The auditor's report in relation to these funds which were collected.

By the time I shall have dealt with these points, the role played by any individual as a Director shall have been understood.

That is why I have said, Mr Speaker, that the setting up of an Inquiry is a very welcome proposition by which anybody who is connected with the activities of this African Academy of

[MR NWODO]

Arts and Research would have the opportunity to defend himself before the Commission. There is no question of fighting shy over this; if by all standards we feel that any member of the Government has been a member of the Board of Directors and has had hands in the management of the funds of this African Academy of Arts and Research, in the day to day approval of the expenditure incurred by this African Academy of Arts, by all means go and report the one before the Commission. If it has now become a principle or a convention which most of us know too well is not, that whenever it is desirable for any Board of Company or Association to incur an expenditure that it would be necessary for all members of the Board to meet and agree that money has got to be expended, they should tell it to the Commission and let any member of the Board who has had any hand in the appropriation of the funds collected by this African Academy of Arts go before the Commission and defend himself.

We are one and the same with the Opposition on this very point. There is no need evading the fact; if the Opposition know that there is anybody in the Government Bench who is connected with the appropriation of this money they should tell it to the Commission and let him go there and defend himself.

Now, to deal with the funds collected by the A.A.A.R. according to the auditor's report dated 27th September, 1951, they are in the following order:

	£	s	d
From Lagos Area ...	1,140	18	10
From Northern Provinces	4,169	1	4
From Eastern Provinces...	4,035	6	8
From Western Provinces	261	5	9
From the Cameroons ...	650	0	0
Miscellaneous ...	92	19	7
Net sales of buttons ...	180	0	0

Cash advanced by Dr Mbadiwe—which is just an ambiguous statement, £400. Total £10,869 12s 2d.

Mr Speaker, for the purpose of my argument you will regard Southern Cameroons then as part of the Eastern Region. Now, the total amount collected was £10,869 12s 2d and if you listened patiently to the argument of Dr Onubogu on the number of people who benefited from this Academy fund, you would

see that if he had been specific enough to give the amount incurred by the Academy on each of the candidates, we would have been able to relate the expenditure to the total amount collected by the A.A.A.R.

An Opposition Member: Set up a Commission of Inquiry?

Mr Nwodo: So he agrees to our setting up a Commission of Inquiry. It is all well and good.

Now, Sir, on the expenditure side, it will be seen, according to what was presented to the auditor, and from what I have read now, that what was in the account shown for the Eastern Region was £4,035 6s 8d. Under the Public Collections Ordinance, Regulation 14, anybody who collects money is bound to issue receipts. But instead of issuing receipts to people whom Dr Mbadiwe had collected this money from, he preferred only to keep the list. You can now see the disparity that in the Eastern Region the amount shown to have been collected was £4,035 6s 8d but on the list it was shown as £3,620 15s 0d. What is the difference? £414 10s 10d. Is this not a material for setting up a Commission of Inquiry, hon. Gentlemen?

The next aspect of it is that in the Western Provinces, according to his book, what he had in the account is £216 5s 9d. But what he had on the list is £741 13s 5d—deficiency £480 7s 8d. On the Southern Cameroons, what was on his book was £650 and what he had on the list was £499 15s 0d—deficiency £150 5s 0d. Now, you will find that on the list of donations which Dr Mbadiwe received from Jos was £1,198 18s 9d, but what was accounted for was only £200—deficiency £998 18s 9d. £1,198 18s 9d was collected but what was accounted for was only £200—deficiency £998 18s 9d, and the Opposition tell the people of the Region that there should be no need for setting up a Commission of Inquiry.

Mr E. O. Eyo: To be set up by the Government.

Mr Nwodo: Do the Opposition want the Region to understand that from the wide margin of such disparity between the money collected and the actual expenditure incurred, it was not justifiable to set up a Commission of Inquiry?

On the question of rent, Sir, it is indicated that £150 was paid for rent. But from the Auditor's Report, Sir, it will be observed that there was no voucher issued supporting this expenditure. There is also the account shown for electrical installation. It is to the tune of £65 7s 4d. What was vouchered for was £26 10s 7d and what was shown in the account book for electrical installation is £65 7s 4d. I repeat: what was vouchered for and perhaps paid to the landlord or the E.C.N. was £26 10 7d—deficiency £38 16s 9d. Is that why the Opposition say we should not set up an inquiry?

The hon. Achara told the House that the African Continental Bank was unable to honour the request of Dr Mbadiwe to transfer the sum of £3,350 to the United States. I wish to say that there was no necessity for anybody who had an account in the bank sending a letter for transfer of money in this way. The normal routine is to simply issue a cheque and once you issue a cheque, knowing that you have an account in the bank to your credit, the automatic thing is that the cheque is honoured. The very important fact which the hon. Gentleman has hidden from this House is that by the time this request was made, there was no account standing to the credit of the African Academy of Arts and Research in the African Continental Bank. Dr Mbadiwe then wanted an overdraft.

The sum total of what I want to say, Sir, is that we have made a case on the Motion to set up an inquiry. When the hon. Chief Whip of the Opposition started to speak here, he started off by telling the House of the good relationship which existed between Dr Mbadiwe and the N.C.N.C.; his qualifications, his position in the Party, first Vice-President—as a matter of fact he was never the first Vice-President—and so on. And so what? On the same analogy, Sir, was not the Chief Whip of the Opposition himself the Deputy Speaker of this House at one time? Was he not the Chief Whip of the Government? And was he not the Chairman of the E.R.D.C. some time? What I am saying, Sir, is that by moving this Motion—which is just from a Floor Member of this House—we are acquiescing to the demand of the people of this Region, that when one is in a position to collect and take custody of public money, he is bound to give an accurate account of how and for what purpose the money was utilised.

Chief G. N. Agbasiere (Orlu Division): Mr Speaker, this Motion is not a thing like the barrel. All hon. Members in this House have families. If you have no children, you have brothers, sisters, uncles and so on. If anybody comes to you and reports that your son or daughter has stolen a goat, he will keep quite and listen . . .

An hon Member: Until the goat returns.

Chief Agbasiere: Until the case is finalised.

Dr K. O. Mbadiwe is from Orlu Division but I will not come here to defend him without hearing both sides of the story. What the Opposition would have done would have been to support the Motion and call for an Inquiry. I will not help a man to be corrupt. What I pray the Government is to wind up the debate. This Motion has taken a whole day and the Opposition would have allowed the enquiry to know whether Dr Mbadiwe had done these things or not. If he did them, then he is guilty. There is no need for us to come here quarrelling and defending him so that Dr Mbadiwe will call us good men.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I pray you to put the Question at once and stop the debate.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that time is very much against us and I now want to wind up as quickly as I can.

But before I go on, Sir, I would like to remind you of a comment you made when you took an exception to a statement attributed to me to the effect that I said that the Speaker was unfair. You made a suggestion that in future it will be necessary to fetch certain papers before we are allowed to use them in the House and I made a remark that that was unfair. I would not like the Speaker to have the impression that I referred to him as unfair in the discharge of his duties.

The Motion before us Sir, is a very hard one. You can gather that from the fact that we have spent the whole of today on it. Unfortunately I did not think that the hon. the Mover really wanted to help this House. The hon. the Leader of the House shocked me as being rather vindictive and engaging in party polemics.

[MR IKOKU]

Mr Speaker, I would like to add that the hon. the Mover had admitted that he was one of the agents of Dr K. O. Mbadiwe in collecting this money. The important thing is that the auditor's report was published as far back as 1951 and if the hon. Mover has the conscience to try to come here this morning, I am sure that within eight years he would have seen the report and he would have taken the proper action.

I would say, Sir, that whatever the motive for moving this Motion, I would not like the hon. Mover to try to pretend that it was motivated by sincerity. I mean, his record in the African Academy and what he himself admitted on the Floor of this House show clearly that it was motivated not by sincerity but by the desire to be vindictive and, of course, to make his own contribution to his Party's activities.

I would like to call your attention to the fact that the African Academy of Arts and Research obtained a permit under the Public Collections Ordinance to collect money for its activities. This permit was issued by the Central Government of Nigeria. Money was collected, money was disbursed. The Government, for reasons best known to them, or shall I say acting on the provisions of the Public Collections Ordinance, appointed an Auditor to go into the accounts of the African Academy of Arts and Research. The Auditor reported and the Report was published in the Nigerian Papers and in the Government *Gazette*. All that took place in 1951. If, Sir, the Auditor's Report drew attention to fraudulent activities in the African Academy of Arts and Research, surely it was the duty of the Legal Department to institute legal action against Dr K. O. Mbadiwe and if that Department failed to do that, the natural, the logical conclusion which is to be drawn by any sane thinking person is that they knew they could not win their case in the Court.

I would have thought, Sir, that hon. Gentlemen in this House should have left the sleeping dog to lie, but they are not satisfied; after eight years! And the significant thing, Sir, is that Dr K. O. Mbadiwe was their bosom friend. All this time, as long as he was a friend there was no need for investigation, but now that he has fallen out with them there must be an inquiry.

I would like to point out, Sir, that Dr Horaceman Bond visited this country at least on two occasions in connection with the investigations by the Central Criminal Investigation Department as regards the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research. I presume that was the incident to which the hon. the Premier made reference, that he and Mr L. P. Ojukwu used the big stick in an attempt. . . Well, the fact remains that this man visited this country at least on two occasions and on both occasions he had contact with the C.I.D.

The Premier: Point of Order—Standing Order 25 (13). I would like to speak again, with your permission, Mr Speaker, because whereas other speakers on the Opposition side have persisted in repeating what the Opposition Chief Whip tried to put into my mouth, and I resisted same by saying that they should find out from Dr Mbadiwe what I and Mr Ojukwu told the Governor, no less a personage of the Opposition than the Leader himself has repeated the same error. I never said such. I said that if anybody wanted to find out what happened he should consult Dr Mbadiwe and he will tell him.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, Sir, we accept his explanation in good faith.

All I was saying is that investigations had been made. We are not as deaf as people imagine and we knew when activities were being conducted by Government agencies. Certain investigations were made and as a result the investigating officer never thought it worthwhile to go to Court over this matter and I do not know why the Eastern Region came up with it.

Mr Speaker, this House is being called upon to institute an inquiry into the activities of the African Academy of Arts in Eastern Nigeria. Mr Speaker, as far as I know, the African Academy of Arts and Research is not an Eastern Region organisation. It is a Nigeria-wide organisation and when it collected funds from the North, East and West, Lagos and the Cameroons, it all went into one pool. I will give you a few illustrations to point out the absurdity in what we are being called upon to investigate.

If somebody has been sent over to the United States on a scholarship of the African Academy of Arts and Research, how can they

prove that the money for this scholarship came from the East, West or from the North?

If the African Academy of Arts and Research has purchased a house, is it the money from the Western Region or that of the Cameroons that was used in purchasing that house? I would not like us to waste too much time because, frankly, I do not see anything serious in this Motion. There was one point that the hon. Premier raised and I was very much touched. He raised the point about his personal relationship with Dr Mbadiwe and I would have thought that if the hon. Premier believed in that principle which he enunciated, he would not have allowed this inquisition to be conducted on the Floor of this House. I want to make it clear that apart from the fact that the hon. Premier has been in personal relationship with Dr Mbadiwe which has been beneficial to both sides, other members of Dr K. O. Mbadiwe's family have been of very great benefit and use to the hon. Premier. If the hon. Premier insists on this personal relationship, surely he would have thought of Mazi Ozuomba Mbadiwe. I heard they were business associates. If the hon. Premier is so touchy of his personal relationship with him, he could not have allowed the Motion. Even assuming for one moment that Dr Mbadiwe is guilty why should he allow this type of thing to happen? After all, Sir, we know to what extent Dr K. O. Mbadiwe has been a very loyal, energetic and faithful friend to the hon. Premier.

The Opposition, Sir, is opposed to this Motion, for the simple reason first—This Motion is based on malice; secondly, it is just one step—one move in the good old game of party polemics. Nothing else. These people are hard put about election materially. They cannot get through. Therefore, they think the only way out is to come with this Motion.

The collection was made under the Public Collections Ordinance which makes provision for prosecution, and the hon. the Mover of the Motion, if he was satisfied that something did go wrong, should go and swear information to the Police and should not have wasted the time of the House.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we have done Dr Mbadiwe the greatest honour

possible by spending the whole of our time this morning debating him, and if this has no other significance it has this: a glowing tribute to the political prestige and influence of Dr K. O. Mbadiwe.

Mr Okeya: Mr Speaker, Sir, in winding up, I have one remark to make about the improvement of this Motion. Just like a tale full of fuss and furry, signifying nothing, the Leader of the Opposition is begging the question and did not prove whether I had any malice aforethought in bringing out this Motion. I never said that I was an accomplice in this matter of collecting money. What I said was that as a nationalist in those days, Dr Mbadiwe, or the late Ojike, or any man else who professed the philosophy of Zikism as preached by Dr Nwafor Orizu, we all supported that man in those days, and as a member of the Zikist Movement in those days, he came to Onitsha and collected money. Those standing paid 3s and those sitting paid 5s. On that day he collected £143.

To reply to Dr Onubogu: I do not like that hon. Gentleman to come here and bring out his Ledger Account from which he could not prove to us how much was collected. I am saying this with a true sense of responsibility that Dr Onubogu was a treasurer. He refused to contribute money because he said that Dr Nwafor Orizu's case has taught him a lesson, and he was not prepared to subscribe anything.

With due reverence to the Speaker, the Speaker himself was the Secretary General of Owerri Divisional Union. I was the Assistant Secretary. We tried to have a scholarship scheme for Owerri Division, but our attempt was abortive. When Dr Mbadiwe appealed to Owerri people he was given £100 that very day with a promise that we should contribute money towards the Academy with a view to giving Owerri people scholarships. The money was donated by some people but when we found that there was trouble, Njoku was asked, as the acting Chairman, to refund the money, which he did.

The late Chief Rotibi of Owerri, a former prison contractor, gave £1,000; Owerri Divisional Union gave £100 to enable their sons and daughters to be benefited through Mbadiwe's Academy; Mr Uzodinma, the motor

[MR OKEYA]

magnate of Onitsha donated £500 in the first instance; Mr J. Efobi gave £120; Mr Egbue of Bright Street, Onitsha, gave a large sum too but I do not know the exact amount; Mr Agbakoba of the U.A.C., Onitsha contributed £50.

Mr E. O. Eyo: He collected all these for him?

Mr Okeya: No, I did not collect anything for him.

An Opposition Member: How did he come to know all these details then?

Mr Okeya: The Opposition Chief Whip said that my intentions in bringing this Motion are evil. This is false and he only said this because he manufactured lies to support his baseless arguments.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Point of Order, Sir. I object to the hon. Member saying that I told lies to the House. It is very unparliamentary and I beg you to ask him to withdraw the word "lies".

Mr Speaker: I quite agree that it is very unparliamentary to use the word "lies" but it has often been used here. I seize this opportunity to warn hon. Members to refrain from using the word "lies" against another Member in this House.

Mr Okeya: The Opposition Chief Whip quoted the titles and degrees of the famous doctor of Arondizuogu. He quoted him as having M.A. and so on but may I remind him of what John Ploughman said, "All who wear hoods are not monks and many D.Ds. are fiddle D.D.s" Mbadiwe's only degree is D.P.N.C. which means "Deceiver of the People of Nigeria and the Cameroons" and another is his bogus Academy. That is why I have brought this Motion to tell the people of this Region that this man who deceived them before by collecting money from them has come again to deceive them.

The eight aims of the Academy, Sir, were very bogus and unattainable and he never realised them. The Opposition has failed to

refute the misuse of the money collected as contained in the *Gazette* of 1951.

Mr Achara mentioned difficulty in remitting money to the students. This is not at all true. If you study the Report contained in the *Gazette* I have read to the House you will find that Mbadiwe used three banks—the A.C.B., Bank of British West Africa (now Bank of West Africa), and the National Bank of Nigeria. Even in the B.B.W.A. he deposited some pounds of the Academy into his own personal account.

An Opposition Member: Who told him that?

Mr Okeya: It is contained in the Report.

The Opposition Chief Whip mentioned the Premier (Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe) as one of the Directors. This is not correct, Sir, because the word "Director" in this instance is not used in the sense of one who is known as a "Director" in the case of limited liabilities. If you look at page 30 of the pamphlet "Africa—Today and Tomorrow" written by Dr Mbadiwe himself you will find that in Dr Mbadiwe's "Scroll of Honour" he gives as members of the Board of Directors those who gave him money and they are 25, Treasurers 10 and Sponsors 171.

Dr Onubogu was one of the Treasurers at Onitsha. See now how fantastic such organisation is!

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I have made a case. Why was the Inquiry set up? The Inquiry was set up because of rumours going about in connection with this Academy and when Dr Orizu was imprisoned, the Easterners were suppressed not to give report, and I do not see why at this time, when we have a National Government, this truth should not come to light.

Dr Onubogu: Point of Order. I am not making a speech but I want to refer to Standing Order 25 (13), and to say that the last speaker in refreshing the minds of the people did say that I was one of the Treasurers of the African Academy of Arts and Research. I had nothing whatsoever to do with the Academy of Arts and Research. I thought that the House was

prepared to hear the truth; that was why I strove to get all the facts, and now that I see that conclusion had already been drawn before

this Motion was introduced here, I have decided to bring up the facts when the whole thing will be brought before the Commission.

Division Number 7

2.05 p.m.

Question put.

House divided.

Ayes 52. Noes 14.

Ayes

Mr C. A. Abangwu
Mr O. U. Afiah
Chief G. N. Agbasiere
Mr D. S. A. Agim
Mr D. E. Akilo
Mr I. U. Akpabio
Mr D. O. Aligwekwe
Mr J. W. E. Anaba
Mr R. O. Anoke
Mr N. L. P. Apreala
Dr N. Azikiwe
Mr E. Chidolue
Mr A. O. Chikwendu
Mr E. A. Chime
Mr E. Emole
Mr U. Enyi
Mr J. E. Eyo
Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba
Dr S. E. Imoke
Mr R. O. Iwuagwu
Mr S. E. K. Iwueke
Mr K. Kiri
Mr S. O. Masi
Mr D. A. Nnaji
Mr D. O. Nnamani

Mr J. U. Nwodo
Mr P. O. Nwoga
Mr J. H. E. Nwuke
Mr M. U. Obayi
Dr A. N. Obonna
Mr M. E. Ogon
Mr C. A. Okafor
Mr J. O. Okeh
Mr G. E. Okeke
Mr P. N. Okeke
Mr G. C. Okeya
Mr G. I. Oke, M.B.E.
Mr E. P. Okoya
Dr M. I. Okpara
Mr K. J. N. Okpokam
Mr B. C. Okwu
Chief S. E. Onukogu
Mr P. A. Onwe
Mr N. O. Onwudiwe
Chief A. N. Onyiuke
Rev. M. D. Opara
Mr E. W. Udonkim
Mr R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.
Mr J. O. Umolu
Mr L. O. Uzoigwe

Tellers for the Ayes:

Mr M. N. Onwuma
Mr H. U. Akpabio.

Noes

Mr S. O. Achara
Mr J. A. Agba
Mr S. T. Akpan
Mr H. U. E. Edelduok
Rev. O. Efiang, C.B.E.
Mr M. U. Etuk

Mr E. O. Eyo
Mr S. G. Ikoku
Chief I. I. Morphy
Mr O. B. Nalelo
Dr W. N. Onubogu
Mr M. N. Yowika

Tellers for the Noes:

Mr A. G. Umoh
Mr V. K. Onyeri.

Resolved: That this House urges the Government of the Eastern Region to investigate the activities of the African Academy of Arts and Research in the Eastern Region and ascertain the role played by Dr Kingsley Ozuomba Mbadiwe, directly or indirectly,

in furthering the aims and objects of the Academy in the Eastern Region, and to probe into the funds and accounts of the Academy in so far as the Eastern Region is concerned, and report to the House.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Sir I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 10 a.m. Tomorrow.

The Minister of Education (Mr G. E. Okeke): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

Request to Declare Abakaliki Division a Special Area

Mr P. A. Onwe (Abakaliki Division): I rise to ask the Government to declare Abakaliki Division a special area for the purposes of development. My reason for asking this of Government is not only because the Division has been profoundly backward but because of the plight into which this Division has found itself. This plight or conditions could be considered under the following heads:—

- (a) Outside influence in Abakaliki Division;
- (b) Odozi Obodo, Ezeputa, Agaluzor, Imiko Aduma and Ogbo-Adawara Societies;
- (c) The role of our institutions such as the courts, councils, etc.;
- (d) Land acquisition and clan boundaries as causes of trouble;
- (e) Lack of education, and communication and mode of habitation by the people in the rural areas; and
- (f) Government's attitude towards issues affecting the Division.

Mr Speaker, in speaking of the first of these casual agents of friction in Abakaliki Division, I wish to draw your attention to my speech on the Floor of this House during this present meeting on the 27th April.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say in the first place that during the last London Conference we met collectively under the platform of Ogoja Province and we demanded that Ogoja Province with Abakaliki inclusive should be placed under a special area. I am very conscious of the fact that the Province as a whole was not developed and that while the country was moving fast towards independence, there must be the need for rapid development of areas which have not been so done. So we requested this at the London Conference and I

am surprised that at long last it was the Calabar and Rivers Provinces which have been so civilised and so developed that were declared special areas.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on the question of Coastal Agents I want to say that in Abakaliki Division . . .

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Speaker, Sir, on Point of Order, may I draw your attention to the Motion for Adjournment. He can only raise one matter, he should not use this time to open debate on various issues.

Mr Onwe: Mr Speaker, I am entitled to present to Government any issue that affects my Division.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member should discuss only what he told me about and nothing else.

Mr Onwe: It is one subject, Sir, and I have enumerated my reasons why I am asking the Government to declare this Division a special area. If any member of the House is not satisfied and is not prepared to listen to me, but the Speaker is prepared to listen to me, let him carry his bag and go away.

If the present District Officer is contacted on this issue he will confirm the fact that a real development programme for Abakaliki Division is quite necessary and I am asking that Government should be able to set up a Commission to see about the needs and requirements of this Division.

Chief I. I. Morphy (Ogoja Division): On a Point of Order, Sir. Standing Order 13 (1) reads:

“A substantive motion for the adjournment of the House shall not be made at any sitting before the conclusion of questions, and no such motion shall be made except by a Minister, unless on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Member rises in his place at the conclusion of questions and asks for leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.”

Mr Speaker: It is wrong; that is quite a different thing.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr I. U. Akpabio): Mr Speaker, may I be allowed to restate again what I said here in this House last week when this matter was first raised by one of the hon. Members from Abakaliki Division during the Adjournment Motion? I did say that Government was aware of the existence of some terrorist organisations such as are now mentioned by the hon. Member. I did also indicate that actions were being taken with the police in bringing a check on such organisations, by trying to expand police posts in the division.

The question of *Special Area* was dealt with at the Resumed Constitutional Conference and the Member will note that at page 21 Clause 52 there was no decision to create either the former

Ogoja Province or its part a special area. The Government will, therefore, not be in a position to alter the Conference decision. However, in order to allay the fears of minorities and to increase the tempo of development in the Region, Government has created two new Provinces in the former Ogoja Province. There is no doubt that when the new Abakaliki Province is set up it will co-operate with the Regional Government to wipe off these dangerous societies and finally carry out the programme of development of Abakaliki Division.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-five minutes past two o'clock p.m.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 6th May, 1959

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Standard Six Examination

12. Mr J. E. Eyo asked the Minister of Education, what was responsible for the irregularity in the conduct of the 1958 Standard Six Examination which resulted in the publication of the results of the Examination twice.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): I am directed to answer as follows: There was no irregularity in the conduct of the 1958 Standard Six Examination, although two results were published. The original list contained 16,570 passes which was 33 per cent of those who sat the examination.

It is the normal practice to call for and scrutinise the scripts from those examination centres where the results give rise to doubts as to the papers being compromised. In the 1958 examination, the results from four centres in the Calabar Province and eight in the Owerri Province were sufficiently unusual to merit scrutiny of the scripts. For this reason, results from these centres were not published with the original list, but after scrutiny they were published in the supplementary list.

Secondary School Fees

28. Mr P. A. Onwe asked the Minister of Education, what are the boarding and tuition fees payable in each of the Secondary Schools in the Region; if there are disparities in the fees as between schools what are the reasons therefor.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): I am directed to answer as follows: There are many Secondary Schools in the Region, and as the answer to the first part of the question is rather lengthy, with the permission of the Speaker of the House, the details of the fees required will be circulated in the *Daily Hansard*.

The variations in the amounts charged are due to circumstances peculiar to individual schools because their requirements vary. For example, library or games fees are not uniform; some schools integrate these with their main Board and Tuition fees.

Other causes of variations in fees there are, and these include the following:—

- (a) the difference in the cost of foodstuffs in different localities;
- (b) the lower fees generally charged in girls' schools to attract pupils, particularly in the newly established ones; and
- (c) the abnormally low fees charged in day schools, as at Duke Town Secondary School, Calabar, and Holy Rosary, Enugu.

FEES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, 1959

Name of School	Boarding			Tuition			Total		
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
Eastern Ahoada County High School ...	21	0	0	13	10	0	34	0	0
Ikwerre Etche County Grammar School ...	24	0	0	18	0	0	42	0	0
St. Theresa's Secondary School, Nsukka ...	19	10	0	20	5	0	39	15	0
Ibibio State College, Ikot Ekpene ...	19	10	0	23	10	0	43	0	0
Union Secondary School, Ibiaku ...	15	0	0	24	0	0	39	0	0
Girls' Secondary School, Ogidi ...	24	0	0	21	0	0	45	0	0
Awgu County Secondary School, Lengwe ...	19	10	0	22	16	0	42	6	0
Kalabari National College, Buguma ...	24	0	0	24	0	0	48	0	0
Methodist Boys' High School, Oron ...	21	0	0	12	0	0	33	0	0
Government College, Umuahia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	0	0
Government Secondary School, Owerri ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	0	0

FEEES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, 1959—continued

Name of School	Boarding			Tuition			Total		
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
Government Secondary School, Afikpo	—			—			45	0	0
Baptist High School, Port Harcourt	24	0	0	17	0	0	41	0	0
Holy Cross High School, Umuawulu-Mbaukwu ...	24	0	0	21	0	0	45	0	0
Holy Rosary Secondary School, Enugu	—			18	0	0	18	0	0
Enitonna High School, Port Harcourt	24	0	0	26	5	0	50	5	0
C.I.C., Enugu	21	0	0	18	10	0	39	10	0
Mary Knoll Secondary School, Okuku, Ogoja ...	—			—			42	0	0
Earnest Germs Grammar School, Akaokwa ...	25	10	0	22	10	0	48	0	0
Iheme Memorial Grammar School, Ndizuogu ...	25	10	0	25	10	0	51	0	0
D.M.G.S., Onitsha	25	10	0	20	5	0	45	15	0
Bishop Shanahan Secondary School, Orlu ...	24	0	0	21	0	0	45	0	0
Merchants of Light Secondary School, Oba ...	24	0	0	24	0	0	48	0	0
Ngwa High School, Aba	24	0	0	27	0	0	51	0	0
Igwebuike Grammar School Awka	27	1	6	18	0	0	45	1	6
Owerri Grammar School, Imerienwe	24	0	0	19	10	0	43	10	0
St. Saviour's Secondary School, Umuaka, Orlu ...	22	10	0	22	10	0	45	0	0
Holy Family College, Abak	18	0	0	24	0	0	42	0	0
C.K.C., Onitsha	21	0	0	27	8	0	48	8	0
Zixton Grammar School, Ozubulu	24	0	0	24	0	0	48	0	0
Regina Caeli Secondary School, Opobo	18	0	0	12	0	0	30	0	0
Priscilla Memorial Grammar School, Oguta ...	24	0	0	21	0	0	45	0	0
Abakaliki County Secondary School	27	0	0	13	0	0	40	0	0
Trinity High School, Oguta	24	0	0	21	0	0	45	0	0
Okrika Grammar School	—			—			51	0	0
Okigwi National Grammar School	22	10	0	22	10	0	45	0	0
Yenegoa Grammar School	30	0	0	21	0	0	51	0	0
Abbot Secondary School, Ihiala	21	0	0	21	0	0	42	0	0
Bubendorf Memorial Grammar School, Adazi ...	24	0	0	23	0	0	47	0	0
Cornelia Connelly College, Uyo	15	0	0	18	0	0	33	0	0
Girls' Secondary School, Owerri	21	0	0	27	0	0	48	0	0
St. Patrick's College, Calabar	16	10	0	25	10	0	42	0	0
Hope Waddell Training Institute, Calabar ...	30	0	0	28	4	0	58	4	0
Birabi Memorial Grammar School, Ogoni ...	24	0	0	24	0	0	48	0	0
Sacred Heart Secondary School, Eziukwu, Aba ...	24	0	0	24	0	0	48	0	0
Adventist High School, Ihie, Mbawsi	26	0	0	19	0	0	45	0	0
West African People's Institute, Calabar ...	30	0	0	21	7	6	51	7	6
Duke Town Secondary School, Calabar	—			22	0	0	22	0	0
Lugard Memorial Grammar School, Abatete ...	21	0	0	24	0	0	45	0	0
A.C.M. Girls' Secondary School, Elelenwa ...	24	0	0	24	15	0	48	15	0
Ibo National High School, Aba	25	0	0	23	0	0	48	0	0
St. Catherine's Secondary School, Nkwerre ...	22	10	0	18	0	0	40	10	0
Our Lady's High School, Onitsha	22	10	0	28	10	0	51	0	0
Community Secondary School, Nnobi, Onitsha ...	27	0	0	18	0	0	45	0	0
Methodist Secondary School, Uzuakoli	22	10	0	25	19	0	48	9	0
Madonna High School, Ihitte	22	10	0	25	10	0	48	0	0
Washington Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha ...	24	0	0	30	0	0	54	0	0
Metropolitan College, Onitsha	22	1	0	28	10	0	50	11	0
Holy Rosary Secondary School, Ihioma, Orlu ...	21	0	0	24	0	0	45	0	0
Modebe Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha ...	24	0	0	16	10	0	40	10	0

FEEES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS 1959—continued

Name of School	Boarding			Tuition			Total		
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
National Grammar School, Nike-Enugu ...	24	0	0	21	0	0	45	0	0
Okongwu Memorial Grammar School, Nnewi ...	24	0	0	24	0	0	48	0	0
Mbaise Secondary School, Mbaise, Owerri ...	19	10	0	23	5	0	42	15	0
Salvation Army Secondary School, Akai, Eket ...	28	0	0	22	0	0	50	0	0
Ife-Ezinihitte Grammar School ...	24	0	0	24	0	0	48	0	0
Aggrey Memorial College, Arochuku ...	34	13	0	18	18	0	53	11	0
New Bethel College, Onitsha ...	25	10	0	25	10	0	51	0	0
Lutheran High School, Obot Idim, Uyo ...	22	0	0	19	1	0	41	1	0
Qua Iboe Mission Secondary School, Etinan, Uyo...	20	0	0	28	0	0	48	0	0
Coronata Secondary School, Ohafia, Bende ...	24	0	0	19	10	0	43	10	0
Enuda College, Abriba ...	24	0	0	22	17	6	46	17	6
St. Augustine's Grammar School, Nkwerre ...	24	0	0	22	10	0	46	10	0
Holy Rosary Secondary School, Diobu ...	24	0	0	27	0	0	51	0	0
Emmanuel College, Owerri ...	24	0	0	24	0	0	48	0	0
Holy Child Secondary School, Calabar ...	15	0	0	13	10	0	28	10	0
St. Columba's Secondary School, Amaimo-Ikeduru, Owerri ...	19	10	0	22	10	0	42	0	0

Mr Imeh: Does the hon. Minister of Education contemplate on a uniformity of secondary school fees in the Region in view of the fact that teachers in secondary schools are all paid from public funds of the Region?

The Minister of Education: In view of the reply just given, I do not intend to do so now.

**U.P.E. Schools in Ishielu District,
Abakaliki Division**

30. **Mr P. A. Onwe** asked the Minister of Education, whether in view of the fact that four U.P.E. schools allocated to certain villages in Ishielu District in Abakaliki Division have not yet been built, and in view of the fact that the people now tax themselves towards building such private schools, will the Minister not consider giving financial assistance towards the construction of the buildings.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): I am directed to answer as follows: Yes, I am aware that four U.P.E. schools in the Ishielu District Council area have not yet been completed.

Government, as the hon. Member is aware, made building grants towards the construction of U.P.E. Schools, but it is not prepared to give building grants towards the construction of privately owned primary schools.

The people of this Region have always been responsible for building the thousands of primary schools that provide education for their children, and this fine spirit of self-help, of which we may well be proud, should be encouraged. Government has, as a result of the people's willingness to build their own primary schools, been able to devote its resources towards giving grants-in-aid for the running of primary schools instead of having to devote a large proportion of the grants to the construction of new schools.

Mr Onwe: Is the Minister aware that these U.P.E. schools that have not been built have had the money allotted for them paid to the Contractors?

The Minister of Education: I am aware, and Government is making attempts to recover these amounts from the Councils who are responsible for giving the contracts.

Mr J. E. Eyo: If so, when the money is recovered shall it be paid back to the people?

The Minister of Education: Until the money is available, I do not intend to reply.

Women's Occupational Training Centre

33. **Mr S. E. K. Iwueke** asked the Minister of Education how many Women's Occupational Training Centres are there in the Region; how many students are at present in training in them; how do these centres recruit students; is enough publicity given when examinations for the selection of candidates are held; what is the total number of staff at present employed; what is their annual cost in salaries.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): I am directed to answer as follows:—

There is one Women's Occupational Training Centre in the Region, and it is situated at Aba. Fourteen Secretarial students and seventeen dress-making students totalling thirty-one students in all are, at present, in training at the Aba Centre. An additional eighteen dress-making students passed out of the Centre last December. Students are recruited by means of Entrance Examination and personal interview. First School Leaving Certificate is the minimum qualification in respect of the dress-making course, and West African School Leaving Certificate in respect of the Secretarial Students. When examinations are held they are advertised in the press and on posters, and circulars are also sent out to institutions.

The total number of staff at present employed is three, namely one senior trade instructress, one trade instructress and one Government teacher. The annual cost of their salaries is £2,272.

£18,250 has been inserted in the Development Plan for the expansion of the Centre so as to permit Domestic Science courses to be run at the same time as Secretarial courses. The dress-making classes are being discontinued.

Supplementary List—Standard Six Results

36. **Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba** asked the Minister of Education, what was the reason for omitting from the first publication of the Results of the Standard VI examination, the names of pupils who passed the examination with

Credits as shown in the Supplementary List of Passes; is the Minister aware that the public is dissatisfied with this state of affairs.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): I am directed to answer as follows:—

Certain Schools, not merely certain pupils, were omitted from the first publication of the Standard VI results because the results in question were so unusual that it was necessary to carry out investigations as to whether any leakages had occurred. The schools in question were certain of those in the former Calabar and Owerri Provinces. After the investigations had been completed, the results of these particular schools were published at the same time as the supplementary examination results. Some of the pupils concerned had passed with distinction.

Dr Onubogu: Will the Minister of Education give an assurance to this House that this question of publishing results afterwards will never occur again?

Expansion of Schools

96. **Mr P. N. Okeke** asked the Minister of Education, whether he is aware that many Local Government Council Schools cannot expand because of lack of funds and that Voluntary Agency Schools which have places in their schools are restricted by limitation of quota in the number of streams in each class; will the Minister reconsider the present policy which tends to keep many children out of school.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): I am directed to answer as follows:—

It is not my Ministry's intention to deny education to any one but our aim is to cut out wasteful and superfluous classes. Where a school Manager can cut out a superfluous class in one school, he will be permitted to add an extra class to another school where the need is greater provided both schools are in the same managerial area.

I am aware that in some areas, particularly in rapidly expanding townships, the ruling that no additional Infant I streams can be added in 1959

[MR UZOIGWE]

caused some difficulties when placing the new intake; and I am therefore now looking into the question of whether this ruling can be modified.

**Government and Voluntary Agency
Secondary Schools**

97. **Mr P. N. Okeke** asked the Minister of Education, what is the total cost per annum of running (a) The Government College, Umuahia (b) The Government College, Afikpo, (c) The Government College, Owerri, (d) The Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha, (e) The Christ the King College, Onitsha, (f) Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar; what is the number of passes in the final classes in each of these institutions from 1954-58.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): I am directed to answer as follows:—

The cost of running the schools in question in 1958 was as follows:

	£
(a) Government College, Umuahia	36,475
(b) Govt. Sec. Sch., Afikpo ...	24,285
(c) Govt. Sec. Sch., Owerri ...	20,669
(d) D.M.G.S., Onitsha ...	22,927
(e) C.K.C., Onitsha	22,981
(f) Hope Waddell, Calabar ...	30,403

The number of passes in the final classes in each of the institutions from 1954-58 is as follows:—

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
(a) Govt. Coll., Umuahia	24	44	45	53	69
* (b) G.S.S., Afikpo ...	—	—	—	44	29
(c) G.S.S., Owerri	19	21	21	28	25
(d) D.M.G.S., Onitsha	55	48	54	32	52
(e) C.K.C., Onitsha †	53	47	48	51	
(f) Hope Waddell, Calabar	62	43	52	37	34

* The examination was first taken in 1957

† Details not available.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**Nationalisation of the African
Continental Bank**

The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke): Mr Speaker, the Speech from the Throne indicated that a Bill would be introduced at this meeting to nationalise the African Continental Bank, Ltd.

Hon. Members who have been following current events recently will agree that to all intents and purposes the African Continental Bank has been nationalised since it is now almost completely taken over by a quasi-Government organisation, the E.R.D.C., which is offering to buy all the paid-up shares from private shareholders, who in any event were always greatly in the minority.

To make the situation abundantly clear to the public, it is still desirable to introduce a Bill. But it is regretted that owing to the heavy commitments of the House, this Bill will be introduced later.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(1) The Classification of Chiefs Bill

Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (2nd April), That the Bill be now read a Second time.

Question again proposed.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members will find that on the Order Paper—Orders of the Day—the order of the Bills has been slightly changed because of an error. The order that will be taken today is:

1. The Classification of Chiefs Bill, 1959—Second Reading.
2. The Funds and Accounts Bill, 1959.
3. The Legislative Houses Bill, 1959.
4. The Eastern Region Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill, 1959.
5. The Provincial Administration Bill, 1959.
6. The Public Order Bill, 1959.

Hon. Members, I hope you will be very honourable and that no Member will stand up who has already spoken to the Bill.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Speaker, I rise to wind up the debate for our side of the House on the Second Reading of the Bill. The debate has lasted several days and several Members who have spoken have attacked the Bill. There had been heated controversy over the numbers of traditional paramount rulers who should qualify as First-class Chiefs. I would like to take the House back to 29th March, 1955, when I moved in this House a Motion in the following terms:

“That this House urges that legislation be introduced regulating the appointment, recognition, and deportation of Chiefs and Natural Rulers in the Eastern Region.”

The Motion was seconded by Chief S. E. Onukogu, Member for Owerri, and was adopted unanimously by this House. I refer to Eastern House of Assembly Debates, Second Session, First and Second Meetings, March to April, 1955—pages 399–402.

Towards the end of 1955 the Government of the Eastern Region advised His Excellency the Governor to appoint a Commission of Inquiry with terms of reference “to enquire into the position, status and influence of Chiefs and Natural Rulers in the Eastern Region, and to make recommendations as to the necessity or otherwise of legislation regulating their appointment, recognition and deposition”. The sole Commissioner was Mr G. I. Jones of Cambridge University and he carried out his task between March and August 1956. His Report was published towards the end of 1957. The interesting thing about this Report, Sir, is that the Government has neither accepted nor rejected it. Chapter IV of this Report deals with Chieftaincy in Onitsha Town; Chapter V deals with Chieftaincy in Old Calabar; Chapter VI deals with Chieftaincy in the Oil River Ports; Chapter VII deals with Chieftaincy in the Ibibio and Annang Divisions; Chapter VIII deals with Chieftaincy in the Ibo Division; Chapter IX deals with Chieftaincy in the Rivers Province; and Chapter X deals with Chieftaincy in the Ogoja Province.

Sir, we of the Action Group studied the Report carefully and endorsed the finding that chieftaincies in the Region were based on the administrative units or the village, the village group and the clan. At the Conference on

Classification of Chiefs held at Enugu on the 26th and 27th May, 1958, we of the Action Group held the view that Chiefs should be graded second, third and fourth-class according as they were Clan Heads, Village Group Heads, or Village Heads respectively.

The N.C.N.C. delegates at the Conference proposed population as a basis of classification. They argued that if a Chief could show that he commanded the allegiance of, say, 50,000 people, he should merit classification. The Conference rejected the N.C.N.C. proposal and accepted the Action Group proposal. Sir, I refer to page 8 of Eastern Region Official Document No. 1 of 1959 and with your permission, Sir, may I quote the relevant sections:—

“The N.C.N.C. delegates proposed population as a basis of classification. If a Chief could show that he commanded the allegiance of say, 50,000 people, he should merit classification as the Conference might decide. The advantage of this criterion was that it was a concrete basis as distinct from the intangible factors of merit, influence and popularity, which did not lend themselves to easy application.

“The Action Group delegates suggested classification based on traditional and historical associations and the incidence of any particular chieftaincy on the evolution of the Region. They referred to the ‘Report on the position, status, and influence of Chiefs and Natural Rulers in the Eastern Region’ by Mr G. I. Jones, and urged that the Conference be guided by it. According to the Report, Chieftaincies in the Region were based on the administrative units of the village, the village group and the clan. Chiefs should be graded Second, Third, or Fourth-class according as they were Clan Heads, Village Groups Heads or Village Heads respectively.

“Conclusion:

The Conference agreed—

- (a) that Chiefs in the Eastern Region should be classified First, Second, Third and Fourth-class;
- (b) that all Village Heads should be graded Fourth-class Chiefs, Village Group Heads Third-class Chiefs, and Clan Heads Second-class Chiefs.”

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

On the issue of First-class Chiefs we of the Action Group held the view that the qualifications for classification for First-class Chiefs should be according to history, tradition and the contribution they or their ancestors had made to the evolution of the Region, and endorsing the findings of the Jones Report we suggested that the following should *ex-officio*, qualify as First-class Chiefs: the Amanyanabo of Kalabari, the Amanyanabo of Bonny, the Amanyanabo of Opobo, the Amanyanabo of Brass, the Obi of Onitsha, the Eze of Aro and the Obong of Calabar. On this issue the N.C.N.C. delegates held two divergent views; one was that First-class Chiefs should be appointed on the basis of one per Division; the other view was that the representative principle should apply, and that representation should be on the basis of one First-class Chief per Province.

I refer to page 9 of the Eastern Region Official Document No. 1 of 1959. The N.C.N.C. submitted to the Conference a list of thirty-two Chieftaincy titles which they considered were of First-class status. This list is shown as Annex II to the Report of the Conference which I have here in my possession. In the Eastern Region Official Document No. 1 of 1959, Annex IV at page 15, the list contains 41 Chieftaincy titles purported to have been submitted by the N.C.N.C. to the Conference.

Now, Sir, the list which was submitted to the Conference on the 26th and 27th of May, 1958, is accurately shown under Annex IV to the Eastern Region Official Document No. 1 of 1959 up to item (32) and with your permission, I will read other Chieftaincy titles which were not submitted by the N.C.N.C. to the Conference which have been forged into this Document and published to the public. I am coming back, Sir, to this issue of forgery.

- “33. The Eze of Nri.
- 34. The Amanyanabo of Bonny.
- 35. The Amanyanabo of Kalabari.
- 36. The Amanyanabo of Nembe.
- 37. The Amanyanabo of Opobo.
- 38. The Eze of Arochukwu.
- 39. The Igwe of Obosi.
- 40. The Obi of Onitsha.
- 41. The Obong of Calabar.”

When we received this Official Document, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition wrote to the Chief Secretary to the Premier drawing attention to this forged document and calling attention to the minutes and the Report of the Conference of the 26th and 27th May, 1958, signed by the Premier himself as Chairman and Mr Ukelonu who happened to be the Secretary to the Conference.

Yesterday, Sir, you heard the Premier accusing me falsely of reading a forged document to the House. We have here a case of forgery committed by the Government in this Official Document. It may be taken lightly at this stage, but I think, Sir, that at a later stage, we on this side of the House will take appropriate action.

Mr Speaker: I suppose that the hon. Member is not using forgery in its legal sense.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I use it in the sense which the Premier used it yesterday.

Another false statement made in the Eastern Region Official Document No. 1 1959, is in paragraph 9, page 3. The third line of the paragraph reads “. . . and the remaining nine represent the nine provinces proposed by the Governor for the Region”. I submit Sir, that the nine provinces were proposed by the Eastern Regional Government and not by the Governor. In this connection, may I draw your attention to the Report by the Resumed Nigeria Constitutional Conference, 1958, page 24, paragraph 61. Lines 4 to 9 of the paragraph read as follows:

“The Conference took note that the Government of the Eastern Region and the Opposition parties in the Region have evolved a formula for the classification of Chiefs and that the Governor has accepted this as satisfactory. They have agreed that there shall be seventeen First-class Chiefs, as set out in Annex IV, of whom eight are traditional Paramount Rulers, and the remaining nine represent the nine provinces proposed by the Eastern Regional Government for the Region.”

Government will therefore, have to explain why they published this false statement in their Official Document No. 1 of 1959.

Mr Speaker, there is a lot of confusion in the N.C.N.C. camp in this matter of classification of Chiefs. Claims and counter-claims have been made in this House by N.C.N.C. Members in respect of chieftaincies in their various Divisions and Provinces. The confusion stems from the fact that as a political party the N.C.N.C. does not believe in Chieftaincy. To the Party the idea of a House of Chiefs is a new conception. The Premier himself said so in his opening speech as Chairman of the Conference on the 26th May, 1958.

I will now refer to opinions held by the Premier on Chieftaincy in his book entitled *Political Blueprint of Nigeria*, pages 20, 21 and 22.

Page 20:

“It is quite obvious that the status of Chiefs in the political set-up of post war Nigeria is bound to be approached with apprehensions. Are Chiefs really necessary in post-war Nigeria, as envisaged: that is, a Nigeria whose way of life is influenced by the philosophy of democracy—politically, socially, economically, religiously, educationally? Admittedly, in some places, Chiefs will be necessary; in others, they will not be necessary”.

Page 21:

“The existence of chieftaincies and emirates should not be encouraged”.

Page 22:

“By then, most chieftaincies would have become historic objects fit for study in museums and libraries devoted to ethnological and ethnographical studies”.

I have quoted these references to show the background to the attitude of the N.C.N.C. to the matter of Chieftaincy which is responsible for all the confusion in the N.C.N.C. Camp.

And now to the Bill itself. Government is confusing classification of Chiefs with the establishment of the Eastern House of Chiefs—two separate and distinct issues.

I refer first of all to the title of the Bill, then to clause 3 of the Bill and then to the

objects and reasons for the Bill. The title of the Bill is “to provide for the Classification of Chiefs in the Eastern Region for purposes of the Eastern House of Chiefs”. Clause 3 of the Bill reads: “Chiefs in the Region shall, for the purposes of the Eastern House of Chiefs, be classified into First, Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs”.

Under objects and reasons it is stated:

“It was agreed at the Constitutional Conference in 1957, and confirmed at the Resumed Constitutional Conference, that a satisfactory formula for the Classification of Chiefs in the Eastern Region, for purposes of the Eastern House of Chiefs, should be evolved and should be the subject of Regional legislation”.

It is not correct to say that it was agreed at the 1957 and 1958 Constitutional Conferences that Chiefs in the Eastern Region should be classified “for purposes of the Eastern House of Chiefs”. In 1957 the point was made that owing to the considerable doubt surrounding the existing Chieftaincy titles and their complexity, it would be necessary, before the House of Chiefs was created, to evolve a formula for the classification of Chiefs in the Region. When a satisfactory formula had been evolved, the Regional Legislature should by law provide for the classification of Chiefs in accordance with that formula. It should then be for the Eastern Regional Government to propose that constitutional provision should be made for an Eastern House of Chiefs, to consist of Chiefs selected by and from among their classified Chiefs.

I refer to the Report of the 1957 Constitutional Conference page 10, paragraphs 23 (b), (c) and (d). There are three stages—first—a formula for classification of Chiefs in the Region; secondly—legislation providing for the classification of Chiefs in accordance with the formula; and thirdly, Constitutional provision for an Eastern House of Chiefs. Agreement has been reached on classification of all Chiefs in the Eastern Region into First, Second, Third and Fourth-class—the First-class Chiefs being eight traditional paramount rulers and nine representatives of nine Provinces, the Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs being the Clan Heads, Village Group Heads and Village Heads respectively. What we are to do now is to give legislative sanction to this

[MR E. O. EYO]

formula. There will be four grades of Chiefs in the Region, not for purposes of the Eastern House of Chiefs.

The Bill before the House has only defined First-class Chiefs, but has completely left out Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs.

Another objection to the Bill is in Clause 4, where the Bill seeks to empower the Governor in Council to nominate the First-class Chiefs for each Province. We on this side of the House are opposed to this. Being a representative of the Province, the classified Chiefs in each Province should decide which of their Second-class Chiefs should be elevated to the rank of a First-class Chief. Here I must warn Government against any policy which encourages production of synthetic Chiefs in the Region. The procedure for selection of Clan Heads, Village Group Heads and Village Heads in areas where these Chieftaincies exist must be in accordance with the customs and traditions of the areas concerned. In this connection I must draw Government's attention to the findings in the Jones Report at page 15 paragraphs 62 and 65. Paragraph 62 reads:

"The rituals governing the installation and acceptance of Chiefs vary in almost every unit. Two principles that apply almost universally are that the new Chief must be approved by the whole group over which he 'rules' and that if any special lineage or segment has the right to decide who should succeed to the office, its decision must be ratified by the rest of the group." Paragraph 65:

"With the exception of Bonny, Opobo, New Calabar and possibly other Rivers States, Chiefs and heads of houses normally hold office for life and are not normally deposed. The Ibibio say that their Chiefs (Mbong) are subject to deposition if they commit certain offences which rank as local abominations, and which they are most unlikely to indulge in, for example, cohabiting with mothers of twin children. Similarly Ibo title holders lose their title if found guilty of stealing and similar serious offences."

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I have succeeded in drawing Government's attention to various

anomalies in the Bill. The main point, Sir, is that Government is confusing two separate and distinct issues: the Bill is to provide for the classification of Chiefs not for the purposes of the Eastern House of Chiefs but for classification of Chiefs in the Eastern Region once and for all. We have agreed on four grades of Chiefs. First-class, Second-class, Third-class and Fourth-class. These four grades should be incorporated in the Bill. After that, the Regional Government should propose that constitutional provision be made for the establishment of the Eastern House of Chiefs.

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): Mr Speaker, I rise not as a Minister of State but as the Owelle of Nimo. I did not intend . . .

Mr E. O. Eyo: On a point of Order, Sir. There is no point in his addressing us as the Owelle of Nimo. He must address us as the Minister of Local Government. I am rising on Standing Order 25 (15). "Ministers shall be referred to by the designation of their portfolio." I am submitting, Sir, that there is no Minister in this House who answers the hon. the Owelle of Nimo. He is addressing us as the Minister of Local Government; we are getting tired of all this empty bluff.

Mr Speaker: Incidentally, the Minister is the Owelle of Nimo, but I am very sure that he is addressing the House as Minister of Local Government.

Chief Onyiuke: I did not intend to speak on the debate on this Motion but wrong impressions created by some hon. Members in this House with reference to my Division call for correction. Some of these hon. Members have made themselves solicitors for some individuals even outside their constituencies and Divisions for that matter. It has been suggested that Eze Nri should be made First-class Chief for Awka Division. I emphatically say on the floor of this House and can say so anywhere, that Eze Nri is not the paramount Chief for Awka Division and that to call a spade a spade, he is not a Chief at all, in the proper sense of the word. Eze Nri is a spiritual head or priest of Nri shrine of Agukwu, a village in Awka Division. He has neither judicial nor administrative powers. His powers are sacrificial only, and there are several such priests in the Division.

He cannot be ordained Eze Nri without first of all seeking permission from Nimo Clan of which I am the head; likewise Dunukofia Clan, etc., with goat, fowl, kola-nuts, wine and yams to be sacrificed at the "Okwu Ani" shrine after which he is authorised to be ordained to officiate anywhere in Ibo land with his people. I will not at this juncture expose the history of Eze Nri and his people till the fact is denied.

When Professor Jones came to Awka, all the towns and villages in Njikoka District Council area were summoned to appear at the Mbailinaofu Native Court Hall where the inquiry took place. Agukwu Nri people came there but they did not say that Eze Nri is the paramount Chief of Awka Division. Later it was learned that Jones was taken to Eze Nri. This was a secret meeting; so whatever Jones wrote about him in his report is their private concern and cannot affect Awka Division. Eze Nri had never attended any council meeting even that of his village. He had never attended any Court. I cannot stop and will not stop Government making Eze Nri First-class Chief if it wants to. I say all these as statements of fact irrefutable. See Intelligence Reports 1905-1959 for Awka Division.

Mr Speaker, of all these Eze Nri solicitors both from Onitsha and Awka Divisions, I am the most competent to speak for Awka Division in this hon. House, because . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. Hon Members will agree with me that it is very necessary, even if as an act of courtesy, to give the Minister very much audience. This applies particularly to the Premier and also refers to the Leader of the Opposition. When a Minister is speaking or the Leader of the Opposition, I think the House will, as an act of courtesy, give special audience to them. I think it the custom all over the world that when a Minister is speaking he should be given special audience even if you are not satisfied. You have your own time to refute the argument.

Chief Onyiuke: I am the First Member for Awka Division in this hon. House for three consecutive elections since 1951 in multiple constituencies. I say all these to show you that these solicitors of Eze Nri are playing politics with the holy tradition of Natural Rulers which is tantamount to playing with fire.

I challenge any one denying these facts to call for a plebiscite in Awka Division on this issue. I am a traditional hereditary Natural Ruler of centuries origin and since 1937, 22 years ago that I ascended the Nimo Chieftaincy stool I held the following offices, and am still holding most of them that have not been defunct in Awka Division:

Cultural Organisations:—

1. President, Nimo Brotherhood Society, Home Branch.
2. President-General, Nimo Brotherhood Society, Nigeria.
3. President, Awka District Union, Home Branch.
4. President-General, Awka District Union, Nigeria.

Administrative Organisations:—

1. President, Nimo Local Council.
2. President, Awka Native Authority.
3. President, Njikoka Native Authority.
4. President, Joint Aguata and Njikoka Native Authorities.
5. President, Njikoka District Council.
6. President, Joint Aguata and Njikoka District Councils.
7. Member, Old Onitsha Provincial Council.
8. Member, Awka Prison's Visitor.

Judicial Appointment:—

1. President, Nimo Clan Court.
2. President, Njikoka Native Court of Appeal.

Political Organisations:—

1. President, N.C.N.C., Awka Division.
2. President, N.C.N.C. Divisional Executive, Awka.

Mr Speaker, I have no doubt that if Government orders all the Divisions in the Eastern Region to elect their paramount Chiefs, that my Division will not hesitate to elect me as their paramount Chief of political significance, capable of making his people obey law and order, leading his people to a better standard of living, administering his area without fear or favour and winning the confidence of his people; but if it means spiritual head and juju priest, I have no part to play there,

[CHIEF ONYIUKE]

Now I challenge any of the previous speakers or any other person or group of persons to state which court or courts the Eze Nri or his predecessors have ever presided over or attended as a member or which council, whether in the old Native Authority or in the present Local Government set-up, the Eze Nri or his predecessors have ever attended.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Bill.

The Premier (Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe): Mr Speaker, I must confess my disappointment at the trend of the debate on the Second Reading of the Classification of Chiefs Bill because practically every Member who spoke with the exception of the last two speakers this morning, fell into a common error of assuming that First-class Chiefs were classified by this Government, which is not only untrue but unkind and unfair. The White Paper on the House of Chiefs shows quite clearly that the Conference on the Classification of Chiefs failed to reach agreement on the classification of First-class Chiefs, and this disagreement was referred to the Governor to resolve, because the N.C.N.C. delegates held the view that to single out a handful of Chiefs and classify them as "First-class" on the grounds of history and tradition was untenable.

Before I cite the relevant paragraphs occurring at pages 8, 9 and 10 of the White Paper, I would like to join issues with the Opposition Chief Whip because, apart from stating quite clearly that there was a divergence of views between the N.C.N.C. and the Eastern Region Chiefs Conference on the one hand and the Action Group, U.N.I.P. and the Representative of the Rivers Chiefs Conference on the other, he introduced certain irrelevances to becloud the issue.

First of all, surely the Opposition Chief Whip knows quite clearly that when a Colonial Territory becomes self-governing, the expression "Governor" does not refer solely to the Governor as it would if it were an ordinary Colonial Territory. The expression "Governor" now is synonymous with Governor in Council, unless where the Constitution Order in Council specifically states that the Governor must act in his absolute discretion. Therefore, to come here and split hair over the issue—whether it was the Governor who

then proposed nine provinces or the Government of the Eastern Region—I think is a waste of time, because he knows or he ought to know that the two expressions are synonymous. If the Governor issues a Proclamation today establishing twelve provinces, surely we know that it is the Governor in Council, not the Governor; so that that particular point is irrelevant.

Then, he also brought in a quotation from the Pamphlet entitled *Political Blue Print of Nigeria* which I wrote in 1943. I am glad that he mentioned the particular year 1943, because that is a sufficient answer to enable me to demolish his argument. In 1943, as an individual, naturally I held the view of the role of Chiefs in the Nigeria of that time. (that is 1943), and the Nigeria of tomorrow. But he mentioned—and that is the gravamen of my own argument against him—that because I held such a view, it was the view of the N.C.N.C. That is definitely wrong. The N.C.N.C. was founded in 1944.

In the manifesto of 1951, the N.C.N.C. made the views of the Party clear on Chieftaincy and in the manifesto of 1952, it made its views clearer on Chieftaincy. I am a member of the N.C.N.C., a servant of the N.C.N.C. and whatever may be my personal views...

Mr S. G. Ikoku (Enyong Division): From what date did he become the servant of the N.C.N.C.?

The Premier: All along, I have been a servant of the N.C.N.C. I was first the General Secretary of the N.C.N.C. and I served, and I was elevated to the post of the National President, and I shall continue to serve until I am removed by the N.C.N.C. So, Mr Speaker, it was on the basis of the manifesto of 1954, irrespective of what may be the views of the individual members of the N.C.N.C., when they met and took a decision by the majority vote that there should be Chieftaincy, and it was on that basis that the Opposition Chief Whip—at that time he was sitting on this side of the House as the Government Chief Whip—had to carry out the mandate of his party irrespective of his personal views. That was when he tabled the Motion he read out to the House.

Now I am sure that that particular point has been cleared up. I felt it because I did not want to use it but since my hon. Friend

referred to my personal view on Chieftaincy, I want to remind him that in 1957 his leader wrote a book "Path to Nigeria Freedom". If you look from pages 73 to 76.

An Opposition Member: What for ?

The Premier: As a student. I will stir my Friend opposite in that aspect. I am conducting my case and it is not for the Opposition to brief me. Pages 73 to 76 show clearly the views if the Leader of the Action Group on Chiefs and their role in this country.

Mr Ikoku: Quote.

The Premier: The book is available in the library. He condemned them. I did not condemn them. He condemned them and attributed to them commissions of certain positive acts which were offensive. However, my point is that in spite of his own personal views, certainly we have the House of Chiefs in the West and no one would come here and condemn the leader of the Action Group because his party believes in the House of Chiefs. Therefore the Opposition Chief Whip's argument connecting my personal views one year before the party was founded and then when he was on this side and then within four years of that, and for him to come to this House to brag in order to buttress his own argument is irrelevant, uncalled for and frivolous.

Referring to the relevant point raised by the Opposition Chief Whip, he has accused the Government of forgery. Of course, when Mr Speaker asked him the context of the connotation, he evaded it. He never replied. He referred to something which happened yesterday but that was an evasion. Mr Speaker asked him whether he meant forgery in a legal sense.

However, Mr Speaker, I want to refresh the minds of my Friends opposite especially the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Whip who were members of the Classification of Chiefs Conference, that they will remember that when we had this discussion, the Minister of Production who led the debate on behalf of the N.C.N.C. party mentioned that he was prepared to prepare a long list and off-handedly, he began to give out certain names in addition

to the eight which we all agreed; because surely the Opposition Chief Whip does not mean to tell this House that when we were at the Classification of Chiefs Conference, either the N.C.N.C. or the delegate from Onitsha who is the Obi of Onitsha, did not agree that the Obi of Onitsha should be included. Naturally, we agreed so that if he adds eight to the thirty-two we have, he gets his forty and if he includes the Eze Nri, he gets his forty-one. So that it was indicated clearly, but what did he do? He came and read out thirty-two and kept quiet. Look at the last line there. What is stated in the case of the last line ?

Mr Speaker, we all want to help the House and not to mislead the House. What I am driving at is that the hon. the Opposition Chief Whip, Sir, deliberately omitted the last line. The foregoing does not exhaust the list. It means that we can even have more; we can have up to 60; we can have up to 600, if we are able to do so. The main point is that he was told then that this list would be prepared and handed over to the Secretary. This was done, and we only included the list which we all agreed upon.

Mr Speaker, so far for the three irrelevancies. I go back now to the point which he raised and which we agreed on; that is, the history of this idea of the House of Chiefs. We differ on the interpretation he has given to the steps. May I quote, with your permission, at length what we indicated at page 8 of this White Paper on Chiefs:

"Discussion followed on the formula for Classification of Chiefs. Various criteria for classification were suggested, namely, area of jurisdiction, population basis, influence, merit, popularity, historical and traditional associations.

"The Rivers Chiefs Conference representative suggested that there should be a distinction between Chiefs and 'Monarchs or Royal functionaries . . .'

"The Eastern Chiefs Conference delegates postulated the criteria of merit, influence and popularity.

"The N.C.N.C. delegates proposed population as a basis of classification. If a Chief could show that he commanded the

[THE PREMIER]

allegiance of, say, 50,000 people, he should merit classification as the Conference might decide.”

Towards the end, the Conference was unable to reach agreement on the classification of First-class Chiefs, but agreed that the following opposing views should be referred to the Governor. I am emphasising this, Sir, to disabuse the minds of those Members and the outsiders who actually fell for the propaganda of my Friends opposite and actually believed that it was the wickedness of the Government that prevented certain well-known Chiefs from being classified as First-class Chiefs:

“The N.C.N.C. and the Eastern Chiefs Conference delegates held that First-class Chiefs should be selected from Second-class Chiefs on a provincial representative basis.

The Action Group and U.N.I.P. delegates held that First-class Chiefs should be selected from Second-class Chiefs on the basis of historical and traditional associations and in consideration of the contribution of the Chiefs’ ancestors towards the evolution of the Region.

The Rivers Chiefs Conference delegate said that he supported the recommendation of the Action Group and the U.N.I.P. delegates, without prejudice to his view regarding royal functionaries.”

From the above citation, Mr Speaker, it is quite clear as was indicated in the press release which was published at the conclusion of the meetings of the Conference on the Classification of Chiefs, that the delegates to the Conference were unable to reach a unanimous decision on the qualifications for the Classification of First-class Chiefs on fundamental grounds. Thus it was decided to refer the disagreement to the Governor.

Hon. Members should bear in mind that the Constitutional Conference of 1957 stipulated that unless all interested parties in the Region had evolved a formula for the classification of Chiefs, acceptable as satisfactory by the Governor, a House of Chiefs cannot be created in the Eastern Region. The reference of the decisions of the Classification of Chiefs Conference to the Governor was, therefore, mandatory.

During the Constitutional Conference of 1958, His Excellency suggested the blending of the two opposing views on the Classification of Chiefs Conference as a compromise solution, that is, the N.C.N.C. view—that First-class Chiefs should be selected from Second-class Chiefs on a Provincial representative basis, and the Opposition view—that First-class Chiefs should be selected from Second-class Chiefs only on the basis of historical and traditional associations.

Thus the choice before the House is either to accept the present Classification of First-class Chiefs, which was formulated on a compromise basis between the Government Party and the Opposition Parties and acceptable to the Governor, or to reject same and thus postpone indefinitely the creation of a House of Chiefs in the Region. It was made clear in 1957 that, unless the two opposing parties evolved a formula for the Classification of Chiefs which was acceptable to the Governor, no House of Chiefs can be established in the Eastern Region.

Hon. Members will agree with me that Government has done its best to expedite the creation of a House of Chiefs, but if the House is of the opinion that our best is not good enough then it is up to the hon Member to take the responsibility for postponing the creation of our House of Chiefs.

Mr Speaker, in launching the attack on this Bill, my Friend the hon. Leader of the Opposition made certain statements, and I now propose to join issues with him. He claimed that since 1952 the Opposition had been agitating for the creation of a House of Chiefs in this Region.

Mr Ikoku: Yes, we have been.

The Premier: Perhaps this flight of the imagination can be excused in view of the fact that in 1952 the Party of my Friend restricted its activities to the Western Region on the spurious philosophy of “West for the Westerners”. On the contrary, it is on record that in 1947 right on the floor of this House, during the debate in this House to introduce local government in the Eastern Provinces, it was the N.C.N.C. representatives, led by

Chief Nyong Essien and Chief Marcus Ubani, who lost, after fighting valiantly, for the recognition of Chiefs in this Region against the onslaught launched by Mr Alvan Ikoku and others . . .

Mr E. O. Eyo: From where is he quoting ?

The Premier: I am quoting from the *Hansard* of 1947 which is available in the library of the House.

Mr E. O. Eyo: If he is quoting from there, then he is not quoting what is actually written there.

The Premier: When I finish he can check up if he feels I am misquoting.

As I was saying, Sir, it was the N.C.N.C. representatives, led by Chief Nyong Essien and Chief Marcus Ubani, who lost, after fighting valiantly, for the recognition of Chiefs in this Region against the onslaught launched by Mr Alvan Ikoku and others, who misled the Government of the day to believe that traditional authority did not exist in this part of the country.

The Opposition Leader said that this Bill failed to make provision for the classification and selection or election of Chiefs. The criticism on classification is not justified, as a glance at clauses 3, 4 and 5 of the Bill will show that there is adequate provision for the Classification of Chiefs. My answer to the issue of selection or election of Chiefs is that clause 18 (2) of the Legislative Houses Bill, which has been laid on the Table of this House, contains the necessary provision. If my hon. Friend so desires, I am prepared to incorporate this particular clause in the Classification of Chiefs Bill, and I have given notice to the effect that at the Committee Stage I shall move for its incorporation—that is to accommodate his criticism.

The Leader of the Opposition also accused this Government of making fundamental departures from agreed conclusions arrived at, both at the London Conference and at the Classification of Chiefs' Conference. The first departure according to my Friend, is at clause 4 which vests the Governor in Council with power to appoint Chiefs from each of the Provinces of the Region. The second

departure, according to my Friend, is clause 5 which gives the impression that Second-class Chiefs shall consist of Chiefs elected from among the Clan Heads and Village Group Heads. The third departure is to the effect that whilst the agreement in London was 58 Second-class Chiefs this Bill suggests 55. The fourth departure is the increase of First-class Chiefs from 17 to 20.

I completely disagree with my Friend's first point. The 1957 Constitutional Conference agreed that—with your permission, Mr Speaker, may I quote from page 10 of the Report of the 1957 Constitutional Conference, paragraph 23 (b):

“Owing to the considerable doubt surrounding the existing Chieftaincy titles and their complexity, it would be necessary, before this House was created, to evolve a formula for the Classification of Chiefs in the Region which should be agreed so far as possible by all interested parties in the Region . . .”

It should be agreed so far as possible by all interested parties. I am emphasising that phrase: “*so far as possible by all interested parties in the Region*”.

“ . . . and accepted as satisfactory by the Governor. (c) When a satisfactory formula had been evolved, the Regional Legislature should by Law provide for the Classification of Chiefs in accordance with the formula. (d) It should then be for the Eastern Regional Government to propose that constitutional provision should be made for an Eastern House of Chiefs, to consist of Chiefs selected by and from among their fellow classified Chiefs.”

I submit that there has been no departure from what we agreed upon. The interested parties have evolved a formula for the Classification of Chiefs. This formula so far as possible has been accepted as satisfactory by the Governor. Our Legislature is now in process of enacting a law which is based on the accepted formula, and Government will then propose to the Secretary of State to provide for the creation of a House of Chiefs in the Constitution; and I am bound to inform you that the Secretary of State has been alerted to know our intentions so that if this Bill is enacted, then he should promulgate the Order in Council in accordance with this agreement.

[THE PREMIER]

Surely the Leader of the Opposition does not seriously expect this Government to abdicate its legislative powers by requesting the Opposition or any other medium to appoint First-class Chiefs to represent each of the Provinces in the Region, in the absence of any specific agreement previously arrived at.

I agree with him that clause 5 of the Bill is definitely misleading for it gives the impression that Second-class Chiefs shall consist of Chiefs elected from among Clan Heads as well as Village Group Heads and Village Heads. This is a drafting error and I have given notice to move an amendment to delete the expressions "Village Group Heads" and "Village Heads," so as to bring out more clearly the agreed intention of the interested parties to restrict the election of Second-class Chiefs solely from among Clan Heads.

I also agree with the Leader of the Opposition that we agreed in London to have seventeen First-class Chiefs, eight of whom shall be Paramount Traditional Rulers, and the remaining nine shall represent the nine provinces of the Region. Here, I must place on record my appreciation of the generosity of my hon. Friend when he said:

"I am not saying that the Opposition should take a stand of absolute opposition to increasing the number of Provinces. If that was the case, in order to avoid so many petitions and troubles, we must do it in agreement. I still attribute the non-consultation with the Opposition to the fact that the Premier has a reason and intention to do so."

As a matter of fact, the hon. Gentleman has taken the words from my mouth. On our return from London and due to many factors, Government decided to increase the number of Provinces from nine to twelve, and the corresponding increase in the number of First-class Chiefs, and the decrease in Second-class Chiefs, were merely consequential. I can assure my Friends opposite that I had the intention of explaining the circumstances to the Opposition and securing their co-operation, because I have always believed that by consultation, both Government and the Opposition Parties can resolve their differences amicably. I do sincerely hope that the Opposition will accept my explanation in good faith.

The Leader of the Opposition has suggested the incorporation of a Second Schedule in the Bill stating clearly the number of Second-class Chiefs allocated to each Division. This suggestion is welcome and I shall move an amendment for its incorporation at the Committee State.

This clears the criticisms of the Opposition. Apart from a sharp disagreement of view on who should appoint Chiefs to represent the Provinces, I am right in saying that Government accepts the criticisms of the Opposition in good faith. Whilst it is true that, for reasons which are well-known—prolonged political tours in the Western and Northern Regions, during February and March, 1959—it was not possible for the Government and Opposition Leaders to consult before the House met, yet it must be agreed that any departure from previous decisions was purely a departure from the letter but certainly not from the spirit of the understanding mutually reached in London in 1957 and 1958.

Even the sharp disagreement on the right to appoint First-class Chiefs can only be skin deep. I am sure that my Friends opposite will not suggest that Government should adopt a *laissez faire* attitude and allow Chiefs to flourish *ad lib* without any control by means of the instrument of recognition. The Minorities Commission warned against such complacency when, at page 24, paragraph 44 of its Report on the Western Region, it said:

Mr Ikoku: I think we are dealing with the East.

The Premier: The section has a universal application; the West is a part of Nigeria and I quote from it:

"The ultimate sanction for the office of Chief must, we agree, rest with the Government; no sovereign power could tolerate local potentates who were irremovable and irresponsible".

Several hon. Members have also made their contributions to the debate on this Bill. Whilst I am grateful to them for the views they have expressed, I must call their attention to the basis of agreement for the classification of Chiefs. Unless the Government and Opposition Parties agreed and evolved a formula for

the Classification of Chiefs, there can be no House of Chiefs in the Eastern Region.

As far as the Government Party is concerned, its views are lucidly stated in the White Paper, and its suggestions as to what Chiefs should be First-class Chiefs are enumerated in Annex IV, page 15 of the White Paper. But no one Party can have its way on a delicate issue such as this one, and so His Excellency compromised the two opposing views by blending them in a typical British manner so as to consummate a political marriage of convenience which has enabled the interested parties to come to an agreement.

Mr Speaker, I hope that hon. Members will appreciate the difficulties which confronted all who participated in the series of conferences leading to this final agreement, and I trust that this Bill will commend itself to the House. In the final analysis, the enactment of this Bill into Law will answer the question whether we should create a House of Chiefs in this Region in the immediate future or in the nebulous future.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I beg to move that in lines 1 and 2 the words "for purposes of the Eastern House of Chiefs" be left out. Sir, we are not in a position to enact legislation to establish the Eastern House of Chiefs as the Premier has rightly pointed out. That is provided for by the Constitution Order in Council. My main point, Sir, is that we are not classifying Chiefs in the Region for the purposes of the Eastern House of Chiefs—we are classifying them once and for all, and my view is that it will be wrong in this Bill to indicate that this classification is for the Eastern House of

Chiefs. In this connection may I refer to section 5 of the Order in Council which makes provision for the establishment of Legislative Houses in the country.

Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed in Page C. 44, Clause 3, lines 1 and 2 to leave out the words "for the purposes of the Eastern House of Chiefs".

The Premier: I am afraid we have to oppose this amendment because I think that the hon. Mover has actually failed to grasp the real motive for introducing this Bill. I refer the House to page 24 of the 1958 Report of the Resumed Nigerian Constitutional Conference where it was stated at paragraph 61 that:

"The 1957 Conference agreed to recommend that there should be a House of Chiefs in the Eastern Region . . ."

then the rest talks about classification.

The sole intention of this Bill is to make provision for the Classification of Chiefs for the purposes of the House of Chiefs; and this Report at paragraph 61, page 28 shows that but for the issue of the House of Chiefs being raised in the 1957 Constitutional Conference there would have been no classification of Chiefs or recognition of Chiefs law.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, Sir, may I draw attention to the very paragraph 23 of the 1957 Conference. I am referring, Sir, to 23 (b). The position we found ourselves in London was that we were not able to talk even about the creation of the House of Chiefs due to the fact that there was no Classification of Chiefs in the Eastern Region. What I have got to say is that we are not classifying Chiefs in the Eastern Region for the purpose of the Eastern House of Chiefs. We are classifying the Chiefs in the Eastern Region once and for all so that at any time we shall be able to refer to them as First, Second, Third or Fourth-class. Besides the fact that the village head will . . . (*Interruptions*) as a member of an electoral college vote to elect a Second-class Chief to the Eastern House of Chiefs he will always be referred to as a Fourth-class Chief until he dies or Government withdraws recognition. The Government may want all Fourth-class Chiefs or all Third-class Chiefs to be members of the Local

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

Councils. We just refuse to accept that we are classifying the Chiefs of the Eastern Region just for the purpose of the Eastern House of Chiefs.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, the answer to that challenge is that if the hon. Member had referred to the earlier sentence of the 1957 Report of the Nigeria Constitutional Conference instead of jumping to paragraph 23 (b), if he had read paragraph 23 itself and (a) he would have found out that my point of view is still sound. May I read them, Mr Chairman:

“The delegates from the Eastern Region advanced proposals for the creation there of a second chamber of the Eastern Legislature and with the agreement of the Conference these proposals were first discussed between these delegates and United Kingdom representatives in a Committee presided over by the Minister of State for Colonial Affairs.

After discussion in Conference of the Committee’s proposals, it was agreed to recommend as follows:—

- (a) There should be a second Legislative House in the Eastern Region named the Eastern House of Chiefs with a total membership of about 60.”

So that to say that this Bill is being introduced for the purpose of the Eastern House of Chiefs is still tenable.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Mr J. E. Eyo (Abak Division): Sir, I just want to point out to the Government the serious omission made by the Conference in not providing any classification for District Heads or Heads of the Division as a whole, because they only recognise the Clan Head as Second-class Chief. But for the various clans put together and the District Council to appoint somebody as the Head, that person should be looked upon as senior to the other Chiefs; but just to leave them all like that, there will be nobody to look upon as senior to the others.

Also this question of Group Heads. There are certain places that do not have Group Heads organised but for the purposes of Local Government elections, and they have been divided into groups. A certain village might

be very large and then divided into two groups. It will then follow that the Ekpuks heads should be recognised as village heads, so that whenever they are recognised as village heads, they will group themselves together to appoint somebody as the group head. This means that in a village where there are ten Ekpuks, they shall be known as ten village heads, so that they have two group heads. Otherwise, the word “Group Heads” cannot be applied in such places if they have only one village head and then they have two groups. They cannot be applied together.

The Chairman: Mr Eronini.

Mr E. U. Eronini (Owerri Division): Mr Chairman, in view of the decision taken by my Party, I am not moving.

Clause 4.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I beg to move to *insert* the word “First” before the word “Schedule”.

Amendment proposed, To insert the word “First” before the word “Schedule” in Page C. 44, Clause 4 line 1.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Chairman, I rise to move under lines 3 and 4 to *leave out* the words “Chief appointed by the Governor in Council from each of the provinces in the Region” and to *insert* the words “nine Chiefs each elected by and from among the Second-class Chiefs in each Province”.

Sir, here is where we have to disagree with the Premier. To begin with, all the Chiefs in the Eastern Region will be recognised by the Governor in Council. The Recognition of Chiefs Law, 1956, provides for that and we are not quarrelling with it. But, we are saying, that in London we agreed that there shall be nine representative Chiefs of the nine Provinces and our understanding of that was that, as representatives of the people, they will be elected by their own people. If Government had wanted them to be Government nominees, surely, the Premier would not have submitted the annex to the 1958 Report.

May I inform the House that that annex was submitted to the Conference and as far as we are concerned, it will be written into the Constitution. Representatives of Aba, Bende Provinces and all others: if Government had wanted them to be Government nominees, they should have said so. There is no question of dictating to Government, but the main point, Sir, is that the Governor in Council will recognise all the First, Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs in the Region.

The office of First-class Chief in the Provinces will be filled by one of the Second-class Chiefs in that Province—the Governor in Council having recognised all the Second-class Chiefs in the Provinces. We are saying, Sir, that because this man is going to represent his Province, because he is going to be one step higher than the other Second-class Chiefs in the Province, it should be the duty of all the Second-class Chiefs in the Province to meet and say: "We have, in view of our confidence in X, recommended that he should be the First-class Chief representing this Province".

I come to the spirit of the agreement in London. In London in 1957, we only agreed that the Premier should advise the Governor on the appointment of five Special Members. May I draw your attention to paragraph 23 (f) at page 10 of the Conference Report:

Several hon. Members: We know.

Mr E. O. Eyo: What they know will not appear in the *Hansard*.

"The House of Chiefs should also comprise not more than five Special Members possessing qualifications to enable them to make a special contribution to the work of the House appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier."

That was the only instance we agreed on the appointment of five Special Members to the House by the Governor on the advice of the Premier. The agreement last year was that these nine First-class Chiefs from the provinces should be representatives of the various provinces and you see, Sir, that the Government is rather vague over that clause which says—

"shall consist of eight traditional paramount rulers and then Chiefs appointed by the Governor in Council."

Our view, Sir, is that nine Chiefs should be elected by and from among the Second-class Chiefs in the provinces.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to appeal to the hon. the Premier to give serious consideration to this suggested amendment. The whole idea of the House of Chiefs is that the Chiefs of the Region should be able to send their own representatives to discuss matters or to take part in the legislative processes in the Region. We also recognise the fact established by the London Conference that it will be necessary that the Government should have a certain number of people in the House who are direct nominees. That is how we agreed on the five Special Members and we conceded that right to the Premier. Now the Premier is trying to extend this right to select the five people as agreed to seventeen by providing another twelve, one from each province. The Government wants to nominate seventeen Members in a House of eighty. We do not regard this as being in keeping with the democratic nature of the House. Please, Sir, may I draw attention to some of the things that transpired at the Conference. We held a series of meetings with the hon. the Premier and His Excellency the Governor to iron out this matter. The Government submitted a memorandum No. NC (58) 148 of the 24th of October, 1958. I will make that citation again so as to refresh their minds—NC (58) 148 of 24th of October, 1958.

The Government Party made it clear in paragraph 5 of that Memorandum on the Eastern House of Chiefs that they intended to make these First-class Chiefs drawn from the Provinces to be representatives of the people and actually chosen at the local level. But what we have in this Bill is an attempt to give the Government the power to nominate these Chiefs. (*Interruption*).

A Minister has just referred me to the practice in other Commonwealth countries. We agreed, Sir, that as regards our Upper House a certain number of the membership should be appointed by the Government and

[MR IKOKU]

the Conference agreed that this should be five, and gave absolute discretion in this regard to the Government.

I will now go on further, Sir, to say that at the Conference I did raise this issue of the democratic element in the selection of Chiefs. I refer, Sir, to the Minutes of the 39th Plenary Session of the London Conference.

Before I go on, I would like to answer this outcry of the Conference minutes being secret. There is nothing which either a Minister or any Member of this Legislature can do in the interest of this Region which should be kept secret to the Legislature of the Region. If you make reference to History you will find that the Government must always take the House into full confidence; and if it is thought that the matter is such as may jeopardise the best interests of the State then you call for a secret session of the House. The House must be told. And I call on you, Sir, to clear the galleries, if you think this necessary.

I refer you, Sir, to the minutes of the London Conference—39th Plenary Session—of 25th October, 1958. At page 4, Sir, I drew attention to this democratic element.

The Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo): Mr Chairman, I think this is most improper. I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition should say this here. Why did he not say so in London? It is a breach of faith.

The Chairman: The hon. Member may go on with his speech.

Mr Ikoku: I said, Sir, that “the Governor had proposed that Local Government Bodies should take some part in the selection of these First-class Chiefs, and he” (that is me) “thought that the Government had been right to insist on the introduction of some kind of democratic element in this matter”. That is my view. Then we went on to the hon. the Premier’s view.

“Dr Azikiwe said that he had given an assurance in 1957 that the Eastern House of Chiefs would be set up either immediately before or after the Budget Session in the spring

of 1959 and he was prepared to abide by this undertaking”.

“The Conference—

- (1) Agreed that the second sentence of paragraph 4 of N.C. (58) 148 should be amended to provide that Second-class Chiefs should be selected in accordance with the terms of paragraph 23 (d) of the Report of the 1957 Conference.
- (2) Took note of the proposals in N.C. (58) 148 subject to the amendment recorded in Conclusion (1) above.
- (3) Took note of Dr Azikiwe’s assurance at X above”.

The document N.C. (58) 148 states clearly in paragraph 5 that these Chiefs are to *represent*, I emphasise, represent—each of the nine provinces proposed for the Eastern Region.

The point I am driving at is that the Premier, myself, and His Excellency agreed that these First-class Chiefs should be representatives in the real sense of the word and in fact, Sir, the proposal of injecting a democratic element into the selection of these Chiefs was made by His Excellency. We have been to the Conference and all these ideas were embodied in Memorandum 58 (148) and agreed on. The agreement is contained in the minutes I read.

Please, Sir, I would like to make it clear because I am being accused of bad faith for reading this document, that I would like to be answerable to the Secretary of State for this. After all, I have not asked any other members who attended the Conference to be party to the release of this document. I am doing it entirely of my own accord. So if they think they are having good faith with the Secretary of State, I agree to have bad faith provided I convey to this hon. House the concrete decision of the London Conference.

The principle of nominating these Chiefs is wrong. It is unfair to the Chiefs. The hon. Premier in winding up the debate on the Second Reading did quote from the Report of the Minorities Commission making it clear that they cannot just allow the Chiefs to run riot.

The citation, Sir, at page 24 paragraph 44, reads:

“The ultimate sanction for the office of chiefs must, we agree, rest with the Government; no sovereign power could tolerate local potentates who were irremovable and irresponsible. But it is surely advisable that the Government should normally act on the advice of some intermediary body, not purely local, who would consider appointments and removals”.

It is obvious that His Excellency was acting in the spirit of this recommendation when he suggested that the democratic element should be injected into the selection of these Chiefs. The Bill before us seeks to make the appointment of these Chiefs the exclusive prerogative of the Executive Council. But that is absolutely wrong and what we are suggesting is that Chiefs themselves should be able to make their recommendations. I would like to make it clear, Sir, that it is a very dangerous precedent which the Government is trying to create. They are merely trying to pack—I repeat, Sir, they are merely trying to pack the House of Chiefs. We have given them the right to nominate five out of the House of Chiefs of eighty and they want now to exercise that right over seventeen members and we strongly oppose it.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, the Treasury Bench cannot accept the amendment made by the Opposition Chief Whip and supported by the Leader of the Opposition. In the first place, I do not accept the interpretation given by the Opposition Chief Whip that the intention of the delegates to the London Conference, according to the report there, is that we should read into a document what was not expressly agreed upon. I think we know quite well that even in the interpretation of documents what is not expressly agreed upon previously cannot be read into it later. In fact it is the universal principle of law that what is not written in a document cannot be read into it later and this is the basis of law; you cannot go back tomorrow and give it another interpretation to justify what you feel should have been written. Therefore what was not in the Report has not been indicated even in the news.

Although I must dissociate myself completely from the reading of the minutes, I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that the responsibility is his; but I feel that as a Leader he has given his word to the Constitutional Conference, after the debate tabled by the N.C.N.C. that the report should be published, and it was resolved by the majority, that the document should not be published. He has justified his reading it, and why I did not interfere is because I know he will not come across any section in that Report where the Conference agreed that when it comes to appointing First-class Chiefs an extraneous body will have to do it on behalf of the Government. No decision was taken on it and as he was reading from that document he tried to give the impression that there was something there, which he was going to expose. He has exposed what he read out, and whether it is there or not it is not for me to decide. But I should advise him not to commit such breaches in the future because it does not help him.

Now, on the views on the Minorities Commission, I agree with him that I did not read the other part. He read the other part. But my view is that we have incorporated this clause in the Law to make it possible for the Governor in Council to appoint chiefs. That is to enable Government to have ultimate sanction. Whether we are going to have an intermediary body or not is irrelevant even if we are going to accept their advice. Suppose we decide that the Executive Council should be the intermediary body . . .

Mr E. O. Eyo: Does he mean that the Executive Council will be the intermediary body for the Government?

The Premier: . . . or if a sub-committee of Executive Council is to be appointed or if we appoint a Committee of Chiefs for that matter? My main argument, Sir, is that the ultimate sanction is that of the Government and we are expanding on that.

With that, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Question proposed, That the words proposed to be left out be left out.

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1303

[Classification of Chiefs Bill—

6 MAY 1959

Committee]

1304

Question put. Committee divided.

Ayes 13. Noes 54.

Division No. 8

12.5 p.m.

Ayes

Mr S. O. Achara
Mr J. A. Agba
Mr S. T. Akpan
Mr H. U. E. Edelduok
Mr M. U. Etuk
Mr E. O. Eyo
Mr S. G. Ikoku

Mr E. Ita
Chief I. I. Morphy
Mr O. B. Nalelo
Mr M. N. Yowika

Tellers for the Ayes:

Mr A. G. Umoh
Mr V. K. Onyeri

Noes

Mr C. A. Abangwu
Mr O. U. Afiah
Chief G. N. Agbasiere
Mr D. S. A. Agim
Mr H. U. Akpabio
Mr I. U. Akpabio
Mr D. O. Aligwekwe
Mr S. N. Alo
Mr J. W. E. Anaba
Mr R. O. Anoke
Mr N. L. P. Apreala
Dr N. Azikiwe
Mr E. Chidolue
Mr A. O. Chikwendu
Mr E. A. Chime
Mr E. Emole
Mr U. Enyi
Mr E. U. Eronini
Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba
Mr I. U. Imeh
Dr S. E. Imoke
Mr R. O. Iwuagwu
Mr S. E. K. Iwueke
Mr S. O. Masi
Mr D. A. Nnaji
Mr D. O. Nnamani

Mr J. U. Nwodo
Mr P. O. Nwoga
Mr J. H. E. Nwuge
Mr M. U. Obayi
Dr A. N. Obonna
Mr C. A. Okafor
Mr J. O. Okeh
Mr G. E. Okeke
Mr P. N. Okeke
Mr G. C. Okeya
Mr G. I. Oko, M.B.E.
Mr E. P. Okoya
Dr M. I. Okpara
Mr K. J. N. Okpokam
Mr B. C. Okwu
Chief S. E. Onukogu
Mr P. A. Onwe
Mr N. O. Onwudiwe
Mr M. N. Onwuma
Chief A. N. Onyiuke
Rev. M. D. Opara
Mr E. W. Udonkim
Mr R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.
Mr J. O. Umolu
Mr P. O. Ururuka
Mr L. O. Uzoigwe

Tellers for the Noes:

Mr J. E. Eyo
Mr K. Kiri

Clause 4 as amended agreed to.

Sitting suspended at 12.15 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.45 p.m.

Clause 5.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move to *leave out* clause 5 and to *insert* a new clause 5 as follows:—

“Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs shall consist of the Clan Heads, Village Group Heads and Village Heads respectively:

Provided that where the House Rule System exists, Heads of Main Houses and

Heads of Sub-Houses shall be the equivalent of Clan Heads and Village Group Heads respectively”.

Sir, clause 5 as it stands, having defined First-class Chiefs, has no provision for those who are Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs in the Region. Clause 4 only deals with First-class Chiefs. Our view, Sir, is that having agreed on four grades of Chiefs in the Region and having provided for only one of these four grades, this Bill should specifically define who the Second-class, Third-class and Fourth-class Chiefs in the Region

should be; and to accommodate the wishes and desires of our friends in the Rivers Province and in the Calabar area, we suggest that where the House Rule System exists, the Heads of Main Houses and Heads of Sub-Houses shall be the equivalent of Clan Heads and Village Group Heads respectively. Clause 5 as it stands, Sir, says.

“Second-class Chiefs shall consist of not less than fifty-five Chiefs elected from among Clan Heads, Village Group Heads and Village Heads . . .”

Sir, if we agree that every Clan Head in the Region is a Second-class Chief, it is ridiculous to provide under this Clause that Second-class Chiefs shall consist of not less than fifty-five Chiefs. We are saying that every Clan Head in the Region is a Second-class Chief and we want the Law to say so; we are saying that every Village Group Head in the Region is a Third-class Chief and we want the Law to say so; we are saying that every Village Head in the Region is a Fourth-class Chief, we want the Law to say so. At the moment there is no provision under the law for the Classification of Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs and, may I say, Sir, that it is not necessary to provide in this Law the proportion of the number of Chiefs per Division on population basis. What the Law is to provide for is just the classification of these Chiefs.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I am prepared to accommodate my Friend so far as the first part of this amendment is concerned, that is to amend clause 5 and insert sub-clause 1: “Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs shall consist of the Clan Heads, Village Group Heads and Village Heads respectively”, because the amendment is what I also stated when winding up the Second Reading, that I will move an amendment to *delete* the expressions, “Village Group Heads” and “Village Heads”, so that it will be consequential to define who these Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs are. But I am unable to accept the proviso because that was not agreed between the Opposition and the Government Party either here or in London, and was not referred to in London in this way to bring about an agreement. It was only referred as a

passing remark; we are not prepared to accept the proviso. But I will say for the honour of the House that under the Regulations, naturally an Administrative Officer will be able to use his discretion in places where there are no Clan Heads, or Village Group Heads or Village Heads to help him to handle the matter according to the practice in those areas.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Do I understand the Premier to say that the Government accepts the first part of the amendment provided the word “the” is *deleted*, and that he wants us to drop the proviso?

The Premier: Yes.

Mr E. O. Eyo: That is all right; we accept that.

The Premier: Clause 5 will not be *deleted*; we only want sub-clause (1) to be *inserted* to read “Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs shall consist of Clan Heads, Village Group Heads . . .” and *leave out* the word “the”.

The Chairman: The question is that clause 5 be left out.

Mr E. O. Eyo: No, Sir. I think the correct procedure would be to allow the clause to remain, and then *insert* sub-clause (1) (2) and (3) as the case may be.

The Chairman: I do not think that is the correct procedure. I think the correct procedure should be to *leave out* the clause and *insert* what the hon. Premier has agreed should be *inserted*.

The Premier: May I respectfully suggest that you put the question and we negative it, so the clause remains, and then you put the question to *insert* sub-clause (1)—the first part of his amendment. If this is done it will agree with our own proposal to *leave out* the word “the”.

Question put and negatived.

Amendment proposed: That sub-clause (1) be inserted—“Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs shall consist of Clan Heads, Village Group Heads and Village Heads respectively”.

Question put and agreed to.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I beg to move to insert "(2)" before the words "Second-class".

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr E. O. Eyo: While on Clause 5 (2), Sir,—“Second-class Chiefs shall consist of not less than fifty-five Chiefs elected . . .”. At this stage, Sir, may I propose an amendment to insert the words “by and” after the word “elected”. We are lifting that word for word from the Report of the Resumed Conference. It will read thus: “The Second-class Chiefs will be elected by and from among the Clan Heads, Village Group Heads and Village Heads. I thought the Premier agreed with us on this when he was replying to the debate on the Second Reading of the Bill.

Some hon. Members: No! No!

Mr E. O. Eyo: May we then know what the position is? We have said that the Second-class Chiefs will be elected by and from among the Clan Heads, etc., i.e., there will be an electoral college of all the Clan Heads, Group Heads and Village Heads in the Division, to elect only those of the rank of Second-class Chiefs to go to the House.

Let us read what the Report of the Constitutional Conference says; may I refer to the 1958 Conference Report paragraph 61.

The Chairman: I am afraid I may not accept the amendment.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, Sir, I can give notice any time at the Committee stage. May I invite Government's attention to paragraph 61 of the 1958 Conference Report. The amendment is to insert the words “by and” after the word “elected”. What I mean is that Second-class Chiefs are to be selected by and from among the Clan Heads, Village Group Heads and Village Heads. I am reading from the Conference Report.

Question proposed.

The Premier: If it is “selected”, we shall accept the amendment; it will follow what appears exactly in the Report.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, as long as there will be an electoral college for all Chiefs, we agree that selection should be done by and

from all the Clan Heads, all the Village Group Heads and all the Village Heads. I am reading from the Conference Report. Now if there are two or three Second-class Chiefs to represent a Division, only the Clan Heads in the Division will be qualified as Second-class Chiefs to be elected to represent their Division and therefore there will be an electoral college in that Division. All the Village Heads, all the Village Group Heads and the Clan Heads in the Division will meet in an electoral college to select their Second-class Chiefs to represent the Division in the House of Chiefs.

I must draw your attention to this point, Sir. The Government supporters are getting confused. Probably they are thinking of the statement made by the Premier on the 15th of December, 1958 which outlined the procedure for selecting Village Heads, Village Group Heads and Clan Heads. That is a different matter. We are talking about the procedure whereby the Chiefs in the Divisions will come together and elect their representatives to the House of Chiefs. We are saying, Sir, that our interpretation of the Conference decision was that Village Heads, Village Group Heads and Clan Heads in a Division will form an electoral college to elect their representatives.

Question put and agreed to.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, you will notice that I have an amendment under the same clause. I beg to move that sub-clause 3 be inserted: “(2) The Governor in Council may by regulation make provision for election of persons as Second-class Chiefs to the House of Chiefs”. I would suggest therefore that we leave out the issue as to the procedure to be adopted. Let us go ahead until we come to this. I have a statement to make on the matter and if the Opposition accept it, we can make the amendment and if not, we keep to the law. Government feel that it will be the Governor in Council who will make regulations for election or selection of Chiefs. Evidently, there may be agreement or disagreement on this issue, but, at present, let us keep that at the back of our minds other than the amendment moved. That is, they should be selected by and from among . . .

The Chairman: That is in line 2, the word “elected” should be “selected”?

Mr E. O. Eyo: We agree to that, Sir.

Question put and agreed to.

The Premier: Before that, Sir, I have an amendment which is really in line one. That is to *insert*: “(as set out in the Second Schedule to this Law)”.

Amendment proposed in Clause 5 line 1 to add: “as set out in the Second Schedule to this Law” after the words “Second-class Chiefs”.

Mr E. O. Eyo: We say that the selection should be done by and from among the Clan Heads, Group Heads and Village Heads. The man who will be Second-class Chief will be a Clan Head. All the Village Heads, Village Group Heads in the Division should have the right to decide who would be selected.

Several Government Supporters: No! No!

Mr E. O. Eyo: Please do not say no, I am talking to the Premier and would like him to answer.

The agreement reached at the Conference was that Second-class Chiefs are to be selected by and from among the Clan Heads, Village Group Heads and Village Heads. We felt that only a Clan Head should be eligible to represent his Division in the House of Chiefs as a Second-class Chief.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, this is my view: I tabled my amendment and I propose to move my amendment as it appeared on the Order Paper. I accommodated the Opposition Chief Whip under his apprehension and I therefore beg him to withdraw because it appears we are talking at cross-purposes. I have my amendment based on the notice I gave that I was going to accommodate my Friend the Leader of the Opposition because in his speech he criticised the amendment and I thought that the criticism was justified and decided to effect this change; but if the Opposition Chief Whip feels that that will contradict his own idea of how Third-class Chiefs should be selected, I think the best thing for him is to press his amendment and I will also press my own amendment.

The Chairman: The contention is on Third-class Chiefs. Would the Government give us what they want Third-class Chiefs to be and the Opposition to give us what they would have them be like?

The Premier: Mr Chairman, the Government would like clauses 1, 2 and 3 to be amended so as to have sub-clause 5 and clause

5 (1) as was already agreed; that is, that Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs shall consist of Clan Heads, Village Group Heads and Village Heads respectively.

Second-class Chiefs as set out in the Second Schedule to this Law shall consist of not less than fifty-five Chiefs selected by and from among Clan Heads on the basis of one Chief for each Division and an additional Chief for a Division with a population of 250,000 or over and another additional Chief for a Division with a population of 400,000 or over.

Sub-clause 3, the Governor in Council may by regulation make provision for the selection of persons as Second-class Chiefs to the House of Chiefs. This will bring out clearly what Members of the Government have at the back of their minds in accordance with the decision of the 1958 Constitutional Conference.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Chairman, Sir, you have requested that Government should put its idea about clause 5 on paper and the Opposition should do the same. I must say, Sir, that I think the Premier was right when he said there was some talking at cross-purposes. Now that he has given the clause as it should stand, it is quite clear that he has accommodated my view that the only people authorised to sit in the House are Second-class Chiefs, and these Third-class and Fourth-class Chiefs are merely electors in this business—they have no right to sit in the House. On this score we accept his enunciation of the clause, Sir.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 5 as amended and reading as follows:—

“5 (1) Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs shall consist of the Clan Heads, Village Group Heads and Village Heads respectively.

(2) Second-class Chiefs (as set out in the Second Schedule to this Law) shall consist of not less than fifty-five Chiefs selected by and from among Clan Heads on the basis of one Chief for each Division, an additional Chief for a Division with a population of 250,000 or over and another additional Chief for a Division with a population of 400,000 or over.

(3) The Governor in Council may by Regulation make provision for the selection of persons as Second-class Chiefs to the House of Chiefs”. *Agreed to.*

THE SCHEDULE

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I beg to move to *insert* the word "First" before the word "Schedule" in view of the fact that subsequent amendment by me will include another Schedule.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move to *leave out* the list of First-class Chiefs shown under the Schedule and *insert*:—

THE FIRST-CLASS CHIEFS OF THE EASTERN REGION

1. Amanyanabo of Bonny.
2. Amanyanabo of Kalabari.
3. Amanyanabo of Nembe.
4. Amanyanabo of Opobo.
5. Eze Aro of Arochuku.
6. Obi of Oguta.
7. Obi of Onitsha.
8. Obong of Calabar.
9. Representative of Aba-Bende Province.
10. Representative of Ahoada Province.
11. Representative of Annang Province.
12. Representative of Awgu-Nsukka-Udi Province.
13. Representative of Calabar Province.
14. Representative of Ogoja Province.
15. Representative of Onitsha Province.
16. Representative of Owerri Province.
17. Representative of Rivers Province.

The reason for this amendment, Sir, is to comply with the decisions of the London Constitutional Conference of 1958. I am referring to Annex IV at page 41 of the Conference Report.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment suggested, and, in doing so, may I respectfully call the attention of the Committee to paragraph 61 of the Resumed Nigeria Constitutional Conference Report which states clearly that the Conference had agreed that there shall be 17 First-class Chiefs as set out in Annex IV of the Conference Report—8 traditional paramount rulers and the remaining nine representing the nine Provinces proposed by the Eastern Region Government for the Region.

The stand of the Treasury Bench is that the only ground for the Opposition to claim a fundamental departure from this agreement is if the Government should alter the eight First-class Chiefs to be regarded as traditional paramount rulers, and for the other nine, it is obvious from the agreement reached in London that the Conference was informed that these Chiefs are to represent the provinces of the Region and it is obvious that the subject of provinces is within the exclusive jurisdiction of this Government. This Government can increase or decrease the provinces. In other words, applying the rules of interpretation, it cannot be said that because we agreed that there should be nine Chiefs to represent the nine provinces, if the Government decides to have twelve provinces, that the three provinces should be penalised.

As I said when winding up the debate on the Second Reading, I had already apologised to the Opposition that they were not taken into confidence but I claimed that several factors made the Government to increase the number of provinces and I also thank the Leader of the Opposition for his urbanity in being broad-minded enough to appreciate that many factors made the Government to increase or decrease the number of the provinces. I say this therefore in order to allay whatever fears the hon. Mover may have that it is true that we agreed in London that First-class Chiefs should be representative Chiefs of their provinces but that does not mean that the Government has no power to increase the number of provinces, and if we do increase the provinces, surely it will be most inequitable to deprive certain provinces of having representative Chiefs. I feel that my explanation, when I wound up, should have satisfied the hon. Member and I urge him not to press this amendment because we have tried as much as possible to be fair and to explain to the Opposition why it was done and the Opposition knows quite well that if this Government increases the number of provinces depending upon the opinion expressed on the floor of this House, we can do so and if we are prepared to decrease, again it will reflect the opinion of this House.

Finally, I owe it as a duty to explain to the House that in the regular administrative procedure, before any act of this nature is finally concluded, it is usual to take the Secretary of State for the Colonies into confidence and appraise him of the intentions of this

Government and to find out his views. I agreed with my Friends opposite when they raised this point and the Leader of the Opposition said so when he spoke on the Second Reading of the Bill that he was sure the Secretary of State would not counteract the decision of the Conference. In fairness to the Secretary of State, I said that I agreed with the Leader of the Opposition there. But I will inform him also that in the past, the procedure was after the Constitutional Conference, if any Government of the Federation felt that for tangible reasons certain modifications should be made, the Secretary of State was contacted. Then he gave his views or rulings as the case may be and he notified the other Governments, especially if the Secretary of State showed no reason to oppose.

I have one instance in mind. After the Constitutional Conference of 1953, the total number in the Northern House of Assembly, etc., and other Regional Houses was agreed upon. Later the Government of the Northern Region found it necessary to make an amendment and increase the number. This was sent to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State gave his views on the subject and also referred same to the other Governments of the Federation. Some supported, some did not support but in the Secretary of State's opinion, it did not affect the spirit of the agreement. It may affect the letter but not the spirit of the agreement. It was on the basis of this agreement that this was referred to the Secretary of State and I am now saying that while the Secretary of State naturally respects the Conference decision, I am reliably informed that this is not the type of request that would fundamentally violate the spirit of the agreement at the Conference; so that this Government is in a position to explain to the Opposition the details and to solicit their co-operation and assure them that they realise the nature of the debate in this House in connection with provinces and that the Government had no choice other than to increase the number of provinces from nine to twelve and the Secretary of State was notified accordingly.

Mr Ikoku: I am quite happy and I would have liked to agree with the Premier but we have found it difficult to do so. This is a case as the Premier has explained, of departure from the agreed Conference conclusion. It is important to know that it took us a very lengthy

process of negotiation to agree on what is embodied in paragraph 61 and also to agree on Appendix 4 at the end of the Report, page 41.

We held a conference here on the Classification of Chiefs in the Eastern Region on the 26th of May, 1958, and we did agree on Second, Third and Fourth-class Chiefs. We did not agree on First-class Chiefs. The divergent views were referred to His Excellency and he spent a lot of time trying to get us to agree. In fact, we did not agree finally until the very eve of the 39th meeting of the Conference; and some people thought it was a miracle that we agreed. The compromise was that the nine provinces as proposed by the Eastern Government should all have their representatives each as First-class Chiefs; and seven traditional rulers, plus the Obi of Oguta, who was recommended by the Premier himself, should also be accepted as First-class Chiefs. We agreed on this; and this was embodied in the Conference decisions.

The Premier has found it necessary to depart from this agreement. The important thing about the departure is that it has two important consequences. Firstly, it denies the Second-class Chiefs of three seats in the House of Chiefs, and I would have thought that Members who are interested in Chiefs from their Divisions sitting in the House of Chiefs would be more concerned about the total number of seats allocated to Second-class Chiefs, because it is only as regards Second-class Chiefs that every Division is represented. We would have thought that Members would be more particular about this Divisional representation. This departure being advocated by the Premier robs the Second-class Chiefs of three seats. It may be true that the Northern Region found it necessary to alter the size of the Northern House of Assembly and approached the Secretary of State. But is it not also true that the Northern Regional Government first got the support and consent of the Opposition Party in the North? And therefore the opposition to the increase by other Regional Governments was not very material. The Secretary of State was armed with the fact that he had received a unanimous recommendation from the North. If the hon. the Premier wanted these changes to be made he would have sent for us and we would have talked it over; and it is likely we would have

[MR IKOKU]

arrived at a formula which would leave the number of Second-class Chiefs unaltered. It is a simple thing. We have a House of eighty. What is wrong then in having a House of eighty-three. This could have been agreeable to everybody and he would not have inconvenienced himself now by having the number of seats for Second-class Chiefs reduced by three.

If we are compelled by circumstances to think in terms of altering Conference decisions, one would have thought that all the necessary negotiations and preparations would have been undertaken in order to make sure that this thing does not have a rough passage. As it is, the Premier drafted this Bill, he introduced it in the House and it was the day he introduced it in the House that he announced that he had despatched a communication to the Secretary of State seeking his agreement.

Now, what are we on this side of the House to do? We were all shocked by his announcement and so we had no alternative than to cable the Secretary of State making it quite clear that we did not agree with the Premier before he sent his despatch. Now that we are in the impasse what are we to do? (*Interruptions*). I do not want people who have not taken the pains of going through this very protracted negotiation to keep on disturbing this House. The Premier himself has not had an easy time; nobody else has and nobody who has gone through the whole process will like to see the scheme founder at the last hurdle. That is why I regard some of their ejaculations as mere impudence.

The Chairman: May I remind the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that to use the word "impudence" on other hon. Members is unparliamentary.

Several hon. Members: Let him withdraw.

Mr Ikoku: I used the word, Sir, in a bit of a temper. With due deference to your authority, Sir, I do not hesitate to withdraw the word "impudence". I did not mean to insult any Member of this hon. House but what I wanted to make clear, Sir, is that we have gone through a very tough time in getting through this negotiation and just at the time when we are about to see the end and we have a very thorny point, it is very irritating, Sir, for

Members to keep on trying to drag down the works. After all, they have not contributed towards its building.

I would like to make a suggestion to the hon. Premier. This is, that he should discontinue piloting this Bill through this House today. Let us postpone it. It is not going to do any harm. After all, it is only a matter of 48 hours. This will give us all time to talk it over and then be able to authorise the Premier to send a despatch to the Secretary of State on what we have agreed on.

If the boys who have already started shouting "No, no" refuse, well, we have no alternative than to stick religiously, meticulously to the decision of the Conference, and to vote against the proposal.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition spoke to this Bill, bearing in mind what he said on the 2nd of April in connection with the increase of the provinces from nine to twelve. With your permission, may I just refresh the minds of hon. Members by reading from the uncorrected *Hansard* of 2nd April, column 136 where the Leader of the Opposition said:

"Now, if you turn to the Report of the London Conference 1958, page 41, Annexure 4, you will see the schedule agreed upon as eight traditional rulers—what we might now colloqually call First-class Chiefs—nine First-class Chiefs representing nine provinces and that is a departure from that agreement. I am not saying that if the Opposition were consulted we would have been adamant. We have not been consulted. If the Premier is not prepared to consult us our stand is to stick religiously to the decisions of the London Conference. I do not know if the hon. the Premier has written to the Secretary of State and I do not know what the Secretary of State said on the question of twelve instead of nine provinces. I can assure you, if the Secretary of State departs from the decisions of the Conference, we are going to use all the powers of our people to get him to keep to the decisions of the London Conference..."

Now, Mr Chairman, I think it was a very reasonable statement for the Leader of the Opposition to make. It shows that the main grounds of the Opposition are not based on ulterior motive, but it is just because they were

not consulted. So I made it my duty to come to the floor of this House and express to them my apology, pointing out to them that I travelled during February and March. The Leader of the Opposition also travelled but I carefully kept that out of my speech. He was making his political tour that time so that if the Government had wanted to consult them it would have been very difficult at that time; but after having made this statesmanlike statement on the 2nd of April, now on the 6th of May, he is giving an entirely different version of the stand of the Opposition. It is on the basis of his statement that I tried as much as possible to find out what will be the reaction from the Colonial Office and I have found out such reaction and that enabled me to come here again and give that assurance.

Surely, in making legislation, it is a matter of give and take—that of the Treasury Bench and the Opposition Bench—and I hope that my Friends on the Opposition are not trying to give

Question *put*: That the list of “First-class Chiefs in the Eastern Region” proposed to be left out be left out.

Committee divided.

Ayes 13. Noes 54.

Division No. 9

1.35 p.m.

Ayes

Mr S. O. Achara
Mr J. A. Agba
Mr S. T. Akpan
Mr H. U. E. Edelduok
Mr M. U. Etuk

Mr E. O. Eyo
Mr S. G. Ikoku
Chief I. I. Morphy
Mr O. B. Nalelo
Dr W. N. Onubogu
Mr M. N. Yowika

Tellers for the Ayes:

Mr A. G. Umoh
Mr V. K. Onyeri

Noes

Mr C. A. Abangwu
Mr O. U. Afiah
Chief G. N. Agbasiere
Mr D. S. A. Agim
Mr D. E. Akilo
Mr H. U. Akpabio
Mr I. U. Akpabio
Mr D. O. Aligwekwe
Mr S. N. Alo
Mr J. W. E. Anaba

Mr D. O. Nnamani
Mr J. U. Nwodo
Mr P. O. Nwoga
Mr J. H. E. Nwuke
Mr M. U. Obayi
Dr A. N. Obonna
Mr C. A. Okafor
Mr J. O. Okeh
Mr G. E. Okeke
Mr P. N. Okeke

Mr R. O. Anoke
 Mr N. L. P. Apreala
 Dr N. Azikiwe
 Mr E. Chidolue
 Mr A. O. Chikwendu
 Mr E. A. Chime
 Mr E. Emole
 Mr U. Enyi
 Mr E. U. Eronini
 Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba
 Mr I. U. Imeh
 Dr S. E. Imoke
 Mr R. O. Iwuagwu
 Mr S. E. K. Iwueke
 Mr S. O. Masi
 Mr D. A. Nnaji

Mr G. C. Okeya
 Mr G. I. Oko, M.B.E.
 Mr E. P. Okoya
 Dr M. I. Okpara
 Mr K. J. N. Okpokam
 Mr B. C. Okwu
 Chief S. E. Onukogu
 Mr P. A. Onwe
 Mr N. O. Onwudiwe
 Chief A. N. Onyiuke
 Rev. M. D. Opara
 Mr E. W. Udonkim
 Mr R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.
 Mr J. O. Umolu
 Mr P. O. Ururuka
 Mr L. O. Uzoigwe

Tellers for the Noes:

Mr J. E. Eyo
 Mr K. Kiri

Mr E. U. Eronini (Owerri Division):
 Mr Chairman, Sir, this Schedule shows that Owerri, Okigwi and Orlu will be in one province; and places like Calabar Division will now become a province; and places like Degema will become a province; Brass will become a province; and in the distribution of seats Degema with a population of 118,000 will have three First-class Chiefs and one Second-class Chief and possibly Okigwi with a population of 443,000 will have three Second-class Chiefs and one First-class Chief depending on whether he comes from Okigwi or from Owerri or Orlu. If he is not from Okigwi, Okigwi will have three Second-class Chiefs and one First-class Chief. If he does not come from Owerri, Owerri will have only four Second-class Chiefs and one First-class Chief.

In view of all these, it can be seen that even though we say this is not in accordance with population, I do know that in some countries and in some places, ancient cities have more seats than the newly formed townships or countrysides like New York and London; but here we are people who are subject to moving conditions and we are not very much with the old tradition of the Englishman. So I feel, Sir, and one consolation I have is, that the Government has the power to increase and decrease provinces and with that, I feel that the Government will take note that Owerri would like to be a province of itself.

Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba (Orlu Division):
 Mr Chairman, Sir, in view of the decision

announced by the Premier in this House I beg to convert my Motion to a form of request. That is, asking this Government to take serious view about the nomination of five Members into the House of Chiefs. I would like the Premier to have in mind when appointing the five Special Members, to give Orlu and Okigwi two Members as Special Members—First-class as well as Second-class Chiefs.

I am also appealing to Government that when compiling next year's Estimates, to see that Okigwi and Orlu form one province, in view of their population with Owerri which is 1,360,000, compared with Yenagoa which has 117,000. I know that the Estimates for this year have been passed, but I am strongly suggesting that Government should be good enough to give Orlu and Okigwi their own province and leave Owerri alone. My amendment is at page C. 44 in the list of First-class Chiefs of the Eastern Region. After "Representative of Yenagoa Province", add "Representative of Okigwi/Orlu Province."

NEW SCHEDULE

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I beg to move to add a new Schedule as follows:—

"SECOND SCHEDULE"

(Section 5)

Distribution of seats for Second-class Chiefs

Aba Division	...	...	...	3 seats.
Abak Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Abakaliki Division	...	...	...	4 seats.

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1321

[*Classification of Chiefs Bill—*

6 MAY 1959

Committee]

1322

Afikpo Division	...	...	...	2 seats.
Ahoada Division	...	...	...	2 seats.
Awgu Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Awka Division	...	...	...	2 seats.
Bende Division	...	...	...	3 seats.
Brass Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Calabar Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Degema Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Eket Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Enyong Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Ikom Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Ikot Ekpene Division	...	...	...	2 seats.
Nsukka Division	...	...	...	4 seats.
Obubra Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Obudu Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Ogoja Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Ogoni Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Okigwi Division	...	...	...	3 seats.
Onitsha Division	...	...	...	4 seats.
Opobo Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Orlu Division	...	...	...	3 seats.
Owerri Division	...	...	...	4 seats.
Port Harcourt Division	...	...	...	1 seat.
Udi Division	...	...	...	3 seats.
Uyo Division	...	...	...	2 seats."

many seats for Second-class Chiefs are allocated to each Division. So, on that point, Sir, I thank the Premier very much.

Our only point of disagreement is that the Second Schedule, as put out, makes provision for fifty-five Second-class Chiefs, whereas, in point of fact, the Conference decision makes provision for fifty-eight Second-class Chiefs. This decision, Sir, is contained at paragraph 61 of the Report of the 1958 Constitutional Conference. It is just on that score that we are opposing this Second Schedule. It is a fact that the Premier had made certain additional allocation of seats to various Divisions.

If you look at page 14, Sir, of the White Paper, Document No. 1 of 1959, you will find in Annex 3, the distribution of seats in the House of Chiefs by Division. That Annex, Sir, was the one agreed on at the May 26 Conference on the Classification of Chiefs in the Eastern Region. Since that Conference, the number of seats allocated to Second-class Chiefs, has been increased and the Premier has taken the initiative in allocating seven of these extra seats to seven Divisions as follows—One each to Aba, Abakaliki, Bende, Nsukka, Onitsha, Orlu and Owerri Divisions.

These are the seven Divisions that have been benefited by the increased allocation of seats to Second-class Chiefs. I would not like to drag in any political issue. That is something which could be better done outside this House. I want to draw attention to the fact that this Second Schedule has departed from the decisions of the London Conference.

New Schedule brought up and read the First time.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Schedule be read a Second time.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Chairman, our opposition to the Second Schedule is consequential on our opposition to the First Schedule. I must thank the hon. Premier for accommodating my views when I spoke on the Second Reading of the Bill requesting for a Second Schedule which will clearly indicate how

Question put.

The Committee divided.

Ayes 55. Noes 13.

Division No. 10.

1.55 p.m.

Ayes

Mr C. A. Abangwu
Mr O. U. Afiah
Chief G. N. Agbasiere
Mr D. S. A. Agim
Mr D. E. Akilo
Mr H. U. Akpabio
Mr I. U. Akpabio
Mr D. O. Aligwekwe

Mr J. U. Nwodo
Mr P. O. Nwoga
Mr J. H. E. Nwuke
Mr M. U. Obayi
Dr A. N. Obonna
Mr C. A. Okafor
Mr J. O. Okeh
Mr G. E. Okeke

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1323

[Classification of Chiefs Bill: 3R]

6 MAY 1959

[Funds and Accounts Bill: 2R]

1324

Mr S. N. Alo
Mr J. W. E. Anaba
Mr R. O. Anoke
Mr N. L. P. Apreala
Dr N. Azikiwe
Mr E. Chidolue
Mr A. O. Chikwendu
Mr E. A. Chime
Mr E. Emole
Mr U. Enyi
Mr E. U. Eronini
Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba
Mr I. U. Imeh
Dr S. E. Imoke
Mr R. O. Iwuagwu
Mr S. E. K. Iwueke
Mr S. O. Masi
Mr D. A. Nnaji
Mr D. O. Nnamani

Mr P. N. Okeke
Mr G. C. Okeya
Mr G. I. Oko, M.B.E.
Mr E. P. Okoya
Dr M. I. Okpara
Mr K. J. N. Okpokam
Mr B. C. Okwu
Chief S. E. Onukogu
Mr P. A. Onwe
Mr N. O. Onwudiwe
Mr M. N. Onwuma
Chief A. N. Onyiuke
Rev. M. D. Opara
Mr E. W. Udonkim
Mr R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.
Mr J. O. Umolu
Mr P. O. Ururuka
Mr L. O. Uzoigwe

Tellers for the Ayes:

Mr J. E. Eyo
Mr K. Kiri.

Noes

Mr S. O. Achara
Mr J. A. Agba
Mr S. T. Akpan
Mr H. U. E. Edelduok
Mr M. U. Etuk
Mr E. O. Eyo

Mr S. G. Ikoku
Chief I. I. Morphy
Mr O. B. Nalelo
Dr W. N. Onubogu
Mr M. N. Yowika

Tellers for the Noes:

Mr A. G. Umoh
Mr V. K. Onyeri.

Schedule added as Second Schedule.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with amendments; as amended read the Third time and passed.

(2) The Funds and Accounts Bill

Order for Second reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):
Mr Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled "A Bill for a Law to provide for the establishment of certain public funds and accounts and to regulate disbursements from such funds and for other purposes connected with such Funds and Accounts or incidental thereto", be now read a Second time.

This Bill, Mr Speaker, is the third in a series of closely related Bills which together will

establish a firm pattern of procedure to govern our financial affairs. The first two of these Bills were the Contingencies Fund Bill and the Finance (Control and Management) Bill, both of which were introduced and passed at the March Session of the House and have now become law. This Bill completes the picture and rounds off the work begun by the other two Bills.

As its title indicates, this Bill is concerned with the regulation of funds and accounts. One clause—clause 3—makes it clear that the existing Consolidated Revenue Fund is the Consolidated Revenue Fund established by the Constitution Order in Council, the operation of which is regulated by the Finance (Control and Management) Law. In view of the provisions of this latter Law, nothing further needs to be said in this Bill about the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The next five clauses—clauses 4 to 8—are concerned with the Capital Development Fund. The Capital Development Fund is, of course, the fund out of which will be met the expenditure constituting the Capital Budget—i.e., Heads 801 to 808 of the Draft Estimates which are before the House. In fact, one might say more simply that the Capital Development Fund is the technical and legal term to describe the Capital Budget.

Clause 4 establishes the Capital Development Fund; and clause 5 describes the sums which are to be paid into it. The sources of funds for the Capital Budget have already been described to the House in the published Development Programme—Official Document No. 2—and in my Budget Speech. Clause 5 of the present Bill specifies these same sources, which have already been explained in general terms, in a precise and formal legal manner. The sources in question comprise first, the balance of certain old funds, to be paid in as an initial once for all endowment of the Capital Development Fund—these are dealt with in paragraph (a) of clause 5. Secondly, paragraph (b) goes on to indicate the additional sources from which the fund will receive moneys from time to time in future—from loans raised by the Government; from grants made by the United Kingdom under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme, or by any other Government or international institution under schemes that may be promoted from time to time for aid to under-developed countries such as ours; from transfers from the revenue surplus in the recurrent Budget; and lastly “such other moneys as the Minister may prescribe”.

In this connection I would explain to the House that it is intended to prescribe receipts by way of premium rents on Crown Land, which are in the nature of a capital receipt—Ordinary rents are recurrent revenue and will be treated as such; receipts from communities by way of contribution towards the cost of Community Development Schemes and certain classes of Rural Water Supply Schemes; repayments of loans made out of various old funds before the establishment of the Capital Development Fund; and receipts from loans to be made out of the Capital Development Fund itself.

The remaining three clauses dealing with the Capital Development Fund—clauses, 6, 7

and 8—deal with procedural matters; I would draw attention especially only to subsection (2) of clause 8 which makes it clear that disbursements from the Capital Development Fund may only be made on the strength of a warrant signed by the Minister, and that warrant in turn must be authorised by an Appropriation or Supplementary Appropriation Law. In other words, expenditure from the Capital Development Fund is controlled as tightly and by the same procedure as expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. There is therefore no loss of parliamentary control through the establishment of the Capital Development Fund; on the other hand there is a gain, because capital expenditure and the types of finance appropriate for financing capital expenditure are segregated from the recurrent budget and separately shown.

Clause 9 deals with the establishment of accounts for various types of advance; that is, accounts to which money can be charged where the expenditure involved is not in the nature of final expenditure but will result eventually in a credit to Government. These accounts are listed in the Second Schedule where hon. Members will see that they include Loan Expenditure (Roads) Accounts, the Petrol Trading Account, the Rural Water Supplies Unallocated Stores Account, the Vehicle Advances Account, the Miscellaneous Personal Advance Account, the Investment Adjustments Account and the Treasury Clearance Account. Of these the Loan Expenditure (Roads) Account calls for special comment inasmuch as it appears in this Schedule and in the Bill only for the purpose of validating the operations which have been carried on on this account from the 1st April, 1958 to the 31st March, 1959. The account will cease to operate after the 31st March, 1959 and will be cleared and closed by a payment out of the Capital Budget (Head 802, sub-head 32) as soon as may be after 1st April, 1959.

Clause 10 deals with deposits and is, I think, self-explanatory. Finally, Clause 11 serves to cover and regulate relations between the Accountant-General and the Accountant-Generals of the other Governments of the Federation and calls for some brief explanation. As hon. Members are aware, a very large part of our revenue is received from the Federal Government—indeed the figures at page E. 14 of the

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1327 [Funds and Accounts Bill: 2R] 6 MAY 1959 [Funds and Accounts Bill: Com. and 3R] 1328

Estimates just passed indicate that almost two-thirds of our revenue comes from the Federal Government in this way. In addition, this Government expends substantial sums on behalf of the Federal Government—for instance the payment of Federal staffs in this Region is organised through our Sub-Treasuries; so is the payment of Federal pensioners. Again, our P.W.D. performs much work on roads, etc., on behalf of the Federal Government, for which, of course, we are fully paid by the Federal Government. Thus, at any moment there are numerous transactions going on between the Federal Government and this Government.

The accounting for these transactions can sometimes be done promptly and sometimes involves a little delay. Thus, at any one moment there may be a situation at which one Government owes the other a sum which may possibly run into hundreds of thousands of pounds. These “debts” are not real debts because the ordinary operation of accounting invariably clears them within a period of a month or so and in a month or two there may be an equally large swing in the other direction. By the end of the year all these matters sort themselves out. Nevertheless, it is desirable to give legal recognition to the arrangements which subsist and to the fact that meanwhile technical “debts” from one Government to another may arise in the course of the innumerable transactions which take place. Clause 11, read with the Third Schedule and the reference in the Second Schedule to the “Treasury Clearance Account” has this effect.

This is, I believe, a non-controversial Bill. I hope I have sufficiently explained to the House the purpose and effect of its rather complex and technical clauses, and having done so, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1–11 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

(3) The Eastern Region Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill, 1959—Second Reading—Adjourned Debate on Question (7th April)—That the Bill be now read a Second time. *Further deferred until Tomorrow.*

(4) The Legislative Houses Bill, 1959—Second Reading. *Further deferred until Tomorrow.*

(5) The Provincial Administration Bill, 1959—Second Reading. *Further deferred until Tomorrow.*

(6) The Public Order Bill, 1959—Second Reading. *Further deferred until Tomorrow.*

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Sir, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn till tomorrow at 10 a.m. May I also inform hon. Members that it is proposed that this House should adjourn *sine die* tomorrow. We shall be bringing a series of Motions that will give effect to this tomorrow morning.

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at seventeen minutes past two o'clock p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

Wednesday 6th May, 1959

**Secondary Schools and Teacher
Training Colleges**

38. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Education, what are the names of Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Colleges where there have been strikes since 1950; what were the causes and how were they settled; is the Minister considering any proposal(s) to minimise the frequency of the strikes in future.

The Minister of Education: The following strikes have been brought to the notice of the Ministry:—

at Washington Memorial Grammar School,
at West African People's Institute,

at Okongwu Memorial Grammar School, and
at Our Lady's High School.

All arose from complaints about food. Other strikes are known to have occurred but were settled locally without reference to the Ministry so that it is not possible to give a list of them. Complaints about food are by far the most frequent causes of school or college strikes. This is a matter of internal arrangements in the schools and colleges which it is not practicable to regulate from the Ministry. Bearing in mind the number of Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Colleges in the Region, student strikes are comparatively rare.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 7th May, 1959

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPER

Copy Presented: Rules for the Contingencies Fund established by the Contingencies' Fund Law, 1958. (*The Minister of Finance*).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Legco Flats

4. Mr J. E. Eyo asked the Premier, whether, in view of the fact that the Eastern House of Assembly will be meeting more frequently in future, and also that the House of Chiefs will soon be established demanding the presence of Chiefs in Enugu, the Government will not consider the advisability of building Legco or self-contained flats for Members of the Legislature; if not, why.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier (Mr J. O. Umolu): I am directed to answer as follows:—The Government will certainly consider the advisability of building self-contained flats or other accommodation for Members of the Legislature when planning the building of the new House of Assembly. Government will have to take into account financial considerations, for such accommodation will be very expensive. The proposal will, however, be borne in mind.

Owerri Girls' Secondary School

26. Mr E. U. Eronini asked the Minister of Education, what was the total amount contributed by the former Owerri County Council before its dissolution and the Owerri people towards the establishment and running of the Owerri Girls' Secondary School sponsored by the people of the Division.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education (Mr L. O. Uzoigwe): I am directed to answer as follows:—The total amount contributed by the former Owerri County Council to the Owerri Girls' Secondary

School was £3,480 in 1955/56, and £4,500 in 1956/57. According to the information available, no financial assistance was given by the Owerri people except through the medium of the County Council.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mr L. N. Obioha's Licence

The Premier (Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe): Mr Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to explain to the House the falsehood disseminated by certain persons to the effect that this Government has deprived Mr L. N. Obioha of his licence as a buying agent, thereby taking away from him the means of earning his livelihood. This utterly baseless canard has been so widely circulated throughout this country and the United Kingdom that many well-meaning people have fallen victims to it.

At no time in recent years has Mr L. N. Obioha been a licensed buying agent. At no time has his licence been withdrawn. Therefore, to accuse this Government of withdrawing Mr Obioha's licence is not true to fact, but a confusion of ideas which has enabled certain opportunists to deceive the people of this country for political ends.

The fact is that a firm by the name of Eastern Produce and Transport Company Limited was granted licence as a buying agent by the Eastern Regional Marketing Board in exercise of its powers under the law. In the last quarter of the year 1958, the licences of certain buying agents were lawfully withdrawn by the Marketing Board and the Eastern Produce and Transport Company Limited was one of these unfortunate buying agents.

What is the Eastern Produce and Transport Company Limited? It is a limited liability company with a nominal capital of £20,000 which is alleged to have been paid up. Originally, the following were Directors of the company: Alexander Bassey Okoro, Enoch Obasi Harbor, Louis Nwakile Obioha, Josiah N. Okike, Nzeama Uddoh, Ebenezer O. Nwoka, and E. Umez Eronini. After a series of protracted litigations, the following are said to be the present Directors of this limited liability company: L. N. Obioha, (Chairman), J. N. Okike, J. O. Okoro, and T. O. Ugwa.

The fact that in law, an act committed by a limited liability company is not necessarily an act committed by its individual Directors, since the company itself is a person in the eyes of the law, makes it quite obvious that any act committed against the Eastern Produce and Transport Company Limited is not necessarily an act committed against any particular Director of that company.

It is necessary to distinguish acts committed by this Government against a particular individual from those committed by it against a limited liability company. In fact, other limited liability companies have had their licences withdrawn for reasons best known to the Marketing Board, but that is no justification for the persistent falsehood that particular individuals have had their licences withdrawn. I repeat that Mr L. N. Obioha is not a licensed buying agent, in accordance with the records of the Marketing Board. It is, therefore, impossible to have withdrawn Mr Obioha's licence of which he has never been in possession.

It is true, however, that a limited liability company of which Mr Obioha is a Director, along with three other persons, was a former licensed buying agent of the Marketing Board until its licence was revoked. But this is not a justification to impute to the Government of this Region the commission of a positive act against Mr L. N. Obioha.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name: (1) *Revocation of Resolution suspending Standing Order 4—Hours of Sitting*: That the Resolution passed by this House on the 31st of March suspending paragraph (1) of Standing Order 4—Sittings of the House—be revoked.

The Minister of Transport (Mr P. O. Ururuka): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Resolution passed by this House on the 31st of March suspending

paragraph (1) of Standing Order 4—Sittings of the House—be revoked.

Exemption of proceedings from the provisions of Standing Order 4

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Speaker, I beg to move the second Motion standing in my name—Exemption of proceedings from the provisions of Standing Order 4—That all proceedings on Government Business at Today's sitting be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4—Sittings of the House. This is to allow this particular meeting of the House to end today. Hon. Members are aware of the fact because I made mention of it yesterday.

The Minister of Transport (Mr P. O. Ururuka): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That all proceedings on Government Business at Today's sitting be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 4—Sittings of the House.

Adjournment Sine Die

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that this House at its rising today do adjourn *sine die*.

The Minister of Transport (Mr P. O. Ururuka): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House at its rising Today do adjourn *sine die*.

Mr Speaker: In view of the exemption of proceedings from the provisions of Standing Order 4, I propose that we have our usual break at 12; and break at 2.30 p.m. and if there is business to do, come back again at 6 p.m. and if business carries us on again to break at 9.00 p.m. for dinner, and after that, if you are agreeable, we may continue business for the rest of the night.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(1) The Legislative Houses Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Premier: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill for a Law to make provisions for the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs in the Eastern Region of Nigeria: to declare and define the privileges, immunities and powers of the Legislative Houses of the Eastern Region and of the Members thereof: to secure freedom of speech in the Legislative Houses: to regulate the conduct of members and other persons in connection with the proceedings thereof: to regulate admittance to the precincts of Legislative Houses: to give protection to persons employed in the publication of the reports and Order Papers in the Legislative Houses and for purposes incidental to or connected with the matters aforesaid, be read a Second time.

Part I of the Bill deals with matters connected with the House of Assembly which are not provided for in the Nigeria (Constitution) Orders in Council, 1954 to 1958. This part of the Bill provides for the salary of the Clerk of the House, the use and occupation of the two front benches, the duty of the Leader of the House, Government Whips, Leader of the Opposition, and Parliamentary Secretaries.

When the Bill is in Committee, I shall move the deletion of clauses 11, 12 and 13 which provide for the payment of pensions to the Premier, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Leader of the Opposition and for the establishment of a Pensions Fund for Members of the House. These clauses were based on the Superannuation Act, 1834, and nine amending Acts, Political Offices Pensions Act, 1869, Ministers of the Crown Acts, 1937 and 1947, and House of Commons Members' Fund Acts, 1939 and 1948. These English laws provide for the identical pensions incorporated in this Bill. As hon. Members are aware, these provisions have not been well received by the general public. In a Ministerial Statement which I made on 14th April, I gave assurance that, at the Committee Stage I shall introduce an amendment to delete the offending clauses. The notice of such amendments is in today's Order Paper.

It is significant that on the very day that I made the Ministerial Statement in this House, the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Robert Menzies, introduced legislation to increase substantially the salaries, electoral allowances and pensions of the Federal members of the Australian Parliament. Like our experience here, Mr Menzies respected Australian public opinion by dropping the scheme to pay former Australian Ministers of the Crown non-contributory pensions, although he defied public opinion by insisting that pensions for Australian ex-Premiers would remain in the Bill and he assured the Australian Parliament that he would examine introducing a contributory pension scheme for his Ministers.

I have deliberately quoted this Reuter's despatch from the *Manchester Guardian* issue 15th April, 1959, which also includes a despatch from its Lagos correspondent entitled "No Pension for Nigerian M.P.s—Public Against Bill", in order to demonstrate the fact that the Government of this Region scrupulously respects public opinion to such an extent that is incomparable when we take into consideration the events of the last two weeks in the Western House of Assembly, where the provisions of their Standing Orders regarding time limit and quorum were callously disregarded in order to accommodate the whims of the majority Party in that House. It is needless for me to refer the House to the utter disregard of organised public opinion by my opposite number in the Western Region, who refused to respect the request of 700 university students that he should use his good offices to prevent the Western House from increasing the Premier's House Allowance by 266 per cent, that is from £300 to £800. (*Several hon. Members: Shame!*).

Part II of the Bill deals with matters connected with the House of Chiefs which, at the time when the Bill was drafted, have not been provided for in the Constitution Order. We have been authoritatively informed that the preparation of a draft Order in Council to amend the Constitution Order of 1954, by the insertion of suitable provisions establishing the House of Chiefs and providing for matters connected therewith, such as the appointment of members and the powers of the House, has now reached an active stage. In view of this authoritative assurance, it is thought by Government that it may not be

desirable now to anticipate the promulgation of the Order in Council. That is why I have given notice that I shall move to delete clauses 14 to 32A of the Bill when it is considered in Committee.

Part III of the Bill revises the Eastern House of Assembly Law, 1955 by re-enacting some of its provisions. In this connection may I call the attention of hon. Members to clause 59 (1) (b) which makes it a punishable offence carrying the penalty of a fine of £200 or imprisonment for two years, if any hon. Member publishes any statement relating to any Notice of Motion or Question intended for the House before such has been published in our Order Paper. This provision is thought by Government to be desirable in order to maintain the dignity of this sovereign Legislature and protect its reputation against any person who may delight in committing what will henceforth be tantamount to a contempt of this hon. House, if this clause of the Bill is acceptable to the House.

Mr Speaker, I have given notice to amend clause 8 (3) and Schedule B of the Bill out of deference to the representations made by the Opposition Chief Whip which were supported by all sides of the House, namely: to equate the salaries and perquisites of the members of our Legislature with those of the Legislature of the Western Region. The amendment to clause 8 (3) means that the Leader of the Opposition will now earn £1,680 per annum instead of £1,500. The amendments to the Schedule B mean increases as follows:

Mr Speaker from £2,500 to £3,000;

Deputy Speaker from £1,500 to £1,680;

Deputy President of the House of Chiefs from £1,200 to £1,340;

Government Chief Whip from £1,500 to £1,680;

Government Whip from £1,000 to £1,260;

Members of the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs from £800 to £840.

I commend this Bill to the House and reiterate the fact that an Order in Council will soon be promulgated in order to establish the House of Chiefs in accordance with the

agreement reached at the 1957 Constitutional Conference in London, and confirmed by the Resumed Conference in 1958. At any rate, the Classification of Chiefs Bill has been enacted into Law so that the necessary formalities for election and selection of Fourth, Third and Second-class Chiefs may be set in motion. Government will make an announcement shortly after the Governor in Council has appointed the First-class Chiefs who shall represent each of the Provinces in the Region.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr S. G. Ikoku (Enyong Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to state as fairly as I can, and very briefly, the views of the Opposition on this Bill. The Bill has three main sections:

Firstly, the section dealing with the pension for officers and Members of this House; the second section deals with the privileges, etc., of Members of the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs, and the third section deals with the establishment of the House of Chiefs.

First of all, Sir, as regards the Pensions, we are glad to note that public opinion has succeeded in stopping this aspect of the Bill. All the same, we would like to make one or two points in view of certain statements which have been made by the Minister of Information and statements which were made by the hon. the Premier on introducing the Bill. We would like to make it clear, Sir, that the first time the Opposition saw this Bill was when it was published in the *Gazette* of the Region. Unfortunately the hon. the Minister of Finance has tried to put across the impression that the Opposition were party to this Bill. I would like to make it clear, Sir, that the Opposition was in no way consulted.

The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke): May I explain, Sir, that the Minister of Finance never made such a statement.

Mr Ikoku: I mean the Minister of Information; I am so sorry, I have him in my brain.

[MR IKOKU]

The Opposition was not consulted, Sir, and if it had been consulted it would never have agreed. In any case, we would like the hon. the Premier to tell the House and the Region whether since he became Premier of this Region he has ever consulted the Opposition before introducing any legislation.

Mr M. E. Ogon (Ikom Division): Not necessary; what is the need ?

Mr Ikoku: I am glad the hon. the Government Chief Whip does not see the need. He would have said so when the hon. the Minister of Information made this attempt to misinform the public. It is not the practice for Government to consult the Opposition before introducing any Bill or for the hon. the Minister of Information to give it across to the public that the Opposition was privy to this most dishonourable Bill.

The hon. the Premier has tried to cite the instance of Australia to show that, even though public opinion is being respected as regards pensions for Ministers and Members of the House, the Prime Minister of Australia is standing firm as regards pensions for Prime Ministers and that he merely said he would consider how to bring about a contributory pension scheme for his Ministry, but on the question of pension for the Prime Minister Mr Menzies of Australia is standing very firm. I hope that this is no pretext for committing this House to paying pension to the hon. the Premier. We know, Sir, how the Premier does his business.

This House would like the hon. the Premier in winding up to assure us on the floor of this House that no pension provision will be introduced either now or in the future for Members or officers of this House. We have said this, Sir, because we are satisfied that the Government Party is mainly worried about the timing of this Bill. In fact their Dynamic Party alliance made it clear that it is the timing of the Bill that they are worried about with an eye of course on the forthcoming election. They would not want the Bill to be passed with the offending clauses. Therefore the implication is that they will not worry if the Bill is passed after and we want the hon. Premier to give us an assurance that that will not be the case.

Mr Speaker, may I go on to my second point—the question of privileges of Members. At this stage, Sir, all I can say is that the clauses of the Bill which make provision for privileges or powers and privileges of Members are only in keeping with . . . (*Interruption*).

I come to the third section—Establishment of the House of Chiefs and I must say here, Sir, that we disagree absolutely. I would like to make it clear that this Bill which attempts from section 14 on to section 32 (a) to set up the House of Chiefs in this Region is simply unacceptable to us. We are not opposed to the idea of the House of Chiefs in this Region. We have gone through all the battle both here and at the London Conference and it has been decided, and I am happy that nobody can now come back to this decision, that the House of Chiefs be set up in this Region but this Bill is based on introducing a closed talk. I want to make it clear that the sections of the Bill which deal with the Eastern House of Assembly are fundamentally defective in two aspects: The first aspect, Sir, is that they consist of a departure from the decision of the London Conference. Paragraph 23 (c) and (d) of the 1957 . . .

The Premier: On a point of Order, Standing Order 32.

“(1) It shall be out of order to make a motion or move an amendment dealing with the subject matter of a Bill or other Order of the Day appointed for consideration.

(2) An Order of the Day, notice of motion or amendment of which notice has been given shall not be anticipated in a debate upon a motion for the adjournment of the House or in any other debate.

(3) In determining whether a discussion is out of order on the grounds of anticipation, regard shall be had by Mr Speaker to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the House within a reasonable time.”

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, may I draw your attention to the fact that this Bill is before the House. We do not know what is going to happen at the Committee Stage. We have the right to discuss every single clause in this Bill. If the hon. Premier does not want us to discuss clauses of this Bill, he should defer consideration of the Bill.

The Premier: Mr Speaker—Standing Order 32 (2):

“An Order of the Day, notice of motion or amendment of which notice has been given shall not be anticipated in a debate upon a motion for the adjournment of the House or in any other debate.”

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, the hon. Premier in introducing the Bill did speak on the House of Chiefs. I have every right to reply on the Second Reading of the Bill. We cannot be gagged by references to what will come up at the Committee Stage.

The Premier: What is your authority ?

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I think it is your intention always to respect the Standing Orders. I think Standing Order 32 (2) is in order and should be respected. The clauses have been shown on the Order Paper, and as I said before the correct time to discuss them is when you come to the Committee Stage. I am very sure that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is such a personality that he will not disregard the Standing Orders or the ruling of the Chair.

Mr Ikoku: Thank you, Sir, but may I draw your attention to Standing Order 44 (1) which reads:—

“On the order for the second reading of a Bill being read, a motion may be made that the Bill be now read a second time and a debate may arise covering the general merits and principles of the Bill.”

Mr Speaker: That section makes it quite clear that only the merits and principles of the Bill will be debated and not with reference to any Amendment. I object to any reference to the Amendment now.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not discussing any Amendment. This is not the proper stage for the discussion of the Amendments. I am discussing general principles contained in this Bill and I have made it clear, Sir, that the principles contained in this Bill are privileges, amenities, etc., for Members of the Eastern House of Chiefs and Eastern House of Assembly. The second point is the provision of pension for Members and officers of this

House. A third principle, Sir, is the establishment of the Eastern House of Chiefs. These are the principles embodied in this Bill and these are the principles I am discussing. I am not discussing any Amendment.

Mr Speaker: Mr Leader of the Opposition, I understand from the Premier's statement that that portion of the Bill has been deleted and it is not proper now for you to continue to say anything about it.

Mr Ikoku: With due deference, Sir, the Bill before the House has not had any portion of it deleted.

Dr Okpara: May I draw your attention to Standing Order 35 (3) otherwise we cannot get on in this House.

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! As I said before the hon. Leader of the Opposition will do well not to disregard the Standing Orders and the ruling of Mr Speaker. Let him obey the ruling and when we reach the Committee Stage I will know what to do.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that I am discussing the third principle of this Bill—the question of establishment of the Eastern House of Chiefs—you will find that it is Part III of the Bill which deals with this and I think I am covered if you look at the objects and reasons of this Bill.

May I bring to your notice the fact that the Bill is divided into three parts: the first deals with the Eastern House of Assembly; the second part deals with the Eastern House of Chiefs, and this is the part I am dealing with now.

My view, Sir, and the view of the Opposition, is that the 1957 Constitutional Conference did decide—and this decision is embodied in paragraph 32 (c) and (d) of the Report—that the whole matter of an Eastern House of Chiefs is for the Secretary of State to promulgate by way of an Order in Council; therefore this House, trying to discuss this matter, Sir, or trying to bring about a law for an Eastern House of Chiefs, will be acting contrary to the decisions of that Conference.

[MR IKOKU]

Secondly, Sir, there is a point of law. If this House tries to pass a Bill which purports to set up an Eastern House of Chiefs . . .

The Premier: Standing Order 34. The point of order was raised—32 (2)—that we have on the Order Paper notice of motion to amend Part II of the Bill and the Chair decided that no reference should be made to Part II of the Bill which is the House of Chiefs. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition is now making reference to it. I submit, Sir, that Standing Order 34 is clear:

“Mr Speaker in the House and the Chairman in any Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the Rules of Order in the House and Committee respectively and their decision upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the House except upon a substantive motion made after notice.”

In other words, the decision of the Chair is final. The hon. Member is not adhering to the decision of the Chair.

Mr Speaker: I thank the hon. Premier for pointing that out to me. I am giving the hon. the Leader of the Opposition a chance to see whether he was going to go against my ruling, then I will know what to do. I am sure that the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows very well Standing Order 34, and whether my ruling is right or wrong, nobody can say anything to it except by a substantive motion. You have only got to take my ruling, whether you like it or not, then later on you can bring up a substantive motion. My ruling is that no reference should be made to this Amendment, and please keep to that, otherwise I shall employ Standing Order 35 (1).

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): May I invite your attention seriously to Standing Order 32? The Standing Order is specific, Sir . . .

An hon. Member: Are you appealing?

Mr E. O. Eyo: I am raising a point of order.

“It shall be out of order to make a motion or move an amendment dealing with the subject matter of a Bill or other Order of the Day appointed for consideration.”

Sir, we are not making any Motion, and we are not making any amendment. I just want to draw your attention to that because that is the Standing Order they were referring to.

The Premier: No.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Which one?

The Premier: 32 (2).

Mr E. O. Eyo: All right. 32 (2) says . . . (Interruptions) 32 (2) is consequential to 32 (1).

Mr Speaker: I do not think the hon. Member wishes me to go back on my ruling?

Mr E. O. Eyo: I only wish to draw your attention to that.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from you whether, speaking on the Second Reading of this Bill, I can mention the Eastern House of Chiefs, which is Part II of the Bill—not just the question of Amendment. I want to hear you, Sir. Am I authorised to mention the Eastern House of Chiefs or must I not make any reference to it?

Mr Speaker: Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I feel that under Standing Order 32 (2), you should refrain from making any reference to House of Chiefs.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, it is a pity that you have taken that line, because we consider all that is being done here a mere waste of time and any attempt, Sir . . .

An hon. Member: Is it a threat?

Mr Ikoku . . . by this Legislature to decide on anything which purports to set up a House of Chiefs without the Opposition, is fooling ourselves.

An hon. Member: Walk out.

Mr Ikoku: I want to say in deference, Sir, to your ruling that I will not make any type of reference to the House of Chiefs, but I want to make it clear that the Bill contravenes our constitution and the Opposition shall take no further part.

We shall come back on the next business.

Opposition Members left the Chamber.

Mr M. E. Ogon (Ikom Division): Mr Speaker, I could not have spoken to this Bill, but it is necessary that before the Premier winds up we should draw your attention to the attitude of the Opposition Members which is most irresponsible. I have said that if it is fighting, the 20 Members of the Opposition cannot match 64 on this side of the House, whether physically or intellectually, and we believe it is not playing cricket. After all, the Opposition know what to do under the Standing Orders if they feel like challenging the authority of the Speaker. They know that they can move a substantive Motion. So we want to say that it is not fair to the tax-payers of the Eastern Region for the Opposition to expect to be paid and then go on a go-slow strike, but that is not the point on which I wish to address you.

Without reference to what the Opposition said about the House of Chiefs, I want to say that we think it is a matter for regret after the Premier had given respect to public opinion by withdrawing the Pensions Bill for anybody to play politics with it. We feel, Sir, the people do not know that this Bill was being passed in other Commonwealth countries. Even after they have known, I think it is an act of statesmanship for the Premier to listen to public opinion. Our quarrel has been that the people of the Region and of the country should note that whereas we are persistently respecting public opinion, there is a dictator across the Niger that tramples their rights under his feet. There is no reason why one leader should continue to trample the rights of the population under his feet with the sure hope that with money he could buy them at the election and they yet expect another Government to listen to them.

I feel this Bill is an excellent Bill especially the section that deals with the rights and privileges of Members, and we want to assure you, Sir, that we on this side of the House shall always continue as we have done in the past to respect the authority of the Chair and to build up a tradition of parliamentary democracy that shall be a shining example all over the country.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I must say that I am not shaken by this because I know who they are. On the last occasion when they

went out like this I referred to the hon. Speaker of the House of Representatives and he said that I was perfectly right. It is going to be the same thing now.

The Premier: I am sorry I have to wind up under such circumstances. I wish, however, to associate my views with those expressed by the hon. the Government Chief Whip. What we are trying to do in Africa is an experiment in parliamentary democracy, and the critical eyes of the world are always focussed particularly on the Eastern Region because this is the home of democracy in Nigeria. (*Hear! Hear!*). The aim of this Bill is to ensure the dignity of this House, and also that its officers and members are respected.

I am very sorry that of all Members of the Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition was the cynosure of all eyes and he behaved in the way he did. I pass no judgment—it is not my business to do so. But I do feel that it will give a wrong impression to the outside world about our capacity to enjoy the benefits of parliamentary and representative Government. I am not pointing an accusing finger at the Opposition, but I would say this that on second thought one need not be surprised that the Opposition behaved in the way they did this morning especially if we bear in mind what happened in the Western House of Assembly last week.

Two incidents happened which shocked the conscience of any person who really believes in parliamentary democracy. One is that an hon. Member moved a Motion to allow a speaker to continue to speak after the allotted time. All he had to do was to move that the time be extended, but he did not do that: instead he asked that a special privilege should be granted. So the Opposition raised a point of order and pointed out that according to the Standing Orders of the Western House of Assembly one is entitled to speak for 30 minutes and that if there should be an extension then permission of the House through Mr Speaker should be obtained. He was overruled and Mr Speaker asked the speaker to continue to speak; and who was the speaker?—it was the Premier of the Western Region.

The second incident was that of quorum. There was no quorum in the House and a

[THE PREMIER]

Member of the Opposition pointed out, according to the Standing Orders to Mr Speaker, that business should not continue without a quorum. A Minister of the Western Region rose and moved a Motion, which was *ultra vires*, and asked that the Standing Orders should be suspended so that the House could carry on, and strangely the Speaker of the House agreed that the Motion should be put and the House continued without a quorum.

I think this puts us in a very bad light to the outside world. As I said before I am not pointing an accusing finger at anyone and I am not adopting a 'holier than thou' attitude, but what I do say, Sir, is that this Government will stand to defend the Standing Orders until they are amended. We shall not by-pass the Standing Order and we shall not defy Mr Speaker. We shall do all we can to put into practice what we have learned from *Erskine May* on the finer points of British democracy; that is the only way to assure our people that after the departure of the British we shall be able to guarantee them the fundamental human rights.

I think I have made a point, Sir, to have certain clauses of the Bill I will move deleted, and also Part II of the Bill and I gave my reasons. I do not intend to play any politics, but I would point out that on that very day in another part of the world—Australia—the same debate... (*Interruption*). The Leader of the Opposition asked me to give an assurance. What other assurance can I give than when I move to delete the whole clause? If I asked that a certain amendment be made it should be a separate matter. I therefore feel, Sir, that the Bill is properly before the House and I do not intend to review your ruling; I only call attention to Part II and you have given the interpretation. It is unfortunate that my opposite number was getting to lose his temper; if he were a lawyer he would lose all his cases in court.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, as I indicated when I moved the Second Reading of the Bill, Government, out of respect for the views expressed both by the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition Chief Whip, decided to reconsider the salaries structure of the Members of this House since their views were supported by all sides of the House; but in view of the attitude of the Opposition, it is quite obvious that it is only an attempt to play politics. They have walked out of this House so that if now this House should adopt these amendments they could go to the outside world and say that it was done without their knowledge and consent. Since it was not the original intention of this Government to make the increase desired in this particular clause, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clauses 9 and 10 agreed to.

Clauses 11 – 32A.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I beg to move to leave out clauses 11 to 32A. I have already explained to the House during my Motion for the Second Reading of the Bill that out of deference to public opinion and according to the Ministerial Statement I made on the 7th of April, that I shall move to delete all these clauses. Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 32A deleted from the Bill.

Clauses 33 to 79 agreed to.

Consequential re-numbering of the clauses agreed to.

SCHEDULE A

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I beg to move to leave out Schedule A. This is consequential with clauses 11 to 32A and includes clause 17 (1) (a).

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

SCHEDULE B

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I really do not wish to move the amending Motion standing in my name. But if you would allow me, I would like to insert at this stage an amendment, just to increase the salary of Mr Speaker alone from £2,500 to £3,000.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move to *leave out* £2,500 and to *insert* £3,000 in the second column of the Schedule.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Schedule B as amended agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

(2) **The Eastern Region Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill**

Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (7th April)—That the Bill be now read a Second time.

Question again proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Motion for amendment of Date of Commencement.

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): Mr Chairman, I rise to move to *delete* "1st of April, 1959" and *substitute* "1st February, 1959" as the date of commencement.

The two amendments in my name on the Order Paper appear rather extensive and I am sure hon. Members will appreciate a word of

explanation from me. In moving the Second Reading of this Bill, I said that I would extend the terms of office of those councillors who fell due for re-election during this financial year by using my powers of amending the Instruments of the Councils concerned. I have now decided that it will save a great deal of labour in my Ministry and will make my intentions clearer if I include those Councils in this Bill and I have done so in these amendments.

Secondly, I regret that, by an oversight in my Ministry, Local Councils in Eket Division and the Okrika Town Local Council which were due for elections on 31st January and 31st March respectively were omitted from the Bill. These amendments repair this omission.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): Mr Chairman, I beg to move to *leave out* the clause and *insert* the following:—

"2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 31 of the Eastern Region Local Government Law, 1955, and notwithstanding any provision contained in the Instrument of any Local Government Council referred to in the Schedule of this Law, the term of office of any councillor elected or appointed or co-opted to be a member of any such Local Government Council who is a councillor on the date shown opposite such Council in the Third Column of the Schedule shall be extended to and shall determine upon the 31st day of March, 1960."

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Question proposed: That the clause proposed to be left out be left out.

Mr J. A. Agba (Ogoja Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have to continue my speech on this clause and I oppose the Motion of the Minister of Local Government for tangible reasons which I have here before me. I say, Sir, that the question of Councils so far enumerated and whose term of office is being extended to 1960 is not a matter which receives

[MR AGBA]

popular opinion; and it receives no popular opinion because the people are tired of the present Councils. They really want the Councils to be dissolved and new councillors to take their place.

I was saying, Sir, that the Councils, particularly in Obudu and Ogoja, have served their purpose and have really become corrupt, and what is permeating the nerves of the Councils at the moment is a practice which is not liked by the people.

I would like to give you one example—the award of scholarships. If the Council decides to award a scholarship to a child to go to any institution, certain members of the Council, in this respect I am referring to Obudu District Council, go about to the parents of those children who are to be considered for the award of the scholarship to demand some sort of payment. The money that is going to be given to the students for their studies is public money and I think it is wrong for the Chairman or any member of the Council to go to the parents of any child to demand some sort of payment in order that the child may get an award of scholarship from the Council.

Another thing is that the Minister of Local Government is aware of a false document that has been sent to the Ministry by a Local Government Council. I brought it to his notice and the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Local Government has been able, and with due deference to him, to prove to the Minister in my presence that the document was not written by the Secretary of the Council which is not a common thing in other Districts. It was written by the Chairman himself and signed by him and with the name of the Secretary appended on the side of it. If I had not come to the Minister to report, he would not have known that a list of certain people has been drawn up by this particular individual and it came to the Ministry for approval, and the Ministry acting on that, sent the list back to the District Council asking for objections. Whereas the formal election of chiefs into the Council had been considered by the whole Council as improper yet the Council's name was used as having selected these people. To find out, I had to come back to my own District, went right to the office to find out whether there was any duplicate of such a document in the office, and the Secretary said no.

Mr I. U. Imeh (Abak Division): On a point of Order. Standing Order 28 (3).

The Chairman: I do not think that the Standing Order applies here. It only applies when we are thinking of the words "added" or "inserted".

Mr Agba: Thank you, Sir.

As I was saying, I went into the office and found that there was no duplicate of that kind of document in the office. This is a sure proof that it has been a false document which was submitted to the Ministry for approval and using the name of the Council. That is one instance of that sort of evil practice existing in the Council. If the Government really wishes to use the Councils as a means of governing the people, it is desirable that after the Government has made use of these people for some period of time and has found to its own satisfaction as proved here and elsewhere, that these bodies are becoming corrupt . . .

An hon. Member: Are you not a member of that Council ?

Mr Agba: . . . in the interest of the Region these bodies should be dissolved and new ones should be chosen to take up the realm of the Council and continue the government. I repeat, Sir, that a report has come to the Ministry time and again of evil practices of Secretaries.

I say here, Sir, that we have instances from Abakaliki Council, Ogoja District Council, and other Councils, of Secretaries misusing their authority in the Councils. This, to some extent, has been solved by the introduction of the new system of transferring Secretaries to other Councils. But it is not altogether eradicated from these Councils which I have in mind—Ogoja and Abakaliki District Councils.

In view of this evil practice which is rampant in the Region, for the Minister to come here to ask for the extension of the lives of these Councils to 1960 is ridiculous, damnable and detestable. It should not be allowed by this House. It seems to me that this Government is intending, having got a grip of these councillors, to use them for the purposes of elections.

I repeat, Sir, that, to my mind, the reason for the Government intending to extend the lives of these Councils to 1960 is for no other purpose than for election. I say this emphatically. In my own area they will never achieve anything. The people know them very well. I am not surprised that certain Ministers are responsible, to some extent, for these evil practices that exist in the Councils, particularly the question of corruption . . .

The Chairman: I should ask the hon. Member to withdraw that.

Mr Agba: With due deference to you, Sir, I do not know what to withdraw, but if you say I should withdraw the statement that some of the Ministers are responsible for some of the evils that are existing in the Councils, well I do not wish to disobey your order—I withdraw.

When the question of the creation of States came into existence certain Members of the Treasury Bench, I will not mention their names, gave some money to the councillors to bribe certain people to take sides with them. It was from that time, Sir, that the councillors got into their heads that they could give money to such and such a person to do such and such a thing for them. Prior to that, Mr Chairman, they were afraid to give or receive bribes. Immediately these corrupt Members of the Treasury Bench knocked the idea into their heads they got to realise that they could use the Council's vehicles, the Council's stationery, the Council's staff, etc., for their own private purposes and now the practice is rampant.

Sir, when these evil practices were reported to the Ministry, no attention was given to the report and the people concerned were not punished. So that what I am saying is that the Government, and more so the Minister, is encouraging bribery and corruption among councillors and Local Government staff.

The Chairman: Order! Order! I hope the hon. Member will try to help us. He was not here during the Second Reading of the Bill. If he were here he would have said all this. We are now in the Committee Stage.

Mr Agba: I want to make it clear, Sir, that I am just elaborating on what I said about this subject before. I am now showing why the lives of these Councils should not be extended. The lives of the Councils should not for any sake be extended to 1960. That is all I want to tell you, and I am calling on the House to prevent the passing of this Bill and I do oppose the Amendment.

The Minister of Education (Mr G. E. Okeke): Standing Orders 21 (1)–(3) and 28 (3). We are discussing clause 2 of the Bill. We have passed the stage dealing with the extension of the lives of these Councils and he cannot continue to waste our time unnecessarily.

The Chairman: Thank you very much hon. Minister. Mr Agba, I want to tell you that you cannot eat your cake and have it. If you were not here during the debate on the Second Reading of the Bill you cannot bring us back now. Please confine yourself to the Committee Stage of the Bill. You are a parliamentarian and you know what the Committee Stage means.

Mr Agba: With due deference to the Chairman, I am prepared to submit to your orders but I only want to make you understand that I was elaborating on what I had mentioned before on the prolongation of the lives of the Councils and that is the thing the Amendment seeks. If you look through the list, Sir, you will find that only Councils in the C.O.R. area are affected.

An hon. Member: What of Abakaliki?

Mr Agba: The reasons given, Sir, are: Registration for the forthcoming Federal Election, Administrative Officers being engaged, and so on. Resting on these, there will be no fresh elections at all. But I would like to know, Sir, why election was conducted to Oron District Council a few weeks ago and hon. O. O. Ita had to go in for it. Will they not take part in the forthcoming Federal Election? Why all these long lists of Councils—all from the C.O.R. State area? There must be something substantially wrong, some sort of ulterior motive, why the Government is interested in prolonging the lives of these Councils. If the Federal Election is not forthcoming, would they not dissolve these Councils forthwith?

[MR AGBA]

I am submitting, Sir, that the reason for this—and I want to say it emphatically—is because of the Election and the Minister himself is, so to speak, giving special impetus to Council staff, and councillors themselves, to take part in politics. I am saying this emphatically—that is one reason why the Political Division of the Ministry is so much engaged in politics.

The Premier: Standing Order 25 (9). The hon. Member is discussing the conduct of the Minister of Local Government and he is not entitled to do so except on a substantive Motion. He did say that the Minister of Local Government is encouraging employees of Local Government Bodies to take part in politics; that is improper for a Minister to do.

The Chairman: If Mr Agba wants to continue his speech, let him please pay attention to that.

Mr Agba: I thank you very much, Sir. I am saying that it is very amazing that such a question should be put up by the Premier himself. I had rather thought that the Premier himself would be very vigilant in checking anything by way of politics being practised by Government employees.

Sir, I am making a point that reports have been brought to the Ministry of Local Government that certain members of the staff of Local Government were taking part in politics. That has not received appropriate attention and he is impeaching me for mentioning it and giving you to understand that I am saying something about the conduct of the Minister of Local Government. I am saying, Sir, that Government must stop this fishy business.

The Chairman: I think you have made your point.

Mr Agba: I think I have made all possible points really. I have shown you how Local Government employees take part in politics; how they make use of the Council's stationery and vehicles for their personal purposes; how they engage in corruption, bribery and the rest of it; and how they incur the displeasure of the people.

I have letters here, Sir. Is there any need my taking the time of the House to read out

these letters? I assure you that even as I am here, protests are coming from home against the decisions of the Councils. If I mention this now, you may call me to a point of order, but the Government Chief Whip here has been responsible for encouraging a senior member of the Council staff to engage in politics with a promise that the Government would promote him. To allow the prolongation of the lives of these Councils particularly for the purpose of the Federal Election is not fair at all.

I therefore oppose the Amendment.

Mr Ogon: Mr Chairman, I think it is fair to me having been mentioned here to reply. I will ask, Sir, that the Minister of Local Government should not take note of these wild and unfounded allegations. The truth, Sir, about what hon. Agba is saying is that shortly after the election, he became a councillor and I am proud to say that I took part in convincing the Independent Members of the Ogoja and Obudu Councils to join the N.C.N.C. Party and the Council now is N.C.N.C. controlled.

I am to say that it is the duty of a politician to do that. The Member became very much worried about the Obudu and Ogoja Councils when the Ogoja State Movement got the two Councils to oppose the idea of COR State, and since then he has written no less than 20 petitions against this Council and has been carrying campaign against the Council's Secretary who incidentally came from Abakaliki Division, which from our own point of view is one people, one province. So we decided that such a boy should not be allowed to suffer because he happened to be carrying out the Council's instructions.

I want to say, Sir, that this gentleman who spoke, when the Eastern Ministers were touring in their official capacity, did everything to ask the Council not to receive them. He even brought a megaphone into the official meeting of the Council to detract the Council from performing its public functions. Now Members will witness the type of vindictive and bitter politics which this gentleman is carrying on in this part of the country. I want to assure this House, Sir, that I have never at any time promised this Secretary promotion. What I have done, and I am proud to do it, is that I tried to get the Councils of the former Ogoja Province to be N.C.N.C. controlled and to win the eleven Federal seats in that Province.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division): Mr Chairman, it is rather a pity that our Government should believe in a policy of encouraging elected Councils to remain in office indefinitely. Sir, this is about the third time this House has been called upon to extend the life of these Councils. The Minister has challenged me. Our objection is against a policy which encourages elected Councils to remain in office indefinitely; people who went to the elections knew that they would seek fresh elections after three years. It is right and proper that after the expiration of that period, these people should go back and seek the votes of the electorates. What the Government is embarking upon is to sustain these Councils in office indefinitely.

An hon. Member: Is it unlawful? It has been done in Ibadan.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I must say it is not a good policy. Sir, my concern is in the Calabar Urban District Council. We raised this point at the London Conference. The life of that Council expired last year. There was registration and at the last moment, Sir, when the N.C.N.C. chaps in Calabar knew they had not the slightest chance prevailed upon their Government to extend the life of this Council. In London we raised the point and the Premier's reply was that it was due to the political tension in Calabar at the time of the publication of the Report of the Minorities Commission. That was what he said in London.

Now, Sir, the explanation is given under the Objects and Reasons. May I draw your attention to what it says.

"Registration for Federal Elections and preparations for the establishment of the House of Chiefs and Provincial Assemblies in the Region make fresh elections to Councils at this time both difficult and inconvenient."

Now, Sir, what has the establishment of the House of Chiefs got to do with elections to District Councils? What has the setting up of Provincial Assemblies got to do with District Council elections?

The argument is against the Government because the Provincial Assemblies will consist

of members elected by the various Local Councils in the Region. But we are told that why we will not proceed with the elections to the District Councils is because we want to set up the Provincial Assemblies, whereas in the process of setting up these Provincial Assemblies, Government is going to call upon the Local Councils to elect members. Now, Sir, is it not a fact that the Minister has ordered elections into the new Oron Urban District Council and the District Council at Ugep? There is the Minister arguing on a principle; does he want to cancel those elections?

An hon. Member: He has said that it is not true.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Most of these elections were due this month. An elector has two Registration Cards—one to cast his vote in December, and the other to vote for the District Council election, but now the Government turns round to say that he should not exercise that right because it wants to set up a House of Chiefs and Provincial Assemblies.

On our part we view this with seriousness and it is a major issue. We are opposed to this policy of allowing elected Councils to remain in office indefinitely. If the Councils have done their three years it is only fair and proper that they should go back to the electors to return them to office. If the Government stands to gain by these new arrangements well time will tell, but we must warn, Sir, that it is not good to keep on postponing the lives of these Councils.

I think I am correct in saying that this is the third time that this House is being called upon to extend the lives of these Councils. If my memory serves me right, I think the last elections to the Calabar Urban District Council were held as far back as 1952. After the first year one-third of the members retired, then the next year another one-third retired, and so on. With this process the life of the Council was being extended. As I said, Sir, if Government is satisfied that this is a sound and good policy let it proceed, but our business is to indicate to the Region that we are opposed to this policy of allowing elected Councils to remain in office indefinitely, and what we can do, is to vote against this proposal,

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1359

[Local Government Bill—

7 MAY 1959

Committee]

1360

Question put. Committee divided.

Ayes 55. Noes 13.

Division No. 11.

11.55 a.m.

Ayes

Mr C. A. Abangwu
Mr O. U. Affiah
Mr D. S. A. Agim
Mr D. E. Akilo
Mr H. U. Akpabio
Mr I. U. Akpabio
Mr D. O. Aligwekwe
Mr S. N. Alo
Mr J. W. E. Anaba
Mr R. O. Anoke
Mr N. L. P. Apreala
Dr N. Azikiwe
Mr E. Chidolue
Mr A. O. Chikwendu
Mr E. A. Chime
Mr E. Emole
Mr U. Enyi
Mr E. U. Eronini
Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba
Mr I. U. Imeh
Dr S. E. Imoke
Mr R. O. Iwuagwu
Mr S. E. K. Iwueke
Mr S. O. Masi
Mr D. A. Nnaji
Mr D. O. Nnamani
Mr J. U. Nwodo

Mr P. O. Nwoga
Mr J. H. E. Nwuke
Mr M. U. Obayi
Dr A. N. Obonna
Mr M. E. Ogon
Mr C. A. Okafor
Mr J. O. Okeh
Mr G. E. Okeke
Mr P. N. Okeke
Mr G. C. Okeya
Mr G. I. Oko, M.B.E.
Mr E. P. Okoya
Dr M. I. Okpara
Mr K. J. N. Okpokam
Mr B. C. Okwu
Chief S. E. Onukogu
Mr P. A. Onwe
Mr N. O. Onwudiwe
Mr M. N. Onwuma
Chief A. N. Onyiuke
Rev. M. D. Opara
Mr E. W. Udonkim
Mr R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.
Mr J. O. Umolu
Mr P. O. Ururuka
Mr L. O. Uzoigwe

Tellers for the Ayes:

Mr K. Kiri
Mr J. E. Eyo

Noes

Mr S. O. Achara
Mr J. A. Agba
Mr S. T. Akpan
Mr H. U. E. Edelduok
Rev. O. Efiog, C.B.E.
Mr M. U. Etuk

Mr E. O. Eyo
Mr S. G. Ikoku
Chief I. I. Morphy
Mr O. B. Nalelo
Dr W. N. Onubogu

Tellers for the Noes:

Mr A. G. Umoh
Mr V. K. Onyeri

Question put: That the clause proposed to be inserted be there inserted.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, Standing Order 37 (1) and (2) . . .

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Point of Order, Standing Order 77 is to be read in conjunction with *Erskine May* (16th Edition) page 250—Discretionary Powers of the Speaker.

Standing Order 77—“(1) In cases of doubt the Standing Orders of this House shall be interpreted in the light of the relevant practice of the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(2) In any matter for which these Standing Orders do not provide the said practice shall be followed, but no restrictions which the House of Commons has introduced by Standing Order shall be deemed to extend to the House or its Members until the House has provided by Standing Order for such restriction”.

Erskine May: “Discretionary powers of the Speaker:

By standing orders a number of discretionary powers have been vested in the Speaker. Under S.O. No. 9 he has to decide whether a proposal to move the adjournment of the House in order to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance conforms to the provisions of the standing order. When a Member moves to introduce a Bill under S.O. No. 12, he decides whether to put the question upon the motion or for the adjournment of the debate. Under usage when a complaint of breach of privilege is raised he has to decide whether a *prima facie* case has been made out which would justify such proceedings taking precedence over the other business of the House.

Division	Council	Date
Eket	All Local Councils in Eket Division	... 31st January, 1959.
Abakaliki	Ishielu District Council	... .. 31st March, 1959.
	Izi District Council	... .. 31st March, 1959.
	Ezzikwo District Council	... .. 31st March, 1959.
	Abakaliki Urban District Council	... .. 31st March, 1959.
	All Local Councils in Abakaliki Division	... .. 31st March, 1959.
Brass	Northern Ijaw District Council	... .. 31st March, 1959.
	Southern Ijaw District Council	... .. 31st March, 1959.
	Ogbia District Council	... .. 31st March, 1959.
	Nembe District Council	... .. 31st March, 1959.
	All Local Councils in Brass Division	... .. 31st March, 1959.

Powers to restrict Debate:

Various powers have been given to the Speaker to prevent obstruction in the proceedings of the House (*see p. 475*). He has the power to select the amendments which may be proposed on consideration of a Motion or Bill, and to accept and put a Motion for the closure of a question when it has been adequately debated. He checks irrelevance or repetition by ordering a Member to discontinue his speech, and has the power to refuse a Motion for the adjournment of the House or of the debate. He prevents a division which in his opinion is unnecessarily claimed.”

Mr E. O. Eyo: He did not raise a point of order, Sir. We are relying on Standing Order 37 (1) and (2).

Dr Okpara: There has been a precedent created in this House. You are obstructing the business of the House.

Mr Ikoku: Do not disturb us any more.

The Chairman: I think *Erskine May* is a persuasive authority and I am going to accept it and there should be no need for a second division.

Question agreed to.

Sitting suspended: 12.10 p.m.

Sitting resumed: 12.40 p.m.

SCHEDULE

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): Mr Chairman, I beg to move to leave out all the words in the Schedule and insert:

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1363 [Local Government Bill—Com. and 3R] 7 MAY 1959 [Provincial Administration Bill: 2R] 1364

<i>Division</i>	<i>Council</i>	<i>Date</i>
Calabar ...	Ejagham District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	Dusanga District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	Iyong District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	Iyong District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	Western Calabar District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	Odukpani Road District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	Calabar Urban District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	All Local Councils in Calabar Division ...	31st March, 1959.
Degema ...	Kalabari District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	Bonny District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	Okrika District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	Okrika Town Local Council ...	31st March, 1959.
Obudu ...	Obudu District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	All Local Councils in Obudu Division ...	31st March, 1959.
Ogoni ...	Khana District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
Ogoja ...	Ogoja District Council ...	31st March, 1959.
	All Local Councils in Ogoja Division ...	31st March, 1959.
Aba ...	Southern Ngwa District Council ...	30th June, 1959.
	Northern Ngwa District Council ...	30th June, 1959.
Nsukka ...	Igbo-Etiti District Council ...	30th June, 1959.
Aba ...	All Local Councils in the area of the Eastern Ngwa, the Southern Ngwa, and the Northern Ngwa District Councils ...	31st July, 1959.
	Ndoki District Council ...	19th December, 1959.
	All Local Councils in the area of the Ndoki District Councils ...	19th December, 1959."

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The Schedule as amended agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

(3) The Provincial Administration Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Premier: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled "A Law to provide for the Establishment of Eastern Region Provincial Assemblies, and Provincial Administration, for their functions and matters connected therewith" be now read a Second time. I will outline the main points about this most important Bill.

First, this Government has decided that there shall be twelve Provinces in this Region and a Provincial Assembly of members who can speak for the people in each Province. Our object has been to disarm the fears of the minorities and to allow them ample means of expression of their views. I note with satisfaction that hon. Members have noticed that the arrangement of Provinces has been deliberately weighed in favour of the people in the minority areas. If we had divided up this Region into Provinces of approximately equal population, we should have had eight Provinces for the majority tribes and four for the minorities. That would not have allayed the fears of our minority groups. But we have not done that. We have given the minority areas six Provinces, namely: Annang, Calabar, Degema, Ogoja, Uyo and Yenagoa Provinces. I have been criticised in some quarters for the unequal population figures which favour the minority areas so heavily. But I feel this decision is not only right but also fair. We want stability

in this Region and we want, by this gesture, to assure the minority areas that their interests will be safeguarded and that they will have adequate, constitutional means of voicing their opinions and bringing their views to the attention of Government through their spokesmen in the Provincial Assemblies.

Permit me, Mr Speaker, to give the figures of population in each of the Provinces to show the disparity referred to by me:

Owerri Province	...	...	1.3 million
Enugu Province	...	...	1 million
Uyo Province	...	...	879,000
Abakaliki Province	...	...	833,000
Onitsha Province	...	...	760,000
Umuahia Province	...	...	701,000
Annang Province	...	...	520,000
Port Harcourt Province	...	...	513,000
Ogoja Province	...	...	252,000
Calabar Province	...	...	141,000
Yenagoa Province	...	...	127,000
Degema Province	...	...	117,000

Thus you have 6 provinces which are mainly Ibo with a total population of 5.1 million, and 6 provinces, which are non-Ibo, with a total of less than half—that is 2 million. At the same time, it should be noted that the provinces, though unequal in population, are for the most part more or less equal in area. I feel that it has been right that Brass and Degema Divisions should each form a separate province, because though their populations are not one-tenth of Owerri Province, the area is not much smaller and the communications in the creeks are so difficult.

Hon. Members will see that the details of the composition of each of the provinces are fully set out in the Schedule to the Bill.

Secondly, may I turn to the powers and functions of the Provincial Assemblies, and their sessions. These are clearly set out in clauses 13 to 20 of the Bill. It will be seen that they are advisory and deliberative bodies. They do not have legislative or executive powers. If they had, they would clash with the powers given to this hon. House and the Ministers who are answerable to this House. But they do have most important deliberative

functions. And I can give this assurance: any Provincial Assembly which in a constructive and sincere manner makes representations on the needs of the people of their Province, or advises on priorities for the allocation of funds for development, or wishes to draw attention to some fundamental human right (as embodied in the Nigerian Constitution) which is in danger from any source, will receive the closest attention of Government. We shall do what we can to meet their wishes; otherwise, we should not have set up Provincial Assemblies. (*Cheers*).

The qualifications for membership and the method of election of members of Provincial Assemblies are clearly set out in the Bill. I will move a small amendment to clause 10 later—to delete sub-clause (7), the words “if he ceases to be a councillor”. If this sub-clause were to remain in the Bill, it would place councillors at a disadvantage. It will be seen that any person who is qualified to become a councillor may be elected to the Provincial Assembly, but he need not necessarily be a councillor.

Representations have been made to me by the Local Government Association that it would be unfair to insist that the seat of the Provincial Assembly man should become vacant if he ceases to be a councillor because it will place the existing councillors at a disadvantage. I accept the point made, and I will at the appropriate stage move accordingly.

The Bill provides for the Provincial Commissioner in each Province whose job it will be, among other things, to bring home to Government the wishes and recommendations of the people of his Province. He will be a Minister of State who will be called in to sit in Executive Council when any matter, especially affecting the welfare of his Province, is under discussion. This means that each Province will have Provincial Assembly men who will not be left, so to say, shouting in the air, but will have a President who can speak for them in the highest Executive body of the land—the Executive Council—and make representations in the policy-forming stage before decisions are taken by Government.

There is one other function of Provincial Assemblies which I should mention. Clause 13 (*d*) of the Bill empowers them to appoint

[THE PREMIER]

members of the Provincial Scholarship Board which will make recommendations for scholarships allocated to the Province. The procedure involved and the scholarships to be allocated to the Province are all explained in detail in the White Paper on Scholarship Policy which has been laid on the Table of this House by my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Education. I will not discuss the details here, but I would like to mention briefly what Government has in mind. It is felt that one of the main grievances of the Minorities was that Majority areas which were educationally more advanced could always gain a majority of the scholarships to be awarded. Because of these fears of the Minorities, they rightly felt that this in turn meant that scholarship holders from the Majority areas would always qualify for the best jobs. It is to remedy this that Government intends to allocate a certain number of scholarships to each Province, so that all will start equally in the race for the best jobs.

Thirdly, I turn now to the function of the Provincial Commissioner. He will be in rank a Minister of State. He will be the President of the Provincial Assembly, and it will be his duty to call meetings and to preside over debates as you do, Mr Speaker, in this House. He will reside in the Province and will tour frequently to meet the people. He will be the ears and eyes of the Government and he will do his best to win friends for the Government, forgetting his party affiliation. (*Applause*). He will be like an Ambassador of Government, in fact an Ambassador of goodwill, who will on the one hand explain Government policy to the people and on the other hand represent to Government the feelings and wishes of the people. As I have already mentioned, he will have a seat in the Executive Council when any matter especially affecting the Province under his jurisdiction is under discussion. I do hope my hon. Friends opposite will appreciate this good gesture on the part of the Government and give us their whole-hearted co-operation.

Before concluding, may I mention that in accordance with the policy of devolution, it is hoped to expand the staff of the Ministries in each Province, so that gradually each Province may build up its own P.W.D. and Health units, have its own Provincial Education and Agricultural Officers, and so on. There will be a Provincial Secretary who will co-ordinate the

work of the Provincial team, and who will be senior Local Government Commissioner for the area. His relationship with the Provincial Commissioner will be the same as that existing between a Regional Minister and his Permanent Secretary, except that, in the event of any directive of the Provincial Commissioner coming in conflict with that of a Regional Minister, the latter shall prevail.

An hon. Member: You only want to create back-door Ministers.

The Premier: There are Ministers in England of cabinet rank and there are also Ministers of non-cabinet rank. (*Hear! Hear!*). (*Opposition Members: Shame!*) It is not shame on the British Parliament. The British Parliament is the model of this House and hon. Members opposite cannot shout "Shame! Shame!" on themselves. If they shout "Shame! Shame!" on the British Parliament, they shout Shame on this House and if they shout shame on this House they shout shame on its Members and if they shout shame on its Members, they are all Members. (*Applause*).

Finally, this Bill, taken in conjunction with the Development Programme and the Estimates for 1959-60, opens up a prospect of big social and economic development in this Region. I regard this Bill as an important milestone in the history of the progress of this Region. I hope that those hon. Members who represent the minority areas in this Region will take it, as it is intended to be, as a gesture of good faith and goodwill of this Government and that they will seize the opportunities that this Bill offers them for taking a constructive share in the development of their areas. And I appeal to the representatives of the majority areas to continue to demonstrate constructive statesmanship for the stability and good Government of this Region.

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

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Opposition as you notice, has come back to continue with the business of this House. We made it quite clear when we left you over the Legislative Houses Bill that we shall take no

further part in the debate on that Bill but that in any case we shall come back to take part in other business. We are not going to allow the feeling generated during that debate to affect the Bill which the Premier has just moved, and I hope that (it may not be necessary for me to say this) the hon. Speaker is in the same frame of mind as ourselves.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it quite clear on the floor of this House that this Provincial Administration Bill is not, and cannot be, a substitute for the demand of the minority elements in this Region for full and unqualified self-determination.

The view, Sir, that this Bill is meant to allay the fears of the Minorities is a view which I am sure only the Premier and the Members of the Government Party share. This view is not shared by any circle outside the Government circle and its supporters. The Bill on Provincial Administration does not and cannot allay the fears of the Minorities because the Provincial Administrations are mere window-dressing and, in fact, to project the idea that this is an attempt to allay the fears of the Minorities is another way of telling the Minorities that they do not really know their rights and privileges. The Minorities are the only people to decide what is to their best interest.

If there are any Minorities, Sir, who would like to submerge their identity to the Majority Group, well, let them do so but I can assure you that not all Minorities are prepared to lick the boots of the Majority Groups.

To disprove this notion that the Provincial Assembly is made to allay the fears of the Minorities, why should we have the Provincial Assemblies for the Majority Group? If this thing is an instrument designed to allay the fears of the Minorities, what is the need for Provincial Assemblies in the Majority areas? That only shows you, Sir, that the Premier—the Government for that matter—has evolved a policy to have a more effective control on all parts of the Region and this Bill is just an attempt to give legislative sanction to that—nothing more, nothing less—and there is no need trying to dazzle the Minority elements in trying to make them agree that this is something to allay their fears. I am happy, Sir, to note that there are Members of the

Government Party who come from this Minority Area. I would like them to go home and tell their constituencies that these are what their people have been fighting for.

Some hon. Members: They will soon do so.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, I have heard shouts, Sir, that they will do so. They have always done things in the N.C.N.C. Parliamentary Council, but outside the Parliamentary Council they do absolutely nothing.

An hon. Member: But they win elections.

Mr Ikoku: Is it not a fact, Sir, that some of them won election on the platform of the demand of the Minority Groups for the creation of their separate States.

An hon. Member: It is false. Mr Umoh...

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I hear the name of one of my Party Members being mentioned, Mr Umoh. Mr Umoh, Sir, comes from my Division. He resigned from the N.C.N.C. and presented himself to his constituency as a member of the Action Group and was returned to this House.

There are Members sitting opposite who presented themselves as Members of the Opposition Party, Action Group—U.N.I.P., then won the election and were dazzled and deceived by the offers of financial inducement.

I will go further, Sir, to point out that these Provincial Assemblies cannot allay the fears of the Minorities for the simple reason that these Assemblies are mere consultative bodies. The hon. Premier has stated quite categorically that they have neither Legislative nor Executive powers. They have not got the powers of an ordinary Rural District Council, and this is the thing they want to present to the natives who are supposed to be inhabitants of the Minority areas; to tell them that they are sufficiently stupid to accept this for their demand for self-determination. The Minorities accept nothing of the sort, and Sir, we want to say nothing more about it in this House. An opportunity will soon be given them to prove the wisdom of their move.

[MR IKOKU]

I would like to point out further that the Provincial Administrations, contrary to what has been said to the effect that they are meant to devolve power, have no such powers. If you look at clause 21 (3), Sir, the proviso makes it clear that "where the directive of the Provincial Commissioner to his Provincial Secretary is in conflict with that of a Regional Minister the latter shall prevail". The point is that these people are mere stooges, mere marionettes of the Regional Government, nothing more, nothing less. And that is what they want us to accept as being to the best interest of the Minorities.

Of course, I do not intend to go into the fact that the Legislative authority can in no way be challenged by these Provincial Assemblies, because the hon. Premier himself has said that. I only want to draw his attention to the Constitutional Order in Council, section 53, subsection (3) which makes it quite clear that the power to make laws in this Region is vested in the Legislature, so that they cannot start their propaganda, deceiving ignorant licensed buying agents who pretend to be politicians. Those agents should know that the Government is merely pulling wool across their eyes.

The hon. Premier has made a point that if suggestions are made in a constructive and sincere manner the Government will listen. Who is to interpret, who is to judge whether the criticisms are constructive? Who is to decide whether the suggestions are sincere? In other words, the hon. Premier is merely telling us that as long as these gentlemen in the Provincial Administration can stoop and lick the feet of the Regional Government they are ready to consider their demands; but which self-respecting man is going to accept such a position of inferiority? The hon. Premier has made appeal for a cessation of agitation in this Region; I am assuring him that if this is his idea of how to remedy the causes of agitation in this Region, he has to start all over again.

The hon. Premier in an attempt to mislead this hon. House has drawn attention to the fact that the Provincial Administration will make sure that fundamental human rights are observed and safeguarded. Mr Speaker, Sir, who ever entrusted such sacred things like fundamental human rights to this puppet organisation? I refer you, Sir, to page 8 of

the 1958 Constitutional Conference Report, paragraph (o)—The enforcement of fundamental human rights. With your permission, Sir, I read:

"Any person may apply to the High Courts for protection or enforcement of any of the fundamental rights provisions contained in the constitution and the High Courts shall have power to make all such orders as may be necessary and appropriate to secure to the applicant the enjoyment of any of these rights. There shall be a right of appeal from High Court to the Federal Supreme Court."

Knowing the type of Government we have in this Region, who will depend on the Provincial Assembly for protection and safeguarding of fundamental human rights? Who, I ask?

The point is this: The power to safeguard human rights is vested in the High Courts of the country with an appeal to the Federal Supreme Court in the event of anyone being dissatisfied with the ruling of the High Court. The power is not vested in the Provincial Assemblies.

May I turn to another point, Sir? This is the appointment of Provincial Commissioners. The hon. the Opposition Chief Whip has made it clear that these Provincial Commissioners are no more no less than organising secretaries. We know that this is an attempt to finance party activity out of public funds. We are not bothered by these Provincial Commissioners, we will look after them. I just want to make this point that the Premier will have to seriously reconsider the provisions he has made in this Bill for the appointment of Provincial Commissioners—we call them Ministers of State or Residents. Why did he adopt this round-about method? It is merely an attempt, Sir, to get over the Constitution.

Mr Speaker, Sir, to put it quite clearly, the Provincial Commissioners as defined by this Bill, shall be performing duties as officers of the public service of this Region and therefore our submission is that this Government cannot appoint them.

On this point, Sir, I would like to draw attention once again, with your permission, to the Report of 1958 Conference in London, paragraph 55. The Regional Government

at the Conference made it clear that they wanted Provincial Assemblies over which a non-public officer would preside and that is all. But the Bill we have before us goes further than that. I will read it—paragraph 55 page 22:

“This Regional Government proposed to appoint a Provincial Commissioner who would not be a public officer to preside over the Assembly and a Provincial Secretary to act as a liaison between the Regional Government and the Local Councils within the Province.”

The further point is that the Conference was told by the Government that they were going to set up Provincial Assembly, and the duty of the Commissioner who would not be a public officer was merely to preside over the Provincial Assembly, and the duty of the Provincial Secretary was to act as Liaison Officer between the Regional Government and the Local Government.

Now the Provincial Commissioner is the Liaison Officer. First a Provincial Administration is set up in Part 2 clause 21 of the Bill, and then we have clause 21 subsection 3—the relationship between the Provincial Commissioner and his Secretary shall be the same as that existing between a Regional Minister and his Permanent Secretary. Does that not make the Provincial Commissioner the head of the Provincial Administration? Mr Speaker, I am glad that gentlemen have all agreed now that it is *infra dig* for a politician to serve under . . . (Interruption).

Now, Sir, our contention, and this is a serious contention, is that the Provincial Commissioner as defined and designated in this Provincial Administration Bill will be performing duties which relate to an office of emolument under the Crown, and therefore, our submission is that such a Commissioner cannot be appointed by the Government. Such a Commissioner can only be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Public Service Commission.

I would like to make it clear, Sir, that Section 180 of the Nigerian Constitution Order in Council as applied to the Eastern Region by Section 180 (a) reads, with your permission, Sir:

“Subject to the provisions of this Order, power to make appointments (including

appointments on promotion and transfer) to offices in the Public Service of the Eastern Region and to dismiss and to exercise disciplinary control over officers in that Public Service, shall vest in the Governor acting on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission of the Region.”

Their case, Sir, is that this is not an office in the Public Service of the Eastern Region. Our case is that the office of the Commissioner as defined and portrayed in this Bill, is an office in the Public Service of this Region. Of course, the gentlemen opposite will never be happy with my definitions, but what I would like to emphasise is that Section 154 (b) of the Constitution Order in Council makes it clear that expenditure on the Public Service must be embodied in the Estimates of the Region or the Federation as the case may be—Section 154 (b) as applied to the Eastern Region by Section 154 (c) and what has happened? Look at the Estimates of the Eastern Region. At page E 29 Head 421—Premier's Office, sub-heads 39–42, particularly sub-head 39, makes provision for the Provincial Commissioner.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it clear that Section 154 (b) as applied to the Eastern Region by Section 154 (c) makes it clear that the Estimates of the Region must make provision for the public offices of the Eastern Region, and I am making it clear that the Estimates of the Eastern Region, at page E 29 Head 421, sub-head 39 does make provision for this Provincial Commissioner.

Now, Sir, Members opposite would like to know what is a public office. I refer to Section 2 subsection (1) of the Constitution Order in Council. With your permission I quote:

“A public office means any office of emolument in the public service of the Federation or the public service of the Region and includes where the context so admits any office of emolument in the former public service of Nigeria.”

Sir, having developed my case up to the stage where we regard (I am not appealing to the Government party to see things in the same lines with us, I am really telling you our own aspect of the whole thing) Provincial Commissioner as defined by this Bill as a public office, all I have to do, Sir, is to refer you finally to the section I have already quoted, 180A subsection 1 of the Constitution Order in

[MR IKOKU]

Council. This section makes it absolutely clear that once a post is in the public service of the Region, the Governor acting on the advice of the Public Service Commission is the person to fill the post.

There are two views before you, Sir—the view of the Government is that the post of the Provincial Commissioner is not a post in the public service of the Region, therefore they claim that the Governor should make the appointment on the recommendation of the Government, that is the Executive Council. The second view is the view of the Opposition. It is that when the post is a post in the public service of the Region, the appointment into such posts should be made by the Governor acting on the advice of the Public Service Commission.

I have no illusion about the way the majority party in this House uses its power, but we are not bothered about their votes. I would like to make it clear that when an issue which involves the Constitution of Nigeria is concerned, this Assembly is not sovereign.

An hon. Member: You will go to Court.

Mr Ikoku: This Assembly must conduct itself in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. We cannot run our Legislature in the way you run the N.C.N.C. You change your Constitution at any time you like.

I would now like to conclude. My conclusions are as follows:—

1. The Government is acting within its powers and in accordance with the decisions of the Constitutional Conference to set up the provinces referred to in London.
2. The Government is not acting within its powers in trying to read new contents into the idea of the Provincial Administration as defined at the London Constitutional Conference and for which there is provision in the Conference records.

That is, we hold the view that except the Premier makes some fundamental amendment to the functions of the Provincial Commissioner as defined by this Bill, the office will be an office in the Regional Public Service and therefore the Governor acting on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission is the man to make the appointment.

My final conclusion, Sir, is that the Government can do whatever they like, whatever they think is in the best interests of the Minorities. We here are making it quite clear that the Minorities know their own mind and they are the only people who can decide on what is right for them and what they are going to accept.

Mr M. N. Onwuma (Aba Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, quite frankly the Premier has built up a very strong and impressive case for the establishment of the Provincial Administration. Our friends from the Rivers Provinces are accommodated; also our friends from Ogoja Province are also accommodated. In other words, we all accept the fundamental principle underlining the devolution of powers. Surely, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition and his Chief Whip are not in themselves personifying the minority areas. We from the majority areas are suffering far too much for the people from the minority areas, and, surely, Sir, the minority areas are not living without others. They are living in association with other people and they cannot—repeat, cannot—determine themselves what they are going to do without consideration for those around them.

And, in any case, Sir, I would challenge the Leader of the Opposition that at the London Conference he should have been bold enough to decide or to accept the challenge that there would be no independence until minority areas have been created. They are not isolated from the rest of the people, and I think we will accept the challenge that whether it is on Federal election basis or Regional election basis we will determine who is who in this Region.

Mr Speaker, I am saying that there is a fundamental case for the establishment of Provincial Assemblies to make people feel that they are part and parcel of the Region. Even if they do not have any executive function, the very fact that the Representative or the Commissioner of the Province is able to attend the Executive Council, is enough to palliate any ill-feelings that any people from any minority area may have. In any case, there is one person from Enyong Division, then there are other people from Uyo Division who are on the Government side, as well as on the Opposition side, so that if you should take Uyo Division as such, there are people on the Government side accepting the devolution of powers and perhaps a negligible number on the other side who do not accept the devolution of powers.

I am saying, Sir, that I am not quarrelling with this devolution of powers and I welcome the number of people from Rivers Province, Degema Province as well as Yenagoa. It is an attempt to accommodate them and in doing so, some experience is derived which will benefit us in carrying out at least the political democracy in the Eastern Region.

Mr Speaker, I think the Premier will take account of the special aspect that the Leader of the Opposition has raised. However, may I point out the part that concerns me directly. Mr Speaker, at no time more than now, and with no issue before the Provincial Administration, have I so ruthlessly been convinced of the uprightness of my course in this matter of Provincial Administration, that I am irresistibly swept into the mood to give a fight for our legitimate rights that are being frittered away overtly or covertly. Sir, to reduce our numerical superiority to impotent minority is, to put it charitably, very severe. And who, Sir, can accept such severity with grace?

To accept without question or to sit with lifeless indifference and see the identity of Aba Division completely obliterated is, Sir, I humbly submit, to overstep the noble willingness of the people to bear injustices in the past.

I have already referred to the injustice meted out to Aba Division in the carving out of Aba Central Constituency and the present issue, Sir, does great violence to my ability to accommodate moderation.

Briefly, may I restate the argument which I built up about a month ago. You will notice, Sir, that my hon. Friend, A. O. Chikwendu made sustained attempts to probe any weak spots in that citadel but bravely I always had a corridor of escape and the arguments are safe.

In 1957, the Government of the Eastern Region came out with a White Paper, Sessional Paper No. 1, dividing the whole of the Eastern Region into 16 Provinces. One such province was Ngwa Province with headquarters at Aba. The expressed aim of the Government was to decentralise Government activity up to a certain extent where it is not inimical but consistent with security and at the same time,

satisfy representative requirements of the various sections of the Region. True, the intention was to allay the unfounded fear of the minorities. It was agreeable that some sort of devolution of powers will go a good distance to obviate the disquiet in the minds of those in Calabar and Rivers Provinces.

When the White Paper was debated, it came in for very unsparing scathing criticism from both sides of the House. The name of one of the proposed provinces was Ngwa province with headquarters at Aba. Now this Ngwa province consists of people in Aba Urban areas, the real Ngwas, the Abas and the Ndokis. These other non-Ngwa elements in the province agitated against the name Ngwa province. They were prepared to accept the name of Aba province. We, the Ngwa people, accepted that suggestion as a compromise.

As a result of this, and many other suggestions from various other sources, the Government was forced to revise the former White Paper. This revised White Paper on devolution of powers has never been debated in the House, and as such it has never become a document accepted without question. Worse still, violence has been done to the whole of the second document both in content and character that at present it is nothing like the original proposals as far as the grouping of the divisions into provinces, and also their names and headquarters.

Take the hybrid called Umuahia Province. In the first proposal there was no Umuahia Province but Ngwa and Bende Provinces with headquarters at Aba and Umuahia-Ibeku respectively. The second proposal was Aba-Bende province, a combination of the two proposed provinces, with headquarters at Umuahia.

But none of these two proposals is now contained in the Bill establishing Provincial Assemblies. An entirely new proposal is now inserted—Umuahia Province, with headquarters at Umuahia. I am informed that the argument is that a province should take the name of its headquarters. All right, quite apart from the difficulty of deciding which takes precedence, the name of a province or its headquarters, the principle has not been applied in all cases—for instance, Annang

[MR ONWUMA]

Province. It is argued also that Umuahia was the administrative headquarters of the former Owerri Province, but this is not true. The headquarters of the former Owerri Province was Umuahia-Ibeku.

Several hon. Members: What is the difference?

Mr Onwuma: Umuahia is a town of only 4,810 people in Olokoru Group in Odida Anyanwu District Council area. If these things are to be straightened out, they ought to be straightened out properly. The town called Umuahia-Ibeku is properly called Ibeku to be precise.

To illustrate the inconsistency in Government procedure further, the headquarters of every province in practically all cases is the largest township of that province—Onitsha, Owerri, Port Harcourt, Uyo, Calabar, Ikot Ekpene, etc. The inescapable conclusion is that Aba ought to be the headquarters of "Umuahia Province".

In December, 1958, the Premier came out with a statement that the representation in the Provincial Assemblies will be on the basis of 1 representative for every 20,000 population. I am now informed that that has been brushed aside in favour of clans. If that is true, Ngwa will have 1 seat, Ndoki 1, Asa 1. This basis will be grotesque. I notice that what amounts to clans in Bende Division is equivalent to groups in Aba Division. For instance, in Bende Division there is Olokoru clan; its counterpart in Aba Division is Ugwunagbo group or Nsulu group or even Amaise group.

On the basis of the foregoing facts and arguments, the whole of Government's case completely breaks down. It is, therefore, necessary to review the question of the Provincial Assembly set-up, exploring the possibility of effecting an acceptable compromise founded on a new formula generally, and in Aba Division in particular. Aba Division has always demanded a separate province. Umuahia is incapable of swallowing Aba completely. Aba will stick in her throat and it will either mean death or rescue by a major political surgical operation.

Behind the cloud the sun is still shining. Is there no oasis in this arid desert, political

desert of Proclamation where we political travellers from Aba Division can find some draught to tickle our thirst?

Perhaps the Premier will come to our aid and consider Aba-Bende as the name of the province or vegetate the headquarters between Aba and Umuahia-Ibeku. Is it impossible to build the Assembly House in Aba?

Sir, my people will feel very much gratified if something is done to solve the problem before the Provincial Assemblies start to function because it seems that we are losing completely our identity. There are a number of alternatives that will be acceptable to both Divisions and I hope that when the Premier replies he will satisfy all concerned.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr K. J. N. Okpokam (Ikom Division): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would perhaps have had nothing to say until I heard the Leader of the Opposition mention time and again the question of minority areas and repeatedly said that the question of minority areas had not been solved. If you take the *Hansard* of this House for 1952 and 1953 you will not find the word "Minority" in any of the pages. Then nobody was talking of minority or majority: we all regarded ourselves in the Eastern Region as one and part of Nigeria. (*Hear! Hear!*)

It was after the U.N.I.P. had failed in their attempt to win the 1953 election into this House that a handful of them went about shouting into the ears of our people the question of minority and the COR State. But, Sir, as far as Ikom Division is concerned they have had no support. (*Hear! Hear!*). It is true that when they visited Ikom and tried to preach this question of minority and went to the extent of making the mistake of allowing me to address the same meeting with them, they were unable to succeed in capturing the minds of the people that day. They were so disappointed that Dr Udoma, Professor Eyo Ita and others who travelled with them failed to honour my invitation to lunch which they had earlier accepted. (*Laughter*).

Mr Agba: Standing Order 28 (1) reads as follows, Sir:

"Debate upon any motion, Bill or amendment shall be relevant to such motion, Bill

or amendment, and in the case of a substantive motion for the adjournment of the House the debate shall be relevant to the subject matter raised on the adjournment." Sir, the hon. Member is speaking on a different subject altogether. We are not talking of election campaigns now.

Mr Speaker: Get on, Mr Okpokam.

Mr Okpokam: Thank you, Sir.

What I was trying to say is that the idea of minority areas and COR State did not come from the minds of our people but only a handful of disappointed elements formed the idea in their own minds and went about poisoning the minds of people and inciting them against the good Government of this Region. (*Applause*). That is why I feel very much annoyed and disappointed when Members come here to talk of "Minority", "Majority" and so on. I think we in this Eastern Region are so few that we should, in our best interests, regard ourselves as one.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Are we fewer than the Cameroons?

Mr Okpokam: The Provincial Assemblies are, I think, a way of bringing the Government nearer to the people. I will not regard Provincial Commissioners as civil servants. They are merely representatives of the people. I would suggest they should be Members of this House so that they could, after getting information from this House, hold meetings with the people of their Provinces, explain Government policies to them and bring back the requests and desires of the people to the House.

I would ask Government to go on with the idea of Provincial Assemblies, to do all they can to see that the scheme is implemented immediately and also to see to it that they do all they can to help develop all the areas of the Eastern Region. Afterwards, some of these areas we talk about as Majority Areas are also denied many amenities because as it would appear development is in the main, confined to the big towns. When you go further into this matter, you will find that they are as bad as some part of the Minority Areas.

My people of Ikom are only interested in the development of their area; they are not

concerned with the quarrels about new States and so on. All we want is for Government to turn their eyes to us and give us all the developments we want through the Provincial Assemblies. (*Cheers*).

The Premier: Mr Speaker, I am grateful to those Members who have spoken to this Motion and I regret that the Leader of the Opposition has found it necessary to oppose it in the way he did. I propose now, to explain some of the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition—at least for purposes of clarification—because it would appear that he has not fully grasped at the fundamental reason why this Bill has been introduced.

Before pressing his points home, the Leader of the Opposition explained that his side walked out in good faith and returned in good faith. I think we all accept that although I think it is more or less history repeating itself because I remember in 1953, at the Constitutional Conference in London, when an issue was put before the Conference which was not acceptable to his Party, they walked out and later on they returned and then their leader offered precisely the same type of explanation which my hon. Friend offered today. In other words, it is a reversion to type.

My hon. Friend said that the fears of Minorities had not been allayed by this Bill. I agree with him. There is nowhere in the world where the fears of any human being can be allayed. But the main point is the efforts made by those who rule to let those who are ruled appreciate that they are part and parcel of a territory. After all, it is much more constructive to get the Efik man or woman to realise that he has more things in common with the Annang, the Ibos, the Ijaws, the Ibibios and all other tribal groups in this Region than to get the Efik man to feel that he has nothing in common with others and he must live by himself. The age of isolationism is gone in this Region and this Bill is putting the final nail in that coffin. (*Applause*).

My hon. Friend also said that as far as his side was concerned, this Bill was not necessary. I agree with him that his side is entitled to its opinion but I will respectfully remind him that his side represents only 25 per cent of the organised public opinion of this Region.

[THE PREMIER]

He has asked me to explain why Majorities should be given representation in the Provincial Assemblies if it is the aim of the Bill to allay the fears of the Minorities. I propose to reply to him precisely. With your permission, Mr Speaker, if my hon. Friend would go back to the debate we had here in this House on Devolution of Powers when this White Paper was introduced, he would see the reason why it was necessary for a wise Government to make provision for both Minority and Majority Groups to be represented in Provincial Assemblies.

With your permission, Sir, may I read *in extenso*, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 6 of the White Paper which was laid as a Sessional Paper on the Table of this House on the 18th of November, 1957, which states precisely the reason why Government thought that powers should be devolved and why Government thought that both the Majority and the Minority Groups should share in this attempt to bring Government closer to the village level.

“With the attainment of Self-Government in the Region, Government has decided to devolve its powers on its constituents in such a way as to empower them to exercise a greater measure of control over their local affairs. It is intended that the constituents shall be the general instrument of Government policy and to act as a link between Government and the Local Government Bodies. By defining clearly the jurisdiction and functions of parallel authorities, it will strengthen and stabilise the unitary nature of the Regional Government and integrate its constituents into one constitutional organism in spite of the diversity of their cultures and languages.

“2. The policy of devolution of powers seeks further to develop the present Local Government structure and to use it generally as an instrument for implementing Government policy so as to allay the fears of communities which can be estranged to become separatist in their tendencies once they are left under a false impression that they constitute an extraneous element in the governmental machinery of the Region.

“3. It is not enough to make a special arrangement for their welfare, by charging a particular Minister with special responsibility

for their affairs; the inhabitants of the so-called neglected areas must be related physically with the day-to-day administration of their territory and they must be so placed in the political organisation of the machinery of Government that they would be in position *pari passu* to enjoy a fair share in the benefits to be derived from such a constitutional attachment.

“6. In devolving powers on its constituents, Government will bear in mind many factors: those services which concern the whole Region rather than a separate part of it covered by different Local Government Bodies; those services which require technical or other expert direction and which cannot be provided by Local Government Bodies without something more than advice and inspection; those services now provided jointly by the Regional Government and Local Government Bodies which can be more efficiently provided by the latter under expert advice, regular inspection and ample subsidy.”

In other words, Sir, it is not intended only to allay fears of Minorities and then let them attend Assemblies; we are also trying to let Minorities realise that they are part and parcel of the federal whole. When Minorities and Majorities blend then we have a happy and successful political union. That is the aim so that it is not necessarily an argument which is tenable for my Friend to come here and say that the mere fact that we elected majority to the Provincial Assembly showed that we had not the interests of the Minority at heart.

Then he belaboured the point of Provincial Commissioners and cited an authority from the Report. I asked him to read the Report because I felt that the way he read it gave a wrong impression as if we agreed in London that Provincial Commissioners shall be public officers, whereas the contrary is the case. I will read it to hon. Members to bring out more clearly what he intended to read. This is from the 1958 Constitutional Conference Report, paragraph 55. With your permission, Sir, I read:

“The Conference took note that the Government of the Eastern Region proposed to establish a Provincial Assembly, comprising representatives of local council areas and

recognised Chiefs, as a deliberative and consultative body in each Province of the Eastern Region. Members of the House of Chiefs and House of Assembly from the Province should be *ex officio* members of the Assembly. The Regional Government proposed to appoint a Provincial Commissioner, who would not be a public officer . . .”

This is the point, Sir, “a Provincial Commissioner who would not be a public officer”.

Mr Ikoku: This was what I meant.

The Premier: It may be what he meant, but I did not hear him. May I continue, Sir:

“ . . . to preside over the Assembly, and a Provincial Secretary to act as a liaison between the Regional Government and the local councils within the Province . . .”

The point is that we made it clear in London that our intention is not to make the Provincial Commissioner a public officer, and that was why in drafting this Bill the hon. Attorney General defined “Provincial Commissioner” the way he did, i.e., a Minister charged with responsibility for a particular Province. I am making this point to show the irrelevance of those sections of the Constitution which my hon. Friend quoted to show that it is a public office and therefore it must be an appointment by his Excellency on the advice of the Public Service Commission.

Chief I. I. Morphy (Ogoja Division): What about functions ?

The Premier: The question of functions does not arise at all, but as the hon. the newly promoted Front Bencher of the Opposition wants to know the functions, I will only tell him in the words of Canon Bell “it is elementary”. If you know the functions of a Minister then you ought to know the functions of Provincial Commissioner. The only point of difference is that the Provincial Commissioner is not resident at Enugu, but he is entitled to attend the Executive Council when matters affecting his Province are considered; therefore to all intents and purposes he is a Minister of State. His functions are the functions usually exercisable by Ministers of State.

My friend, the Leader of the Opposition also referred to clause 13 (1) (c) of the Bill. I agree with him that in London we did agree under clause 13 that minority rights shall be enforced by the courts of the land. But I am afraid I am bound to accuse him of trying to mislead the House because he mentioned clause 13 (1) (c) as if to say we incorporated in this Bill that it will be the functions of the Provincial Assembly to enforce human rights. What do we have in the Bill? May I read Sir:

“Subject to the provisions of the Law the functions of each Provincial Assembly shall be (c) to ensure that fundamental human rights as embodied in the Nigerian Constitution are protected and safeguarded in the area of the Province and by making representation to the Government through the Provincial Commissioner in any case where any such right is endangered.”

There is nothing in the Bill to vest the Provincial Assemblies with power to enforce fundamental human rights. As an advisory body they can call attention of the Government to things which happen in their province which Government cannot know. If people are denied freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of movement which the Government does not know I think it is fair that the Provincial Assemblies should call Government’s attention.

It is Government’s intention to protect and safeguard human rights. After all, if you are in the Judiciary with the right to enforce, do not forget that the Judiciary is only one part of the arm of the State. You have the Legislative arm—we are the Legislative arm; so that the Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary can see to it that the fundamental human rights are safeguarded and protected. The only difference is that the Judiciary is charged with responsibility of *not* enforcing but interpreting it. You will have to come back to Executive in order to enforce it, so that it does not help the hon. Member’s argument; rather than that it makes his argument untenable.

Finally, my hon. Friend from Aba Division started the old issue between Aba and Bende. I am glad of the way he put forth his argument and how he also asked that I should “pour oil on the troubled water”. I can assure him that is my sole intention. He has

[THE PREMIER]

mentioned that although the Government said that the Provinces were named after their capital, yet Annang was not named after its capital. I would say that although I did mention it elsewhere but not in this House, may I reiterate that certain principles were borne in mind in naming these Provinces. The cause is to retain the old links as an inspiration for the future so that the former Calabar, Ogoja, Onitsha, Owerri and Rivers Provinces will retain the old Capitals. So that in Calabar we still have Calabar; Ogoja we still have Ogoja or Abakaliki as the case may be; in Onitsha we have Onitsha as the Capital; Owerri you have Umuahia and whether it is Umuahia-Ibeku, it does not make much difference because it is unessential; you may have Umuahia-Ibeku here, you may have Umudike, or Greater Umuahia tomorrow for that matter extending 20 miles going to Ubakala; and then you have Rivers—in Port Harcourt. That is why we have Calabar, Ogoja, Onitsha, Umuahia and Port Harcourt Provinces. Then another principle was to

consider the former Divisions with their Capitals.

So we have Abakaliki which fits in the first category and then we have Degema and then Enugu, then Owerri and then Uyo and Yenagoa. When it came to Annang, it was a bit tricky because Abak is still the capital of Abak Division and Ikot Ekpene is the capital of Ikot Ekpene Division. We did not select Annang for any other reason, but because Ikot Ekpene and Abak are homogenous. The people of Ikot Ekpene and the people of Abak came from one stock; they are all Annangs whereas if you take Aba and Bende, you find out that in Aba you have Ngwa, you have Asa and so on and in Bende you have Abriba, Ohafia . . . (*Laughter*).

However, I assure my Friend from Aba that since he is a Member of this House and so he is part and parcel of Government, the laws we make in this House are subject to change when it is necessary, and in which case his claims could be given due consideration.

Question put. House divided.

Ayes 56, Noes 9.

Division No. 12

Ayes

Mr C. A. Abangwu
Mr O. U. Affiah
Chief G. N. Agbasiere
Mr D. S. A. Agim
Mr D. E. Akilo
Mr I. U. Akpabio
Mr D. O. Aligwekwe
Mr S. N. Alo
Mr J. W. E. Anaba
Mr R. O. Anoke
Mr N. L. P. Apreala
Dr N. Azikiwe
Mr E. Chidolue
Mr A. O. Chikwendu
Mr E. A. Chime
Mr E. Emole
Mr U. Enyi
Mr E. U. Eronini
Mr J. E. Eyo
Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba
Mr I. U. Imeh
Dr S. E. Imoke
Mr R. O. Iwuagwu
Mr S. E. K. Iwueke

2.15 p.m.

Mr D. O. Nnamani
Mr J. U. Nwodo
Mr P. O. Nwoga
Mr J. H. E. Nwuke
Mr M. U. Obayi
Dr A. N. Obonna
Mr M. E. Ogon
Mr C. A. Okafor
Mr J. O. Okeh
Mr G. E. Okeke
Mr P. N. Okeke
Mr G. C. Okeya
Mr G. I. Oko, M.B.E.
Mr E. P. Okoya
Dr M. I. Okpara
Mr K. J. N. Okpokam
Mr B. C. Okwu
Chief S. E. Onukogu
Mr N. O. Onwudiwe
Mr M. N. Onwuma
Chief A. N. Onyiuke
Rev. M. D. Opara
Mr E. W. Udonkim
Mr R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1389 [Provincial Administration Bill— 7 MAY 1959 [Provincial Administration Bill— 1390
2R and Com.] Com.]

Mr K. Kiri
Mr S. O. Masi
Mr D. A. Nnaji

Mr J. O. Umolu
Mr P. O. Ururuka
Mr L. O. Uzoigwe

Tellers for the Ayes:

Mr H. U. Akpabio
Mr P. A. Onwe.

Noes

Mr S. O. Achara
Mr J. A. Agba
Mr E. O. Eyo
Mr S. G. Ikoku

Chief I. I. Morphy
Mr O. B. Nalelo
Dr W. N. Onubogu

Tellers for the Noes:

Mr M. U. Etuk
Mr V. K. Onyeri.

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

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move in clause 2, lines 9 to 11, to *leave out* the definition of "Provincial Commissioner" and *insert* the following definition:

"Provincial Commissioner" means "an officer in the public service of the Eastern Region appointed by the Governor to be in charge of a Province".

Sir, it is true that in London the Government informed the Conference that they would appoint a Provincial Commissioner who would not be a public officer. That is true. Our contention now, Sir, is that by making provision by way of emolument in the Estimates, the Government has now made this Provincial Commissioner a public officer. Now, Sir, some Members of the House, while the Leader of the Opposition was developing this argument, challenged by asking what was the position of Members of the House, Ministers

and Parliamentary Secretaries. May I, Sir, draw their attention to the Constitutional position.

Section 2 (1) of the Order in Council:

"The offices of Regional Minister, Parliamentary Secretary to a Regional Minister, Attorney-General of the Western Region, Attorney-General of the Eastern Region, Member of the Regional Legislative House and Member of the House of Chiefs of the Northern Region shall not be considered to be offices in the Public Service of the Region."

So that we have it quite clear here that the holders of these offices, even though they draw personal emoluments from public funds have been declared not to be holding public offices. Sir, what the Government proposes now is to appoint somebody whom they call a Minister of State, then create office of Provincial Commissioner and then they ask him to go and hold that office in the Province.

Either the man is a Minister of State or he will be a Provincial Commissioner, who, in our own view, will be a public officer.

We were assured in London, Sir, that a public officer who would answer the title of a Provincial Secretary would be a liaison between the Regional Government and the Local Government Councils of that Province. That is quite clear in paragraph 55 of the 1958 Report. Now the Government wants to

[MR E. O. EYO]

side-track that by appointing somebody a Provincial Commissioner, call him a Minister of State but make him subordinate to the Regional Minister. The Provincial Commissioner will be lord over the Provincial Secretary who would be a public officer.

We feel very strongly on this and if I may draw your attention to the position in the North, the Northern Regional Government in 1957 wanted the Conference in London to provide for the establishment of Provincial Administration in the North. In our own case the Government did not want any Constitutional provision. They merely informed us that it was a matter of administration. I refer to section 234 of the Constitution Order.

Establishment of Provincial Administration in Northern Region

- (1) "The Governor of the Northern Region may, by instrument under the Public Seal, establish for any province of that Region a provincial administration.
- (2) The Provincial Administration established under this section shall have such functions as may be prescribed by the Instrument by which it is established or by or under any law and shall consist of:
 - (a) a provincial administrator, who shall be an officer in the public service of the Region."

If the Government had wanted the Constitutional Conference to make provision in the Constitution, I am quite sure the Constitutional Conference would have followed the Northern provision. I am just drawing attention to this because, after all, the N.C.N.C. is an ally of the N.P.C. If this is acceptable to the N.P.C. . . .

Mr I. U. Imeh (Abak Division): On Point of Order, Sir. I beg to remind Mr Chairman of his ruling this morning when the Leader of Government moved a Motion for 2.30 p.m.

The Chairman: I think it is the wish of the House to finish the amendment ?

Mr E. O. Eyo: I am saying that if the Government had wanted Constitutional provision, then it would have been on the same line with the provision for the Northern Region.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: The main point made by the Opposition Chief Whip is that because it had not been, as in the case of the North, enshrined in our Constitutional provision that Provincial Commissioners shall not be holders of public offices, therefore, they must be deemed to be holders of public offices. The North prefer to have an administrator who will be a public officer. Our own policy is that our Provincial Commissioner shall not be a public officer.

The other point is to the effect that since we used the word "Commissioner" in the Bill the argument that Ministers are provided for will not hold good. I beg to differ. So long as the Governor exercises his powers and appoints an elected Member of this House as a Minister and our definition in this Bill shows clearly that a Provincial Commissioner is a Minister of State, that is all we have to prove. In other words, a rose known by another name still remains a rose. (*Cheers*). We therefore oppose.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, a Motion having been passed in this House that this House on rising today do adjourn *sine die* I feel it is my duty to see that all business of the House is finished and I shall use my discretion as much as possible.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Sitting Suspended: 2.38 p.m.

Sitting resumed: 6 p.m.

Clauses 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I rise to move to leave out the words "an advisory" and insert the words "a consultative" in clause 4 line 2.

Sir, I refer to the White Paper on Self-Government in the Eastern Region, i.e., Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1957 at page 21, paragraph 12, which was laid on the Table of the House:

“There shall be established in each Province a deliberative and consultative body to be known as the Provincial Assembly.” The 1958 Conference Report paragraph 55 reads:

“The Conference took note that the Government of the Eastern Region proposed to establish a Provincial Assembly, comprising representatives of local council areas and recognised Chiefs, as a deliberative and consultative body in each Province . . .” I do not know, Sir, why Government has chosen to use the words “an advisory” in the Bill.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, the Amendment suggested by the hon. Member is acceptable to Government. Paragraph 55 of the Conference Report makes it clear that the Assembly should be deliberative and consultative, and the Amendment is acceptable.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 4 as amended agreed to.

Clause 5.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move to *leave out* the words “on the recommendation of the Premier” in clause 5 (a) lines 1 and 2.

Sir, the Premier did indicate the procedure to be followed. He said that His Excellency the Governor would appoint in the first instance, a Minister of State. Sir, the procedure for this is laid down in the Constitution Order. Do I understand the Premier to say that after His Excellency, on the Premier’s recommendation, has appointed a Regional Minister that at a subsequent stage, His Excellency will be called upon to appoint this Minister a Provincial Commissioner? We still hold the view that the appointment of the Provincial Commissioner should be made

by the Governor, not on the recommendation of the Premier.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: There is no need to belabour the point because the definition of the Provincial Commissioner shows definitely that he is a Minister of State and usually according to our Constitution, the Minister is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Premier.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause 5 (a) lines 2 and 3.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move the amendment which I handed in this evening. I move that in clause 5 (a), lines 2 and 3, to *leave out* the words “be the President of the Assembly” and to *insert* the words “preside over the Assembly”. I am relying, Sir, on the 1958 Conference Report, paragraph 55 which reads:

“The Regional Government proposed to appoint a Provincial Commissioner, who would not be a public officer, to preside over the Assembly,”

and I know it is arguable as to whether there is distinction between appointing one to preside over the Assembly and making him the President of the Assembly. If I may draw attention to the Self-Government White Paper, at page 22, paragraph 15:

“Government shall appoint a Commissioner to preside over the Provincial Assembly.”

In our view, Sir, there are two different things. One can be asked to preside over the Assembly without necessarily holding the office of the President of the Assembly and if you refer to the Conference Report of 1958, the Government made it clear that the function of the Provincial Commissioner would be to preside over the Assembly.

Sir, I beg to move.

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1395 [Provincial Administration Bill— 7 MAY 1959

Committee]

1396

Question proposed.

The Premier: It is a matter of leaving out words. Everybody knows that whosoever is called to preside may be made the President. If he wants us to use the word we used in London, we accept his amendment.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 5 (a), lines 2 and 3 as amended agreed to.

Clause 5 (c).

Mr E. O. Eyo: Sir, I rise to move to *leave out* the word "existing". The provision reads "*ex officio* members who shall consist of existing Members of the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs"; our view is that not only existing Members but those who in the future would be Members of both Houses, shall be *ex officio* Members of the Provincial Assembly.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, this is a drafting error and his amendment is acceptable.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 5 (c) as amended agreed to.

The Chairman: Do you intend to move your amendment in clause 5 (c)?

Mr E. O. Eyo: I am not moving it, Sir, because the clause agrees with the proposal of the Government to the Conference.

Mr Chairman, I rise to move to add a new paragraph (d)—"recognised Chiefs of each local council area in the Province". May I draw attention again to paragraph 55 of the 1958 Conference Report on the composition of this Provincial Assembly. With your permission, Sir, I read:—

"The Conference took note that the Government of the Eastern Region proposed to establish a Provincial Assembly comprising representatives of local council areas and recognised chiefs . . ."

Again, Sir, the White Paper on Self-Government page 21, paragraph 15, reads:

"Membership of the Assembly shall be limited to a certain number of representatives of Local Councils and Recognised Chiefs who are *ex officio* members of County and Local Councils."

Sir, this is a very material point and our idea, which is supported by the Conference Report on the Provincial Assembly, is that not only Members of the House of Chiefs, who in any case will be very few in the Division, but all those recognised chiefs who are *ex officio* members either of the District Councils or the Local Councils should be members. This White Paper was debated and accepted by the House. We cannot afford to provide only for one or two Chiefs in the Division who will be *ex officio* members by virtue of the fact that they are Members of the House of Chiefs. We are more interested, Sir, in the Chiefs at the local level, and it would be most unfair to allow the local councils in the area to send people to the Provincial Assembly while leaving out Clan Heads, Group Heads and Village Heads. After all, Sir, they are not going to earn any salary, and there is no reason why the Provincial Assembly should not benefit by the experience of all these Chiefs. We feel, Sir, that it is a material point.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, it is true that the expression used by me was used in the White Paper and also at the Constitutional Conference. You will discover in this clause where we have eight traditional members who usually consist of Members of the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs and I will refer him to the definition of Chiefs in the Classification of Chiefs Law which we passed yesterday as follows:—

"any person who is for the time being recognised by the Governor in Council in accordance with the Recognition of the Chiefs Law, 1956, as it is amended from time to time."

The amendment therefore is not acceptable.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 5 as amended agreed to.

Clause 6.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move under clause 6 paragraph (b) line 2 to

add at the end of the paragraph the words "and as amended from time to time".

I beg to move.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, under the interpretation of what is applicable to this Region whenever any written Law is mentioned it is generally understood to include subsequent amendments. However, I am not resisting the amendment and if the hon. Member wants to press we will accept the amendment.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 6 as amended agreed to.

Clause 7.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move under Clause 7 lines 1-4 to leave out all the words after the word "Assembly" and insert the words "shall be elected by secret ballot on the basis of one member to every ten thousand people or part thereof in the Local Council area". The Clause of the Bill as it stands leaves the question of the number of persons to be elected to the Provincial Assembly and the method of election to be determined by regulations made by the Minister. Our view, Sir, is that it should not be left to the Minister to make any regulations. The Law should be specific. The unit of representation being the local council area is acceptable, but we go further to demand that the method of election of these members should be by adult suffrage and we suggest the basis of representation to be one member per ten thousand people or part thereof. We insist on this proportional representation.

Mr Chairman, I would refer to the Premier's *Political Blue Print of Nigeria*. At chapter 9 page 51, the Premier said:

"Since it is a generally accepted opinion that the principle of proportional representation in an electoral system is an embodiment of the true spirit of democracy . . ."

The main point, Sir, is that we believe in that principle and we agree that it is a generally accepted opinion that the question of proportional representation in an electoral system is an embodiment of the true spirit of democracy.

I observe, Sir, that the intention of the Bill is to give equal representation to all the Local Councils in the Region. Sir, in our view, that will be most unfair because you have small local councils as well as very large local councils. As a matter of fact, in certain areas, you have as many as four to five groups, forming a local council. I will give you an illustration. I know of a clan with a population of 33,000. Now this clan federated with another clan numbering 15,000 people to have a District Council. This clan happens to have only two local councils and the other clan also has two local councils. Now, on the basis of equal representation the clan with two local councils speaking for 33,000 people will have two members in the Provincial Assembly and the other clan speaking for 15,000 people with two local councils will also have two members. I hope the Premier will consider this point. Having accepted the local council as the unit of representation, it would be wise to decide here and now that representation should be based on the principle of proportional representation. We would then go further to insist on adult suffrage.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I assure the hon. Mover that although the White Paper proposed that each local council will be equally represented, after the debate in this House, Government had reason to change, so that, whilst these local councils will be represented, it will not be on the basis of equality, but it will be proportionate according to population.

Then on the citation from the *Political Blue Print*, the point is that proportional representation is a technical term which is different from the type of ballot which is the voting system which we use here. The voting system we use is the majority system. Even if you win by 12 or by 100, you win, whereas under this plan it is an intricate subject and is really fundamentally different from the present voting system. So that it will be practically impossible for this Government at this stage to accept the plan of proportional representation, especially in view of the fact that all our elections at the Local Government level, the Regional level and Federal level are conducted

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1399 [Provincial Administration Bill—

7 MAY 1959

Committee]

1400

[THE PREMIER]

on the basis of majority votes which is at variance with the proportional representation system.

If, however, there is a strong feeling in this Region that we should try proportional representation as is the case in France and Austria, Government will give due consideration to it. But for the purpose of this Law, I am afraid the amendment is not acceptable to us.

Mr E. O. Eyo: As long as Government proposes to accord representation on population basis, it is acceptable to us. But what about this point of adult suffrage?

The Premier: The question of adult suffrage will be given due consideration. We are trying to avoid expensive elections. However, what the hon. Mover has said will be borne in mind when drafting the Regulation. We will try as much as possible to include this in the present system, but we cannot afford to undertake wide-scale election because it means that we will have local government election, Regional election, Federal election and provincial election. I am afraid we have not got money for such elections, but every effort will be made to see that the normal democratic processes are used for such elections.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clauses 8 and 9 agreed to.

Clause 10.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I rise to move to leave out sub-clause (7) in clause 10. I indicated when I made the Motion for the Second Reading that I have given notice in order to remove this disability which is unfair to councillors.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I beg to move to insert a new sub-clause "(7) if he resigns his seat by writing under his hand, addressed to the Provincial Commissioner".

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 10 as amended agreed to.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clause 12:

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move under clause 12 line 3 to leave out the words "any regulation made in that regard by the Minister" and insert the words "this law".

The provision under the clause is to the effect that in the event of a vacancy occurring through death, resignation or other cause, it then shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of any regulation made in that regard by the Minister. That, Sir, is a bit dangerous after having determined those who would be members of this Assembly. Our view is that in the event of any vacancy occurring through death, resignation or any other cause, the vacancy should be filled in accordance with the law. It is dangerous to empower the Minister to make any regulation if the law is specific as to the membership or procedure of getting into the Assembly. Our view is that the law should be followed and that it should not be left to the Minister to make any regulation.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I agree with the hon. Mover that a Minister should act in accordance with the provisions of the Law. Therefore, since this particular Bill has provision under Clause 7 for the method of election of provincial members I can assure him that the power to be exercised by the Minister will be done bearing this particular purpose in mind. I do not want to anticipate; I know he has already given notice to move that clause 22 of the Bill be deleted, but may I refer to clause 22 of the Bill where the Minister has power to make Regulations and give directions and to say that when he exercises the power it will be done in accordance with the provisions of this Law and it will not be otherwise.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 12 agreed to.

Clause 13.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move under clause 13 (1) (b), line 3, to leave out the word "existing" and insert the words "essential social".

Sir, the paragraph reads: "to make representations to Government through the Provincial Commissioner on the priorities of allocation of funds for development purposes and for expansion of existing services within the Province;"

Our view, Sir, is that you may have 2, 3, 4 Divisions in a Province and you may have an existing service in only one of these four Divisions in the Province. Sir, it should be left to this Provincial Assembly to make representation on the priorities of allocation of funds for development purposes and for expansion of essential social services in the Province. It should not be confined to existing services. I have given the illustration, Sir, where you have four Divisions in a Province and there is an existing service in one Division; the Assembly may want to make representation to Government to expand other essential social services, not necessarily the existing one, in a particular Division.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: I think my Friend overlooks the fact that if we insert "essential social services" in the absence of a precise definition of what we mean by "essential social services" it might turn out to be to the disadvantage of the Provinces concerned, especially in view of the fact that the words "existing services" are flexible enough to enable the Government and the Provinces concerned to benefit in accordance with the proposals of the White Paper. May I refer the House again, with your permission, to page 20 of the White Paper where we explained what we had at the back of our mind by talking of existing services. Paragraph 6.

"In devolving powers on its constituents, Government will bear in mind many factors: those services which concern the whole Region rather than a separate part of it covered by different Local Government Bodies; those services which require technical or other expert direction and which cannot be provided by Local Government Bodies without something more than advice and inspection; those services now provided jointly by the Regional Government and Local Government Bodies which can be more efficiently

provided by the latter under expert advice, regular inspection and ample subsidy."

Then, in the next paragraph the previous paragraph was expanded by indicating that "the main services that will be devolved by the Regional Government are Education, Health, Roads, Water Supplies, Building Construction, Natural Resources, Loans for Agricultural and Industrial Purposes, Liquor Licensing." So that if we accept the amendment proposed it will mean to restrict these essential services because it is not precisely stated what we mean by essential services, and I will therefore advise my hon. Friend not to press the point, to let it be flexible to make the Provinces benefit from the social services enumerated in that paper.

Question put and negatived.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move to *leave out* paragraph (c) of sub-clause (1). The paragraph reads:

"to ensure that fundamental human rights as embodied in the Nigeria Constitution are protected and safeguarded in the area of the Province and by making representations to the Government through the Provincial Commissioner in any case where any such right is endangered;"

What is this Provincial Assembly—a deliberative and consultative body without any executive or legislative powers and yet we just want to make it look glorified by linking it up with a provision for ensuring that fundamental human rights are safeguarded.

Now, Sir, it is the duty of the Regional Government to safeguard the interests of every citizen. After all, what are these fundamental human rights? They are rights a citizen can enforce against the State, and to suggest for one moment that a body, a creation of Government, a Provincial Assembly, which has not got any powers—anything like a District Council—would ensure that these rights are safeguarded is to deceive the Members of this Assembly. Sir, the procedure is quite clear. Any citizen who is aggrieved, will proceed against Government, in accordance with paragraph O of the Conference Report which will be embodied in the Constitution:

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

“THE ENFORCEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Any person may apply to the High Court for protection or enforcement of any of the fundamental human rights provision contained in the Constitution. The High Court shall have power to make all such orders as may be necessary and to secure to the applicant the enjoyment of any of these rights.”

Then there shall be the right of appeal from the High Court to the Supreme Court. The position is quite clear. An aggrieved person is entitled to remedy in the High Court. He cannot even appeal to the Regional Government when once the Government has exceeded its own powers and the individual feels that he has been denied the enjoyment of this right. He has nobody to complain to other than the High Court. This man cannot go to the Provincial Assembly. He cannot even go to the Regional Government because there is nothing the Regional Government can do for him as it is this Regional Government that has denied this man the enjoyment of his right, so that all he has to do is to go to the High Court. After the High Court, an appeal lies to the Supreme Court. It is superfluous to write into this Bill a clause connecting the Provincial Assembly with this matter of Fundamental Human Rights. The next thing we will hear, will be that people can go to the Provincial Assembly and seek protection and enforcement of the fundamental human rights.

Sir, I hope the Premier has caught the point.

I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Mr S. G. Ikoku (Enyong Division): Mr Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Premier to one point, as I think his lawyer seems to be interested again. We are going to have an Order in Council on our new Constitution. In that Order in Council will be embodied provision as agreed in paragraph O, page 8 of the 1958 Conference Report on the fundamental human rights. Is it not a fact, Sir, that a law made by any of the legislatures should not provide for precisely the same things as are provided for in the Constitution? This is the point I would like the Premier to discuss with his legal adviser.

The understanding is that no law should provide for anything which is provided for in the original law. This is the Order in Council, and if any law makes such a provision, that provision is alterable. Now, the point is this: that a law enacted by this Legislature can be repealed by this Legislature. But this provision about fundamental human rights and its enforcement is entrenched in the Constitution. It is just a point of law and I would like the Premier to consult his lawyer.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, to answer the hon. the Leader of Opposition, I would say that it is an accepted principle in the law-making process that the co-ordinate units of a Federal Government have legislative supremacy and there is nothing to prevent them from enacting legislations, even though such provisions exist in the Constitution. There is only one sanction, and that is that where a law made by constituent units of the Federation or even the Federal Government itself contradicts the Constitution, then to the extent of that contradiction, that law is null and void.

So that even if this Legislature incorporates in its Law, provision incorporated in the Constitution it will not be *ultra vires* unless we in this Legislature enact a Law which contradicts the Constitution, then to the extent of that contradiction whatever we have done would be null and void. That is the principle.

My point, Sir, in opposing this Amendment is that my hon. Friend, the Opposition Chief Whip quoted correctly from paragraph 7, sub-paragraph (o), but the title of that is “The enforcement of fundamental rights.”... So there is nothing in this Bill to suggest that this House intends to arm Provincial Assemblies with power to enforce fundamental human rights but that the Bill provides that they should ensure that fundamental human rights as embodied in the Constitution are protected and the only way they could do that, as a deliberative and consultative body, is by deliberating over it and consulting the Government of the day. There is therefore really no need for the fears expressed by the Opposition. It is not intended to enforce the fundamental human rights because neither the Provincial Assemblies nor even this Legislature has that right.

Sir, I beg to oppose.

Question put and negatived.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move under Clause 13 (1) (d), lines 2-4 to leave out all the words after the word "shall" and insert the words "award regional scholarships allocated to the Province". Now, Sir, paragraph 1 (d) reads as follows:—

"to appoint members of the Provincial Scholarship Board which shall make recommendations to the appropriate Ministry responsible for awarding Government Scholarships allocated to the Province."

In the first place, I do not think it is correct to say that scholarships in this Region are awarded by appropriate Ministries. Sir, the Regional Scholarship Board awards all the scholarships in the Region but the White Paper, *Eastern Region Scholarship, Eastern Region Official Document, No. 3 of 1959*, paragraph 4, page 2 reads as follows:—

"All these awards will be made by the Provincial Scholarship Boards and, as stated above, each District Council area will be allocated five Secondary and one Technical Education Scholarships annually."

My amendment is based on the Government White Paper, Official Document No. 3 of 1959, namely, that the Provincial Scholarship Boards will have the power to award the scholarship allocated to the Province. Paragraph (1) (d) says merely that "it shall make recommendations . . ."

Sir, I do not see how the Government will reconcile that with the White Paper which has been laid on the Table of the House. It is quite clear in the White Paper that the policy is that all the scholarship awards allocated to the District Council area will be made by the Provincial Scholarship Board and that each District Council area will be allocated five Secondary and one Technical Education Scholarships annually.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, it is true as the Opposition Chief Whip pointed out that the White Paper contains clearly what is

intended, but in enacting the Law we must bear in mind that this Provincial Assembly is an Executive body deliberative and consultative. I can assure him that he will be a very rash Minister of Education who will in the face of majority representation by the Provincial Scholarship Board turn down the recommendation made by the Provincial Scholarship Board and impose his own views. As far as this Government is in control in this Region we will not allow any Minister of Education to override the decision duly arrived at after the normal democratic process by the Provincial Scholarship Board. When we say that the Scholarship Boards shall recommend, the implication is that the Minister of Education shall act accordingly. It is mandatory.

Mr E. U. Eronini (Owerri Division): Not always.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, you have just heard Mr Eronini say that without my inviting him. The Government has issued a White Paper in which it is clearly stated that the Provincial Scholarship Boards will have the power to award these scholarships. As a matter of fact, at page 3 paragraph 2, it goes further to say that:

"Half of the total of 292 annual awards will be made by the Eastern Region Scholarship Board and the other half by the Provincial Scholarship Boards, so that in the end each Constituency will receive two awards".

This is Government White Paper, telling the House that these Provincial Scholarship Boards will have the power to award scholarships and yet while enacting legislation setting up all these Provincial Scholarship Boards . . .

The Premier: Not setting up . . .

Mr E. O. Eyo: . . . you say that they will only make recommendations to the Minister. It is very unsatisfactory.

Sir, what is the point in calling upon these Boards to make recommendations since awards are made on the District Council basis? If it were a matter in which the Provincial Assembly had any executive part to play . . . (*Interruptions*). The Premier made a statement that he is sure no Minister of Education will ignore any recommendations of the Board but there

[MR E. O. EYO]

is no suggestion that these recommendations will be made to the Minister of Education. Our understanding is that all Provincial Assemblies will be placed under a Minister here in Enugu. That Minister will be charged with responsibility for all the Provincial Assemblies and if there is any recommendation to make they should make it to that Minister or to the Regional Scholarship Board. The Minister of Education cannot interfere. He does not award any scholarships unless we are being told that the Minister of Education or any other Minister will intervene. Well, if that is the proposition, then it is going to be very dangerous.

I cannot see any justification in charging any of the Ministers with powers to award scholarships. I thought the policy was to entrust the duty of awarding scholarships to a Board set up by the Government but it is being suggested now that the Minister of Education or any other Minister will intervene. I do not see how this is right. It is either we see that the Scholarship Board will have the power to award these scholarships—which is a policy we endorse—or we withdraw this White Paper which has already gone out to the public. I am sure all members of the Scholarship Board, reading this will have the feeling that they have the power to award scholarships only to be told later by the Provincial Commissioner that they have no power to award scholarships.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 13, sub-clause (2).

Mr E. O. Eyo: I rise to move to leave out sub-clause (2). Mr Chairman, I would like to invite the Premier's attention to the White Paper on Self-Government which was laid on the Table of this House as far back as November, 1957. The point I am making, Sir, is that this White Paper was debated and accepted by this House. I am drawing the Premier's attention to page 21, paragraph 10, which reads thus:

“Since these Provinces will constitute executive bodies which act collectively on behalf of the Government, and which are charged with the execution of Government policy it follows that each Province will be

answerable to the Government for efficient discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the Counties within its boundaries. It is planned that this will be done through a senior official”

It seems to us that Government has shifted ground on this. While we debated this White Paper in 1957, we were rather attracted by this paragraph in which we thought Government was sincere in the proposition that the Provinces would be Executive Bodies, but here, Sir, the Law setting up the Provincial Assemblies makes it quite clear that no resolution or recommendation of Provincial Assemblies shall have any legislative or executive authority. If these Provincial Assemblies are going to be worth the trouble and the money being spent, I see no trouble in allowing them to have some executive authority as reflected in paragraph 10 of the White Paper on Self-Government of the Region.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed to leave out sub-clause (2) of Clause 13.

The Premier: I am surprised that the Opposition Chief Whip should have given such a sinister interpretation to what appears to be quite straightforward. It is quite true that the White Paper mentioned that Provincial Assemblies should have Executive Bodies, but surely it does not mean that these Executive Bodies should have Executive authority. The paragraph in question says that these Provinces will consist of Executive Bodies which shall act collectively on behalf of the Government just as the Ibesikpo-Asutan District Council, the Elu Elu Rural District Council or the Onitsha Urban District Council or Calabar Urban District Council or any other Urban or Rural District Councils which have separate executive bodies and act collectively as agents of Government. But that does not mean that they shall have executive authority, so that what the Opposition Chief Whip has said, I am sorry to say is misleading. Again to guide him and to enable the Treasury Bench to bring about what we have at the back of our mind when we framed this Clause, may I refer again to paragraph 55 of the Constitution Report, where in discussing the functions of Provincial Secretaries, we said “a Provincial Secretary to act as a liaison between the

Regional Government and the local councils within the Province". In other words, the expression used in the White Paper and in the Conference Report are administrative so that they are Executive Bodies. They are to act administratively and collectively, of course, on behalf of the Government.

So, there is no intention whatsoever that these Provincial Assemblies should have Legislative or Executive authority, especially where we have mentioned earlier on, both in this White Paper and at the London Conference that these Provincial Assemblies are consultative and deliberative Bodies. As a matter of fact, the hon. Gentleman tabled a Motion this evening suggesting that we delete "advisory" and to insert "consultative" and we accepted it, so that it is quite clear that it is not the intention of this Government to arm these Assemblies with legislative or executive authority.

We therefore oppose the Amendment.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 13 agreed to.

Clause 14.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Sir, I rise to move under Clause 14 (2), line 1, to leave out the words "one Session" and insert the words "three Sessions". The proposal is that the Provincial Assembly holds at least one Session a year. Our view is that it should hold not less than three Sessions a year.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: I am sure our Friend has committed himself. Even this Legislature has only one Session a year; why should we allow Provincial Assemblies to have three Sessions a year? I think he means three sittings, and I can assure him that even though we may have one Session there may be three sittings in a year.

Question put and negatived.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Sir, I rise to move under Clause 14 (3), lines 3 and 4, to leave out all the words

after the word "member" and insert the words "who shall be elected by the Provincial Assembly". Sir, Clause 14 (3) says that "Every meeting of the Provincial Assembly shall be presided over by the Provincial Commissioner or in the absence of the Provincial Commissioner such member of the Provincial Assembly as the Provincial Commissioner may from time to time appoint." Our view is that if the Provincial Commissioner is not there to preside then it shall be the duty of the Provincial Assembly to elect one of its members to preside at the meeting.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, it is intended that a Minister should preside and one of the prerogatives of a Minister is to exercise discretionary power in this respect. We feel, therefore, that we should leave it for the Minister to use his discretion and appoint who should preside over the meeting in his absence.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clauses 15 and 16 agreed to.

Clause 17.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move under Clause 17 lines 8 and 9 to leave out the words "the Government of the Eastern Region of Nigeria" and insert the words "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Her Heirs and Successors according to Law (So help me God)".
(*Laughter*).

Many hon. Members: No! No!

Mr E. O. Eyo: I am surprised that Members should laugh. As a matter of fact it is one of the most important amendments we are putting forward. The Government is proposing, Sir, that a member who is elected or appointed or co-opted should swear an Oath in the following terms:—

"I.....being appointed/
elected/co-opted a member of the.....
Provincial Assembly do swear that I will
be faithful and bear true allegiance to the
Government of the Eastern Region of
Nigeria."

Hon. Members: Yes, yes.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I can understand the Back-benchers saying "Yes". I think it is more serious to hear Ministers of the Crown proposing by legislation to force members of this Provincial Assembly to swear allegiance to the Government of the Eastern Region . . . (*Interruption*). It is a matter of principle. You do not even at the district councils call upon members to swear allegiance to the Government but to the Crown. Is it not rather interesting that even in the district councils there has not been any suggestion that the people elected to the various district councils should swear allegiance to the Government of the Eastern Region. Even the Ministers themselves, before they accept office, have to go before the Governor not to swear allegiance to the Government of the Eastern Region of Nigeria, but to the Crown; the same thing with the Parliamentary Secretaries. It is sacrilegious and sinful to get this House to rush in this type of legislation. Nobody is bound. I am not swearing any allegiance to the Government. I bear allegiance to Her Majesty, to the Crown.

Are the Ministers prepared now to go and revoke the Oath which they took before the Governor when they were appointed Ministers? If they had sworn allegiance to the Crown when appointed Ministers, why do they come now to introduce a new legislation in the case of the members of the Provincial Assembly? I am appealing to the Premier not to force people by law to swear allegiance to any Government. These Members are faithful and loyal subjects of the Crown so that I am insisting that they should swear allegiance only to the Crown.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I agree with some of the views expressed by the Opposition Chief Whip, but I disagree with the main argument. Let me deal with the disagreement first. We have an official oaths law which prescribes those who are expected to swear an Oath of Allegiance. These are Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Justice, the Puisne Judges, Magistrates and Justices of the

Peace, the Attorney-General, Secretary to the Premier, Permanent Secretaries to Ministries, and such other officers as shall be designated by the Governor from time to time, and such officers who exercise executive and judicial functions as the Governor may determine; and also each Parliamentary Secretary and Private Secretary to the Minister as soon as possible after their appointment. So that the Law restricts those members or officers who are enjoined to take the oath of allegiance, especially those who exercise judicial or executive authority.

But on the other hand, here we have the deliberative and consultative body and you have members to go there and advise the Government in order to ensure good government of their area. The Law is silent; the law does not make it mandatory for them to swear an oath of allegiance and we have to invent one and we invented this in good faith. But if it is felt that it shocks the conscience of the citizen to ask him to bear allegiance to the Government of the day, we will be prepared to accept any redraft which will bring out clearly what I have just explained to the House. It is not intended to force anybody to owe an allegiance to the Government of the day, especially where we know ideologically that the difference between the parties on the opposite side and the party here is like water and oil . . .

Opposition Members: Who is water?

The Premier: You are the water.

Although it is very late, but to meet my Friend, we would suggest a compromise; unfortunately, the Attorney-General is not here—he has gone to Lagos to attend a meeting—we have just drafted a short one which, if it is acceptable to the House and to my Friend, we would then ask permission to put in writing and it will be read as follows: it is an oath to be taken by members of the Provincial Assemblies and it is based on the same line with the Ministerial oath: "I..... being chosen and admitted to..... Provincial Assembly of the Eastern Region, do swear that I will to the best of my judgment and at all times when it is required, freely give my counsel and advice to the Provincial Commissioner or any officer for the time being

for the good management of the public affairs of the province. So help me God”.

Will that be acceptable to you? You know these are advisers; they are not public officers and they are not Ministers of the Crown. In any case, the Provincial Commissioner as a Minister would have taken an oath of allegiance to the Crown. That is the compromise I am suggesting to my Friend.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Chairman, I do not think this is a question of compromise at all. (*Interruption*). The Premier's argument is that Members of the Provincial Assembly will owe allegiance to the Provincial Commissioner. That is what the new oath intends. These people are not officers in the service of the Provincial Assembly in the same sense as Permanent Secretaries are officers in the service of the Ministries, and I just do not see any point in calling upon them to swear any oath of allegiance to the Provincial Commissioner. They are there to discuss what they know. What I would suggest to the hon. the Premier is just to leave out the whole question of oath. Barring that, then get our citizens of this country to swear the same oath of allegiance as sworn by the District Councillors. That is a simple matter. May I warn, Sir that... (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Mr Ikoku: ... we regard the oath sworn by the District Councillors as the only one we can accept. If you depart from that then as citizens we will insist that they swear allegiance to the Crown. I would like to point out that we view with very grave misgiving the remarks which have been made by two responsible officers of the Government Bench. When the hon. the Opposition Chief Whip was speaking the Leader of the House had to put this question across the floor of the House: "What is the Crown"? The Crown is not the Government and for the Leader of the House to ask that question—what is the Crown?—is a very serious slip.

The hon. the Chief Whip to the Government went further to say that they were forced to swear an oath of allegiance to the Crown against their will. I think the Chief Whip should be ashamed of himself for

making such a statement. All we are saying here is to leave out the question of swearing an oath or if you are swearing the oath take the oath of the district councillors.

Mr Ogon: I want to say, Sir, that I did not intend to go into a debate on who believes or who does not believe in swearing an oath of allegiance. All I can say is that it is sufficient that we have taken this oath. This is my view and belief that a Republican form of government is better for this country than a Social Monarchy form of government. I am entitled to say so whether you like it or not. The issue at present is not whether I took the oath or not. It is quite clear that I took the oath of allegiance to the Crown on the floor of this House. What I intend to say is that the form of oath proposed by the Premier is better than that of the Local Government Councils. It is only fair that we on this side of the House should accept that form. I want to say that I resent the suggestion by the Leader of the Opposition that I should be ashamed to hold views which I think I am entitled to hold. I owe him no apology.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, it is unfortunate that the Leader of the Opposition found it necessary to make the remarks which he made, because, after all, what is the crown? In its Constitutional sense, if you look at the Interpretation Ordinance, 1939, you will see that it means the Government. It is true that in 1939 it was Government of Nigeria but you know that the Constitutional Order in 1954 has a section there for adaptation, and so it includes the Government of the Eastern Region. So what are we quarrelling for? Let us say that there is no need to swear an oath of allegiance to the Crown since our Oath Law prescribes the number of people who will swear an oath of allegiance, but that in this particular case the best thing is to find out an oath which will be acceptable at least to the House. I do not feel that there is anything to make anybody annoyed or to bandy words across. The draft which we want to submit will read as follows:—

“I....., being chosen and admitted to the Provincial Assembly of..... Province, do swear that I will, to the best of my judgement, at all times, when thereto required, freely give my counsel and advice

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1415 [Provincial Administration Bill—

7 MAY 1959

Committee]

1416

[THE PREMIER]

to the Government of the Eastern Region, and that I will be a true and faithful Assemblyman. So help me God."

Well, it is a deliberative and consultative body and they are there to freely give their advice to the Government and we have all argued on the floor of this House that as a deliberative body we expect them to give us advice and we will do everything possible to ask for advice. We will be prepared to table this as an amendment in order to delete what we have here, to prevent bad blood.

Mr Ikoku: May I make a little variation in that draft, where it says "to the best of my judgment to freely give advice". Suppose we say: "I will freely give my counsel and advice to the good of my Province".

The Premier: To adapt what you have just said now to our draft: "I,, being chosen and admitted to the Provincial Assembly of.....Province, do swear that I will, to the best of my judgement, at all times, when thereto required, freely give my counsel and advice to the Government of the Eastern Region for the good management of the public affairs of the Province, and that I will be a true and faithful Assemblyman. So help me God".

Mr Chairman, under clause 17, may I move to delete that clause and to insert therefor the following:—

I,.....being chosen and admitted to the Provincial Assembly of.....Province, do swear that I will, to the best of my judgement, at all times when thereto required freely give my counsel and advice to the Government of the Eastern Region for the good management of the public affairs of the Province and that I will be a true and faithful Assemblyman. So help me God.

Question that the new form of oath be there inserted put and agreed to.

Clause 17 as amended agreed to.

Clause 18 agreed to.

Clause 19.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move to leave out clause 19. The clause says: "For the proper despatch of its functions, there shall be appointed for the services of each Provincial Assembly such staff as are necessary for the proper discharge of the functions of the Assembly". Further down under clause 21 (d) we have the same provisions: "and such other officers or staff necessary for carrying into effect the purposes of this law". May I say, Sir, that our own idea of Provincial Administration is purely administrative and I do not think it is necessary to enumerate administrative details. Government will be free to make provision for staff.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed to leave out clause 19.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, there is a confusion there. Provincial Assemblies and Provincial Administration are distinct. Fortunately in the past, due to factors of history, our Administration Department evolved with the Legislature together. We are trying now to separate the two so that the Provincial Administration will be separate and distinct and the staff of the Legislature will be distinct by the time we present our Supplementary Budget or by the time we present another Budget, so that the Department of Legislature is distinct from what we now have, where we have to borrow some members of the Administration to work in the Legislature. That is what we have in mind. We thought that the staff of the Provincial Assembly should be distinct from the staff of the Provincial Administration.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Clause 19 agreed to.

Clause 20.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move to leave out the proviso to sub-clause (1). Sir, the Clause is to this effect:

"If it appears to the Minister that a Provincial Assembly has departed from the course of any or all of its functions or has failed to carry out its functions in the best

interest of the peoples of the Province, the Minister shall cause such a Provincial Assembly to be dissolved and order a fresh election of members to be made:

Provided that a member or members (whether elected or otherwise) through whose act or default a Provincial Assembly was dissolved, shall not be eligible for membership of the Provincial Assembly."

Here is a Provincial Assembly whose only duties are shown under clause 13— Functions of the Provincial Assembly (a), (b), (c) and (d). There is nothing whatever under clause 13 to be performed by the Provincial Assembly which could be performed by any member of the Assembly. It is the Assembly as a whole that is to perform this function. Our argument, Sir, is that there is nothing in that Assembly—no function to be performed by any member of the Assembly: (a) to deliberate and advise the Government—this is accepted; they have got to deliberate and advise the Government. As you know any resolution of the Council is a majority resolution. (b) to make representations—the representations will be made as a result of the resolution of the Assembly. (c) and (d) the same thing.

My fear is that it does not make sense at all. You vest a whole Assembly with certain functions and you turn round to say "if the Assembly fails to discharge any of its functions" and that failure is attributed to a member of the Assembly then that member will be disqualified for membership. It is put in there just for fun. If the Assembly fails to carry out its functions then it is the result of an act of the majority members. The main point is that the Assembly is deliberative and consultative, and in any of the matters the Government will consult the Assembly for advice. I cannot imagine any time the Assembly will fail to advise the Government—it may be that the Assembly will tender the sort of advice which the Government does not like; even then under this Law, I do not see how the Minister can rightly say that the Provincial Assembly has failed, or has departed from the course of any or all of its functions.

It is obvious that at any time it is consulted by Government, the Assembly will tender

advice. I am quite sure of that, Sir. So that it is not proper to put in here the proviso that if the Assembly fails to do this or do that then any member or members whose fault it was will be held responsible. I think, Sir, if there is anybody to be held responsible it will be the Provincial Commissioner. That is our own view. I do not see how the Government or the Minister can lay blame on any member or members of the Assembly for failure of the Assembly to carry out any of its functions.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Sir, may I just point out to my hon. Friends opposite that it is necessary for anybody who has legislative powers, purely deliberative powers, to have discipline. Even in the Local Government Law, the Minister can order the dissolution of a District Council. Even in our House of Assembly here in order to maintain discipline under our Laws, Mr Speaker as one man can name a Member, and not even that, he can discipline that Member and can suspend him.

Mr Ikoku: But he will not deprive him of his seat here.

The Premier: So that under our Law that individual can be so punished to be absent from the House in such a way as to be in a position . . . (*Prolonged interruptions*). In any case, I do not stress the point. The point is that it is necessary to have some sanction so that a Provincial Assembly will be orderly and be disciplined in their own interest and in the interest of the Government of this Region. It is also necessary for the Provincial Commissioner as the presiding Minister to be able to have powers to enforce discipline in the Assembly. But I have to say that the standing rules and orders will not go beyond the standing rules and orders which we are familiar with in our Local Government Bodies. We have our own parliamentary privileges but it is not being suggested that members of Provincial Assemblies should have parliamentary privileges or that in the absence of parliamentary privileges it would be very difficult to maintain discipline. This particular Clause has been inserted as a sanction so as to

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1419 [Provincial Administration Bill— 7 MAY 1959

Committee]

1420

[THE PREMIER]

ensure that there will be decorum in the Provincial Assemblies. I can assure them that the Minister will not exercise his powers unreasonably.

Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 20 agreed to.

Clause 21.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move under Clause 21 (1), line 3, to *leave out* the words "divisions and". Sir, the whole structure is a link between what is known as "Counties" or "District Councils" and the Regional Government. I do not see how Divisions enter into the picture "for the purpose of achieving efficient execution of Government policy in each Province and for securing satisfactory discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the Counties within each Province".

May I submit, Sir, that the Divisions have no responsibility. The Divisions as such have no duty and have no responsibilities to discharge. The Executive bodies that have duties to perform are the Counties or the District Councils which will be renamed Counties. It is the Counties or the District Councils within the Province that will have to discharge certain duties and responsibilities within the Province. Those are the units in the Provincial Administration that will be answerable to Government. I do not see how the question of Divisions comes in. Divisions as such have no duties and they have no responsibilities.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, the Opposition Chief Whip forgets the fact that in the Constitution each Region is enjoined to be divided into so many Divisions. I refer to section 4 of the Order in Council 1 (b):

"The Governor of a Region, acting in his discretion, may by Proclamation published in the *Official Gazette* of the Region direct that that Region shall be divided into areas

and that any such area shall be a Division for the purposes of this Order or any regulations made thereunder:

Provided that the number of Divisions in a Region shall not exceed forty-two in the case of the Eastern Region".

Division according to the definition in the Order in Council means an area declared to be a Division by Proclamation made under section 4 of the Order in Council, and of course we all know that His Excellency recently made a Proclamation which was designed to come into effect on the 1st April, 1959. The Proclamation is published in the Supplement to the *Eastern Regional Gazette* dated the 31st of March, 1959 where His Excellency proclaimed that this Region shall be divided into Provinces, Divisions and District Councils.

That being the case, and His Excellency having acted in his discretion, I do not think that it is constitutionally possible for this House to question His Excellency's discretion. And not only that, it is necessary from the point of view of Administration, to have Divisions and Provinces as well, and we know that when we abolished the old Provinces because of the fact that Civil Servants were in charge of the Provinces, we left the Divisions intact and to all intents and purposes, Divisions still remain an important unit in the Administration of this Region.

Question put and negatived.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move under Clause 21 to leave out paragraphs (b) and (c) of sub-clause (1), i.e., the proposal to name the following officers under "(b) Senior Officers of certain Regional Ministries", and "(c) Administrative Officers in charge of the Divisions in the Province".

I thought what we wanted in the Provincial Administration was a Provincial Secretary and any such other officers for carrying into effect the purposes of the law. I do not see how Senior Officers of certain Regional Ministries come into the picture. We have been talking rather lightly on this question of devolution of powers. Well, since these Provincial Assemblies will not be Executive Bodies, then there is no question of devolution of powers and since there is no suggestion that

the powers shall be devolved on the existing District Councils, the whole question of the devolution of powers disappears and with it the suggestion to retain Senior officers of certain Regional Ministries.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed to leave out paragraphs (b) and (c) of sub-clause (1).

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I fully criticise the Opposition Chief Whip because he has submitted another claim, but if one reads carefully the amendments he will have noticed that the Opposition Chief Whip has tabled 24 amendments; he could have understood that most of us are getting tired. If he would not mind going to the White Paper again, he will remember that I mentioned on devolution of powers that we wanted the main services devolved on to the various Provinces.

I refer to page 20 and lastly paragraph 7, page 20 of the White Paper. You will see that we have Education; the Senior Provincial Education Officer will be responsible for implementing the education policy for his Province, so that no Province will have to depend on Enugu or to depend on far away places. We want to devolve powers to enable people in any Province to share equally with others to live as a corporate unit of this Region. Sir, in the same way, we have to devolve the Ministry of Health so that representatives of the Ministry of Health will be in each Province; same also for Roads. There is no reason why we should not have Provincial Engineers; we had them before; Water Supplies, Building Construction and Natural Resources; especially as far as Veterinary services, Forestry and then Agriculture and Fisheries are concerned. We are devolving so that here at Enugu we just co-ordinate and there we have these Senior Officers doing the work, so that it will not be necessary for my Friend or any other person to come here and criticise the P.W.D. that they have twenty Engineers at Enugu carrying files whereas in the Provinces not even one Engineer is to be found. It is to meet such criticisms that we are devolving and we feel that these Senior Officers of certain Regional Ministries shall serve in the Provinces; ditto for the Administrative Officers in charge of Divisions.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, the Premier has said that we have decided to devolve powers, but he has not told us on whom, on what. It is all very well to post an Education Officer to a Province. Is that the Government's idea of devolving power? Our idea is that if you are devolving powers, you are taking power from A and transferring to B; either Government will devolve powers on the new Provincial Assemblies or on the existing District Councils. You cannot just talk of devolution of power in the air. On whom are you devolving powers?

The Premier: On Counties.

Mr E. O. Eyo: On Counties, well, good; but when this will be done I do not know, but we do know that Government up till now has not explained to us how it is going to do it. The Premier has just said, we will post Officers. I hope that by posting a Health Officer to a Province will not constitute devolution of power on that Province. You just post a Health Officer to a Province; have you devolved power on the Province? Same with Roads, if you post an Executive Engineer to a Province will Government congratulate itself for devolving power? We will accept the promise made by the Premier that his Government is to devolve powers on the District Councils or Counties and we hope when we come to discuss the new Law consolidating all the Local Government Laws we will be able to see that put into effect. But I do not want Government supporters to go away with the feeling that because a Senior Government Official, an official of a Ministry is going to be posted into an area that that constitutes devolution of power; it does not.

The Premier: If my Friend had looked at the title of the Clause immediately before Clause 21, he would have noticed that we are no longer talking of the Provincial Assemblies, but Administration. You cannot administer without officials; that is why we had the staff of the Provincial Assemblies distinct. Now we come to Administration and in administering these various Provinces, representatives of the Ministries, that is, the Senior Officials will be there in order to act in advisory or consultative capacity in all these various constituents, and by constituents we mean the Local Government Bodies. These are the requests of the Local Government Bodies.

[THE PREMIER]

When they want to build roads they say, they have no engineers, they need technical assistants but now we are going out to post these engineers right into their areas of authority so that the people will work hand in hand with them. We provide the money, we provide technical assistants, then Provincial Assembly is the place where they now have to ventilate their feelings. What more do you demand from this generous Government? (*Cheers*).

Question put and negatived.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move to *leave out* sub-clauses (2) to (5) under clause 21. The proposal is that the Provincial Secretary shall perform such functions as may from time to time be specified in any order or direction made or given by the Governor in Council. Sir, it is interesting how the idea of the Governor in Council comes in here. The Government realise that they are going to deal with a civil servant and hope by putting into this law the words "Governor in Council" to be covered. May we warn, Sir, that the exercise of control over civil servants in the Region is not to be the responsibility of any Minister of State. I hope the Government is not going under this cover to interfere with the Civil Service. The position in the Civil Service is that the Minister exercises general control over the Department, and directly below him is the Permanent Secretary who takes charge of the whole Department. Subject to the direction of the Minister the Permanent Secretary is in charge of the Department or Departments under the Ministry.

We see in this, Sir, an attempt to side-track the present constitutional provision. The intention of the Government is to appoint a politician in the Province as a Commissioner; and immediately below him will be a civil servant. We have a feeling, Sir, that this provision is to enable the Provincial Commissioner—a politician—to exercise direct control over the Provincial Secretary. May I again draw Government's attention to paragraph 55 of the 1958 Conference Report. This was the proposal made by Government to the Conference:—

" . . . to appoint . . . a Provincial Secretary to act as a liaison between the Regional

Government and the local councils within the Province".

This was acceptable to us in London—so long as you have your politician only to preside over the Assembly and then you have in the Province a Provincial Secretary, a civil servant, who is answerable directly to the Ministry. He will be the liaison between the Regional Government and the local councils in the Province, but the new move is to have the Provincial Commissioner as the liaison between the local councils and the Government with the Provincial Secretary directly under his control.

We feel very strongly on this because it would be a tragedy if Government succeeded in placing this poor Civil Servant who will have the misfortune of answering the name of a Provincial Secretary directly under the Provincial Commissioner.

Sir, let us examine sub-clause 3—"The relationship between the Provincial Commissioner and his Secretary shall be the same as that existing between the Regional Minister and his Permanent Secretary, provided that where the directive of the Provincial Commissioner to his Provincial Secretary is in conflict with that of a Regional Minister the latter shall prevail." May I say that this is just amusing. The Premier knows that if this Provincial Commissioner is a Minister of State—that is a Minister without portfolio—he is bound to carry out the directives from Enugu. Either this man carries out the instruction of the Regional Minister and remains in office or he fails to do so and is kicked out. It is dangerous to provide in law that in the event of his failure to carry out the directive of the Regional Minister that directive shall prevail.

That is why we have chosen to describe these Commissioners as Organising Secretaries of the N.C.N.C. I can imagine the Premier saying—"Look, I am posting a big Party Organiser to the Province but I do not know what may happen as he is rather remote from Enugu and anything can happen in the Province. In case he should fail to carry out Party directives from Enugu, well, it is just too bad. In any case, if his directive is in conflict with the directive from Enugu, then the latter shall prevail." If this your man does not carry out

the instruction of his boss he must be fired right away. He is there as a Minister of State in the Province. He has no directive of his own. There will be two sets of Ministers. You have those remaining in Enugu and the other ones in the Provinces. The one in the Province has no directive of his own. But there is the possibility that he will refuse to carry out the directive from Enugu. If that happens the Premier will dismiss him.

Provisions of sub-clauses 4 and 5 are just in line with the view we expressed that we hope that this Provincial Administration will not provide a cover for Ministers to attempt to control directly the Civil Servants in the Region. The position of the Civil Servants is protected under the Order in Council. We shall oppose any measure that any Minister of State resident in the Province or in Enugu shall take to come under this new Provincial set-up to interfere or attempt to interfere with the Civil Service.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed to leave out sub-clauses (2) to (5) of clause 21.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I can give assurance that this Government does not intend here the provisions made in the Order in Council as far back as 1950, and there is no need to belabour that point. But on the other hand, I hope that it is not the intention of my Friend opposite to suggest that because we have agreed in London to insulate civil servants from politics that as a Government we should just allow them a free hand to do as they like. I am sure that is not what he means. Naturally, we insulate them from politics, hoping that things which we have been noticing of late will not happen; that is whereby someone from the other side of the House will be able to have access to Government files, Government Minutes, Government L.P.Os. . . .

Mr Ikoku: That is done by our agents, not the civil servants.

The Premier: In any case, the main point is that there is no evil intention whatsoever and in order to show we really mean business, we are prepared to concede that sub-clause 2 should be deleted entirely, not the whole clause but just sub-clause 2. The intention therefore is

to put the provincial section on the same division of the Permanent Secretary and that is what happens at present, but, in view of the fears expressed by you, we are prepared to have that deleted entirely. But when it comes to sub-clause 3, I am saying that the Provincial Commissioner is a Minister in his own right. You have a Minister in the province and you have Ministers at Enugu.

Let us take the Minister of Works for instance. The Minister of Works issues directives, known or unknown to the Minister at Uyo. Well, you have the Provincial Secretary. You know that human nature being what it is, there is bound to be a conflict of authority, either between the Provincial Secretary and the Minister at Enugu or between the Provincial Commissioner and the Provincial Secretary. On the floor of this House, we have had occasion to debate instances where there were conflicts of authority between Ministers and Permanent Secretaries. At times, they acted in good faith, each feeling he was right. So the point there is that we should make allowance for human nature and where there is a conflict of authority, we must recognise the person in the higher office. We have a Minister charged with the responsibility for Education or any other subject and then we have a Minister of State with his own sphere of authority and a Minister without portfolio, and yet they are all able to work together as a team. But the point there is, where we have a clash, we should not allow the civil servant to serve two masters. So, where there is a clash, let the authority of the Minister at Enugu prevail, and it is to enable the civil servants themselves to work more efficiently and to enable the Ministers to avoid a friction.

The first sub-clause is precisely what happens now; senior officials of any Regional Ministry, have their functions always specified in the directive given by the Ministry; we did not say it should be given by the Minister, but the Ministry, which means permanent officials. And then the 5th, the duties and functions of Administrative Officers including the maintenance of order and good government. That is what they do at present, so that I do not agree with my Friend that it is necessary to delete the whole sub-clause, but I agree that in order to remove any fears of the likelihood or unlikelihood of this Government interfering with the

[THE PREMIER]

public service, we agree that sub-clause 2 should be deleted but the other clauses should remain.

Mr Ikoku: We are happy to note, Sir, that the Premier is anxious to clear all doubts as to the possible amendment in the position of the civil servant as laid down by the Constitution Order in Council. What I would like to talk about is this question of conflict of authority between Enugu and the Provinces and probably between the Provincial Commissioners and Provincial Secretaries. Such conflict is not just something in the imagination of the politician. It is likely to take place. The Premier tried to protect the Provincial Commissioner by saying that he is a Minister, but I think that he is a very inferior Minister. I am sorry I have not got a better word to qualify him. He only attends the Executive Council meeting when his province is being discussed. All the Ministers in Enugu have the right to attend the Executive Council meeting whether matters within their Ministries or not are being discussed, and that makes it possible for them to have an idea about the Government policy in its entirety. But this Provincial Commissioner, this maroon in the province merely runs to Enugu to attend a meeting of the Executive Council when it is to discuss his own province. The chances are that he will be out of touch.

It is very likely that the Provincial Secretary will be much better informed about the Government policy than the Provincial Commissioner because the Provincial Secretary is acting all through his working hours in direct contact with the Ministries. When a conflict arises Enugu views will supersede. The Enugu views will prevail. In any case, what we would have loved to see is for the Ministers in Enugu to be encouraged to have frequent consultations with these gentlemen in the Provinces in order to make sure that these clashes of authority never take place. In fact, I think the Premier made mention of human nature. Human nature being what it is, the existence of this clause will encourage the Provincial Secretary to formulate his own ideas. The Provincial Secretary is in more closer touch with Enugu. He understands Government policy more than the Provincial Commissioner. Before long this Provincial Commissioner is reduced to a laughing stock in his own office. Knowing the civil servants,

Sir, they are very very clever people and in most cases they are quicker in the office than the Ministers.

The Premier: Some of them; say some of them.

Mr Ikoku: Some of them.

It is possible they will draft some very funny memo and the Provincial Commissioner will sign it and he is in trouble.

I would suggest, Sir, quite sincerely that we just leave out the thing. If we leave it out the Provincial Secretary and the Provincial Commissioner will know automatically that Enugu will have the final say, and not only that Enugu will have the final say but that Enugu can fire any person who tries to give unnecessary trouble. The Bill here says Enugu will have the final say but if you leave the thing undefined they will know that it is not just a question of having the final say but in that process of having the final say somebody may be fired. So not providing for the final say in the Clause makes the position of Enugu even stronger, *vis a vis* the Provincial Secretary and the Provincial Commissioner; that is what I would ask the Premier to consider.

Question, that sub-clause 2 be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, that sub-clauses 3, 4 and 5 be left out, put and negatived.

Clause 21 as amended agreed to.

Clause 22.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I am afraid I have to modify the amendment you have on your list in view of the progress we have made. I beg to move, in paragraph (c) to *leave out* the words "and his Provincial Secretary".

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 22 as amended agreed to.

SCHEDULE

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I beg to move, under Abakaliki Province in Column 1, to *leave out* "Obubra" in Columns 3 and 4. Sir, the purpose of this is contained in the Government's White Paper on the House of Chiefs—Official Document No. 1 of 1959, page 3, paragraph 12:—

"After consulting with, and ascertaining the wishes of, a considerable number of people of the Eastern Region and their accredited representatives, Government has finally decided that there shall be twelve Provinces in the Region. This decision is consistent with the aims and objectives of Government in devolving powers on the people in order to encourage those who live in geographically contiguous territory or have similar characteristics in their language and culture to associate themselves closer in smaller Provincial units for the purpose of government and administration."

Now, if I may further draw Government's attention to paragraph 55 of the 1958 Conference Report, "the Conference took note that before the Ogoja Provincial Assembly was set up the Regional Government would give careful consideration to points made in the course of discussion concerning the area and peoples with which this Assembly should be concerned." I remember the hon. Okoi Arikpo did make out a case for the non-Ibos in the present Abakaliki Province to be constituted into a Province. It was at that stage, Sir, that the Government gave an undertaking that they would consider the position of these non-Ibo speaking people in Abakaliki Province. The suggestion was that Obubra, Ikom, Ogoja, and Obudu should be constituted into a province. I hope, Sir, that Government will admit that it is the wishes of the people of Obubra Division to join their kith and kin in Ikom, Ogoja and Obudu Divisions.

Mr J. W. E. Anaba (Obubra Division): On a Point of Order.

The Chairman: What Order are you referring to?

Mr Anaba: On a point of explanation.

Mr Ikoku: He has not spoken. How can he raise a point of explanation. (*Interruption*).

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, may I invite Government's attention to the views expressed by the Minorities Commission Report. I am referring to page 47, paragraph 3 of the Report on this issue.

"We need not spend long on the consideration of two of these states, the Ogoja State and the Cross River State. The Ogoja State proposed to us would include the former Ogoja Province, whose population of slightly more than one million includes more than 700,000 Ibos. In such a state, the minority element which, as we have said, consists of many small tribes not separately enumerated by the Census, would still be in a minority. It does not on the face of it seem likely that there would be any strong opinion among these tribes in favour of a separate state, of which the main intention would be separation from the central body of Ibo population, but in which they would still be linked together as a minority with their Ibo neighbours in Abakaliki and Afikpo. We heard conflicting evidence of opinion on this point, into the details of which we need not go, but nothing to induce us to believe that there is any strong and united body of opinion in favour of such a state, either among these tribes or for that matter among the Ibo majority."

Sir, now the Government has decided to constitute Ikom, Ogoja, and Obudu into a province.

My attention Sir, has been drawn to paragraph 7 of the Speech from the Throne on this very subject:

"Following consultation with interested parties, my Government has now decided to establish twelve Provinces in this Region, believing that this decision will enable those who live in geographically contiguous territory, and who have similar characteristics of language and culture, to associate themselves more closely in smaller units for ease of administration."

If that is Government Policy which we accept, why is it that Government has not included Obubra in this new Province for Ogoja? It is strange, Sir, that Government

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

has agreed to constitute Ikom, Ogoja and Obudu into a Province of their own, leaving out poor Obubra Division at the mercy of Abakaliki. This is a very serious point, and I would have thought that when Government gave an undertaking in London, they would give consideration to it. The main principles are language, culture and geographical contiguity. The Government has applied these principles in respect of Ikom, Ogoja and Obudu. Why has Obubra been left out? This is a point on which we feel very strongly, and we hope the Premier will give due consideration to it.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Mr M. E. Ogon (Ikom Division): Mr Chairman, before the Premier speaks, I wish to say something, since this is a question that concerns Ogoja State Movement. I happen to be the General Secretary of that Movement. During the Minority Commission we did say that there was no support for the contention of the C.O.R. people that we should be separated from our brothers. Up till now we still have one Provincial Union, and we are opposed to any attempt to split our Province. When, however, it became necessary, and in our interest, we decided that the people of Obubra should be with the Abakaliki and Afikpo section. It is very difficult for a man living in Obubra to go through Itigidi, Ezikpo, Ezi up to Ogoja. There is no way. Transport difficulties are such that it is difficult for a local man at Obubra to get the full advantage of administration from Ogoja as the capital. What is more, Sir, we had 12 members from the former Province, out of which 9 have decided to support the present division. We have even at a meeting at which the Chairman of the Obubra District Council attended, agreed to support the Government plan to split this Province into two.

My hon. Friend, Mr Okoi Arikpo, who rarely consults his people, is quite ignorant of the opinion of Obubra people in this matter. Even my Friend from Ogoja Division, Chief I. I. Morphy, knows the true position and has not bothered himself so much. So I am making it clear on the floor of this hon. House that Obubra people are in complete agreement

with Government merging their Division with Abakaliki because Government consulted them before making the decision. (*Hear! Hear!*). And let me assure my hon. Friends that the people of Ogoja Province have no regard for them. Let them know now that another Regional or Federal election can only end in complete annihilation of their three colleagues from Ogoja Province.

The Premier: I am very grateful to the Government Chief Whip because he has been able to show that this Government respects public opinion and in this particular case Government respected organised public opinion. Here you have 12 Members representing Ogoja Province, nine of them are in full support of Government decision. I am sure that if the Member from Obubra had been given the chance to speak he would have also supported the views of the Government Chief Whip that public opinion in Obubra Division, not only in Ugep from where my hon. Friend who is absent comes, but the whole of Obubra Division, are quite satisfied with this Government action.

Mr Ikoku: You need not get public opinion from turn-coats.

The Premier: You need not only point at this side when saying that. There are many of them with you there.

Mr Ikoku: Do not take them seriously when they talk to you.

The Premier: I am only glad you are aware there are many of them surrounding you.

In any case, Sir, the point is that it is public opinion represented by majority that for geographical reasons it is better to link the future of Obubra Division with Abakaliki. After giving due consideration to the implications, Government decided to recommend to His Excellency to incorporate Obubra Division with Abakaliki Province.

Now, my Friend the Opposition Chief Whip did mention the principles of devolving powers. This is true but I want to remind him that in the White Paper on Self-Government we made it quite clear that this is for the purpose of Local Government and not necessarily for Provincial Administration.

An Opposition Member: Where did you see this in the White Paper?

The Premier: May I refer him to paragraph 9 of the White Paper on Self-Government, Chapter 6, page 24:

“Each County Council area shall be comprised, as far as possible, of inhabitants who stem from the same ethnic group, speak the same language, and have a common cultural affinity.”

But when it comes to Provincial grouping, we have relied on the consensus of evidence which the Minority Commission relied on and, of course, when first my hon. Friend the Opposition Chief Whip read it he thought that it would support his case but unfortunately it was really an authority which supports my contention. That is where they mentioned, with your permission, Sir, may I just read:

“The Ogoja State proposed . . . In such a state, the minority element which, as we have said, consists of many small tribes not separately enumerated by the Census, would still be in a minority. It does not on the face of it seem likely that there would be any strong opinion among these tribes in favour of a separate state, of which the main intention would be separation from the central body of Ibo population, but in which they would still be linked together as a minority with their Ibo neighbours in Abakaliki and Afikpo.”

And then the Commission continued “We heard conflicting evidence of opinion on this point, into the details of which we need not go . . .”

This is where, among the evidence given, there was no case made for the C.O.R. State because even in this Minority Area, some of them prefer to remain with their Ibo brothers as pointed out by Abakaliki and Obubra. We therefore cannot afford to sacrifice Obubra to Ogoja or Obudu when the people do not want it.

Chief I. I. Morphy (Ogoja Division): Go by your policy; don't mind these boys.

The Premier: That is our policy. We go by our policy. Obubra District Council contains people of the same ethnic origin.

Finally, and this is the main point, I would like to mention, why Government is bound to resist this Amendment. Under the Constitution Order in Council paragraph (b) subsection 2, with your permission, I quote:

“The Governor of a Region may by directions in writing declare that that Region shall be divided into areas for the purpose of any matter to which the executive authority of the Region extends.”

This was implemented by the publication in the *Gazette* of 31st March, 1959, when in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by the Constitution, His Excellency after consultation with the Executive Council, made a declaration and in that declaration His Excellency directed that Obubra Division should be in Abakaliki Province. It would not be appropriate for this House to question the discretion of His Excellency in this regard and even if it is right to do so, in view of the fact that the Government has respect for the wishes of those concerned, this Government would not be prepared to press the issue, and so we are opposed to the Amendment.

Question put and negatived.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

Sitting suspended 8.40 p.m.

Sitting resumed 9.00 p.m.

(4) The Public Order Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Premier: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that a Law to prohibit the carrying of weapons at public meetings and processions, the wearing of uniforms in connection with political objects and the maintenance by private persons of associations of military or similar character, and for other matters relating to the maintenance of public order on the occasion of

[THE PREMIER]
public processions and meetings and in public places, be read a Second time.

Hon. Members will be aware that it is Government's intention to introduce this Bill, since the matter was debated at the last session of the House. In the course of the debate on the Private Member's Motion on the prohibition of private armies, I made a statement that a Bill would be introduced at this Session.

Mr Speaker, I regret the necessity for this Law. I feel, however, that circumstances in this Region have now become such that it is necessary and unavoidable. Before going into the details of the provisions of this Bill, I wish to emphasise that it is no innovation. What this Bill seeks to do is merely to bring the Eastern Region into line with the Western and Northern Regions of Nigeria. Their Laws on the same subject are very similar to this one.

The objects of this Bill are quite simple. I can say categorically that no person or party which wants to conduct politics and political campaigning in this Region in a way which is reasonable and right can possibly have any good reason for opposing the provisions of this Bill. I will summarise the points of what this Bill seeks to do.

The first object is to prohibit the carrying of weapons at public meetings or processions. That needs no argument or further statement by me in explanation. Secondly, it prevents people from wearing uniform at meetings or processions which have any political object. I need hardly say that it is no offence for Boy Scouts to wear uniforms or for the Salvation Army to hold a meeting in uniforms. In case of doubt, the Law provides that written permission can be obtained from a Superior Police Officer to permit the wearing of uniforms in any ceremonial or other special occasion.

Clause 5 of the Bill prohibits any body of men being trained, organised or equipped, as a "strong arm" group, or in any way to usurp the functions of the Police. The need for this is obvious.

I would draw the attention of hon. Members however, to the fact that this clause also makes certain village secret societies with police

functions unlawful if they in any way usurp the functions of the Police. I mention this because it might have been possible for the Odozi Obodo Society to have been nipped in the bud at a much earlier stage had this clause been law at the time.

Clause 6 of the Bill makes it an offence to use threatening, abusive or insulting words in any public place or by conduct behave in such a way as to provoke a breach of the peace. At the same time, may I emphasise that this clause makes it an offence for any person to use words in public calculated to stir up tribalism or race hatred or religious hostility. This is not a new provision in the Law. In section 50 of the Criminal Code Ordinance, "seditious words" are defined as "words having seditious intent" or "to promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between different classes of the population of Nigeria." It may be difficult at times to draw the line between legitimate criticism of another Party and words designed to promote feelings of hostility between different classes or tribes, but there is no intention, of course, to prosecute any person for legitimate criticism. But the time has come, however, when the calculated, deliberate, determined stirring of tribal hatreds must be stopped in this Region.

We must think for the future. It is not a matter of winning or losing the next election. We must consider how the tribes, clans and the peoples of Nigeria as a whole are going to live together in unity after Independence. I say this with deep feeling. It is easy to start the fire of clannishness and tribal hatred. It may be harder to put it out. We cannot allow it to go on any longer. The Law must step in and make it clear that offences of this kind will be prosecuted in the future.

Clause 7 of the Bill makes it an offence to act or to incite others to act in such a disorderly manner at a public meeting as to prevent the transaction of business. Clause 8 provides that if there is reason to be apprehensive of disorder in any area within the Region, the Minister may, by Public Notice in the *Gazette* direct that 24 hours notice shall be required of any public meeting or procession. This is an obvious and necessary precaution. It is a far less stringent regulation than is required in some parts of the Federation.

Clause 9 of the Bill gives powers to the Police to impose such conditions as may be necessary for the preservation of public order at public meetings or in processions. For example, regarding the routes, or to give directions to a Local Government Council requiring it to take appropriate action. This clause is not an innovation; the Police already have these powers. They are, however, made more specific, so that in case, for any reason, a Local Government Council fails to take suitable action, the Police, who will co-operate with the Administration in the maintenance of law and order, can intervene without delay.

This Bill has been forwarded to the Federal Government for its concurrence, especially as far as the use of Federal officers is concerned. The Federal Government has made one minor suggestion for amendment only. It is to *substitute* the definition of "superior police officer" in clause 2 of the Bill for a more detailed and exact one. I have given notice that at the Committee Stage, I shall make the necessary amendment.

I do not think that I should elaborate further on this straightforward Bill.

Those who will regard it as contentious, I am bound to assume, are organisers of strong-arm groups, worshippers of parochialism, votaries of clannishness, stirrers of tribal hatred, breakers-up of meetings or processions, and those who do not want to preserve public order, or respect the freedom of speech and the proper practice of Parliamentary democracy in this Region.

Finally, I submit that it would be most irrelevant for any Member of this hon. House who participates in the debate on this Bill to fulminate about the misdeeds of some other Party. To justify our claim to be a model Parliamentary democracy, let us concentrate on the main issue before the House. The question is whether it is desirable and right to prohibit the wearing of uniforms and the carrying of weapons and the other illegitimate practices which this Law prohibits. If it is not right to practise them, then let us examine why it is not right; but it will not help us if we spend our time talking about the wickedness of one political Party or another.

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

The Minister of Local Government (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. (*Applause*). I would like to make it clear, Sir, that the Opposition Party in this Region sincerely believe that politics should be conducted in a more civilised manner and with less resort to hooliganism and all that makes for strife. I agree entirely with the hon. Premier that disorderliness and behaviour calculated to cause a breach of the peace must be condemned without reservation. If it comes from my Party, Sir, I can give you the assurance that we will in no way try to spare the hands of the law in meting out punishment to any member of my Party who conducts himself in such a disorderly manner. But, it is to be remembered that someone may be disorderly because he is provoked, not because he wants to be disorderly and, of course, that is a matter for those who administer the Law to iron out. I would like to say, Sir, that if one Party is to behave itself, then the other Party should also behave itself because it is wrong policy—I am sure the Premier will agree with me—for you to fold your hands while your opponent is meting ill out to you. The correct thing for you to do, Sir, irrespective of the Police and the Judiciary is to give it back to the person and then both of you can go to Court and argue it out.

At times, Sir, you will find—you have experience with the younger generation—that very often when two of them fight, they become very good friends afterwards. But if master A keeps running away from master B, master B will never desist from pestering the life of master A. The two should clash and clash head-long. When they finish they will realise that each man has a certain amount of quality in him and that the best thing to do is to remain friends.

It is the same thing with political parties. I have talked about weapons. It is terrible to imagine that people will carry weapons about at public gathering. It is just shocking. Of course, I am sure that self-respecting people will not do it, but when you feel that going into Port Harcourt, for example, to hold

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1439

[Public Order Bill—

7 MAY 1959

Second Reading]

1440

[MR IKOKU]

a meeting, some people who say, "do not carry weapons" will be instrumental in organising people to carry weapons, is it not a wiser thing that you have some people near you who also carry weapons? (*Laughter*).

An hon. Member: Why do you choose Port Harcourt for an example?

Mr E. O. Eyo: It is a typical example.

Mr Ikoku: In this matter of maintaining public peace, I think a lot of responsibility devolves not only on politicians but also on the officers of the law, like the Police Officers. At times the attitude and the technique of the Police Officers are so uncompromising that they themselves provoke disorderliness. If you want to hold a meeting and you go up late to ask for permit from a Police Officer it is a simple thing to say, "well Mr X, I am so sorry I cannot give you this permit, I require four hours' notice and I must have it." Any self-respecting man will move out of the office and that is the end of it.

But if you go into their office, instead of telling you that they will not give you the permit, they will give a recitation of your history. You cannot help than to say, "well I will go and hold this meeting and pay the fine in court." Very often His Excellency the Governor-General made a public statement of appeal to the nation to help the police to maintain peace and order in campaign meetings; it is now for the hon. Premier and other political leaders to make the same statement to their political parties. But it does not go very far except that the rank and file of the political parties will prefer to listen to their national leaders and except the officers entrusted with the maintenance of peace and order are prepared to be firm but polite, this would not work.

At times you could provoke indiscipline by being too much of a disciplinarian. So I will appeal to the Police to help us in this matter. Of course, the blame is not entirely theirs. We have some hon. Members here who believe that for one reason or the other they are omnipotent. You just step into somebody's office and say: I want this and that. Well, if you come into my office and say that I will walk you out. If hon. Members want

respect from the public officers they will themselves mete out this respect to these officers; I am not prepared to blame the police alone, but we must keep this peace.

We are going to do all we can to make this law a success. I would like to appeal to the hon. the Premier to talk to his members because the evidence we have suggests that very many people in his party, including some very highly placed ones, are very much devoted to this idea of hooliganism. He has appealed to us not to point accusing fingers.

Talking to this gentleman will be very helpful. I won't mention his name. He is one of the senior officials in his Party. This was the man who was so determined on causing disorderliness that he had the effrontery to write a memo and prepare a voucher to collect money from his party with which to finance hooliganism. When that stage has been reached, when highly placed officers can boldly put down on paper that they want so much money to finance hooliganism, I think we are very near the danger point, and I will merely call upon the Premier to try and talk to his people.

Of course, he too is at liberty to point out one or two weaknesses on our own side, but I can assure him, Sir, that we are very much behind this Bill. We are very much behind a Public Order Law framed in the way this Bill is framed, with, of course, certain amendments which we would like to move at the Committee Stage. The principle is clear and unchallengeable and we would like to have real peace in this Region, and have what Sir Winston Churchill has rightly called "Government by persuasion." That is the essence of Parliamentary Government; it is Government by persuasion—you hold your views and hold them strongly, but it is argument and not fisticuffs. That is the big difference. In some places in other parts of the world—in Italy for example—Sir, Members do resort to fisticuffs, but we hope we will never reach that stage.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Speaker, I am compelled to speak on this Bill because on one or two occasions we heard allegations of Associations around Uyo Division in the Calabar Province, and Members on the Government side seem to

suggest that Members of the Opposition are connected. Well, I always regard such allegations as coming from cowards. That is why we are bound to support this Bill. Last time we voted against the Motion on the activities of the D.P.N.C. and we did that purely on principle. The section of the Bill which rather attracts my attention is Clause 5 dealing with the prohibition of quasi-military organisations.

Sir, may I say that it is all very well providing a law to prosecute a quasi-military organisation, that is a group of persons organised or trained or equipped for the purpose of enabling them to be employed for use or display of physical force in promoting any political object. You would wonder why I am attracted by this. It is because there is evidence to show that right now, there is an organisation in the country which would come under this description.

Sir, we know of only three national political parties in the country. The first is the Action Group—(Laughter) the second is the N.P.C. and the third is, of course, the N.C.N.C. Now, Sir, I was giving the names of the three national parties in the country in their order of merit. I was not, of course attempting to forecast the result of the forthcoming Federal election but is it not true that one of these political parties organises a quasi-military organisation? The point I am making, Sir, is that it is not good coming before this House and making a law prohibiting such organisation if in our own political parties we encourage the existence of such organisation.

I have in mind, Sir, the happenings in this country round about 1950. You know that the Government of Nigeria at that time was compelled to ban a certain Movement for the very purposes which this Bill seeks to prohibit, and I have in front of me the Legislative Council Debates of March, 1951, which are material, so that what our Government now seeks to do is nothing new. Sir, the former Central Government in Lagos had occasion to deal very firmly with such a situation when it arose.

The significance of what I am going to read to you is that the battle against the Government action was spearheaded by our Premier himself. I am referring to the Legislative

Council Debates, Fifth Session, of March, 1951. The Premier then was the Second Lagos Member in the Legislative Council, and he asked these questions:

“To ask the Honourable the Chief Secretary to the Government:

- (a) Will the nature of the evidence which convinced His Excellency the Governor that it was time the Zikist Movement was banned, be made available to this Honourable House?
- (b) If not, why is it not deemed desirable to take the Legislature into confidence on such an issue?
- (c) Is His Excellency disposed to receive representations for the reviewing of his decision in order to cancel the ban?”

Sir, the hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government replied as follows:

“(a) Yes, Sir. There was in Government’s possession conclusive evidence that the Zikist Movement was being organised to pursue seditious aims by lawlessness and violence. Amongst the documents of the Movement found in possession of members, in the course of searches which led to prosecutions, were ‘The National Programme’ ‘Operation Order No. 1’ and ‘Programme of Work 1950–51’. The first of these documents stated, *inter alia*, that the Movement would carry its reprisals ‘bordering on the assassination of British Officers, viz., the Commissioners, Residents, the Governor, the Chief Secretary to the Government and so on’ and that the Movement would endeavour to destroy oil storage centres, essential Government houses, Government Departments, etc. The second document instructed the Movement to organise for civil disobedience, disorder generally and looting of shops, and the ‘Programme of Work 1950–51’ included underground activities aimed at institutions rather than personalities, such as law courts, Government offices, police stations, foreign churches, foreign shops, telegraph wires, cables and railway lines and suggested the use of explosives and other scientific devices for these purposes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.”

[Mr E. O. Eyo]

Then the Premier asked a supplementary Question "Why". The Acting Chief Secretary to the Government then replied:—

"I presume, Sir, that the hon. Member is referring to part (c). I think the answer is very clear from the reply to part (a)".

I have read this, Sir, to show what forced the hands of the Central Government to ban the Zikist Movement. A particular point of interest is that at that time our Premier spear-headed the fight against the banning of the Movement and it is of significance today that he has the honour of introducing this Bill. But, Sir, he should not end there. Our view is that the banned Zikist Movement has been revived under the name of "Zikist National Vanguard". We will only accept an assurance that it is not being revived if the activities of this Zikist National Vanguard are not identical with those of the Zikist Movement.

An hon. Member: You are only being afraid when there is no reason for you to be.

Mr E. O. Eyo: You know I am afraid of nothing. There is nothing that can make me to be afraid. You know that very well.

Sir, in order to support the Premier and the Government on this Bill, the Premier has got to satisfy us that on his own side his party will not encourage the existence of any such movement. Sir, it is very well talking of banning of uniforms, symbols and all that but, Sir, will it not strike you if an arm of a political party . . . (Interruptions).

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Does the hon. Member not think that if there is any such organisation, it will be taken care of under this Law? I think that is exactly what the Law is out to do.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Sir, you are looking at it from the legal point of view, but as a politician, I am looking at it from the political angle. The point is that a political party may want to do certain things and damn the consequences. It will not help us to pass a Law here to prohibit certain organisations while we are encouraging the existence of another

organisation with exactly the same aims. We know as a fact that there are these arms; the Premier described them as "Strong Arm Group". The parent political party may not be guilty of this offence, but there is nothing to convince me that this "Strong Arm Group" will not be guilty. I hope that all of us who belong to political parties will do everything to see that this Law is respected.

Thank you, Sir.

The Minister of Information (Mr B. C. Okwu): I just want to make some remarks on some points raised by my hon. Friend, Mr Eyo. In the first place I think it is only fair to say that under the Constitution which we have and which provides for an independent police, independent judiciary and legislatures with powers to make Laws but not to execute them, there is no validity in the points he raised. I am of the view that what he has said is very much at variance with the points made by the Leader of the Opposition when he commented on this Bill.

In the first place, Sir, it should be appreciated that the conditions under which the Zikist Movement was founded and operated are quite different from the conditions now. I was a member of the Zikist Movement. I feel very proud to have been a member of that organisation.

I am also happy to say that some Members of the Opposition were members of this Movement and I am sure they have no apologies to offer even now. The point I want to make is that at the material time we were under the Colonial Regime and the Leaders of the country felt that it was fundamentally wrong for the British to continue to deny our people national freedom. Every effort had been made by Constitutional means to achieve freedom for Nigeria but it appeared that the efforts of the Leaders were being frustrated at every turn of the road, and it was the view of the youths at the material time that if it was not possible to obtain freedom for Nigeria by constitutional means, it might be necessary to supplement the efforts by positive measures. I do not want to go into the merits or demerits of the political parties at the time.

But the main point is that looking through the Bill, it is quite clear that whatever is

provided there will be equally applicable to the N.C.N.C. as well as the Action Group and any other Political Parties. The only guarantee which the Premier can give which my hon. Friends sought is in the provisions of the Law; if any member of the N.C.N.C. contravenes any of the provisions, the officers of the law will take care of him; if on the other hand members of the Action Group or the D.P.N.C. or any other Political Party go against the provisions of this Law, adequate measure shall be taken to punish those concerned. So without wasting more time of the House, I have this much to say: that there is no point in anybody accusing the Premier or pointing accusing fingers at one another. (*Interruptions*) I can spend a whole day talking about the activities of all the Political Parties here in Nigeria.

All we are saying is that this law throws a challenge to all the Political Parties in this Region because it is our view that what is hapening elsewhere which you and I detest, will never be allowed to gain any chance in the Eastern Region.

We are proud of the genuineness of political rivalries in this Region, though there have been occasions for lapses. But the fact remains that there are no parts of this Federation where the principles of democratic co-existence are being observed as in the Eastern Region. Finally, Mr Speaker, I think we do not need to debate this Bill any further. (*Applause*).

Mr S. O. Achara (Okigwi Division): Mr Speaker, I rise to support this Bill. I am supporting it, firstly, as an elected Member from Okigwi Division—elected by popular vote. Secondly, I give support to this Bill on behalf of my Party—the D.P.N.C. I suppose, Mr Speaker, that after passing this Bill, we will introduce a "Responsibility Bill" here to clear some of the Government supporters of their irresponsibilities. (*Laughter*). There is too much of irresponsibility on the part of Government Back-benchers.

Mr Speaker, I have also received mandate from my National Chairman to give full support to this Bill. We think all along, Sir, that Political Parties could campaign freely anywhere in the Federation of Nigeria; we also think all along that we can disagree

to any extent and yet live together as citizens of this Region. That is why we support this Bill. The Premier has appealed that we should not point accusing fingers and I am not going to point at anybody. There would have been no need for this Bill at all, if one Party had realised that other Parties have the right to spring up tomorrow and challenge the Party that has been existing and seek by constitutional method to wrest power from that Party.

Mr Speaker, there is no need for any Party which has been in power to feel it will continue to be in power for ever and that any new Party which comes up will be liquidated, annihilated, crushed or destroyed. I am happy that this Bill has come up. I will give a guarantee as the General Secretary of my Party. (*Laughter*). I will summon a meeting of all our Field Secretaries and talk to them.

An hon. Member: How many are they ?

Mr Achara: It is not a question of how many. You will know in due course.

Sir, we are going to call a meeting of all our members and impress upon them the need to observe all the clauses of this Bill to the letter of the Law. But I want to appeal to the hon. Premier. He has spoken here as the Premier of Eastern Region. I want him also to speak as the National President of the N.C.N.C. because some of his Party members feel rightly or wrongly that no other Party will exist in this country. Sir, I would like him to give this guarantee which I am giving on behalf of my Party.

I also want to refer to what the Leader of the Opposition said earlier, that is with reference to the Police Officers. I hope, Sir, you will use all the methods known to you to bring it clearly to the Policemen in the Service of this Region that, irrespective of how strongly they feel about one Party or the other, their business is to be completely neutral and impartial in dealing with any political Party.

I am not going to refer to the experience out of which I am speaking. I am making this statement in a very serious manner. They should be made to realise that their business is to act impartially.

I commend this Bill. I want to say, Sir, that when historians will record the history

[MR ACHARA]

of Parties in Nigeria before Independence, it will never be forgotten that the emergence of D.P.N.C. brought about this Bill, and with it there has been sanity in this Region. If we have done nothing in this Region, I think that for the first time in the history of this Region, we have brought sanity.

Finally, Sir, I want to say that each time mention of Zikist Movement is made I feel the consciousness of the nearness of God to me, because, Mr Speaker, the Zikist Movement was banned in 1950. I was the Regional President of the Zikist Movement in the East and I had twenty-two branches of this Organisation under my thumb, and I was ruling not as a dictator. I was able to maintain the team. As a civil servant, Sir, I defied the provisions of General Order 40 (a) and (b) in order that the aims and objects of the Zikist Movement might prevail. We have just about three or four of the Zikist Movement members in the Government Bench. I was able to keep them together—I did not expel any of them, however grave the offence. I realised that it was my duty to build discipline in the Zikist Movement. I made it certain that after me you have a line-up of lieutenants so that any time I get out of office you will get some one who will take over from me.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. the Minister of Information was a distant member from Awgu. He was not in the Cabinet; it was for me to interpret the constitution of the Zikist Movement to him as I have always interpreted according to the wishes of my presidium. So that we make no apologies for what we did in the Zikist Movement and we thank God that in spite of all that happened we were able to keep our heads together and come to this stage we have reached today.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

The Premier: Mr Speaker, I am grateful to all who have spoken to this Bill and, as a matter of fact, I should not have risen to wind up but for the fact that I feel that the Opposition Chief Whip has not lived up to my expectation. I am not just happy at the way he tried to drag out the old skeleton from the cupboard. I entirely support what the last speaker said about the Zikist Movement, but I disagree with him about his idea of what the

place of his Party will be in the history of Nigeria.

I would say that when the history of Nigeria is written it will appear that the corner-stone of Nigerian Nationalism was clearly and foundationally laid by the Zikist Movement. I do not understand the significance of dragging the Zikist Movement into this debate by the Opposition Chief Whip. It is true the youths of those days felt that if the heart had been hardened and could not melt in order to give its people freedom for which they yearned, then they must be forced by the plagues which they, the youths had and they were doing what those of their type have done in history.

Some Opposition Members: And they were called bad boys.

The Premier: Nobody was called a bad boy for doing that. They were thrown into jail; they committed certain offences and went in gladly. It is only people who do not understand the inner working of the Zikist Movement and the circumstances that led to the sacrifice made by some of these young people that come now to play politics. I am not in the mood to play politics with the heroism of these young men in spite of what people may say or think because my role is their role; I know the role they played. What made Jomo Kenyatta to adopt the *Mau Mau* method is the same attitude of stubbornness and unwillingness to face the realities of Colonial Administration. It almost happened in this country but for the fact that later the hands of the British were forced and history presented us with an opportunity to be among the very first to obtain independence without shedding blood.

At the particular time that the Opposition Chief Whip referred we found out that each of the other independent countries passed through the same state. India passed through the same stage—through non-violence and through violence. Burma passed through the same stage—through violence. In Palestine, violence. Archbishop Makarios after his education in America went back to Cyprus, teamed up with Colonel Grivas, started violence that gave them their independence, etc. I do not therefore understand whether the Opposition Chief Whip means then to derogate the great contribution made by the Zikist Movement. I asked the question in 1950; I believe in constitutional

method. My colleagues in the Zikist Movement did not.

An hon. Member: I do.

The Premier: Yes, and I believe that when an accurate history of this country is written it will be found out that possibly my own peculiar belief about constitutionalism helped a great deal even to prevent a lot of unnecessary bloodshed. So I feel very sorry that he should have dragged that point in here because at any stage in the development of a nation there will be desperate attempts by a colonial people struggling for freedom, when they are forced with their back to the wall to do whatever they feel is right to enable them to be free. And that is what the members of the Zikist Movement did and if I have the opportunity again to play that role and go to the Legislative Council to defend their case, I will do so.

In any case, the main point is that all the speakers supported the Bill and have agreed that it is necessary in the interest of good government that we should have an appropriate Order Bill and I am grateful to them; but I will not begin to split hairs with them about the role of their political parties, mushroom political parties, which started yesterday.

Several Opposition Members: Which one is mushroom?

The Premier: Use your imagination and you will know.

The main point is that this Government feels that this law must be introduced and will be enforced; that is the assurance we give. I could give this assurance that there should be peaceful co-existence between different political parties. That is why we are all keeping our powder dry for the great day, and looking forward to the time when after the noise or din of battle is over you will look round there to find out that it is the Zikist . . . (*Interruptions*).

Question put and agreed to.

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

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I beg to move to *leave out* the definition of "superior police officer" and *insert* "superior police officer" means any of the following officers acting in the case of a Federal Officer with the prior general or special consent of the Governor-General published in the *Gazette*, namely:—

- (a) any police officer of or above the rank of cadet assistant superintendent;
- (b) a chief officer and deputy chief officer of a Police Fire Brigade; and
- (c) an administrative officer appointed under the provisions of section 8 of the Police Ordinance".

These amendments are suggested by the Federal Government because the Bill was based on the model which was prepared in the Colonial Office and which has been used as a model Bill for the Public Order Laws of the Western Region and the Northern Region and in those Laws, these particular definitions also appear. As a matter of fact, with very minor exceptions, all the provisions in this Bill are identical with the provisions of the same Law both in the North and in the West.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 2 as amended agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I rise to move under clause 4 (3) line 7 to *leave out* the words "twenty-one" and *insert* the word "seven".

Sir, the provision is that where any person is charged before any court with an offence against this section, no further proceedings in respect thereof shall be taken against him without the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions, except such as the Court may think necessary by remand (whether in custody or in bail) or otherwise to secure due appearance of the person charged. But if that person is remanded in custody, he shall after the

[MR E. O. EYO]

expiration of a period of twenty-one days from the day on which he was first remanded, be discharged from custody on entering into recognisance without a surety, unless within that period the Director of Public Prosecutions has consented to such further proceedings.

The two main points are that there will be no proceedings against this man without the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions but that the court will have the power to remand the accused person in custody for twenty-one days. After 21 days he can be discharged from custody unless within that period the Director of Public Prosecutions decides on prosecution. Why must this man be kept for so long? The Director of Public Prosecutions must make up his mind whether he is going to prosecute this man or not. It would be unfair to keep this man for 21 days and after 21 days the court would discharge him. If you want to prosecute this man, 7 days should be enough. It will be unfair to allow the Police to hold up anybody for 21 days.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: Mr Chairman the experts who framed this thought that 21 days would be ample. A less number of days will not be ample. This was accepted by all the Governments of the Federation. I have here with me the Public Order Law of the Western Region and in section 3 (2) 21 days are also incorporated. I am not saying that because it is in the Law of the West, therefore, it must be in the law of the East although if I said so I would not be wrong, because when we were debating the Finance Law the Opposition Chief Whip brought the Finance Law 1957 of the West and asked this House to adopt what appeared in the Law of the West. We adopted some and we opposed some. But this particular case is the internal agreement between the Federal Government, the Western Region Government, the Northern Region Government and we have accepted 21 days.

I therefore oppose.

Mr Ikoku: Mr Chairman, I would like to say that the point made by hon. the Premier was not based on the merit of what the hon. the Opposition Chief Whip has said. We want our Government to take initiative in starting further consultation with the other Governments of the Federation with a view to reducing the time of detention to 7 days. I am sure that when the experts advised 21 days they had in mind the conditions then obtaining in Nigeria,—communications, the availability of the Police Force and so on. This is something which will be revised from time to time. What we are saying is that our Government should take the initiative in discussing the matter with the other Governments of the Federation.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I do not know what the Government's attitude would be but our main objection to clause 5 (1) (b) is in lines 3 to 5 where it is stated

“or in such manner as to arouse reasonable apprehension that they are organised, trained or equipped for that purpose”.

This type of phraseology in the Law just leaves us in some doubt. We accept, Sir, that any members or adherents of any association of persons, whether incorporated or not, who are organised or trained or equipped for the purpose of enabling them to be employed for the use or display of physical force in promoting any political object, shall be guilty of the offence; but to say “in any such manner as to arouse reasonable apprehension,” I think we are bound to run into difficulty. That was why I suggested to leave out the word “either” in line 1, and then following that I move the deletion of lines 3, 4 and 5. I do not know what Government has to say but I feel we should make the point that we do not like that phrase.

Question proposed to leave out the word “either” in Clause 5 (1) (b).

The Premier: Mr Chairman, the attitude of the Government is that before this Bill

was introduced our Representative along with the Representatives of other Governments gave due consideration to the particular phrase complained of by the Opposition Chief Whip and all of us agreed that in the interest of good order in this country that it should be incorporated. I would like in this connection to remind our hon. Friend that the maintenance of public order is concurrent and that is why efforts are made always to have uniformity in our Laws. Again this particular sentence of which he complains appears word for word in the Public Order Law of the West, Section 4 (1) (b).

Question put and negatived.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I would say that the Proviso to the sub-clauses is of interest. Here the proposal is to place the onus of proof on the accused person. The Proviso reads as follows:—

“Provided that in any proceedings against a person charged with the offence of taking part in the control or management of such an association as aforesaid, it shall be a defence to that charge to prove that he neither consented to nor connived at the organisation, training or equipment of members or adherents of the organisation in contravention of the provisions of this section.”

It is a very serious point, because all along...

The Chairman: Which one are you moving, is it 3 and 2?

Mr E. O. Eyo: No, I am not moving that; the other was consequential. I am going on to the Proviso, Sir.

I mean, if the prosecution charges anybody under this section I think the onus should rest on them to prove that the person consented or connived at the organisation, training or equipment of members, but probably the answer will be that it appears in the Laws of the other Regions in the Federation. Here again, Sir, I have not looked up the Law of the Western Region, but I think it is asking too much that an accused person should be put into the dock to prove to the Court that he neither consented nor connived at the

organisation, training and equipment of members, whereas it should be the other way round. Those who accuse him of committing the offence should prove his guilt to the Court.

Question proposed to leave out the proviso to Clause 5 (1).

The Premier: Mr Chairman, I think my Friend will agree that this is not the only Law where this aspect of the Criminal Law has been phrased in a way so that although the prisoner is presumed innocent until proved guilty, nevertheless recent developments made it necessary that in some of the legislations the onus of proof should be shifted so that it is up to the fellow accused to prove that he neither consented nor connived at the organisation.

Mr Ikoku: Bad law.

The Premier: It may be bad law but in the interest of good government in this Region our own experts agreed with the experts of the other Regions and the Federal Government that it is necessary that we should do that, and we have accepted the suggestion. So, I am afraid, we resist the amendment.

Question put and negatived.

Sub-clause (4).

Mr E. O. Eyo: Sir, I do not move.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6.

Mr E. O. Eyo: Mr Chairman, I just want to seek for an explanation as to what is really meant here:—

“Any person who in a public place or at any public meeting by act or speech or otherwise raises discontent or disaffection amongst inhabitants of any tribe or clan in Nigeria or promotes feelings of ill-will or hostility between different tribes, clans, religious groups or sects...”

Dr Okpara: “... shall be guilty of an offence.” (*Laughter*).

Mr E. O. Eyo: I do not know what is intended there because I think the Government is aware of our line of propaganda. (*Laughter*).

Is it intended that when we go into the field to tell our people why we want to break away from the Ibos, then the law will apply? You will be campaigning, Sir, on a political issue. You would want to tell your people why you must break away from these Ibos. I hope I am correct that if somebody went out to stir up some sort of strife between one tribe and another, there might be a breach of the peace and that person will be held responsible. But it is provided that if anybody who in a public place or at a public meeting by act or speech or otherwise raises discontent . . . The discontent is there. So it is not a question of anybody raising discontent. I do not know whether the Government will not reconsider this point unless it is prepared to prove that it is the same thing in the North and the West. But, quite honestly, I do not think we can accept this phrase: "raises discontent or disaffection among some tribes."

Question proposed to leave out sub-clause (2).

The Premier: Mr Chairman, if my hon. Friend is to mount on a soap box and tell any gathering in his constituency or elsewhere why they should break away from the Ibos, he has not committed any offence. He has not raised any discontent. He has not promoted any feelings of ill-will but if he tells the Ibibios that that are being dominated by the Efiks and thereby promoting feelings of ill-will so that the Ibibios will begin to hate the Efiks, surely he has committed an offence under the Law. (*Laughter*).

The aim of this Public Order is to maintain good order, to maintain the law and to enable various tribes to live in peace. Why should someone mount the soap box and tell the Annangs that they are being dominated by the Efiks thereby raising discontent? Allow the Annangs to remain if it is a contented tribe. Let the sleeping dog lie but do not rouse it. (*Applause*). And besides, why should the Ibibios be told that the Eastern Region is too small a place for them and any other tribe to live in? If he makes such a statement as to promote feelings of ill-will he will find himself in the hands of the Law. (*Laughter*).

Under this provision of the law, we want the various groups of this country to have mutual respect but it does not mean that we shall suppress criticisms. Surely, if the Ibos do a thing that is wrong, there is no reason why the Efiks or the Ibibios should not criticise within the Law, but not necessarily to begin to create an atmosphere which will lead to a breach of the peace, or even to fan tribal hatred, or even to tell the Ibos from Orlu or Owerri that they are inferior to Ibos from elsewhere.

As a matter of fact this clause is innocuous so far as one realises that it is a country which belongs to all of us. There is no reason why we should tell the Yorubas that they have nothing in common with the Ibos or that the Hausas have nothing in common with the Efiks. We want to stop it in this Region. We cannot make laws to prevent others from doing it elsewhere, but let us make this Region a laboratory of human relationship so that we can respect each other, live in peace with each other and enjoy freedom with each other.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clauses 7 and 8 agreed to.

Clause 9.

Mr E. O. Eyo: I do not know whether my amendment would be against the Western Law. But our main objection here is that arming an officer with power to prohibit the holding of meetings for a period up to three months is dangerous.

Clause 9 agreed to.

Clause 10.

Mr E. O. Eyo: This is something more serious. Our objection, Sir, is that a provision here allows for two types of punishments. If the accused person elects summary trial and is found guilty by a Magistrate he will be imprisoned for 6 months or to a fine of £100, or both such imprisonment and fine. But if it is a conviction by a High Court Judge it will be imprisonment for two years or to a fine of £500 or to both such imprisonment and fine.

Our view is that whether you are tried by a Magistrate or by a Judge you have committed one and the same offence and therefore the punishment should be the same. What this clause provides is that if one commits the same offence with Mr X and is taken to a Magistrate's Court the trial Magistrate should inflict a lighter punishment on him than Mr X who was tried by a Judge.

This is really serious and our suggestion, Sir, is in lines 2 to 5 to leave out all the words after "liable" and substitute the words "On conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to a fine not exceeding £100". It will be wrong to say if you commit this offence you will be imprisoned by a Magistrate for 6 months and you will also be subjected to a fine not exceeding £100 allowing the Magistrate to exercise his discretion, but with a Judge the punishment will be heavier. It is very serious, and we shall be failing in our duties to the public if we do not give serious consideration to this clause and have it amended as suggested.

Sir, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

The Premier: I am very much impressed, Sir, by the argument of the Opposition Chief Whip but the point is that all the Governments in the Federation are agreed on this particular clause. Section 10 of the Western Region . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Chairman: Order! Order! Will hon. Members please listen attentively to the Premier.

The Premier: I can only assure my hon. Friend that we shall contact other Governments and point out the principles involved, at least one, although we may have the argument put before us that the Magistrate has his jurisdiction which is lower than that of a High Court Judge. It is clear why it is put here because when an accused person appears before a Magistrate, the Magistrate has a limited jurisdiction, whereas it is not so with a High Court Judge. His jurisdiction is unlimited. It is possible that that is why we have the variation in the penalty. But in any case, we shall bring this to the other Governments

so as to see how we can modify it but, at present, it is uniform in the Federation.

Question put and negatived.

Clause 10 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Production (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn *sine die*.

With your permission, may I make three remarks before we adjourn *sine die*.

It is with regret that I have to bring to the notice of this hon. House the debate in the Western House of Assembly on the 5th instant calling on the Governor-General for a public inquiry on the so-called last Federal Budget leakage. What are the known facts?

1. Shortly after the Federal Ministry released the new tax measures there were rumours of a budget leakage. The Federal Minister of Finance, Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, promptly set up a departmental inquiry. The evidence and facts of the inquiry could not establish any substance in the rumours of a Budget leakage.
2. The second known fact is that the Western Minister of Finance was completely in the picture before the tax increases came into operation. Indeed it was at his request that some of the increases—particularly the increased duty on petrol and tobacco were made.

One wonders what is behind bringing this Motion into the Western House of Assembly. The motive is as sinister as it is base. A pernicious attempt is being made to tarnish the reputation of the very efficient Minister of Finance, the energetic, intelligent and honest

[DR OKPARA]

Statesman, Chief the hon. Festus Sam Okotie-Eboh, a man of whom the whole country is justly proud. (*Applause*). What is worse is the obvious attempt to bring the Federal Government, of which the Action Group is a component part, into ridicule and contempt. In spite of this continuous snipping at the Federal Government by the Action Group, two Action Group Ministers continue to sit in the Federal Cabinet as fifth columnists and sabotage the work of the Federal Government.

The Action Group Ministers in the Federal Government should resign, but if they sit tight the Prime Minister no doubt will be expected to do the right thing. It is his Government that is being pilloried. This attempt by the Action Group to meddle with the affairs of the Federal Government because of Western Government's nearness to the Federal Capital will be resisted.

The Federal Government could discover no leakage in its set-up. Perhaps the Western Minister of Finance who knew all about these tax proposals before they came into force could give Nigeria an assurance that any leakage he knows of did not arise from his Ministry. His apparent silence is, to say the least, very strange.

May I now supplement the statement made in the morning by the hon. Premier on the controversy surrounding Mr L. N. Obioha's licence. It is perfectly correct to say that Mr L. N. Obioha has no licence. Mr L. N. Obioha however is Chairman of two Companies which are licensed buying agents for the Eastern Region Marketing Board; viz,

- (a) L. N. Obioha Brothers Company;
- (b) Eastern Produce and Transport Company Limited.

While the Marketing Board, for reasons best known to them, have withdrawn the licence of the Firm, L. N. Obioha Brothers Company as L.B.A., the licence of Eastern Produce and Transport Company Limited for Palm Oil has not been withdrawn. This means that one of the two companies in which L. N. Obioha has an interest and is Chairman is still a Licensed Buying Agent for the E.R.M.B.

This proves conclusively that the E.R.M.B. has acted properly and without any malice

towards Mr L. N. Obioha who incidentally is not a licensed Buying Agent.

In Mr L. N. Obioha's interest, I hope that this political controversy which is nothing but a storm in a tea-cup will now come to an end.

May I now end on a happier note. I wish to place on record the thanks of this House to the Speaker of the House of Representatives for lending us the services of the Editor of the House of Representatives. During the Budget Meeting of this House in 1958 no Daily Reports were produced. The reason was because no experienced Editor was available to carry out the work of editing. During this Budget Meeting, however, we have been very lucky to secure on loan the services of Mr Lee, Editor of the Official Report of the House of Representatives. The Daily Reports throughout this long meeting were available regularly. And as several Members have said the improved standard and style are noticeable. Mr Lee is an expert in his job, and it is unfortunate that the efforts made at one time to get him over to this Region failed. What he has done during this long Session testifies that we were right in pursuing him. I would suggest that a suitable letter be sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives expressing the thanks of this House and appreciation of the good work which Mr Lee has rendered to this House in the production of the Daily Reports during what has turned out to be the longest Budget Session of this Region.

I would also take this opportunity to thank all the stenographers or Reporters who have undertaken the arduous duty of taking down notes and reproducing them. During the debate on the Speech from the Throne one or two Members complained of the quality of the reporting. The difficulties confronting Reporters in this House are many—the frequent interruptions and hecklings and the inaudibility of certain speeches, etc. In spite of all these Mr Lee considers that the Stenographers have been keen and conscientious, and have done their best. On behalf of the House I also thank them. Some recommendations for improving the standard of reporting have been submitted to the Clerk of the House by Mr Lee and I can assure the House that Government will give careful consideration to those recommendations when put forward.

The Government Printer and his staff have as usual received the thanks of the House for their good work and efficiency during the debate on the Speech from the Throne. This good name of the Department has not in any way fallen in regard to the production of the Daily Reports; their high standards have been maintained.

As I said earlier, this has been the longest meeting of the Eastern House of Assembly and in spite of the usual brick-bats across the floor of the House, what I would call the interesting act of heckling, all hon. Members are to be congratulated for bringing this most arduous meeting to a peaceful and successful conclusion.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (Mr P. O. Ururuka): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

Mr L. N. Obioha's Licence

Mr Ikoku: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would have preferred to just get up and second all or most of what the hon. the Leader of the House has said. Unfortunately, Sir, statements have been made in this House which we consider to be quite incorrect and I would like to take this opportunity to correct these statements. It is all in connection with the withdrawal of the licence of Mr L. N. Obioha. I am glad to note, Sir, that the Leader of the House has corrected the Premier's statement in the morning, because in the morning the Premier held the view that it was the Eastern Produce and Transport Company that had its licence withdrawn and not Mr L. N. Obioha. I do not want to waste your time, Sir, over Obioha the person and Obioha the Company Director. We all know how these Companies are run, so that if you wind up my Company there is no need telling me that you have wound up the Company and that you did not wind me up. (*Laughter*). I would like to say, Sir, that it was Messrs L. N. Obioha and Brothers whose licence was withdrawn.

The hon. the Premier also tried to give the impression that the licence was withdrawn by the Marketing Board acting on its own. I do

not share that view, Sir, and I do not think that view is borne out by the fact. I would like to draw your attention to the publication in the *West African Pilot* of 26th July, 1958, to show you the beginning of this business. The report reads:—

“Aba, 25th July—Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, National President of the N.C.N.C. and Premier of the Eastern Region declared here tonight that if the party would come to peace terms with Dr K. O. Mbadiwe and his group of rebels, ‘then goodbye to the N.C.N.C. and Nnamdi Azikiwe shall never be a member of that kind of N.C.N.C.’”.

Then it goes on:—

“He said the man pushing Dr Mbadiwe to his doom was Mr L. N. Obioha ‘because he thinks he is wealthy’.”

It goes on:—

“The Government, he added, would be foolish to renew Mr Obioha's buying licence in view of the fact that he had joined the Mbadiwe conspiracy to overthrow the Government unconstitutionally.”

This is the beginning of the whole thing.

Now on the 26th of August a letter was written to Messrs L. N. Obioha Brothers and Company telling them that their licence for 1958-59 season would not be renewed. The letter was written by the Secretary, Eastern Regional Marketing Board; the reference number is CE.1524/S.1/1. That was on the 26th of August. On the 8th of October, Sir, another letter, reference No. SM.539/13, was written to Messrs L. N. Obioha Brothers and Company making it clear that the Minister of Production was studying the position in connection with the withdrawal of his licence; this was signed by Mr F. Davies, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Production.

I have referred to these two letters, Sir, to disprove the information the hon. Premier gave the House in the morning that it was the Eastern Produce and Transport Company that lost its licence. It is Messrs L. N. Obioha and Company that lost its licence. I would like to make it clear that nobody would have taken up this matter of Messrs L. N. Obioha's licence with the Premier were it not for the

[MR IKOKU]

undertaking which the hon. Premier gave at the London Conference. At the 22nd meeting of the London Conference Dr Azikiwe repeated that he had not been correctly reported in most sections of the Nigerian Press. He himself had only heard of the incident concerning Mr Obioha through the Press, and when a member of the Federal Government for whom he had great respect had asked him about the incident he had said that he thought that Mr Obioha should have approached him as Regional Premier on this matter. In fact Mr Obioha had called on him the previous day and he had seen him in the presence of the Minister of Information. He had asked Mr Obioha whether when his licence was revoked he had appealed to the Marketing Board for the decision to be reviewed or to the Government to use its good offices with the Marketing Board. He said that he replied that he had done neither of those things. Accordingly, he had invited him to do so then and he had assured him that his appeal would be given due consideration.

When we came back from the London Conference the matter was further taken up. I would like to point out that when we came back from the London Conference we raised the matter with the Premier and all these appeals to the Premier, Minister of Production and the Marketing Board were all made and they were refused.

My last point, Sir, is to clear the impression which was given to this House that the licence was lost because the Marketing Board acted

according to law. The Marketing Board, in fact, did recommend that Mr Obioha Brothers and Company's licence be renewed and I refer you to Appendix 48 of a document submitted to the meeting of the Marketing Board in Port Harcourt on the 18th of November, 1958. Paragraph 3 of this document reads:

"The following Licensed Buying Agents appointed for the first time in the 1958 Marketing year have operated satisfactorily and their reappointment is recommended:

- (a) Mezieike Mbieri Merchants Limited.
- (b) E. O. Atakpa.
- (c) A. U. Utuk.
- (d) J. N. Oparaocha and Sons.
- (e) M. E. K. Iloghalu.
- (f) I. U. Imeh.
- (g) H. Thom-Manuel.
- (h) L. N. Obioha and Company".

All I wanted to point out, Sir, is that the Marketing Board did actually regard this Company's performance as satisfactory and therefore to give the impression that the Marketing Board found it not efficient and acted according to the Law and took its licence away is wrong. Government has every right to say it is not renewing his licence, but Government has not the right to misinform the public of the Eastern Region.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at five minutes to eleven o'clock p.m. pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day.

Index to the Eastern House of Assembly Debates

THIRD SESSION, FIRST MEETING

31st March to 7th May, 1959

ABBREVIATIONS

(Adj. Deb.) = Adjournment Debate
 1R = First Reading
 2R = Second Reading
 3R = Third Reading
 Com. = Committee
 E.R. = Eastern Region
 Q = Question

A

	<i>Column</i>	<i>Column</i>	
ABA:		ADJOURNMENT DEBATES:	
Local Government Contracts ..	1137-8Q	Chieftaincy Dispute in Kalabari ..	1191-6
ABAK:		Mr L. N. Obioha's Licence ..	1461-4
Abak-Uyo and Abak-Opobo Roads ..	701Q	Ogbo Agawara Society ..	1030-1032
Representation of Traditional Rulers on District Councils ..	540Q	Opening of Secondary Grammar Schools ..	1135-6
ABAKALIKI:		Request to Declare Abakaliki Division a Special Area ..	1259-1262
Abakaliki-Afikpo and Okigwi-Afikpo Roads ..	45-6Q	ADMINISTRATION:	
General Hospital ..	824-5Q	African Administrative Officers..	311Q
Lead-Zinc Industry ..	541Q	AFIKPO:	
Market Development at Ezamgbo ..	765-7Q	Abakaliki-Afikpo and Okigwi-Afikpo Roads ..	45-6Q
Maternity Home at Ezamgbo ..	1197Q	AFRICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND RESEARCH:	
Nkalagu Cement Industry—Rent ..	969-971Q	<i>Motion</i> ..	1200-1258
Nkalagu-Ehamufu Road ..	971Q	AFRICAN CONTINENTAL BANK:	
Ogbo Agawara Society (Adj. Deb.) ..	1030-1032	Nationalisation of..	1272
U.P.E. Schools in Ishielu District ..	1267-8Q	AGBA, MR J. A.:	
ABANGWU, MR C. A.:		African Academy of Arts and Research:	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 424 ..	851-3	<i>Motion</i> ..	1230, 1239
Com. Head 434 ..	1110-1111	Allocation of Seats in the House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i> ..	941-4
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address ..	174-9	Appropriation Bill: 2R ..	568-574, 605
Standing Orders Committee: Member..	921	Com. Head 425 ..	798-800
ABENGOWE, MR W.:		Com. Head 427 ..	839-842
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address ..	235	Com. Head 429 ..	1024-9, 1036-9, 1057-8
ACHARA, MR S. O.:		Com. Head 434 ..	1106
African Academy of Arts and Research:		Com. Head 435 ..	875-7
<i>Motion</i> ..	1224-1230	Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R..	153
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 421 ..	790-792	Epidemic of Epilepsy ..	1035Q
Com. Head 424 ..	849	Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address ..	200-206, 383
Com. Head 425 ..	805	Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill: 2R ..	307-310
Com. Head 427 ..	842	Com. ..	1350-1356
Com. Head 429 ..	1048-1051	Provincial Administration Bill: 2R ..	1380-1381
Com. Head 430 ..	1076-7	Public Collections: <i>Motion</i> ..	265, 278, 284, 299
Com. Head 433 ..	1085	AGBASIERE, CHIEF G. N.:	
Com. Head 435 ..	869-872	Admission to Girls' Secondary Schools and Training Colleges ..	46Q
Com. Head 438 ..	1173	African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i> ..	1250
Committee of Selection: Member ..	864	Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 435 ..	874-5
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address ..	389-394	Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R ..	160-162, 741-3
Palm Oil Market Prices ..	862-3Q	House Committee: Member ..	921
Public Accounts Committee: Member ..	922		
Public Order Bill: 2R ..	1445-7		
University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R ..	119-122		

	Column		Column
AGIM, MR D. S. A.:		Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R	749
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 421 ..	783-5	Customary Courts Staff: Conditions of Service	45Q
Com. Head 425 ..	793	Development Programme 1958-62: Motion	723
Com. Head 427 ..	832-5	Expenses for Members of District Councils	632Q
Com. Head 429 ..	1001-9	Finance Law, 1956—Variations to Schedules: Motion	102-4
Com. Head 433 ..	1085	Free Medical Service for School Children	631Q
Com. Head 435 ..	878-881	Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	464, 468-472, 490
Com. Head 438 ..	1171-3	Palm Oil Market Prices	863Q
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	228-234	Primary School Fees	45Q
AGRICULTURE:		Public Collections: Motion	295-301
Cocoa and Cotton in Nsukka Division ..	768-9Q	Salaries for Voluntary Agency African Nursing Sisters	701-2Q
Drought	704-5Q	University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R	126
Improvement of Farming	759-760Q	ALIGWEKWE, MR D. O., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Justice:	
Irrigation	767Q	Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	472-5
AHOADA:		ALO, MR S. N.:	
Improvement of Farming	759-760Q	Abakaliki General Hospital	924-5Q
AJEGBO, MR M. O., Attorney-General and Minister of Justice:		Appropriation Bill: 2R	574-8
African Academy of Arts and Research: Motion	1228-9	Com. Head 433 ..	1085
Appropriation Bill: 2R	648	Com. Head 435 ..	883-4
Com. Head 424 ..	847-9, 853-5	Com. Head 438 ..	1176-7
Com. Head 435 ..	856-7	House Committee: Member	921
Com. Head 436 ..	1133, 1140	Ogbo Agawara Society (Adj. Deb.) ..	1030
Classification of Chiefs Bill: Com. ..	1299	Teachers' Certificate Examination ..	918Q
Finance (Amendment) Bill: 2R	336-8	AMACHREE, CHIEF S. J.:	
Com.	364	Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 421 ..	783
Finance Law, 1956—Variations to Schedules: Motion	100-102	Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R	162
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	203, 235	Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	183-4
Permission of the Committee to take two Heads of the Estimates under his Portfolio	846	Public Petitions Committee: Member ..	921
Public Collections: Motion	271, 273-6	AMAEFUNAH, MR P. U.:	
AKILO, MR D. E.:		Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 429 ..	982-4
African Administrative Officers	311Q	Committee of Privileges: Member ..	921
Appropriation Bill Com. Head 429 ..	1039-1041	ANABA, MR J. W. E.:	
Epidemic of Epilepsy	1035Q	Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 434 ..	1104-6
Extended Scales of Teachers' Salaries ..	539-540Q	Com. Head 438 ..	1181
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	411-6	Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	458-9
Public Petitions Committee: Member ..	921	Provincial Administration Bill: Com. ..	1429
Rural Science Schools	537Q	Public Accounts Committee: Member ..	922
AKPABIO, MR H. U.:		ANOKE, MR R. O., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works:	
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	498-502	African Academy of Arts and Research: Motion	1241
AKPABIO, MR I. U.: Minister of Internal Affairs:		Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	442-6
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 434 ..	1086-1095, 1121-3	University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R	120
Finance (Amendment) Bill: 2R	327-8	APPROPRIATION BILL (1959-60):	
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	486-491	Presented and 1R	29
House Committee: Chairman	921	2R 48-67, 542-588, 591-629, 634-696	
Ogbo Agawara Society (Adj. Deb.) ..	1030-1032	Com. Clause 1	1190
Public Collections: Motion	265-7	Com. Clause 2	1190
Request to Declare Abakaliki Division a Special Area (Adj. Deb.)	1261-2	Com. Clause 3	1190
AKPAN, MR S. T.:		Com. Clause 4	1190
Appropriation Bill: 2R	552	Com. Clause 5	1190
Com. Head 421 ..	777	Com. Clause 6	1190
Com. Head 429 ..	984-8	Com. Clause 7	1190
Capital Grants to Voluntary Agency Hospitals	861Q	Com. Head 421	771-793
		Com. Head 422	793

	Column
Com. Head 423	793
Com. Head 424	847-855
Com. Head 425	793-808
Com. Head 426	808-811
Com. Head 427	811-820, 823
Com. Head 428	887-908
Com. Head 429	908-916, 975-1029, 1036-1064
Com. Head 430	1064-1079
Com. Head 431	1079
Com. Head 433	1079-1086
Com. Head 434	1086-1123
Com. Head 435	856-9, 865-886
Com. Head 436	1123-1134, 1138-1158
Com. Head 447	1157-1165
Com. Head 438	1165-1183
Com. Head 439	1183
Com. Head 801	1184-8
Com. Head 802	1188-9
Com. Head 803	1189
Com. Head 804	1189
Com. Head 805	1189
Com. Head 806	1189
Com. Head 807	1189
Com. Head 808	1190
3R	1190

APREALA, MR N. L. P.:

Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 434	1106-1110
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R	743-7
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	502-4
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	294-5

ARIKPO, MR O.:

.. Appropriation Bill: 2R	595-602
Com. Head 424	853-4
Com. Head 430	1067-8
Development Programme 1958-62: <i>Motion</i>	725-8
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	523-7
Standing Orders Committee: Member	921
Statutory Corporations Committee: Member	922

AWGU, MR M. C.:

Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 429	1014-6
Civil Servants and Politics	821Q
Committee of Privileges: Member	921
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	401-4
Opening of Secondary Grammar Schools (Adj. Deb.)	1135-6
Secondary Grammar Schools in the E.R.	537Q

AWKA:

Tarring of Awka-Orlu-Owerri Road	972Q
--	------

AZIKIWE, DR N., Premier:

African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i>	1215, 1219-1224, 1228-9, 1252
Allocation of Seats in the Federal House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i>	930, 945-950
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 421	771-2, 780-783
Com. Head 425	805-8
Com. Head 426	810-811
Com. Head 801	1186-8
Chieftaincy Dispute in Kalabari (Adj. Deb.)	1194-6
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R	145-6, 1283-1293

	Column
Com. 1294-6, 1301-3, 1305- 1313, 1316-8, 1320-1	
Development Programme 1958-62: <i>Motion</i>	706-711
Finance (Amendment) Bill: Com.	348-354
Finance Law, 1956—Variations to Sche- dules: <i>Motion</i>	90-94, 96
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	432, 462, 498
Legislative Houses Bill: 2R 1335-8, 1340-1341, 1343-4, 1346-7	
Com.	1348-9
Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill: Com.	1355
Ministerial Statement on the withdrawal of the Offending Clauses of the Legis- lative Houses Bill	425-7
Mr L. N. Obioha's Licence	1332-3
Provincial Administration Bill: 2R	1363-8, 1382-8
Com. 1392-1402, 1404-6, 1408-1416, 1418-1423, 1425-8, 1432-4	
Public Order Bill: 2R	1434-8, 1447-9
Com.	1450-1458
Sports Commission (Amendment) Bill: 2R	965-7
University of Nigeria (Provisional Coun- cil) Amendment Bill: 2R	115-6, 119, 126-7, 136-145

B

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE:

Exemption from Standing Order	29-30, 1334
Business Statements	255-6, 367, 633-4
Adjournment <i>sine die</i>	1334, 1464

C

CHIDOLUE, MR E.:

Appropriation Bill: 2R	550-554
Com. Head 438	1177-1180
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R	752-6
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	268

CHIEFTAINCY:

Chieftaincy Dispute in Kalabari (Adj. Deb.)	1191-6
--	--------

CHIKWENDU, MR A. O.:

Allocation of Seats in the House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i>	938-9
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 428	890-891
Com. Head 433	1081-3
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	416-422

CHIME, MR E. A., Minister of Welfare:

Appropriation Bill: 2R	662-8
Sports Commission (Amendment) Bill: 2R	961-2

CLASSIFICATION OF CHIEFS BILL:

Presented and 1R	47
2R	145-162, 737-756, 1272-1293
Com.	1293-1323
3R	1323
COAL ROYALTIES	762-3Q

COMMERCE:

Palm Oil Market Prices	862-3Q
Trade in the E.R.	540-541Q

	Column
COMMITTEE OF SELECTION:	
Members	863-4
<i>Motion</i>	863-5
Report	921-2

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION:	
Meeting, Eastern Nigeria Branch ..	860, 968

CUSTOMARY COURTS:	
Staff: Conditions of Service	45Q

D

DEGEMA:	
Chieftaincy Dispute in Kalabari (Adj. Deb.)	1191-6
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 1958-62:	
<i>Motion</i>	705-729

E

EASTERN REGION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:	
Introduction of Politics	861-2Q
Loans	33-44Q, 697Q

EDELDUOK, MR H. U. E.:	
Appropriation Bill: 2R	619-623
Com. Head 438	1173
Com. Head 802	1188-9

EDUCATION:	
Admission to Girls' Secondary Schools and Training Colleges	46Q
Approved School Training	969Q
Bishop Shanahan Memorial Training College, Uboma	917Q
Double-Stream Classes in Government Secondary Schools	917Q
Education Missionary Society Schools ..	311-2Q
Expansion of Schools	1270Q
Food Supply in Secondary Schools ..	769Q, 1331Q
Girls' Secondary Schools	757-8Q
Government and Voluntary Agency Secondary Schools	1271Q
Grants-in-Aid	697Q, 769Q
Opening of Secondary Grammar Schools (Adj. Deb.)	1135-6
Owerri Girls' Secondary School	761-2Q
Primary School Fees	45Q
Rural Science Schools	537Q
Secondary Grammar Schools in the E.R. ..	537Q
Secondary School Fees	1264-8Q
Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Colleges	1329-1330Q
Standard Six Examination	1263Q
Supplementary List—Standard Six Result	1269-1270Q
Teachers' Certificate Examination	918Q
U.P.E. Schools in Ishielu District, Abakaliki Division	1267-8Q
Women's Occupational Training Centre ..	1269Q

EFIONG, C.B.E., REV. O:	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 436 ..	1144-1151
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R	159-160
Committee of Privileges: Member	921
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	216-222

EGBUNA, MR E. N., LATE SPEAKER:	
Oil Painting of	756

EKPE, MR A. J.:	
Committee of Selection: Member	863
Development Programme 1958-62:	
<i>Motion</i>	719-722
Finance (Amendment) Bill: 2R	334-5
Com.	353
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	179-183
Public Accounts Committee: Member ..	922
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	283
Statutory Corporations Committee: Member	922

ELECTIONS:	
Voters' List	770Q

EMOLE, MR E., Minister of Town Planning:	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 438 ..	1165-1171, 1181-3
Committee of Privileges: Chairman	921
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	373-6

ENYI, MR U.:	
Abakaliki-Afikpo and Okigwi-Afikpo Roads	45-6Q
Appropriation Bill: 2R	582-5

ERONINI, MR E. U.:	
Allocation of Seats in the Federal House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i>	928-9
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 430	1066-7
Com. Head 433	1082
Classification of Chiefs Bill: Com. ..	1296, 1319
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	183-190, 434
Owerri Girls' Secondary School	761-2Q, 1331Q
Provincial Administration Bill: Com. ..	1406

ETUHUBE, MR J. A.:	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 427 ..	818-9, 842
Com. Head 429	1042-5
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	459-463

ETUK, MR M. U.:	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 427 ..	814
Com. Head 428	902-3
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R	747-9
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	207
Public Accounts Committee: Chairman ..	1137
Public Accounts Committee Report	861
University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R	128-9

EYO, MR E. O.:	
African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i>	1211-1221, 1223, 1236, 1239, 1245, 1248, 1255
Allocation of Seats in the Federal House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i>	929-934
Appropriation Bill: 2R 567, 571, 576-7, 645-651	
Com. Head 421	773, 784
Com. Head 424	850-851
Com. Head 425	800-803
Com. Head 427	832, 835
Com. Head 428	890-898
Com. Head 429	988, 1016-1024, 1060

	<i>Column</i>
Com. Head 430 ..	1073-6
Com. Head 433 ..	1082
Com. Head 434 ..	1097-
	1105, 1114
Com. Head 436 ..	1131-4,
	1138-1141, 1156
Com. Head 801 ..	1184-6, 1188
Board of Internal Revenue ..	703Q
Chieftaincy Dispute in Kalabari (Adj. Deb.) ..	1195
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R ..	1273-
	1280, 1289
Com. 1293-8, 1302-9, 1311 ..	1311
Committee of Selection: <i>Motion</i> ..	864
E.R.D.C. ..	862Q
Finance (Amendment) Bill: 2R ..	329-331
Com. 344-8, 359-362, 363 ..	363
Finance Law, 1956—Variations to Schedules: <i>Motion</i> ..	92, 94-5
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address 194, 376-381, 436-7, 491-2, 495, 498, 514-9, 529 ..	514-9, 529
Governor's Speech—Motion for an Address ..	25
Hours of Sitting of the House: <i>Motion</i> ..	29-30
Legislative Houses Bill: 2R ..	1343-4
Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill: Com. ..	1357-8, 1361-2
Palm Oil Market Prices ..	863
Provincial Administration Bill: 2R ..	1381
Com. 1389-1403, 1405-1411, 1416-1425, 1429-1431 ..	1416-1425, 1429-1431
Public Order Bill: 2R ..	1439-1444
Com. ..	1450-1457
Sports Commission (Amendment) Bill: 2R ..	962-5
University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R ..	116-120,
	124, 135-6, 142

EYO, MR J. E.:

Abak-Uyo and Abak-Opobo Roads ..	701Q
Allocation of Seats in the House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i> ..	937-8
Appropriation Bill: 2R ..	586-8, 591-5
Classification of Chiefs Bill: Com. ..	1295-6
Cocoa and Cotton in Nsukka Division ..	768Q
Council Halls for District Councils ..	697-8Q
E.R.D.C. ..	861-2Q
Grants-in-Aid ..	697Q
Legco Flats ..	1331Q
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i> ..	257-262,
	301, 303-5
Representation of Traditional Rulers on District Councils ..	540Q
Standard Six Examination ..	1263Q
Tax on Allowances ..	254Q
Telecommunications ..	761Q
U.P.E. Schools in Ishielu District, Abakaliki Division ..	1268Q
Water Supply ..	924Q
Wells in Rural Areas ..	975Q

F

FINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL:

Presented and 1R.. ..	47
2R.. ..	312-344
Com. ..	344-365, 367-8
3R.. ..	368

FINANCE LAW, 1956:

Variations to Schedules: <i>Motion</i>	67-114
--	--------

FIRE-ARMS:

Licences for Arms	632-3Q
-------------------------	--------

FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS BILL:

Presented and 1R.. ..	165
2R.. ..	1323-7
Com. and 3R	1328

G

GOVERNOR, H. E. THE:

Debate on the Address	166-194, 197-
	252, 368-422, 427-482, 484-535
Governor's Speech	1-20
Motion for an Address	21-8

H

HANSARD 1460

HOSPITALS:

Abakaliki General Hospital	924-5Q
Amaigbo Joint Hospital	1035-6Q
Capital Grants to Voluntary Agency Hospitals	861Q
Free Medical Services for School Children	631Q
Hospitals and Rural Health Centres ..	1198-
	1200Q
Mental Hospital	918Q

HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Members	921
---------------	-----

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Allocation of Seats: <i>Motion</i>	925-950
--	---------

HOUSING:

Legco Flats	1331Q
-------------------	-------

I

IHEKWOABA, MR J. O.:

Amaigbo Joint Hospital	1035-6Q
Appropriation Bill: 2R	623-7
Com. Head 429 ..	1051-3
Com. Head 433 ..	1085-6
Com. Head 438 ..	1175
Bore-holes	919-920Q
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R ..	158-9
Com. ..	1319-1320
Double-Stream Classes in Government Secondary Schools	917Q
Finance (Amendment) Bill: 2R	338-341
Supplementary List—Standard Six Results	1269Q
Tarring of Awka-Orlu-Owerri Road ..	972Q
Trade in the E. R.	540-541Q

IKOKU, MR S. G., Leader of the Opposition:

African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i> ..	1214, 1222, 1224, 1237, 1250-1254
Appropriation Bill: 2R ..	542-550, 571, 600, 604, 606, 688
Com. Head 421 ..	773-780
Com. Head 425 ..	794-8
Com. Head 427 ..	827-832
Com. Head 436 ..	1149
Com. Head 437 ..	1161-5
Com. Head 801 ..	1187
Chieftaincy Dispute in Kalabari (Adj. Deb.) ..	1191-4
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R ..	146-152, 1284-5, 1288, 1292

	Column		Column
Com. 1298-1301, 1310, 1313-6, 1321-2		Tax Arrears	253Q, 918Q
Development Programme 1958-62:		Tax Assessment in Owerri Province ..	763-6Q
<i>Motion</i>	709-719, 723-4, 729	Tax on Allowances	254Q
Finance (Amendment) Bill: 2R ..	321-8, 333, 336-7, 342	ITA, MR E.:	
Com.	351, 353-6, 364-5	Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 425 ..	803-4
Finance Law, 1956—Variations to Schedules:		Com. Head 429 ..	1055-6
<i>Motion</i>	84-90, 91, 94, 97	Committee of Privileges: Member ..	921
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	166-174, 375, 381, 400-401, 428, 444, 447, 487, 489, 524, 528-535	Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address ..	504-6
Legislative Houses Bill: 2R ..	1338-1344	ITA, MR O. O.:	
Loans (Development Programmes) Bill: 2R	734-6	Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address ..	234-241
Mr L. N. Obioha's Licence (Adj. Deb.)	1461-4	Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill: 2R	306-7
Provincial Administration Bill: 2R ..	1368-1376, 1385	Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	264, 285-7
Com. 1403-4, 1413-5, 1418, 1425, 1427-9, 1432		Standing Orders Committee: Member ..	921
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	264, 267-274	ITO, MR J. M.:	
Public Order Bill: 2R	1438-1440	Appropriation Bill: 2R	608-611
Com.	1452, 1454	Com. Head 424 ..	848-9
Speech from the Throne: Suspension of Standing Orders: <i>Motion</i>	483	Health Visitors	1033-4Q
University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R	132-5	House Committee: Member	921
IKOT EKPENE:		Internal Revenue Office at Ikot Ekpene ..	698Q
Internal Revenue Office	698Q	Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	300-301
IMEH, MR I. U.		IWUAGWU, MR R. O., Minister of State	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 426 ..	808-9	<i>Charged with Responsibility for Customary Courts and the Appointment and Recognition of Chiefs:</i>	
Com. Head 428 ..	898-902	Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 435 ..	857-9, 866-9, 884-6
Com. Head 429 ..	988-992	Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	370
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	190-194, 197-200	IWUEKE, MR S. E. K.:	
Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill: Com.	1352	Approved School Training	969Q
Provincial Administration Bill: Com. ..	1391	Arrears of Tax	918Q
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	262-5, 303	Bishop Shanahan Memorial Training College, Uboma	917Q
Representation of Traditional Rulers on District Councils	540Q	Board of Internal Revenue	702-3Q
Secondary School Fees	1267Q	Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	384-9
IMOKE, DR S. E., Minister of Finance:		Loans	972Q
Appropriation Bill: 2R	48-67, 647, 682-696	Mental Hospital	918Q
Com. Head 430 1064-6, 1074, 1077-9		Motor Licensing Stations	631-2Q
Development Programmes, 1958-62:		Public Accounts Committee: Member ..	922
<i>Motion</i>	705-6, 728-9	Tax Assessment in Owerri Province ..	763-6Q
Finance (Amendment) Bill: 2R ..	313-321, 341-3	Welfare of Mental Patients	1197-8Q
Com.	356-8, 360, 367-8	Women's Occupational Training Centre	1269Q
Finance Law, 1956—Variations to Schedules:		K	
<i>Motion</i>	67-85, 104-8, 111-4	KIRI, MR K.:	
Funds and Accounts Bill: 2R	1323-7	Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 426 ..	809-810
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	469, 526-8	Com. Head 438 ..	1173-5
Legislative Houses Bill: 2R	1338	Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R ..	162, 737-9
Loans (Development Programmes) Bill: 2R	729-734	Committee of Privileges: Member ..	921
Nationalisation of the African Continental Bank	1272	Evacuation of Produce from Oguta Area: <i>Motion</i>	955-8
INDUSTRIES:		Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address ..	475-9
Lead-Zinc Industry in Abakaliki	541Q	L	
Nkalagu Cement Industry—Rent ..	969-971Q	LAND:	
INTERNAL REVENUE:		Acquisition of Land in Diobu	922-3Q
Board of Internal Revenue	702-3Q	LEGISLATIVE HOUSES BILL:	
Board of Internal Revenue—Temporary Clerks	699-700Q	Presented and	
Internal Revenue Office at Ikot Ekpene	698Q	1R	312
		2R	1335-1347
		Com.	1348-9
		3R	1,349

	Column
Ministerial Statement by the Premier on the withdrawal of the Offending Clauses of the Bill	425-7
LOANS	33-44Q, 697Q, 972Q
LOANS (DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMES) BILL:	
Presented and 1R	47
2R	729-736
Com. and 3R	736
LOCAL GOVERNMENT:	
Council Halls for District Councils ..	697-8Q
Expenses for Members of District Councils	632Q
Local Government Clerks in Owerri Division	758Q
Local Government Contracts	1137-8Q
Representation of Traditional Rulers on District Councils	540Q
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (EXTENSION OF OFFICE) BILL :	
Presented and 1R	257
2R	305-310, 1349
Com.	1349-1363
3R	1363

M

MARKETS:	
Market Development at Ezamgbo ..	765-7Q
MASI, MR S. O., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Information:	
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	449-453
MEDICAL:	
Abakaliki General Hospital	924-5Q
Amagbo Joint Hospital	1035-6Q
Capital Grants to Voluntary Agency Hospitals	861Q
Epidemic of Epilepsy	1035Q
Free Medical Services for School Children	631Q
Health Visitors	1033-4Q
Hospitals and Rural Health Centres ..	1198-1200Q
Maternity Home at Ezamgbo	1197Q
Mental Hospital	918Q
Salaries for Voluntary Agency African Nursing Sisters	701-2Q
Welfare of Mental Patients	1197-8Q
MORPHY, CHIEF I. I.:	
Allocation of Seats in the House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i>	938
Appropriation Bill: 2R	558-560, 611, 612-5
Com. Head 421	786-790, 792
Com. Head 425	793-4, 805
Com. Head 429	1009-1010
Com. Head 435	881
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R ..	157-8
Committee of Selection: Member ..	864
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	212, 383, 492
House Committee: Member	921
New Roads	924Q
Provincial Administration Bill: 2R ..	1385
Com.	1433
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	292-4
Public Petitions Committee: Member ..	921
Request to Declare Abakaliki Division a Special Area (Adj. Deb.)	1260

	Column
MOTOR BASIC ALLOWANCES:	
Basic Allowances for Civil Servants ..	703-4Q
MOTOR LICENSING:	
Stations	631-2Q

N

NALELO, MR O. B.:	
Committee of Privileges: Member ..	921
Loans	33-44Q
NIGERIAN ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY:	
Eastern Region Government Investment	974-5Q
NNAJI, MR D. A., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture:	
African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i>	1234-7
Appropriation Bill: 2R	602
Com. Head 436	1147
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	463-6
NSUKKA:	
Cocoa and Cotton	768-9Q
Drought	704-5Q
NWODO, MR J. U., Minister of Commerce:	
African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i>	1245-9
Appropriation Bill: 2R	611, 647-8, 650, 652-662
Com. Head 421	777
Com. Head 425	804
Com. Head 428	887-9, 903-7
Com. Head 434	1100, 1116-1121
Business Statement	255-6, 367, 633-4
Development Programme 1958-62: <i>Motion</i>	722-4
Finance (Amendment) Bill: 2R	313, 341
Com.	360
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address 167, 181, 182, 390-391, 404-411, 471	
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i> 287-292, 296-7, 299	
Statutory Corporations Committee: Chairman	922
University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R	122
NWOGA, MR P. O., Minister of Agriculture:	
African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i>	1225
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 427 ..	811-7, 843-6
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	506-8
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	301-3
NWUKE, MR J. H. E., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs:	
Appropriation Bill: 2R	578-582
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R ..	153-6
O	
OBOIHA, MR L. N.:	
Produce Buying Licence	1332-3, 1459
(Adj. Deb.)	1461-4
O BONNA, DR A. N.:	
Appropriation Bill: 2R	576, 627-9, 634-7
Com. Head 426	809
Com. Head 433	1083-4
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R ..	749-752

	Column
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	241-6
Public Petitions Committee: Member ..	921
University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R	127-8
OGON, MR M. E.:	
African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i>	1230-1234, 1239, 1241
Allocation of Seats in the House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i>	934-5
Appropriation Bill: 2R	601-8
Com. Head 429	978-982
Com. Head 434	1095-7, 1100
Com. Head 436	1143-4
Committee of Selection: Member	863
Finance (Amendment) Bill: 2R	328-332
Finance Law, 1956—Variations to Schedules: <i>Motion</i>	96-9
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	21-8, 201
Legislative Houses Bill: 2R	1339, 1345
Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill: Com.	1356
Provincial Administration Bill: Com. ..	1414, 1431-2
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	276-285, 293
Standing Orders Committee: Member ..	921
OKAFOR, MR C. A., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Welfare:	
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	436, 512-3
OKEH, MR J. O.:	
Acquisition of Land in Diobu	922-3Q
Appropriation Bill: 2R	615-9
Government Teachers—Salaries	821-2Q
House Committee: Member	921
Improvement of Farming	759-760Q
Public Petitions Committee: Member ..	921
OKEKE, MR G. E., Minister of Education:	
African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i>	1225
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 429 ..	908-910, 977, 981-2, 987, 1009, 1058-1064
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	438-442, 518-9
Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill: Com.	1354
OKEKE, MR P. N.:	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 430 ..	1068-1073
Basic Allowances for Civil Servants ..	703-4Q
Board of Internal Revenue—Temporary Clerks	699-700Q
Committee of Privileges: Member	921
Expansion of Schools	1270Q
Government and Voluntary Agency Secondary Schools	1271Q
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	246-252, 368-373
Grants-in-Aid	769Q
Hospitals and Rural Health Centres ..	1198-1200Q
Maintenance of Roads	973-4Q
New Roads	923-4Q
OKETA, MR O.:	
Committee of Privileges: Member	921
OKEYA, MR G. C.:	
African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i>	1200-1211, 1254-6
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 427 ..	835-8
Com. Head 429	992-1001

	Column
Education Missionary Society Schools ..	311-2Q
E.R.D.C. Loans	33Q, 697Q
Evacuation of Produce from Oguta Area: <i>Motion</i>	950-955, 960
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	508-512
Local Government Clerks in Owerri Division	758Q
Statutory Corporations Committee: Member	922
Tax Arrears	253Q
University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R	130-131
OKIGWI:	
Abakaliki-Afikpo and Okigwi-Afikpo Roads	45-6Q
Bishop Shanahan Memorial Training College, Uboma	917Q
OKO, M.B.E., MR G. I.:	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 421 ..	773
Com. Head 435	872-3
Com. Head 436	1141-3
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	428-431
OKOYA, MR E. P., Minister of Health:	
Appropriation Bill: 2R	637-645
Com. Head 433	1079-1081, 1086
Public Petitions Committee: Chairman ..	921
OKPARA, DR M. I., Minister of Production:	
Adjournment <i>sine die</i> : <i>Motion</i>	1334
African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i>	1216, 1229, 1237, 1239
Allocation of Seats in the House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i>	941-2
Appropriation Bill: 2R	546, 688, 691
Com. Head 421	777
Com. Head 425	796-797
Com. Head 429	994, 1019, 1023-4, 1049
Com. Head 434	1103
Com. Head 436	1140, 1156
Chieftaincy Dispute in Kalabari (Adj. Deb.)	1193
Committee of Selection: <i>Motion</i>	863-4, 865
Committee of Selection: Report	921-2
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Meeting	860, 968
Exemption from Standing Order: <i>Motion</i> ..	1334
Federal Budget Leakage	1458
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	400-401, 436, 447, 470-1, 490-498, 520-523, 525, 528-9, 533
Hansard	1460
Hours of Sitting of the House: <i>Motion</i> ..	29-30
Legislative Houses Bill: 2R	1342
Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill: Com.	1361-2
Mr Obioha's Licence	1459
Oil painting of the late Speaker, Mr Egbuna	756
Order of the Day to be taken	736
Public Order Bill: Com.	1454
Revocation of Resolution suspending Standing Order 4—Hours of Sitting: <i>Motion</i>	1333
Speech from the Throne: Suspension of Standing Orders: <i>Motion</i>	483

	Column
Sports Commission (Amendment) Bill: 2R	964
University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R	121-5
OKPOKAM, MR K. J. N.:	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 429	1045-8
Committee of Selection: Member	863
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	453-7
Provincial Administration Bill: 2R	1380-1382
OKWU, MR B. C., Minister of Information:	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 434	1099-1100, 1112-6
Finance (Amendment) Bill: 2R	328, 332-4
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	207-216, 447, 525
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	279, 297
Public Order Bill: 2R	1444-5
ONUBOGU, DR W. N.:	
African Academy of Arts and Research: <i>Motion</i>	1237-1245, 1256-8
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 427	824-7
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R	754
Finance Law, 1956—Variations to Schedules: <i>Motion</i>	99-100
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	385, 479-482, 484-6
Supplementary List—Standard Six Results	1270Q
ONUKOGU, CHIEF S. E., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Town Planning:	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 435	884
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R	156-7
ONWE, MR P. A.:	
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 421	788
Com. Head 435	881-3
Com. Head 438	1175-6
Food Supply in Secondary Schools	769Q
Girls' Secondary Schools	757-8Q
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	394-400, 494
Lead—Zinc Industry in Abakaliki	541Q
Market Development At Ezamgbo	765-7Q
Maternity Home at Ezamgbo	1197Q
Nkalagu Cement Industry—Rent	969-971Q
Nkalagu—Ehamufu Road	971Q
Request to Declare Abakaliki Division a Special Area (Adj. Deb.)	1259-1260
Secondary School Fees	1264-8Q
Statutory Corporations Committee: Member	922
U.P.E. Schools in Ishielu District, Abakaliki Division	1267-8Q
ONWUDIWE, MR N. O.:	
Allocation of Seats in the House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i>	939-940
Appropriation Bill: 2R	558-563
Committee of Selection: Member	863
Statutory Corporations Committee Member	922
ONWUMA, MR M. N.:	
Allocation of Seats in the Federal House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i>	925-8, 950
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 427	819-820, 823-4
Com. Head 429	910-916, 975-6, 1038
Coal Royalties	762-3Q

	Column
Eastern Region Government Investment in N.E.M.C.O. Limited	974-5Q
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	201, 222-8
Local Government Contracts	1137-8Q
Provincial Administration Bill: 2R	1376-1380
Public Accounts Committee: Member	922
Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Colleges	1329-1330Q
Voters' List	770Q
ONYEARO, MR Y.:	
Oil Painting of the late Speaker, Mr Egbuna	756
ONYERI, MR V. K.:	
Allocation of Seats in the House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i>	935-7
Appropriation Bill: 2R	554-8
Com. Head 427	813
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R	738, 740-741
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	490
House Committee: Member	921
University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R	126
ONYIYUKE, CHIEF A. N., Minister of Local Government:	
Appropriation Bill: 2R	676-680
Com. Head 436	1123-1131, 1152-6
Classification of Chiefs Bill: 2R	1280-1283
Local Government (Extension of Office) Bill: 2R	305-6
Public Collections: <i>Motion</i>	294
OPARA, REV. M. D.:	
Allocation of Seats in the House of Representatives: <i>Motion</i>	941
Appropriation Bill: 2R	564-8
Com. Head 424	849-850
Com. Head 429	1054-5
Com. Head 435	873-4
Statutory Corporations Committee: Member	922
OPOBO:	
Abak-Uyo and Abak-Opobo Roads	701Q
ORLU:	
Bore-holes	919-920Q
Tarring of Awka-Orlu-Owerri Road	972Q
Girls' Secondary School	761-2Q
Local Government Clerks	758Q
Owerri Girls' Secondary School	1331Q
Tarring of Awka-Orlu-Owerri Road	972Q
Tax Assessment	763-6Q

P

PALM PRODUCE :

Evacuation of Produce from Oguta Area: <i>Motion</i>	950-961
--	---------

PAPERS:

Delivered to the House and distributed to Members during Recess	28
Delivered to the House and distributed to Members during the sitting of the House	861
Presented	28, 47, 115, 165, 1035, 1331

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE:

Amendment of which notice had been given on the Legislative Houses Bill should not be anticipated in a debate on Second Reading but debated in Committee	1341-2
Amendment to Motion for a Humble Address of thanks to the Governor to be taken on the last day of the debate on the Speech from the Throne ..	166
Appropriation Bill: Procedure in Committee of Supply ..770-771, 839, 889-890, 1023, 1143	1023, 1143
Behaviour of Members	50, 490, 1156
Individual Heads of Estimates not to be debated on Second Reading of Appropriation Bill	577
Manner of giving Notice.. .. .	1100
Member:	
Should address Mr Speaker and not the House	298
Should avoid the use of provocative words	1184
Should confer only in undertones	1001
Should discuss financial policy of Government on Second Reading of Appropriation Bill	561, 593, 647
Should keep quiet when not addressing the Chair	242, 301
Should not make unseemly interruptions	129-130, 191, 303, 370, 998, 1114
Should not use insulting language	235-6, 1229, 1315
Should not use the word "impudence" on other hon. Members	1315
Should not use the word "lies" in debate	1255
Motion for a Humble Address of Thanks to be presented to the Governor, etc., after secondment, debate thereon to be adjourned for two days	28
Mr Speaker in the House and the Chairman in any Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the Rules of Order in the House and Committee	1224
Mr Speaker's decision is final	434, 1344
Not Point of Order	127, 184, 212, 265, 492, 1260, 1352
On an amendment proposing to leave out words or to insert words, debate shall be confined to the omission or insertion of such words	1354
Out of Order	432-3
Personal Explanation	97-8
Relevancy in Debate	605, 964, 1105, 1106, 1150, 1215, 1216, 1240, 1260
Rules of Debate	103, 122, 135-6, 153, 1147, 1200
Sittings of the House	84, 1136
Strangers in the Galleries not allowed to take part in the Proceedings of the House	351
Time limit of Speeches	27, 172, 187, 190, 199, 233, 246, 284, 371, 399, 437, 471, 475, 511, 601, 651, 695, 717, 739, 897, 964, 1000, 1022, 1139, 1141, 1218

PORT HARCOURT:

Acquisition of Land in Diobu	922-3Q
--------------------------------------	--------

PRIVILEGES, COMMITTEE OF:

Members	921
-----------------	-----

Column

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE:

Chairman	1137
Members	922
Report	861

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS:

Motion	257-305
----------------	---------

PUBLIC ORDER BILL:

Presented and 1R.. .. .	165
2R.. .. .	1434-1449
Com.	1449-1458
3R.. .. .	1458

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE:

Members	921
-----------------	-----

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION BILL:

Presented and 1R.. .. .	165
2R.. .. .	1363-1389
Com.	1389-1434
3R.. .. .	1434

R

RENTS:

Nkalagu Cement Industry	969-971Q
---------------------------------	----------

ROADS:

Abak-Uyo and Abak-Opobo Roads	701Q
Abakaliki-Afikpo and Okigwi-Afikpo Roads	45-6Q
Maintenance of Roads	973Q
New Roads	923-4Q
Nkalagu-Ehamufu Road.. .. .	971Q
Tarring of Awka-Orlu-Owerri Road	972Q

S

SALARIES:

Extended Scales of Teachers' Salaries ..	539-540Q
Government Teachers—Salaries	821-2Q
Salaries for Voluntary Agency African Nursing Sisters	701-2Q

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:

Admission to Girls' Secondary Schools and Training Colleges	46Q
Approved School Training	969Q
Bishop Shanahan Memorial Training College, Uboma	917Q
Double-Stream Classes in Government Secondary Schools	917Q
Expansion of Schools	1270Q
Food Supply in Secondary Schools	769Q
Girls' Secondary Schools.. .. .	757-8Q
Government and Voluntary Agency Secondary Schools	1271Q
Grants-in-Aid	697Q, 769Q
Opening of Secondary Grammar Schools (Adj. Deb.)	1135-6
Owerri Girls' Secondary School	761-2Q, 1331Q
Primary School Fees	45Q
Rural Science Schools	537Q
Secondary Grammar Schools in the E.R. ..	537Q
Secondary School Fees	1264-8Q
Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Colleges	1329-1330Q
Standard Six Examination	1263Q
U.P.E. Schools in Ishielu District, Abakaliki Division	1267-8Q

Column

SPEAKER OR CHAIRMAN, RULINGS OF:

Amendment of which notice had been given on the Legislative Houses Bill should not be anticipated in a debate on Second Reading but debated in Committee	1341-2
Behaviour of Members	50, 490, 1156
In criticising Government it would not be fair to criticise the N.C.N.C.	648
Individual Heads of Estimates not to be debated on Second Reading of Appropriation Bill	577
Manner of giving Notice	1100
Member:	
may quote from the <i>People's Guardian</i>	217
not allowed to quote from a newspaper should address Mr Speaker and not the House	217
should avoid the use of provocative words	298
should be brief	1184
should discuss financial Policy of Government on the Second Reading of Appropriation Bill	851, 1003, 1023
should keep quiet when not addressing the Chair	561, 593, 647
should listen attentively to the Premier	242, 266, 301
should not make allegations which cannot be substantiated	1458
should not make unseemly interruptions	273
should not point at others when speaking	129-130, 191, 303, 370, 998, 1114
should not use insinuating words	1212
should not use insulting language	1230
should not use the House to exchange words	235-6, 1229
should not use the word "impudence" on other hon. Members	121, 122
should not use the word "lies" in debate	1315
should not use the words "nonsense" and "shut-up" in debate	1255
should reduce Latin expression into English	1216
should withdraw annoying expressions	942
should withdraw annoying expressions	739
Motion on the Allocation of Seats in the House of Representatives in order	931, 944-5
Mr Speaker's decision is final	434, 1344
Not Point of Order	127, 184, 212, 265, 492, 1260, 1352
On an amendment proposing to leave out or to insert words, debate shall be confined to the omission or insertion of such words respectively	1354
Out of Order	432-3
Premier, Ministers and Leader of Opposition should be given special audience	1281
Relevancy in Debate	605, 964, 1106, 1150, 1215, 1240, 1260
Rules of Debate	135-6, 153, 1147, 1200
Sittings of the House	1136
Strangers in the Galleries not allowed to take part in the Proceedings of the House	351
There cannot be two debates going on at the same time	936
Time limit of Speeches	27, 172, 187, 190, 199, 233, 371, 399, 437, 471, 475, 511, 601, 651, 717, 739, 897, 964, 1000, 1022, 1139, 1141, 1218

SPORTS COMMISSION (AMENDMENT)

BILL:	
Presented and 1R	863
2R	961-7
Com. and 3R	967

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE:

Members	921
-----------------	-----

STATUTORY CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE:

Members	922
-----------------	-----

T**TAXES:**

Tax Arrears	253-4Q, 918-9Q
Tax on Allowances	254Q

TEACHERS:

Bishop Shanahan Memorial Training College, Uboma	917Q
Extended Scales of Teachers' Salaries	539-540Q
Grants-in-Aid	769Q
Salaries	821-2Q
Secondary Schools and Teacher Training Colleges	1329-1330Q
Teachers' Certificate Examination	918Q

TELECOMMUNICATIONS 761Q**TOWN PLANNING:**

Acquisition of Land in Diobu	922-3Q
--------------------------------------	--------

U**UDI:**

Epidemic of Epilepsy	1035Q
Rural Science Schools	537Q

UDONKIM, MR E. W., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Commerce:

Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	381-4
---	-------

UKUTA, M.B.E., MR R. O.:

Appropriation Bill: 2R	680-682
Com. Head 427	817-8
Com. Head 429	1056-8
Com. Head 436	1151-2
Cocoa and Cotton in Nsukka Division	768-9Q
Drought	704-5Q
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	466-8
Irrigation	767Q
Licenses for Arms	623-3Q
Motor Licensing Stations	632Q
Public Petitions Committee: Member	921
University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R	126-7

UMOH, MR A. G.:

African Academy of Arts and Research: Motion	1222
Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 425	804-5
Com. Head 429	1010-1014
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	431-8, 489, 525
University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Bill: 2R	125-6

Column

**UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA (PROVI-
SIONAL COUNCIL) (AMENDMENT)**

BILL:

Presented and 1R	47
2R	115-145
Com. and 3R	145

**URURUKA, MR P. O., Minister of
Transport:**

Appropriation Bill: 2R	669-676
Evacuation of Produce from Oguta Area: <i>Motion</i>	958-960

UYO:

Abak-Uyo and Abak-Opobo Roads ..	701Q
----------------------------------	------

**UZOIGWE, MR L. O., Parliamentary
Secretary, Ministry of Education:**

Appropriation Bill: 2R	647
Com. Head 421	790

Column

W

WATER SUPPLIES:

Bore-holes	919-920Q
Water Supply in Urban Areas	924Q
Wells in Rural Areas	975Q

Y

YOWIKA, MR M. N.:

Appropriation Bill: Com. Head 429 ..	976-8
Com. Head 437	1157-1160
Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address	446-9