NIGERIA

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

THIRD SESSION

12th to 15th January, 1954

Eastern House of Assembly

(President: The Lieutenant-Governor, Eastern Region,
His Honour Sir Clement John Pleass, K.B.E., C.M.G.)

(Vice-President: Mr R. D. Lloyd, Senior Crown Counsel).

MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Lieutenant-Governor,
His Honour Sir Clement John Pleass, K.B.E., C.M.G.

The Civil Secretary,
The honourable J. G. Mackenzie.

The Legal Secretary,
The honourable G. G. Briggs.

The Financial Secretary,
The honourable A. E. Cook.

The Development Secretary,
The honourable C. A. L. Guise, M.B.E.

Brigadier the honourable E. J. Gibbons, C.B.E. *(Appointed by name)*,
Commissioner of the Cameroons.

The Minister of Local Government,
Dr the honourable Nnamdi Azikiwe.

The Minister of Works,
The honourable Mbonu Ojike.

The Minister of Public Health,
Dr the honourable M. I. Okpara.

The Minister of Land and Survey,
The honourable M. C. Awgu.

The Minister of Education,
The honourable I. U. Akpabio.

The Minister of Natural Resources,
Dr the honourable W. N. Onubogu.

The Minister Without Portfolio,
The honourable I. U. Imeh.

The Minister Without Portfolio,
The honourable E. P. Okoya.

The Minister Without Portfolio,
(Vacant).

OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

The Civil Secretary,
Mr J. G. Mackenzie.

The Legal Secretary,
Mr G. G. Briggs.

The Financial Secretary,
Mr A. E. Cook.

Mr R. D. Lloyd. *(Appointed by name)*,
Senior Crown Counsel.

Mr H. J. M. Harding. *(Appointment by name)*,
Senior District Officer, Acting Resident, Cameroons Province.

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

(Arranged in alphabetical order)

Mr N. W. Abengowe, Aba Division.
Mr S. O. Achara, Okigwi Division.
Mr O. U. Afiah, Abak Division.
Chief G. N. Agbasiere, Orlu Division.
Mr E. A. Agim, Ogoja Division.
Mr D. E. Akilo, Udi Division.
Mr I. U. Akpabio, Ikot Ekpene Division.
Mr S. T. Akpan, Eket Division.
Mr D. O. Aligwekwe, Okigwi Division.
Mr S. N. Alo, Abakaliki Division.
Mr D. O. Anu, Udi Division.
Chief N. N. Anyika, Awka Division.
Mr N. L. P. Apreala, Brass Division.
Mr O. Arikpo, Obubra Division.
Mr E. Ashirim-Unosi, Ahoada Division.
Mr M. C. Awgu, Awka Division.
Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Onitsha Division.
Mr J. M. Bokwe, Kumba Division.
Mr E. Chidolue, Onitsha Division.
Mr A. O. Chikwendu, Bende Division.
Mr E. A. Chime, Udi Division.
Mr B. N. I. Edet, Uyo Division.
Mr B. O. M. Edoga, Nsukka Division.
Mr U. U. Eko, Obubra Division.
Mr A. J. Ekpe, Opobo Division.
Mr E. Emole, Bende Division.
Dr E. M. L. Endeley, Victoria Division.
Mr E. U. Eronini, Owerri Division.
Dr E. A. Esin, Eket Division.
Chief Nyong Essien, Uyo Division.
Mr E. O. Eyo, Uyo Division.
Mr J. E. Eyo, Abak Division.
Mr J. N. Foncha, Bamenda Division.
Mr S. A. George, Mamfe Division.
Rev. M. N. Ibe, Owerri Division.
Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba, Orlu Division.
Mr A. Ikoku, O.B.E., Enyong Division.
Mr F. E. Ikpeme, Calabar Division.
Mr I. U. Imeh, Abak Division.
Dr S. E. Imoke, Afikpo Division.
Mr A. U. A. Inyang, Ikot Ekpene Division.
Mr E. Ita, Calabar Division.
Mr O. O. Ita, Eket Division.
Mr R. O. Iwuagwu, Okigwi Division.
Mr S. E. K. Iwueke, Okigwi Division.
Rev. J. C. Kangsen, Wum Division.
Mr K. Kiri, Degema Division.
Mr V. T. Lainjo, Bamenda Division.
Mr E. K. Martin, Victoria Division.
Mr S. O. Masi, Ahoada Division.
Mr K. O. Mbadiwe, Orlu Division.

Mr D. M. Mbaka, Ogoni Division.
Mr M. T. Mbu, Ogoja Division.
Mr S. T. Muna, Bamenda Division.
Mr S. T. Ncha, Mamfe Division.
Mr J. T. Ndze, Nkambe Division.
Mr R. A. Njoku, Owerri Division.
Mr J. N. Nkwain, Wum Division.
Mr D. A. Nnaji, Udi Division.
Mr J. Nsame, Nkambe Division.
Mr A. Nwachuku, Afikpo Division.
Mr V. A. Nwankwo, Abakaliki Division.
Mr N. Nweze, Abakaliki Division.
Mr J. U. Nwodo, Nsukka Division.
Mr P. O. Nwoga, Owerri Division.
Mr J. H. E. Nwuke, Ahoada Division.
Mr M. Obayi, Nsukka Division.
Mr M. E. Ogon, Ikom Division.
Mr Mbonu Ojike, Orlu Division.
Mr G. E. Okeke, Onitsha Division.
Mr P. N. Okeke, Onitsha Division.
Mr O. Oketa, Abakaliki Division.
Mr G. I. Oko, Awgu Division.
Mr E. P. Okoya, Brass Division.
Dr M. I. Okpara, Bende Division.
Mr K. J. N. Okpokam, Ikom Division.
Mr B. C. Okwu, Awgu Division.
Dr W. N. Onubogu, Onitsha Division.
Mr U. Onu-Chima, Afikpo Division.
Chief S. E. Onukogu, Owerri Division.
Mr P. A. Onwe, Abakaliki Division.
Mr N. O. Onwudiwe, Okigwi Division.
Mr V. K. Onyeri, Port Harcourt Division.
Chief A. N. Onyiuke, Awka Division.
Rev. M. D. Opara, Owerri Division.
Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo, Ogoni Division.
Mr F. A. Sone, Kumba Division.
Chief M. W. Ubani, Aba Division.
Dr E. U. Udoma, Opobo Division.
Mr D. C. Ugwu, Nsukka Division.
Mr R. O. Ukuta, Nsukka Division.
Mr A. G. Umoh, Enyong Division.
Mr R. U. Umo-Inyang, M.B.E., Ikot Ekpene Division.
Mr J. O. Umolu, Port Harcourt Division.
Mr P. O. Ururuka, Aba Division.
Mr L. O. Uzoigwe, Aba Division.
Mr P. G. Warmate, Degema Division.

SPECIAL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

Mr T. Brady.
Mrs M. U. Ekpo.
Mallam Umoru Yushau.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

The President (Chairman).

The Civil Secretary.
The Minister of Local Government,
Dr the honourable Nnamdi Azikiwe.
The Minister of Works,
The honourable Mbonu Ojike.
The Minister of Public Health,
Dr the honourable M. I. Okpara.
The Minister of Land and Survey,
The honourable M. C. Awgu.
The Minister of Education,
The honourable I. U. Akpabio.
The Minister of Natural Resources,
Dr the honourable W. N. Onubogu.
The Minister Without Portfolio,
The honourable I. U. Imeh.
The Minister Without Portfolio,
The honourable E. P. Okoya.
The Minister Without Portfolio,
(Vacant).
Mr A. J. Ekpe, Member for Calabar Province.
Dr S. E. Imoke, Member for Ogoja Province.
Mr K. Kiri, Member for Rivers Province.
Mr J. U. Nwodo, Member for Onitsha Province.
Chief M. W. Ubani, Member for Owerri Province.
(Vacant), Member for Bamenda Province.
(Vacant), Member for Cameroons Province.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The President (Chairman).
The Legal Secretary.
Mr E. Emole.
Mr O. O. Ita.
Mr B. C. Okwu.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

The Financial Secretary (Chairman).
Mr A. U. A. Inyang (Calabar Province).
Mr P. A. Onwe (Ogoja Province).
Mr G. I. Oko (Onitsha Province).
Mr S. O. Achara (Owerri Province).
Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo (Rivers Province).
Vacant (Bamenda Province).
Vacant (Cameroons Province).

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

The Legal Secretary (Chairman).
Chief Nyong Essien (Calabar Province).
Mr S. N. Alo (Ogoja Province).
Mr D. E. Akilo (Onitsha Province).
Mr N. W. Abengowe (Owerri Province).

Mr V. K. Onyeri (Rivers Province).
Vacant (Bamenda Province).
Vacant (Cameroons Province).

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Mr G. E. Okeke (Chairman).
Mr S. T. Akpan (Calabar Province).
Mr O. Arikpo (Ogoja Province).
Mr D. O. Anu (Onitsha Province).
Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba (Owerri Province).
Mr N. L. P. Apreala (Rivers Province).
Mr T. Brady (Special Member).
Vacant (Bamenda Province).
Vacant (Cameroons Province).

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Financial Secretary (Chairman).
Mallam Umoru Yushau (Special Member).
Mr E. O. Eyo (Calabar Province).
Mr U. Onu-Chima (Ogoja Province).
Mr R. O. Ukuta (Onitsha Province).
Rev. M. N. Ibe (Owerri Province).
Mr J. O. Umolu (Rivers Province).
Vacant (Bamenda Province).
Vacant (Cameroons Province).

OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

The Clerk of the House: Mr A. E. Eronini, M.B.E.

Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Tuesday, 12th January, 1954

The House met at 10 o'clock a.m.

Speech by the Lieutenant-Governor

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I must use this form of address until the oaths have been taken. When the oaths have been taken it will be proper for me to address you as Honourable Members of this House.

It is my privilege to extend to each of you a most cordial welcome to this House and to offer to each of you my personal congratulations upon your success in the election. I should also take this opportunity of welcoming to this House for the first time a lady member.

Upon each and every one of you rests a two-fold responsibility, a responsibility to this House and a responsibility to your constituents. For my part, I promise you ready and friendly co-operation in the carrying out of your responsibilities.

As members of this House—the visible sign of responsible representative Government—you are the heirs to a great tradition, a tradition that I pray you will protect and cherish. It is a tradition, however, older than parliament—a tradition the direction of whose growth was determined by the fundamental doctrine of the great Athenian Statesman, Solon, that political power should be commensurate with service to the public. An essential part of this tradition is the knowledge that if liberty and justice and equal laws are to be maintained it is as necessary that democracy should restrain itself as that it should restrain autocracy.

You are meeting in difficult and critical times. The volume of work you will be required to undertake is great, the decisions you will be called upon to make will be momentous. It is, of course, right and proper that you should have a special care for the people in the areas you represent and for their interests, but I would ask you to remember that overriding these is your duty to the interests of the Region as a whole, and never to forget that the Eastern Region is a part of Nigeria.

To do this will not be easy. It will require steadfastness and courage and a willingness to face temporary unpopularity for the lasting good of the people of the Region. Think, therefore, I beseech you like statesmen, of the next generation and not, like politicians, of the next election, for I would remind you that—

> They that dig foundations deep,
> Fit for realms to rise upon,
> Little credit do they reap
> From their generation.

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God will guide you in your deliberations.

(His Honour then retired from the Chamber).

Appointment of Vice-President

The Civil Secretary:

I will read an Instrument signed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, appointing Mr R. D. Lloyd, Senior Crown Counsel, as Vice-President.

"By His Honour SIR CLEMENT JOHN PLEASE, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Eastern Region of Nigeria.

Lieutenant-Governor.

WHEREAS it is provided by section 40 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1951, that the Lieutenant-Governor may, acting in his discretion, by Instrument under the Public Seal appoint a Member of the House of Assembly to be Vice-President:

AND WHEREAS I am minded to appoint RICHARD DURNFORD LLOYD, Esquire, Senior Crown Counsel, to be the Vice-President of the House of Assembly for the First Meeting of the Third Session thereof:

NOW THEREFORE, I, CLEMENT JOHN PLEASS, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the Eastern Region of Nigeria, do hereby appoint RICHARD DURNFORD LLOYD, Esquire, Senior Crown Counsel, to be the Vice-President of the House of Assembly for the First Meeting of the Third Session thereof.

GIVEN under my hand and the Public Seal of the Eastern Region of Nigeria, this 6th day of January, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-four."

Mr R. D. Lloyd then took and subscribed the Oath required by law and took the Chair.

Oath of Allegiance of New Members

The following took and subscribed to the oath required by law as Members: —

The honourable N. W. Abengowe, Aba Division.
The honourable S. O. Achara, Okigwi Division.
The honourable O. U. Afiah, Abak Division.
Chief the honourable G. N. Agbasiere, Orlu Division.
The honourable E. A. Agim, Ogoja Division.
The honourable D. E. Akilo, Udi Division.
The honourable I. U. Akpabio, Ikot Ekpene Division.
The honourable S. T. Akpan, Eket Division.
The honourable D. O. Aligwekwe, Okigwi Division.

The honourable S. N. Alo, Abakaliki Division.
The honourable D. O. Anu, Udi Division.
Chief the honourable N. N. Anyika, Awka Division.
The honourable N. L. P. Apreala, Brass Division.
The honourable O. Arikpo, Obubra Division.
The honourable E. Ashirim-Unosi, Ahoada Division.
The honourable M. C. Awgu, Awka Division.
Dr the honourable N. Azikiwe, Onitsha Division.
The honourable T. Brady, Special Member.
The honourable G. G. Briggs, Legal Secretary, Eastern Region.
The honourable E. Chidolue, Onitsha Division.
The honourable A. O. Chikwendu, Bende Division.
The honourable E. A. Chime, Udi Division.
The honourable A. E. Cook, Regional Financial Secretary.
The honourable B. N. I. Edet, Uyo Division.
The honourable B. O. M. Edoga, Nsukka Division.
The honourable U. U. Eko, Obubra Division.
The honourable A. J. Ekpe, Opobo Division.
The honourable Margaret U. Ekpo, Special Member.
The honourable E. Emole, Bende Division.
The honourable E. U. Eronini, Owerri Division.
Dr the honourable E. A. Esin, Eket Division.
Chief the honourable N. Essien, Uyo Division.
The honourable E. O. Eyo, Uyo Division.
The honourable J. E. Eyo, Abak Division.
Reverend and the honourable M. N. Ibe, Owerri Division.
The honourable J. O. Ihekwoaba, Orlu Division.
The honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E., Enyong Division.
The honourable F. E. Ikpeme, Calabar Division.
The honourable I. U. Imeh, Abak Division.
Dr the honourable S. E. Imoke, Afikpo Division.
The honourable A. U. A. Inyang, Ikot Ekpene Division.
The honourable E. Ita, Calabar Division.
The honourable O. O. Ita, Eket Division.
The honourable R. O. Iwuagwu, Okigwi Division.
The honourable S. E. K. Iwueke, Okigwi Division.
The honourable K. Kiri, Degema Division.
The honourable J. G. Mackenzie, Civil Secretary, Eastern Region.
The honourable S. O. Masi, Ahoada Division.
The honourable K. O. Mbadiwe, Orlu Division.
The honourable D. M. Mbaka, Ogoni Division.
The honourable M. T. Mbu, Ogoja Division.
The honourable R. A. Njoku, Owerri Division.
The honourable D. A. Nnaji, Udi Division.
The honourable A. Nwachuku, Afikpo Division.
The honourable V. A. Nwankwo, Abakaliki Division.
The honourable N. Nweze, Abakaliki Division.
The honourable J. U. Nwodo, Nsukka Division.
The honourable P. O. Nwoga, Owerri Division.
The honourable J. H. E. Nwuke, Ahoada Division.
The honourable M. Obayi, Nsukka Division.
The honourable M. E. Ogon, Ikom Division.
The honourable M. Ojike, Orlu Division.

The honourable G. E. Okeke, Onitsha Division.
The honourable P. N. Okeke, Onitsha Division.
The honourable O. Oketa, Abakaliki Division.
The honourable G. I. Oko, Awgu Division.
The honourable E. P. Okoya, Brass Division.
Dr the honourable M. I. Okpara, Bende Division.
The honourable K. J. N. Okpokam, Ikom Division.
The honourable B. C. Okwu, Awgu Division.
Dr the honourable W. N. Onubogu, Onitsha Division.
The honourable U. Onu-Chima, Afikpo Division.
Chief the honourable S. E. Onukogu, Owerri Division.
The honourable P. A. Onwe, Abakaliki Division.
The honourable N. O. Onwudiwe, Okigwi Division.
The honourable V. K. Onyeri, Port Harcourt Division.
Chief the honourable A. N. Onyiuke, Awka Division.
Reverend and the honourable M. D. Opara, Owerri Division.
The honourable F. M. A. Saronwiyo, Ogoni Division.
Chief the honourable M. W. Ubani, Aba Division.
Dr the honourable E. U. Udoma, Opobo Division.
The honourable D. C. Ugwu, Nsukka Division.
The honourable R. O. Ukuta, Nsukka Division.
The honourable A. G. Umoh, Enyong Division.
The honourable R. U. Umo-Inyang, M.B.E., Ikot Ekpene Division.
The honourable J. O. Umolu, Port Harcourt Division.
The honourable P. A. Ururuka, Aba Division.
The honourable L. O. Uzoigwe, Aba Division.
The honourable P. G. Warmate, Degema Division.
Mallam the honourable Umoru Yushau, Special Member.

Prayers

Announcements by the President

The President:
Honourable Members,

Appointment of Date of Commencement of Election and Notice of Candidature of Representative Members

In pursuance of the provisions of Regulation 3 of the Representative Members (Eastern Region) Electoral Regulations, 1951 (No. 80 of 1951), I hereby appoint:

Wednesday, the 13th of January, 1954, as the day upon which the election of Representative Members will commence; and

Today, the 12th of January, 1954, between the hours of 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. as the day on which and the hours between which notice of candidature for election to the House of Representatives may be given.

Appointment of Committees

As honourable Members are no doubt aware, the following Special Committees were set up during the last Session in accordance with the relevant Standing Orders:—

The Committee of Selection.
The Standing Orders Committee.
The House Committee.
The Public Petitions Committee.
The Public Accounts Committee.
The Standing Committee on Finance.

All these Committees have now disappeared as a result of the dissolution of the House last May.

Now it is the duty of the House at the commencement of every Session to appoint a Committee of Selection. This Committee in turn appoints members of the other Committees I have just enumerated. Standing Order 56 provides that "the Committee of Selection shall consist of the President as Chairman, ten Members of the Regional Executive Council of whom one shall be an *ex-officio* Member to be nominated by that Council, and one elected Member who is not a Member of the Regional Executive Council from each province to be elected by the House."

I would suggest that the Member of the Regional Executive Council who is the leader of the majority party in the House should find out from the members whom they want to nominate to the Committee of Selection, and the motion should then be placed on the Order Paper asking the House to elect such persons. The mover of this motion would also inform the House of the names of the ten Members of the Regional Executive Council whom that Council has nominated to be Members of the Committee of Selection.

Finally, I would like to add that at Westminster it is usual for the Members of the Opposition to be appointed to the Committee of Selection as well as Members of the Government Bench.

Adjournment

The President adjourned the House at 11.45 a.m. until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 13th January, 1954.

Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Wednesday, 13th January, 1954

The House met at 10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers

(Mr President in the Chair).

Election of Representative Members of the House of Representatives

The Clerk:

Election of Members of the House of Representatives.

The President:

Honourable Members, today we proceed to elect the thirty-four Representative Members of the Eastern Region, that is to say, to elect those Members who will represent the Region in the House of Representatives. In the morning, or rather this morning, we shall elect the Provincial Members, that is to say, the two members from each province in the Region, and in the afternoon, we shall elect the remaining twenty members.

This morning, the Provincial Members will be elected province by province and in alphabetical order, and where there are more than two nominations a ballot will be held.

Bamenda Province.

The President:

There are no nominations in respect of Bamenda Province and I therefore declare that two vacancies exist in respect of this province. I appoint the second day of the next meeting as the day on which an election shall be held to fill the vacancies, and the first day of the next meeting between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. as the day upon which and the hours between which notice of candidature may be given.

Calabar Province.

The President:

In respect of Calabar Province, the Regulations lay down that one of the Provincial Members must be an Elected Member who was registered as an Elector in the township of Calabar at the time of his election to the House. No Member who was registered as an Elector in the township of Calabar has been nominated, and I therefore declare one vacancy to exist in respect of the province of Calabar. I appoint the second day of the next meeting as the day upon which an election shall be held to fill the vacancy and the first day of the next meeting between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. as the day upon which and the hours between which notice of candidature may be given.

In respect of the remaining Member for Calabar Province, there are seven nominations and I therefore direct that a ballot shall be held. I direct the Clerk to distribute the ballot papers to all Members other than the Official Members. Members will note that they have to vote for one candidate only.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to call the name of every Member excepting the Official Members.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to unlock the Ballot Box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:

The result of the ballot is—

The honourable E. O. Eyo, 77 votes.
The honurable R. U. Umo-Inyang, 10 votes.

In accordance with regulation 15 (*i*) of Regulations No. 80 of 1951, I declare honourable E. O. Eyo to be elected in respect of Calabar Province.

Cameroons Province.

The President:

There are no nominations in respect of Cameroons Province, and I therefore declare two vacancies to exist in respect of this province. I appoint the second day of the next meeting as the day on which an election shall be held to fill the vacancies, and the first day of the next meeting between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. as the day upon which and the hours between which notice of candidature may be given.

Ogoja Province.

The President:

There are six nominations in respect of Ogoja Province, and I direct a ballot to be held. I direct the Clerk to distribute the ballot papers. Members are to vote for two candidates.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to call the name of every Member excepting the Official Members.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:

The result of the ballot is—

The honourable M. T. Mbu, 77 votes.
The honuorable N. Nweze, 75 votes.

In accordance with regulation 15 (*i*) of Regulations No. 80 of 1951, I declare the following two candidates to be elected in respect of Ogoja Province—

The honourable M. T. Mbu.
The honourable N. Nweze.

Onitsha Province.

The President:

There are six candidates for Onitsha Province, and I order a ballot to be held. I direct the Clerk to distribute the ballot papers.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to call the name of every Member other than the Official Members.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:

The result of the ballot is:

Dr the honourable N. Azikiwe, 76 votes.
The honourable E. A. Chime, 76 votes
The honourable D. A. Nnaji, 1 vote.
The honourable B. C. Okwu, 1 vote.

In accordance with regulation 15 (*i*) of Regulations No. 80 of 1951, I declare the following two candidates to be elected in respect of Onitsha Province—

Dr the honourable Nnamdi Azikiwe.

The honourable E. A. Chime.

Owerri Province.

The President:

Now, we come to the Owerri Province. There are eight nominations and I direct a ballot to be held.

I direct the Clerk to distribute the ballot papers.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to call the name of every Member other than the Official Members.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The result of the ballot is:

The honourable K. O. Mbadiwe, 77 votes.
The honourable R. A. Njoku, 76 votes.

In accordance with regulation 15 (*i*) of Regulations No. 80 of 1951, I declare the following candidates to be elected in respect of the Owerri Province—

The honourable K. O. Mbadiwe.
The honourable R. A. Njoku.

Rivers Province.

The President:

We now come to the Rivers Province. There are four nominations and I direct that a ballot shall be held.

I direct the Clerk to distribute the ballot papers.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to call the name of every Member other than the Official Members.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:
The result of the ballot is:

The honourable E. Ashirim-Unosi, 76 votes.
The honourable V. K. Onyeri, 1 vote.
The honourable F. M. A. Saronwiyo, 77 votes.

In accordance with regulation 15 (*i*) of Regulations No. 80 of 1951, I declare the following candidates to be elected in respect of the Rivers Province—

The honourable F. M. A. Saronwiyo.
The honourable E. Ashirim-Unosi.

That, honourable Members, concludes our business for this morning. This afternoon, we have to elect the remaining twenty Members.

The sitting is suspended until this afternoon.

Sitting suspended at 11.45 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 3 p.m.

The President:
Honourable Members, we shall now proceed to elect the remaining twenty Representative Members. As there are twenty-two nominations I order a ballot to be held, and I direct the Clerk to distribute the ballot papers. Members will note that the ballot paper consists of two sheets of paper and you are to vote for not more than twenty candidates.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to distribute the ballot papers.

The President:
Has every Member finished voting?

The President:
I direct the Clerk to call the name of every Member excepting the Official Members.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:
As the counting of the votes will take approximately one hour, I am suspending the sitting for one hour.

Sitting suspended at 3.30 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 4.30 p.m.

The President:

The result of the ballot is, in alphabetical order:—

	votes
The honourable O. U. Afiah	72
The honourable E. A. Agim	72
The honourable A. O. Chikwendu	72
The honourable B. N. I. Edet	72
The honourable U. U. Eko	72
The honourable A. J. Ekpe	9
The honourable E. Emole	72
The honourable E. U. Eronini	72
Dr the honourable E. A. Esin	72
Dr the honuorable S. E. Imoke	73
The honourable R. O. Iwuagwu	72
The honourable D. A. Nnaji	72
The honourable M. E. Ogon	69
The honourable M. Ojike	73
The honourable B. C. Okwu	73
The honourable V. K. Onyeri	73
Chief the honourable A. N. Onyiuke	73
The honourable D. C. Ugwu	74
The honourable A. G. Umoh	73
The honourable R. U. Umo-Inyang	9
The honourable P. O. Ururuka	72
The honourable P. G. Warmate	72

In accordance with regulation 15 (*i*) of Regulations No. 80 of 1951, I declare the following candidates to be elected:—

The honourable O. U. Afiah.
The honourable E. A. Agim.
The honourable A. O. Chikwendu.
The honourable B. N. I. Edet.
The honourable U. U. Eko.
The honourable E. Emole.
The honourable E. U. Eronini.
Dr the honourable E. A. Esin.
Dr the honourable S. E. Imoke.
The honourable R. O. Iwuagwu.
The honourable D. A. Nnaji.
The honourable M. E. Ogon.
The honourable M. Ojike.
The honourable B. C. Okwu.
The honourable V. K. Onyeri.
Chief the honourable A. N. Onyiuke.
The honourable D. C. Ugwu.
The honourable A. G. Umoh.
The honourable P. O. Ururuka.
The honourable P. G. Warmate.

The President:

Tomorrow morning you will be asked to approve the appointment of the Central and Regional Ministers proposed by His Excellency the Governor and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

Adjournment

The President adjourned the House at twenty-five minutes past four o'clock p.m. until 10 a.m. on Thursday, 14th January, 1954.

Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Thursday, 14th January, 1954

The House met at 10 o'clock in the forenoon

Prayers

(Mr President in the Chair).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Messages from the Lieutenant-Governor—
Appointment of Central and Regional Ministers

Central Ministers

The President:

I am the bearer of a message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which reads as follows:—

> "In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 150 of the Nigeria Constitution Order in Council, 1951, His Excellency the Governor proposes to the Eastern House of Assembly the name of the honourable K. O. Mbadiwe for appointment as a Member of the Council of Ministers."

In accordance with paragraph (1) of Standing Order 10, I therefore propose to the House the Question that the Governor's proposal of Mr K. O. Mbadiwe for appointment as Minister be approved.

Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe (Onitsha Division):

Mr President, I rise to support the proposal of His Excellency the Governor for the appointment of Mr K. O. Mbadiwe as a Member of the Council of Ministers.

Born at Aro Ndizuogu on 15th March, 1915, the honourable Kingsley Ozuomba Mbadiwe was educated at the Aba Government School, the Hope Waddell Training Institute at Calabar, the Aggrey Memorial College at Arochuku, and Igbobi College, Lagos. Then he worked as produce dealer and newsvendor at Port Harcourt to gain practical experience in business before proceeding to the United States of America on 31st December, 1938. In the United States, he studied at Columbia University where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Science specialising in Money and Banking. Then he attended New York University and there he passed the examinations for the Master of Arts Degree with honours in Government.

During his stay in the United States, he wrote a book, which was published by an American firm, entitled *British and Axis Aims in Africa.* Through natural tact and diplomacy, the honourable gentleman was able to cultivate the friendship of the late Frank Delano Roosevelt and his wife, who sponsored him in his cultural activities in the attempt to encourage goodwill between the United States and the continent of Africa.

He joined the N.C.N.C. since his return to Nigeria, and in 1951, he was elected to be a Member of the Eastern House of Assembly, and later, he was selected by this honourable House to be a Member of the House of Representatives. He was also one of the official delegates of the N.C.N.C. to the London Conference on the revision of the Constitution. He was leader of the N.C.N.C. Eastern Parliamentary Party at the time of the dissolution of this honourable House and is still working hard towards the attainment of freedom and unity of this country.

Mr President, it is with pleasure that I endorse the proposal for the appointment of the honourable Gentleman as a Member of the Council of Ministers.

Mr Alvan Ikoku, O.B.E. (Enyong Division):
Mr President, I have been asked to state that it is the anxious wish of the Opposition Bench that the work of this House should go on smoothly and unimpeded. Nevertheless, we do not feel ourselves justified in interfering with the selection of Ministers, Regional or Central. We think it is only fair and proper that the party in majority should bear quite squarely the responsibility of selecting Ministers.

I, therefore, beg to conclude by saying that we shall abstain from voting.

The President:
The question is that the Governor's proposal of Mr K. O. Mbadiwe for appointment as a Minister be approved. I direct the Clerk to distribute to each Member the ballot paper.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to call the roll of Members other than the Official Members.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:
The result of the ballot is:—

Ayes, 75.

Noes, Nil.

The "Ayes" have it.

The President:
I am the bearer of a further message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which reads as follows:—

> "In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 150 of the Nigeria Constitution Order in Council, 1951, His Excellency the Governor proposes to the Eastern House of Assembly the name of the honourable R. A. Njoku for appointment as a Member of the Council of Ministers."

In accordance with paragraph (1) of Standing Order 10, I therefore propose to the House the Question that the Governor's proposal of Mr R. A. Njoku for appointment as Minister be approved.

Mr B. C. Okwu (Awgu Division):

Mr President and honourable Members, it is a great privilege and honour to introduce to this honourable and historic House an illustrious, winning and pleasing personality—a gentleman of no mediocre ability in the N.C.N.C. first division team in political soccer. The gentleman is no other than the honourable Mr Raymond Amanze Njoku, Barrister-at-Law. The gentleman is endowed with sterling qualities which make up a true leader of men. It is incumbent on me to give you a review of his biography.

He was born in Emekuku, Owerri Division, in the year 1915. He had his early education in Our Lady's School, Emekuku, and Saint Charles' Training College, Onitsha. In the year 1933, he was appointed a schoolmaster in his *Alma Mater*. In the years 1934 to 1938, he was appointed a headmaster of the Catholic School, Ahiara in Owerri Division. In the year 1939, he was appointed a tutor in St. Charles' Training College and in the fall of the year, 1942, he resigned his appointment with the Catholic Mission. In the year 1943, he was appointed a tutor in St. Gregory's College, Lagos. In the same year he left the shores of this country for the United Kingdom in search of the golden fleece.

There he entered King's College of the University of London. In the year 1946, he graduated Bachelor of Laws, with Second Class Honours in the upper division, and in the close of the same year he passed his Bar Final with Second Class Honours. In January, 1947, he was called to the English Bar as a member of the honourable Society of the Middle Temple. While in the United Kingdom, he was the secretary of the West African Students' Club and also held secretarial position of the Laws Society of the King's College of the University of London.

He returned to this country in 1947 and has since been able to establish a flourishing practice with headquarters at Aba. He has not hesitated to place his talents at the disposal of the community and has all along identified himself with active nationalism in this country. He has also taken active part in public life. He was the President of the Eastern Working Committee of the N.C.N.C., and is at the moment the President of Aba Community League, the local branch of the N.C.N.C., Aba, and the Ibo State Union.

Mr President, I have to add that Mr R. A. Njoku, amongst other attributes which he possesses, in this age when the evil of bribery and corruption has spread its evil tentacles from the River Ganges to the Mississippi and from Port Harcourt to Takoradi, has unimpeachable integrity and steady character. I am quite confident that he is the sort of leader who will do credit to Nigeria anywhere in the world, and I strongly recommend him to the House. Mr President, I beg to support.

The President:

The question is that the Governor's proposal of Mr R. A. Njoku for appointment as a Minister be approved. I direct the Clerk to distribute to each Member the ballot paper.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to call the roll of Members other than the Official Members.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers tc me.

The President:

The result of the ballot is:—

Ayes, 75.

Noes, Nil.

The "Ayes" have it.

The President:

I am the bearer of a further message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which reads as follows:—

> "In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 150 of the Nigeria Constitution Order in Council, 1951, His Excellency the Governor proposes to the Eastern House of Assembly the name of the honourable M. T. Mbu for appointment as a Member of the Council of Ministers."

In accordance with paragraph (1) of Standing Order 10, I therefore propose to the House the Question that the Governor's proposal of Mr M. T. Mbu for appointment as Minister be approved.

Dr S. E. Imoke (Afikpo Division):

Mr President, I rise to support the proposal by His Excellency the Governor that Mr Mathew Tawo Mbu be appointed a Member of the Central Executive Council. Mr Mathew Mbu was born at Ogoja in November, 1927. He was educated in St. Patrick's School, Kakwagom in Ogoja. He later took postal tuition from the British Tutorial Institute, London, and obtained a Certificate in Education. He was a teacher for six months only and then joined the Firm of Messrs John Holt and Company in the Produce Section of that firm. Mr Mbu is also a cocoa farmer. He was a Member of this House before its dissolution and he is a Member of the House of Representatives where he serves in various committees. He is also a member of the Board of Production, Eastern Region, and has been to the United Kingdom twice to represent the Board in the selection of candidates for appointment. He is also chairman of the Native Authority Divisional Council in Ogoja, his electoral district.

Mr Mbu is a very social man and a man of very high integrity as we all know him. He is very honest also and I am of the opinion that trusted with this job he will not let the country down. To crown it all, Mr Mbu is a staunch member and a very loyal member of the N.C.N.C. I, therefore, conclude by saying that I support the proposal of His Excellency the Governor that Mr Mbu be appointed a Member of the Central Executive Council.

The President:

The question is that the Governor's proposal of Mr M. T. Mbu for appointment as a Minister be approved. I direct the Clerk to distribute to each Member the ballot paper.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to call the roll of Members other than the Official Members,

The President:

I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:

The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Ayes, 76.

Noes, Nil.

The "Ayes" have it.

Regional Ministers

The President:

I am the bearer of a message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which reads as follows:—

> "In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 128 of the Nigeria Constitution Order in Council, 1951, I am minded to propose to the House the name of Doctor the honourable Nnamdi Azikiwe for appointment as a Regional Minister."

In accordance with paragraph (2) of Standing Order 10, I therefore propose to the House the Question that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe for appointment as Regional Minister be approved.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division):

Mr President, I have the greatest honour to rise to speak in support of His Honour's proposal to appoint Doctor the honourable Nnamdi Azikiwe as a Regional Minister. Dr Azikiwe was born on 16th November, 1904, at Zungeru in Northern Nigeria. He was educated at the C.M.S. Central School, Onitsha, the Hope Waddell Training Institute, Calabar, and the Methodist Boys' High School, Lagos. He proceeded to the United States of America in 1925 and was educated at Lincoln University and the University of Pennsylvania, where he obtained the degrees of M.A. (Honours in Philosophy) and M.Sc. (Honours in Anthropology). From September, 1930 to June, 1934, he served as an Instructor in Political Science at Lincoln University where he taught American and foreign students the art and science of Government. Since his return to Nigeria in 1937, after three years in the Gold Coast, he established five daily newspapers in Lagos, Port Harcourt, Onitsha, Ibadan and Kano, in addition to other business enterprises. He is author of *Liberia in World Politics* (1934), *Renascent Africa* (1937), *Political Blueprint of Nigeria* (1943), *Economic Reconstruction of Nigeria* (1943) and was actively engaged in Journalism between 1934 and 1948.

He was one of the founders of the N.C.N.C. in the year 1944 and is at present its National President. He is also Vice-President of the Nigerian National Democratic Party.

As a sportsman, he is President of the Lagos District Amateur Football Association, Vice-Chairman of the Nigerian Boxing Board of Control, President of the Nigeria Table Tennis Association, President of the Amateur Athletic Associaiton of Nigeria and a member of the Nigerian Olympic Committee.

He served in the Legislative Council of Nigeria from 1948 to 1951. He was a Member of the Western House of Assembly from 1952-53, and was elected a Member of the Eastern House of Assembly at the last elections when he topped the polls at Onitsha.

Mr President, Dr Azikiwe has the unique privilege of being one of the few Nigerians who are eligible to vote or stand for elections to the Northern, Western and Eastern Houses of Assembly by virtue of the fact that he was born in the Northern Region of parents who originated from the Eastern Region and he has been continuously resident in the Western Region. For his public services to his race and country, three American Universities conferred upon him the honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Literature in 1946, 1947 and 1950.

Mr President, I can assure you that London and Washington will be listening in to the radio patiently today to hear the news that this great son of Africa has accepted office as a Regional Minister in order to be in a position to render more service, not only to the Eastern Region, but also to the whole country of Nigeria. Mr President, his appointment would have the full backing not only of the Eastern Region but the whole country of Nigeria and the Cameroons. It is therefore an honour to me to speak in support of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal to appoint Doctor Nnamdi Azikiwe a Regional Minister.

The President:

The question is that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of Doctor the honourable N. Azikiwe for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to distribute the ballot paper to each Member.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to call the roll of Members other than the Official Members.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:

The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Ayes, 75.

Noes, Nil.

The "Ayes" have it.

The President:

I am the bearer of a further message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which reads as follows:—

> "In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 128 of the Nigeria Constitution Order in Council, 1951, I am minded to propose to the House the name of Mr M. Ojike for appointment as a Regional Minister."

In accordance with paragraph 2 of Standing Order 10, I therefore propose to the House the Question that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of Mr Ojike for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

Mr N. W. Abengowe (Aba Division):

Mr President, it is my great pleasure to endorse the proposal by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the honourable M. Ojike as a Regional Minister, and in doing so, Sir, I wish to give a review of his biography. The honourable M. Ojike was born at Arondizogu in the year 1914. He had his elementary education in the C.M.S. School, Arondizogu, and was also tranied as a teacher in the C.M.S. Training College, Awka. He later became an instructor in the D.M.G.S., Onitsha, between the years 1933 to 1937. He was also an instructor in the Aggrey Memorial College, Arochuku, in 1938. In 1939, he sailed to the U.S.A. and returned in 1947. While in U.S.A., he had M.A. degree and also the Bachelor of Science degree, from Ohio State University.

The honourable M. Ojike is the Vice-President of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons. From the time he returned, he joined actively in the nationalist organisation which is the N.C.N.C. He is the author of *My Africa* and also *I have two Countries* and so many other pamphlets. He is also a journalist, and in the U.S.A., during his University education, he had a diploma in journalism. He is a Company Director running the African Development Corporation, and he is a former Deputy Mayor of Lagos. During the delegation to London, he followed the team of the N.C.N.C. delegation and he was the Chief Adviser to the delegation. Mr President, one can appreciate the reason why my party, which is now in power, and had been in power since 1952, made the honourable Ojike a Regional Minister. As a Company Director he knows the responsibility of dealing with public finance and I know that he has been executing that responsibility most honestly and sincerely.

The N.C.N.C. has the confidence of the people of this country, therefore, as the National Vice-President of the party, he has the confidence of the people of this country. We in the Eastern House of Assembly realise the task and difficulties ahead of us. We can only have a solution when we have able hands in the Regional Executive to cope with such responsibilities. And with the honourable Ojike and the team of Members in the Regional Executive, there is no doubt that the Eastern Region will be free from the responsibilities which the Eastern crisis caused. The honourable Ojike is one of those who is exceptionally bold in this country. He introduced or, should I say, that it was he who caused most of us who used to dabble in British dresses and luxuries to relax considerably, and he won popularity in this country as the "Boycott King." The honourable M. Ojike had been an organist. He knows the art of manipulating on the black and white keys and the art of producing harmony. I know that with his appointment in the Regional Executive he will be able to manipulate on all sections of this portfolio in the interest of this country. We are proposing him not only because he will be acceptable to the public of the Eastern Region, but to other sections of the country. It is my great pleasure, Mr President, therefore to endorse the proposal that the honourable M. Ojike should be a Minister in the Eastern Regional Executive.

The President:

The question is that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of the honourable M. Ojike for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to distribute to each Member a ballot paper.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to call the roll of Members other than the Official Members.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:

The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Ayes, 76.

Noes, Nil.

The "Ayes" have it.

The President:

I am the bearer of a further message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which reads as follows:—

> "In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 128 of the Nigeria Constitution Order in Council, 1951, I am minded to propose to the House the name of Dr the honourable M. I. Okpara for appointment as a Regional Minister."

In accordance with paragraph 2 of Standing Order 10, I therefore propose to the House the Question that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of Dr M. I. Okpara for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

Mr E. Emole (Bende Division):

Mr President, honourable Members, nothing could be more pleasurable to me than to rise in support of the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal that Dr the honourable M. I. Okpara be appointed a Regional Minister. Dr the honourable M. I. Okpara was born on the 25th of December, 1920, at Unuegwu Town in Bende Division. That, is, as you may well remember, the very day that the Leader of Mankind was born. He was educated at the Methodist Central School, Afugiri, in which he entered in the year 1928. He did his work in that elementary school diligently and conscientiously and passed through in the year 1933. After his elementary education there, in the year 1933, he entered the Methodist College, Uzuakoli. He passed through that College and came out with all that the college could offer in the year 1940. Because of his efforts and brilliancy in the elementary school as well as in the college, in the year 1941, he won a Government Scholarship to Higher College, Yaba, and in 1942, he entered the Nigerian Medical School. He passed through the Medical School and came out as a Medical Doctor in the year 1947. In the following year 1948, he was appointed Assistant Medical Officer. In that very year he resigned that post and established a private practice at Umuahia-Ibeku. That practice has been flourishing and has been very lucrative and in seconding his appointment it is obvious to me that the people of Umuahia-Ibeku will lose their efficient and sympathetic doctor. Dr Okpara has served in different capacities. Apart from being a medical practitioner in Umuahia-Ibeku he was also an honorary surgeon at Amanchara Methodist Hospital. He was appointed to that office when the hospital was about to be closed but I am very proud to say that due to his efforts that hospital is now one of the best in the Eastern Region. It will be very difficult to enumerate the political activities of Dr Okpara.

He was one of the nationalists who denounced the Enugu shooting in 1949 and as a result of that was arrested but later released. Dr Okpara has been the leader of the N.C.N.C., Bende Divisional Section. He has been also the General President of the Bende Divisional Union. In the last House, he was elected a Member for Bende Division and he was later appointed Member of the Central House, but he resigned that seat in obedience to his party's ruling. Later, he was one of the Regional Ministers, a post which he resigned in the interests of this country. Dr Okpara as Minister in the last Government was in charge of the Census. Through his untiring efforts, the Census was a huge success. There were no blood sheds as was the case in the Census of 1929. Dr Okpara was sent to Britain to study parliamentary procedure and he did the course at Westminster and also at Belfast. Dr Okpara, speaking from my personal knowledge of him is an honest man, he is a loyal man, he is a man with ability and bright scholarship. He is therefore a fit and proper person to serve in the Regional Executive Council. It is therefore with a very deep feeling of pride that I endorse the proposal that Dr the honourable Okpara be appointed a Regional Minister.

The President:
The question is that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of Dr the honourable M. I. Okpara for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to distribute to each Member a ballot paper.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to call the roll of Members other than the Official Members.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:
The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Ayes, 75.
Noes, Nil.

The "Ayes" have it.

The President:
I am the bearer of a further message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which reads as follows:—

> "In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 128 of the Nigerian Constitution Order in Council, 1951, I am minded to propose to the House the name of Mr M. C. Awgu for appointment as a Regional Minister."

In accordance with paragraph 2 of Standing Order 10, I therefore propose to the House the Question that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of Mr Awgu for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

Mr J. U. Nwodo (Nsukka Division):
Mr President, I rise to support the proposal of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that the honourable M. C. Awgu be appointed a

Minister in the Regional Executive Council. In doing so, I have taken several factors into consideration. (1) The suitability of the honourable Member to fill the post. (2) The fact that the post of Ministry is distinct from that of the Civil Service.

Honourable M. C. Awgu has been a man of foresight and initiative. His administrative ability is reflected in one of the foremost African-owned institutes—the New Bethel College of Onitsha—which he happens to be the Founder, Manager and Proprietor. That college has played and is still playing a great role in the moulding of the conduct of our young generation, apart from its serving to promote literary education and fitting boys into better means of livelihood.

For his profession, honourable Awgu has been a schoolmaster of many years' experience. His organisational ability has caused him to be repeatedly elected as the Honorary Secretary of the Onitsha Branch of the Nigeria Union of Teachers. In the ecclesiastical field, he is the commissioned Lay-Reader of the Onitsha Anglican Arch-Deaconry.

Coming to the most important factor in the appointment of a Minister, I wish to quote *Sir Maurice Amos* who in his book on English Constitution, calls the Cabinet system "the machinery that ensures that the legal and political powers of the Cabinet and Executive shall be exercised in close combination and mutual confidence." Here is a man in the person of my honourable Friend who has held with respect the dignity and prestige ot parliamentary democracy. A former Minister of the Eastern Region who in January, 1953, resigned his office in obedience to the party that elected him. Faithful companion, a trustworthy leader who has the implicit confidence of his constituency and the party in power.

Mr President, I support whole-heartedly that the proposal of the Lieutenant-Governor that honourable M. C. Awgu be appointed a Member of the Regional Executive Council be accepted by this House.

The President:
The question is that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of the honourable M. C. Awgu for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to distribute to each Member a ballot paper.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to call the roll of Members other than the Official Members.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:
The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Ayes, 76.

Noes, Nil.

The "Ayes" have it.

The President:

I am the bearer of a further message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which reads as follows:—

> "In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 128 of the Nigeria Constitution Order in Council, 1951, I am minded to propose to the House the name of Mr I. U. Akpabio for appointment as a Regional Minister."

In accordance with paragraph 2 of Standing Order 10, I therefore propose to the House the Question that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of Mr Akpabio for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

Mr E. O. Eyo:

Mr President, it is with the greatest pleasure and also an honour to me to rise and speak in support of His Honour's proposal to appoint the honourable I. U. Akpabio as a Regional Minister. The honourable Akpabio was born in 1909 at Ukana in Ikot Ekpene Division. He was educated in the Methodist Mission School and Government School, Ikot Ekpene, and in 1928, he entered the Methodist College at Uzuakoli and passed out in the year 1930 as a certificated teacher and was appointed the headmaster of the Methodist School at Ikot Ekpene. In the year 1938, he was awarded a scholarship by the Ibibio Union to study Education in the U.S.A. There, he read at Tuskegee Institute, Lincoln University and at Columbia University where he obtained the degrees of Master of Arts and Bachelor of Science. While in the U.S.A., he was President of the African Students' Association of U.S.A. and Canada. In 1944, the honourable Akpabio returned to Nigeria and after two years of sweat and toil, he founded the Ibibio State College in the year 1946 and became the first Principal of the College which office he has held up to date. Since the introduction of Local Government in Ikot Ekpene, the honourable Akpabio has played an important role. He is the Chairman of the Finance and Staff Committee, Ikot Ekpene Urban District Council. He is the Chairman of the Education Committee in Ikot Ekpene County Council and is also Chairman of the Central Annang District Council. In the 1951 elections, he was elected a Member to represent Ikot Ekpene in the old Eastern House of Assembly where he was elected a Member of the House of Representatives and in the last elections to this House he topped the polls at Ikot Ekpene.

I want to say, Mr President, that the honourable Akpabio is our pride, he is also the pride of the Ibibio people and his appointment as a Regional Minister will have one hundred per cent endorsement not only by the Ibibio people, but also by the people of Calabar Province and the Eastern Region.

I recommend the honourable Akpabio to this House for appointment as a Regional Minister.

The President:

The question is that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal that the honourable I. U. Akpabio for appointment as Regional Minister be approved.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to distribute to each Member a ballot paper.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to call the roll of Members other than the Official Members.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:

The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Ayes, 76.

Noes, Nil.

The "Ayes" have it.

The President:

I am the bearer of a further message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which reads as follows:—

> "In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 128 of the Nigeria Constitution Order in Council, 1951, I am minded to propose to the House the name of Dr the honourable W. N. Onubogu for appointment as a Regional Minister."

In accordance with paragraph 2 of Standing Order 10, I propose to the House the Question that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of Dr W. N. Onubogu for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

Dr E. A. Esin (Eket Division):

Mr President, honourable House, it is with pleasure that I rise to speak in support of the appointment of Dr the honourable W. N. Onubogu to be a Regional Minister.

Dr Onubogu is a native of Ogidi in Onitsha Division. He was educated at the Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha, King's College, Lagos and the Nigeria School of Medicine at Yaba. He graduated in 1939 and then entered the Civil Service as Assistant Medical Officer. In 1947, he resigned his appointment to become a private general practitioner, and established his headquarters at Agbor in the Western Region.

Dr Onubogu is a very genial man—a man of great probity and vision—a man who has been used to taking great decisions on life and death (*Cheers*), and I, therefore, as his colleague, have not the slightest doubt that when the time comes, Dr Onubogu will take great decisions for the benefit and good of Nigeria.

I, therefore, in this speech support Dr the honourable W. N. Onubogu's appointment as a Regional Minister.

The President:

The question is that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal for the appointment of Dr the honourable W. N. Onubogu as Regional Minister be approved.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to distribute the ballot papers.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to call the roll of Members other than the Official Members.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:
The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Ayes, 76.

Noes, Nil.

The "Ayes" have it.

The President:
I am the bearer of a further message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which reads as follows:—

> "In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 128 of the Nigeria Constitution Order in Council, 1951, I am minded to propose to the House the name of the honourable I. U. Imeh for appointment as a Regional Minister."

In accordance with paragraph 2 of Standing Order 10, I propose to the House the Question that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of Mr I. U. Imeh for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

Chief N. Essien (Uyo Division):
It gives me the greatest pleasure indeed to support the proposal by His Honour to appoint the honourable I. U. Imeh to the Council of Ministers in this Region.

Mr Imeh was born at Abak on 20th April, 1922, and educated in Abak Government School where and for which he was appointed a probationary teacher as from April, 1930. Therein he served up to October, 1931. He then resigned and entered the Teachers' Training Centre, Uyo, in my province of Calabar. From there he obtained his Teacher's Higher Elementary Certificate.

In 1940, Sir, he attended the Rural Education Centre and obtained, as a reward for his hard work, the Senior Teachers' Certificate in Agriculture. For ten years, from 1934 to 1944, he taught in the capacity of a Headmaster and of a Rural Science Master. He resigned in 1944 and joined the Department of Marketing and Exports as a Produce Inspector. There he served for a period of eight years.

In 1951, he severed his connection with the last named Department of service, and got himself consecrated into the "Holy Order" of Nigerian politics. In this field, Mr Imeh distinguished himself by winning election in his area, Abak, and thereby he entered the dissolved Eastern House of Assembly. Through that House he passed on and represented his division in the Central Legislature until 1953. Presently, Sir, he is Manager of Anang Peoples' Group School, Abak Division, and Councillor of Eastern Anang Native Authority, Abak.

Mr President, the career of this honourable Gentleman as portrayed in this short biography, has pointed him out as a hero with brilliant talents. He is endowed with a sound sense of responsibility. We, Sir, therefore

hope that he shall interlace his ability, his loyalty and his integrity with the trinity of virtues, namely, fair-play, justice and truth: "for above all to thine own self be true, and it shall follow as the night the day, then thou canst not be false to any man." *(Cheers)*.

In conclusion, Sir, we solicit your honest sympathy with us, please, to vest on our newly created Minister the power symbolised by the yoke or these shackles of his new office, to wit:

"You have to stand against the whole world, although you may have to stand alone. *(Cheers)*.

"You have to stare the world in the face, although the world may look at you with bloodshot eyes. *(Cheers)*.

"Entertain no fear of person, but be honest to your trust.

"Trust that little thing in you which resides in the heart and says: "Forsake friends, wife and all, but testify to that for which you have lived, and that for which you have to die, namely, Nigeria first, Nigeria last and Nigeria all the time. *(Cheers)*."

Mr President, honourable Gentlemen, I support the proposal.

The President:
The question is that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal for the appointment of the honourable I. U. Imeh as a Regional Minister be approved.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to distribute the ballot papers.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to call the roll of Members other than the Official Members.

The President:
I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:
The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Ayes, 76.

Noes, Nil.

The "Ayes" have it.

The President:
I am the bearer of a further message, and this time the last one, from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which reads as follows:—

"In pursuance of the provisions of subsection (1) of section 128 of the Nigeria Constitution Order in Council, 1951, I am minded to propose to the House the name of the honourable E. P. Okoya for appointment as a Regional Minister."

In accordance with paragraph (2) of Standing Order 10, I therefore propose to the House the Question that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of the honourable E. P. Okoya for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

Mr P. G. Warmate (Degema Division):

Mr President, honourable Members, I rise to support His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal to appoint the honourable E. P. Okoya as a Regional Minister and in doing so, I have implicit confidence in my honourable Friend. Born thirty-two years ago, the honourable Okoya attended Bishop Proctor's Memorial School, Kaiama, Eastern Region, and in 1937, he passed the Government Standard VI Examination. In 1938, he gained admission into Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha, and passed out with a Grade I School Certificate of the University of Cambridge. He maintained the highest standard of performance in his studies throughout his life at the Grammar School. In 1942, the Church Missionary Society Authorities found in him a very promising lad and sent him to the Teachers' Training College at Awka where again he proved his mettle. He passed out with a Higher Elementary Certificate in 1943. He was appointed the second master in my home town, Buguma, ten years ago. After only a year's service as a second master in 1945, he was found fit to be appointed the Headmaster of St. Stephen's School, Amassoma, Eastern Ijo, for three years. In 1948, he was transferred to Okrika School and in the same year he passed the Senior Teachers' Certificate Examination. Moreover, in 1951, he passed the Intermediate Arts Degree of the University of London. He resigned his appointment in the Mission Service and joined the staff of the New Bethel College, Onitsha. In 1952, he was elected a Member of the dissolved House of Assembly and represented Brass Division. Furthermore, he was elected by that honourable House to the House of Representatives and his return to this honourable House as the first member for the Brass Division is sufficient evidence of his popularity among his people. He is pains-taking and diligent in his duties. He is a man of high integrity and of exemplary character. I have no doubt, Mr President, that my honourable Friend will be an asset to this Region as a Minister of State. Believe me, Mr President and honourable Members, of Mr Okoya it can well be said "Seest thou a man diligent in his work, he shall stand before Kings and not before mean men." Mr President, I support His Honour's proposal.

The President:

The question is that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of the honourable E. P. Okoya for appointment as a Regional Minister be approved.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to distribute a ballot paper to each Member.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to call the roll of Members other than the Official Members.

The President:

I direct the Clerk to unlock the ballot box and bring the ballot papers to me.

The President:

The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Ayes, 76.

Noes, Nil.

The "Ayes" have it.

Committee of Selection

The Minister of Local Government:
I rise to move that the following honourable Gentlemen be nominated members of the Committee of Selection of the Eastern House of Assembly:—

The honourable A. J. Ekpe, Calabar Province.
Dr the honourable S. E. Imoke, Ogoja Province.
The honourable J. U. Nwodo, Onitsha Province.
Chief the honourable M. W. Ubani, Owerri Province.
The honourable K. Kiri, Rivers Province.

Mr President, I beg to move.

The Minister of Works:
Mr President, I rise to second.

The President:
The question is that the honourable A. J. Ekpe be appointed a member of the Committee of Selection for the Calabar Province.

Question put and agreed to.

The President:
The question is that Dr the honourable S. E. Imoke be appointed a member of the Committee of Selection for the Ogoja Province.

Question put and agreed to.

The President:
The question is that the honourable J. U. Nwodo be appointed a member of the Committee of Selection for the Onitsha Province.

Question put and agreed to.

The President:
The question is that Chief the honourable M. W. Ubani be appointed a member of the Committee of Selection for the Owerri Province.

Question put and agreed to.

The President:
The question is that the honourable K. Kiri be appointed a member of the Committee of Selection for the Rivers Province.

Question put and agreed to.

The President:
That, honourable Members, concludes our business for today. I would remind Members that from tomorrow morning the Standing Orders of the House, i.e., all the Standing Orders of the House will be in force now that the Regional Ministers have been appointed. The House will now adjourn until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Adjournment

The President adjourned the House at fifteen minutes past one o'clock p.m. until 9 a.m. on Friday, 15th January, 1954.

Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Friday, 15th January, 1954

The House met at 9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers

(Mr President in the Chair).

Announcements

The President:

Honourable Members, the first announcement is in connection with the latest edition of Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice,* which has been presented to the House by the Right Honourable Oliver Lyttelton, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

During his visit to Nigeria, the Secretary of State promised to present a volume of this work to the Eastern House and that has now been received. The inscription on the book reads as follows: —

> "Presented to the Eastern House of Assembly, Nigeria, by the Right Honourable Oliver Lyttelton, D.S.O., M.C., M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, January, 1953"

and signed, Oliver Lyttelton.

The Minister of Local Government:

Mr President, I beg to move, "That a humble Address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor praying him to convey to the Right Honourable Oliver Lyttelton, D.S.O., M.C., M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, a message of gratitude from the Eastern House of Assembly for the inscribed copy of the latest edition of Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice* presented to the House on behalf of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, and the deep appreciation by the House of the cordial greetings and good wishes of the Secretary of State for the Colonies which the House humbly reciprocates."

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr I. U. Imeh (Minister Without Portfolio):

Mr President, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

The President:

The second announcement is in connection with the publication entitled *The Parliament of France* which has been presented to the House by the Officer Administering the French Consulate in Lagos.

In expressing His Honour's thanks for the gift, the Clerk explained that the House had been dissolved and that the book would be presented to the new House in due course.

The Minister of Health:

Sir, I beg to move, "That this House expresses its gratitude to the French Consulate in Nigeria for the valuable gift of the book entitled *The Parliament of France* presented to it by the Officer Administering the Consulate and cordially reciprocates the good wishes of the Consulate."

The French, proverbially logical, are champions of democracy. This love of logic and democracy has led them through several Constitutions to that of the present Fourth Republic with a Government regarded by many political observers as unstable and in a state of flux; but no political institution today is perfectly democratic. Indeed it would appear that the more stable a Government is the less likely it is to reflect public opinion in the proportion of its parliamentary strength. The Constitution of the Fourth Republic is a serious attempt by this great people to find the correct democratic solution to this problem. In this regard, the French Parliament is a fascinating political experiment and a young country like Nigeria with an embryonic constitution will be watching the French Parliament with keen interest.

Mr President, I beg to move.

The Legal Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Papers

The Minister of Natural Resources:

Sir, I rise to lay the following papers on the table of the House:—

(*i*) The Produce Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1953 (No. 9 of 1953).

(*ii*) The Groundnuts (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulations, 1953 (No. 10 of 1953).

(*iii*) The Fruit (Inspection for Export) Regulations, 1953 (No. 11 of 1953).

(*iv*) The Rubber (Inspection for Export) (Amendment) Regulations, 1953 (No. 12 of 1953).

The Civil Secretary:

Sir, I rise to lay the following paper on the Table of the House:—

A Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Consular Conventions Ordinance, 1950.

The Minister of Land and Survey:

Sir, I rise to lay the following paper on the Table of the House:—

A Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Land Registration Ordinance.

The Minister of Natural Resources:

Sir, I rise to lay the following paper on the Table of the House:—

A Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Produce Inspection Ordinance, 1950.

The Minister of Education:

Sir, I rise to lay the following paper on the Table of the House:—

A Bill for an Ordinance to reconstitute the University College, Ibadan, and to provide for the Governance thereof and matters incidental thereto.

The Financial Secretary:

Sir, I rise to lay the following paper on the Table of the House:—

A Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Regional Development Boards Ordinance, 1949.

The Legal Secretary:

Sir, I rise to lay the following papers on the Table of the House:—

(*i*) A Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Criminal Code Ordinance.

(*ii*) A Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Criminal Procedure Ordinance.

Ordered: That the papers do lie upon the Table.

Report of the Committee of Selection

The Minister of Local Government:

Mr President, I beg to report the nominations made on 14th January, 1954, by the Committee of Selection in accordance with Standing Orders 57, 58, 59, 68, 69 respectively:—

Standing Orders Committee

The honourable E. Emole.
The honourable O. O. Ita.
The honourable B. C. Okwu.

House Committee

The honourable A. U. A. Inyang (Calabar Province).
The honourable P. A. Onwe (Ogoja Province).
The honourable G. I. Oko (Onitsha Province).
The honourable S. O. Achara (Owerri Province).
The honourable F. M. A. Saronwiyo (Rivers Province).

Public Petitions Committee

Chief the honourable N. Essien (Calabar Province).
The honourable S. N. Alo (Ogoja Province).
The honourable D. E. Akilo (Onitsha Province).
The honourable N. W. Abengowe (Owerri Province).
The honourable V. K. Onyeri (Rivers Province).

Public Accounts Committee

The honourable S. T. Akpan (Calabar Province).
The honourable Okoi Arikpo (Ogoja Province).
The honourable D. O. Anu (Onitsha Province).
The honourable J. O. Ihekwoaba (Owerri Province).
The honourable N. L. P. Apreala (Rivers Province).
The honourable T. Brady (Special Member).
Chairman.—The honourable G. E. Okeke.

Standing Committee on Finance

The honourable E. O. Eyo (Calabar Province).
The honourable U. Onu-Chima (Ogoja Province).
The honourable R. O. Ukuta (Onitsha Province).
Rev. and the honourable M. N. Ibe (Owerri Province).
The honourable J. O. Umolu (Rivers Province).
Mallam the honourable Umoru Yushau (Special Member).
Chairman:—The honourable the Financial Secretary.

And I beg also to report that in accordance with Standing Order 56, the following Members of the Regional Executive Council have been nominated members of the Committee of Selection:—

The honourable the Civil Secretary.
The honourable the Minister of Local Government.
The honourable the Minister of Works.
The honourable the Minister of Public Health.
The honourable the Minister of Land and Survey.
The honourable the Minister of Education.
The honourable the Minister of Natural Resources.
The honourable I. U. Imeh, Minister Without Portfolio and
The honourable E. P. Okoya, Minister Without Portfolio.

The President:

That concludes the business of the House.

Adjournment

The Minister of Local Government:

Mr President, I rise to move: "That the House do now adjourn *sine die*." In making this motion, I desire to refer to the speech which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor made to this august Assembly last Tuesday and to express our humble thanks to His Honour. Most honourable Members will agree that the speech contains expressions of goodwill and message of hope. We were reminded of our two-fold responsibility to this House and to the electorate for the successful discharge of our public duty.

Parliamentary procedure is intricate and can be puzzling, especially to new legislators, but many of us are willing to learn and our enthusiasm should enable us to master the art of dialetics within a short time. Therefore, it is worth while for us to strive to be worthy of the great tradition, the direction of whose growth His Honour reminded us was determined during the golden age of Greek civilisation. Nevertheless, we are confident that the guiding influence of the President of this House will facilitate our adaptation with the rigid requirements of modern legislative institutions.

In addressing ourselves to the problems raised by the sacred task of representing our people, my colleagues and I associate ourselves with the idea that if liberty and justice and equal laws are to be maintained, it is necessary that democracy should restrain itself as that it should restrain autocracy. Fairness to all and prejudice for none constitute a true basis of human relations. We hope that honourable Members will think in terms of doing good and being just in their behaviour as servants of the public.

At this stage it is appropriate to recall the sentiments expressed by a former Lieutenant-Governor of the Eastern Region when Commander Sir James Pyke-Knott said:

> "I have always been firmly convinced that mutual confidence is essential if any worth-while progress is to be achieved in the world, besides, it is from the seed-bed of mutual confidence that strong and upright plants of lasting friendship spring."

Following this line of thought, may I assure the House on behalf of my colleagues that we are solemnly committed to the policy of reasonable co-operation with all sides of the House in order that this Parliamentary atmosphere may be permeated with the spirit of goodwill and mutual confidence. Without prejudice to the inherent right of the Opposition—and I notice, by the way, that having waited in vain for their allies from the Cameroons to strenghten their ranks, the Opposition have decamped—I say that without prejudice to the inherent right of the Opposition to disagree with our views whenever it deems it necessary to do so, we hereby stretch to our friends our right hand of fellowship for the welfare and progress of our country.

Appreciating the delicate and exacting nature of your responsibilites, we offer to you, Mr President, our greetings on your new appointment as Vice-President of this House and pledge our co-operation in the following words; we shall observe the rules of debate in accordance with our Standing Orders, we shall comply with the code of behaviour practised by legislators according to Parliamentary etiquette, we shall conduct ourselves with the decorum which befits honourable Members and we shall jealously guard the established tradition of Parliamentary Government; by the Grace of God and with the co-operation of the Presiding Officer of this House, it shall be our pride to fashion the Eastern House of Assembly into a model of Parliamentary democracy even in tropical Africa.

Without equivocation, we will make it clear to the honourable Gentlemen who may find themselves opposite us that we fully realise the need in this Region for a vigilant and intelligent and reasonable Opposition. We are happy to enjoy with them membership of this select circle of law-makers who were chosen to represent nearly eight million people. We, of the majority party respect the Opposition as comrades in the cause of human freedom. Prudence and modesty demand the truthful admission that neither side of the House can justifiably lay claim to monopoly of intelligence or achievement, hence I would appeal that honourable Members, whether they blong to the majority party or to the Opposition should respect the feelings of the other but speaking conscientiously and behaving responsibly.

No constitutional Government in the world fights shy of a fair and straightforward fight unless it is by nature totalitarian. Therefore, I can assure the Opposition that the Government of the Eastern Region will not be an exception to this rule because we will welcome reasonable and constructive criticism from any quarters but naturally we shall reserve to ourselves the privilege to choose our weapons and the right to counter-attack in the same manner and degree if the fortunes of war so dictate.

The speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has given us food for thought. We shall read, mark, learn and inwardly digest it. We shall be guided by the precepts enunciated therein. My honourable colleagues

and I are determined that in formulating and implementing policy, the Government of the Eastern Region shall not vacillate. We will not hesitate to introduce measures which to some may seem novel so long as we are convinced that other things being equal their objective is for the welfare and progress of our people.

Mr President, I beg to move that this House be now adjourned *sine die* although it is possible that the Budget Session may be opened on 16th February. Sir, I beg to move.

The Legal Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-three minutes past nine o'clock a.m.

INDEX TO THE EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THIRD SESSION

12th to 15th January, 1954