



NIGERIA

**Eastern House of Assembly
Debates**

FIRST SESSION

*12th, 13th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 25th, 26th and
27th February, 1952*

Volume I

12th, 13th, 16th, 18th and 19th February, 1952

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Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Tuesday, 12th February, 1952

The House met at ten o'clock.

Prayers

(Mr President in the Chair)

Oath of Allegiance of New Members

The following Members took and subscribed the Oath required by Law:—

- Mr D. A. F. Shute, Senior Resident, Cameroons Province.
- Mr R. H. Chalcraft, Special Member.
- Mr C. Paris Jones, Special Member.
- Mr K. W. H. Read, Special Member.

Messages from the Lieutenant-Governor

The President:

Honourable Members, I feel sure that you will wish to have the opportunity of paying your tribute to the memory of His late Majesty, King George the Sixth. Before embarking on my speech I will therefore ask the House to stand for two minutes in silence.

(House stood in silence for two minutes).

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

The Printed Address which is already in your hands, and which I feel sure you will have studied very carefully, provides you with a factual account of the activities of the various Departments of Government, and of the progress of the Region, during the fourteen months' period preceding last October. As I am sure you will appreciate, circumstances make it impossible to bring the Printed Address right up to date, and for this reason there is always the time-lag which I have mentioned. The account which has been given of the twelve months' happenings and of the progress that has been achieved is, I suggest, a most impressive one, and it is one of which I think we may all be justly proud.

It is the usual custom for this speech at the Budget Meeting to be confined to matters of special importance or of particular interest which are either additional to or in elaboration of the information in the Printed Address. That being so, I will now endeavour to apply myself to this task, and first of all I will say a few words on finance as it is this subject which chiefly engages the attention of Honourable Members at the Budget Meeting.

Honourable Members may feel as I do that it is a matter of real satisfaction to know that it has been possible to balance the Regional budget with a small surplus and at the same time to provide for essential development expansion and the additional expenditure complementary

to the new constitution. I am convinced that the policy that was adopted by this Region during the last year of supporting the recommendations of the Revenue Allocation Commission in their entirety and of exercising stringent control over any increases in recurrent expenditure was the correct one, and indeed I can now claim that this has been amply proved. Although there is every reason for satisfaction, there is also the need for caution, and a word of warning. Unlike constitutions which have possessed financial autonomy over a number of years, this Region does not possess reserves and unemployed surpluses which are available to act as a cushion in the event of the revenue not reaching up to expectations, and sound finance demands that such reserves must be built up. It follows therefore that development expansion which is dependent on the expenditure of Regional funds may not be as speedy in the next five years as some of us would wish. Even so, the Eastern Region ship is financially seaworthy and bright prospects lie ahead for the maiden voyage on which she is about to set forth.

There are many so-styled economists in the world both amateur and professional in status, and more I believe of the one than of the other. A great many of the former are ceaselessly busy in ignoring facts and endeavouring to convince the less talented members of society that it is possible to squeeze more water out of a sponge than it has sucked up. I have mentioned this, not necessarily to cast derision on these amateur economists, but to emphasise that increased expenditure in the Eastern Region is dependent on one factor, and one only, and that is the additional sucking up of revenue. Imposing new taxes or increasing existing ones is never a popular act, but it is nevertheless an inescapable act if the demand for development and expansion exists, and if it is to be met. The Revenue of the Eastern Region is £3,949,000 in round figures and the population is gauged as being somewhere in the neighbourhood of 5,500,000 souls. I do not believe that any of us here would wish to argue that the Region has more than approximately fifteen shillings to expend per head of population, and that, when all is said and done, is quite a minute sum when compared with some of the other countries of the world. Compulsory and free education and other social developments of the modern world, however desirable they may be, are out of the question when this base figure is as low as our own. The moral is to increase this base figure.

With your permission, I will now turn to Local Government. It is the Local Governments of the future which must be relied upon to share fully in the social and material development of the Region, and it is for this reason that everything possible is being done to expedite the application of our Local Government Ordinance. Instruments to establish the Eket and Niger Counties on the 1st of April next have recently been signed, and the elections in these areas are now in full swing. Instruments to establish the Calabar Urban District Council on the 1st of July have also been signed, and the registration of voters has now commenced. Plans in respect of other counties are also taking shape and to this end Lieutenant-Colonel Alderton has recently been

posted to the Owerri Province to make a survey of that province and to prepare the preliminary plans for the organisation and introduction of full Local Government. All of the foregoing deals with the future, but there is the present also to consider, and within this category falls the Ikot Ekpene County which holds pride of place as being the first county of the Region, and which was brought into being by Lieutenant-Colonel Alderton on 1st April, 1951. I am pleased to be able to say that there is no vestige of doubt concerning the success of this county in which during the last year all of the councils have put in a great deal of good solid work. In particular, their decision to impose a rate of four shillings a head to meet the rising cost of junior primary education is an example of courageous acceptance of responsibility and deserves the highest praise from all responsible persons in the Region. At the same time immense progress is being made in the direction of Local Government by means of reorganisation under the Native Authority and Townships Ordinances, and to this end these Ordinances are being interpreted with the widest liberality in order that the reorganisation may approach as closely as possible to the principles of Local Government. Generally speaking, the members of Native Authorities are now all elected, although the persons so elected must still be appointed in accordance with the requirements of the Native Authority Ordinance, and the same also holds good in respect of the Townships Advisory Boards. Likewise, the councils and the boards are being encouraged to act as Local Government Councils in embryo whereby they appoint Committees and conduct their business in accordance with the recognised practices of Local Government. The speed of progress could be faster if only more staff was available, but in spite of this limitation a vast amount has been achieved and Honourable Members may rest assured that there will be no slackening of the effort. The establishment of sound Local Government holds importance in priority in this Region equal to that of Community Development and the economic activities of the Regional Production Development Board. Nobody will, I think, gainsay me when I assert that efficient and democratic Local Government Councils accepting ever increasing responsibility for local services provides one of the surest means of achieving political and social progress, and guaranteeing the continuance of it.

Honourable Members, that brings me to Community Development. These two words, Community Development, denote Mr E. R. Chadwick, O.B.E., the Community Development Secretary of this Eastern Region, who by his work and imagination has become an international figure. I am doubtful whether Mr Chadwick's services to the Region in this particular field of work can ever be adequately expressed. It is the psychological aspects of Community Development work that are so important even in comparison with the material advantages which are there for everyone to see. There is probably nothing that can add a greater contribution to general progress than individual knowledge throughout the Region that nothing is impossible and that there is so

much for all of us to do. It is this knowledge which induces a new outlook towards combined effort and the use of available resources instead of the old attitude of sitting back and waiting for the assistance, financial or otherwise, of some outside agency, and it usually entails a very long wait too. This spirit of self-help and collective endeavour has been aroused by Mr Chadwick's personal enthusiasm which he has transmitted to everyone with whom he has come in contact, and that includes a very large proportion of the people of the Eastern Region. The list of material advantages that have been derived up to date from Community Development is indeed an impressive one, and I will recount it briefly since it deserves all the publicity that it can be given. Nearly 600 miles of motor roads have been constructed and another 300 miles are still in the course of construction, thirty-four Maternity Units, twenty-six Village Halls, sixty-one improved Markets, five Co-operative Consumers shops, eighty-seven Village Schools, twenty-three Domestic Science Centres, and fifty-four Segregation Villages for lepers, have all been built. In addition, 160 improved water points have been constructed and scores of other projects connected with such social services as sanitation, improved village layouts, and communal sports facilities, have been undertaken and completed. For all of this there is a sum of only £50,000 a year set aside for five years from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. This tremendous expansion in Community Development necessitates more trained staff to assist in the work, and in consequence a training centre has now been established at Awgu where refresher courses and special short-term courses in technical subjects and Community Development techniques can be held, and the first of such courses commenced in January. Likewise, a training centre for instructresses in home-making has been established at Uyo, and the response of the women of Calabar Province has been both spontaneous and enthusiastic. There is also the "Man O' War Bay" training centre near Victoria at which the third course of instruction is now in progress and which is devoted to the training of young literate men who are potential leaders of the future and inculcating in them a sense of community service. Then there are the plans for the future, some of which are already being put into operation, and which include research into the means of attracting literate youths to agriculture for a career, increasing the number of village industries, the application of Community Development to townships, and the speedier spread of adult literacy. Honourable Members, progress is not won by idleness and indifference, it can only be won by initiative and hard work, and in this Community Development is playing a very big part.

Now I should like to speak on the subject of leprosy and I make no apologies for having spoken on this subject once before in this House or for repeating anything which I may have previously said. The sum of £738,280 has been set aside in the revised Development Plan for the period 1951-55 for the purpose of bringing this dreaded disease under control and for banishing it, as far as that is possible, from the Eastern Region. It was after my speech to the Fourth Session of the

Eastern House of Assembly on the 2nd August, 1950, that the full amount of £738,280 was re-inserted in the revised Development Plan. Before you offer criticism about making this vast sum available for leprosy control I should like to give some facts and figures additional to those given in my previous speech, and at the same time to bring the general information on the subject more up to date. In doing this, I am acting with the authority of Dr T. F. Davey, O.B.E., the Acting Assistant Director of Leprosy Control. First of all it must be realised that the relative incidence of leprosy in Nigeria is probably higher than that of any other nation in the world, and in Nigeria the bulk of the disease is concentrated in the Eastern Region where upwards of well over 100,000 people are sufferers. Indeed, there are areas where ten years ago up to 15 per cent of the people were stricken with this complaint, and quite apart from the enormous physical and mental suffering this represents, the economic loss to the community and the Region is colossal. Leprosy is especially a disease of youth and early adult life, and without effective treatment all too often leads to prolonged disablement at a time when physical capacities are normally at their height. Nowadays, the Eastern Region leads the world in the technique of rural leprosy control and in the drive to stamp out this terrible disease. Again, it is well worth knowing, and then being proud of the fact, that it is at the Research Unit at Uzuakoli that Dr Lowe has studied and perfected a highly effective and inexpensive form of sulphone treatment which can be used at outstations. This drug is now the standard treatment throughout Nigeria, and its effects are profound. All patients may now hope to be cured no matter how severely they may be infected, and as a result patients are eager for treatment and ready to co-operate in the leprosy control methods. Needless to say, this work has attracted world-wide attention, and the same treatment is now being adopted elsewhere; but even so, research work still goes on at Uzuakoli into other and more recently discovered substances. It is as a result of this research work, the application of the treatment and the noble work of Rural Leprosy Control undertaken by the Mission Societies, that leprosy is disappearing in those clans which have co-operated in the past in the work. For instance, it has been possible recently to close the clinic for the Bende Clan because a leprosy survey has revealed that the disease has been all but banished from the Clan, and just the same thing is happening in the case of other clans as well. This marvellous achievement indicates that it is now possible to reduce the amount of leprosy to insignificant proportions in a few years. Moreover, the Leprosy Control Service, now armed with this new treatment, has been able to simplify the whole of its organisation because the cost of treatment is small, it is more easily administered, and the period of isolation is considerably reduced. Large sums of money are always liable to being raided by thoughtless or unscrupulous persons for the purpose of obtaining funds for some other immediate or popular project. If such a thing were to happen in the case of this £738,280 then it would in my opinion be a crime against humanity and an act of the greatest disservice to the Eastern Region.

It is now appropriate for me to deal with the economic development that is taking place in the Region and to say a word or two about the Eastern Region Production Development Board's projects, and others which are of major importance. It is only thirty months ago that the Eastern Region Production Development Board held its first meeting on the 29th July, 1949, and at that time it was mostly a creature of the mind in that it possessed no offices, no staff, and not even paper on which to write. However, the members of the Board are imbued with the same spirit of initiative and urgency which is to be found nearly everywhere in the Region, and today there is an organisation of some size with palatial offices, a growing staff, and a list of projects either planned or launched which you will have seen set out in the Printed Address. Over and above this list there are, however, three further projects which merit particular attention and to which I am glad to be able to give the first publicity today. The first of these projects is a boat building industry. For many years it has been recognised that the creek areas of the Region hold a tremendous potentiality for economic development as large areas are suitable for rice, which is a crop which is playing an ever increasing part in feeding our large and growing population. Also areas are suitable for growing coconut on a commercial scale for copra production, and even larger areas contain a high density of good quality palm bush. The limiting factor has always been the evacuation of crops and the movement of persons, but thanks largely to the efforts of Mr. Munn of the Department of Commerce and Industries, a craft has been designed which it is confidently believed will revolutionise creek transport. This craft, which is a diesel propelled, flat bottomed, wooden barge, with approximately twice the carrying capacity of the larger lorry, will, it is hoped, be produced at about the same cost as a lorry. The Board aims at establishing this boat building industry at Opobo and expects to be able to produce two barges per month. The second is a Cashew Industry. Cashew trees have been planted as an anti-erosion measure for some considerable time in Udi and Awka areas, and they will grow on sour lands where nothing else of economic value can be established. Recently the Board engaged an expert who is convinced that the establishment of this crop has tremendous economic possibilities as there is a world wide demand for the product which is in short supply, and of which there is no known natural substitute. The Board aims to establish some thirty or more model pilot plantations on the sour lands of the Udi-Awka-Okigwi area on each of which there will be installed the somewhat costly processing machinery, and from each of which seed will be distributed to persons who are willing to establish plantations. An essential of the scheme is an intensive drive to encourage and assist villages in the area to plant cashew trees so that a large crop may become available for processing by the Board's machinery.

The third is the Onitsha Market scheme. Nobody can deny the importance of Onitsha Market to the Region as a whole. Not only is it claimed to be the largest market in Nigeria, but it is also

one of the most favourably situated from the commercial aspect in that it is where the main highway of the Region crosses the River Niger. The present state of this market is a disgrace, and consequently various ways and means were explored for financing reconstruction with the object of making it the best planned and most modern market in the country. When all other means of obtaining the necessary capital funds failed, the Eastern Region Production Development Board stepped into the breach and offered the Onitsha Town Native Authority a loan of half a million pounds at a moderate rate of interest. Of the other projects of major importance, deep drilling for oil by the Shell D'Arcy Company at Owerri continues, and if by any chance oil is struck, then it will not be long before the Eastern Region and Port Harcourt in particular bear a very different appearance. Progress also continues apace with the development of the lead-zinc mines at Abakaliki, and plans also go ahead for the establishing of the cement works on the railway line north of Enugu and the sack factory at Onitsha. There is certainly sufficient economic development afoot to occupy everyone's thoughts, and to provide great hopes for the future.

Before bringing this speech to an end I must make a brief reference to the new constitution. The elections with the vast amount of organisation and additional work entailed are things of the past, and the fever which accompanied them has long since subsided. Lessons have been learnt and improvements have become obvious, but notwithstanding this we can take pride to ourselves for having undertaken a new and difficult task, and for having done it extremely well. The House of Representatives Members have been elected, the Ministers have been appointed and have assumed office, and we are now settling down to our first budget meeting. Honourable Members, as I have already said, the Eastern Region ship is financially seaworthy. There may not be a great deal of bullion in her hold as she leaves port on her maiden voyage; but she is a fine speedy craft with a large spread of sail and she is manned by a first-rate crew. It behoves us as the crew to take full advantage of the winds and tides and to sail her free and fair in open waters and in safety to her next port of call. Let the watchwords of her "Look-outs" be "The Unity of Nigeria, the progress of the Eastern Region, and first and foremost, and all the time, the welfare of the people."

In conclusion, and with your permission, I should like to introduce a final and personal matter. On 28th April next I shall have attained the age of retirement, and in consequence I have planned to depart from Nigeria in the m.v. "Aureol" on 13th May. I shall always remember the period of my association with the Eastern Region and my wife and I will be very sad in parting from so many valued and trusted friends. My leaving is, however, made happier by the knowledge that Mr C. J. Pleass, C.M.G., is to be my successor. He is an old friend of yours whose progressive outlook needs no elaboration in these parts. As coxswain of the crew I have mentioned, he will, I feel sure, earn even greater renown.

Other Announcements by the President**The President:**

Honourable Members, I appoint, pursuant to section 53 (2) of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1951, the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region, to preside over the Eastern House of Assembly in the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor, and in the absence of the Vice-President. I also appoint the Civil Secretary to be, in the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor, Chairman of every Committee of the Whole House, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 47 (2).

Papers**The Acting Civil Secretary:**

Sir, I beg to lay on the Table Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1952.

The President:

The paper to lie on the Table.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Draft Estimates of the Eastern Region, 1952-53, together with the Memorandum thereon.

The President:

The paper to lie on the Table.

Questions and Written Answers**Mr D. A. Nnaji:**

9. To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:—

(a) Has the Government taken any steps to find out the real murderer or murderers of Agnes Onyia, the late wardress of the Enugu Convict Prison, who was murdered in the Enugu Prison Yard while on duty on 6th August, 1951?

(b) Has the Government awarded any compensation to the relatives of the deceased and if it has, how much was awarded?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary:

(a) Yes, Sir, Police investigation started on 6th August, 1951, the day of the murder. The C.I.D. were called in and three persons were arrested. They were tried, and acquitted by the Supreme Court on 10th November, 1951.

(b) No, Sir.

Presentation of Public Bills

Order read.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

Sir, I beg to present a Bill entitled:

The 1952-53 Eastern Region Appropriation Law, 1952.

Bill read a first time.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

Sir, I beg to appoint today for the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

The Minister of Local Government (Mr E. I. Oli):

Sir, I beg to present a Bill entitled:

The Native Authority (Borrowing Powers) Law, 1952.

Bill read a first time.

The Minister of Local Government (Mr E. I. Oli):

Sir, I beg to appoint Wednesday, 13th February, 1952, for the second reading of the Bill which has just been read a first time.

Business Motions moved by the Government

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I rise to move that a humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor asking him to request His Excellency the Governor, to transmit to Her Majesty the Queen through the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies the expression of the deep sympathy of this House to Her Majesty and the other Members of the Royal Family in their bereavement and the expression of their loyalty and their devotion to Her Majesty at all times.

No words of mine can express the deep sense of loss which came into every household throughout the Region when the news of His Majesty's death became known. It has been said in many of the obituary notices and addresses which have been presented already in this connection that His late Majesty was a model of a constitutional monarch whose example will long be followed, and I feel every one of us will wish in simple terms to express our deep sense of bereavement. His Majesty was a very happy family man: he was devoted to his family and his family to him. His young daughter, now ascending the throne, is faced with immense tasks and we would like, I am sure, to express to her our sincere condolences in the loss of her father, and not only to her, but to other Members of the Royal Family.

We shall be having an opportunity of paying our tribute to the memory of His late Majesty at memorial services which will be held throughout the Region on Friday next. I think we shall find that every denomination throughout the Region will be arranging such services. The day also will be observed by the closing of all public offices.

Sir, I trust that this simple and, I hope, acceptable address which I am moving will find response in the hearts of all Members of this House, and I feel sure that we will all wish to join in paying our tribute and expressing on this very sad occasion, our best wishes to our new Queen.

The Minister of Works (Mr S. T. Muna):

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That a humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor asking him to request His Excellency the Governor to transmit to Her Majesty through the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies the expression of the deep sympathy of this House to Her Majesty and other Members of the Royal Family in their bereavement and the expression of their loyalty and their devotion to Her Majesty at all times."

Mr A. Ikoku, O.B.E. (Enyong Division):

Your Honour, I wonder if I am in order in rising to say a word at this moment.

The President:

The motion is now open to debate.

Mr A. Ikoku, O.B.E. (Enyong Division):

I rise, with your permission, to associate this side of the House with the motion made by the Acting Civil Secretary. At a time like this, Your Honour, the feeling uppermost in our minds is naturally that of our common humanity. World reaction at the sudden news of His late Majesty's death bears out the fact that the feeling in all parts of the world, and even in the most unexpected quarters, was that of loss and the passing of a great man.

We, here, who are part and parcel of the Commonwealth have no words adequate to express our sense of personal loss, and for the few of us who have had the great privilege of knowing His late Majesty in person, that sense of loss is naturally all the deeper and more real. His late Majesty, King George the Sixth, was not only a great king—which indeed he was—but he was also a good man. We hope and believe that we shall remain for many years inspired by the memory of his goodness.

It may be in this turning of a new page in our political life God has called us to take stock, and there can be no greater reminder of that, I think, than the event which we now mourn. I hope that in this House and in the other Legislatures of this country the great example of the life of devotion to duty led by His late Majesty will always inspire us and keep us united and raised above petty matters so that our eyes may be concentrated on the things that matter.

Again, I associate myself and my colleagues on this side of the House with the motion made by the Acting Civil Secretary.

Mr J. A. Wachuku (Aba Division):

Sir, on behalf of the members of my Party I think we are all agreed that we should heartily associate ourselves with the leader of the Opposition in expressing the deep sympathy of this House for the loss of His late Majesty, King George the Sixth. We say this in all sincerity because Great Britain is our protector and His late Majesty was the whole embodiment of that protection that is given to this country as one of the Protectorates under Great Britain, and also the Cameroons. Death cannot be controversial, and if there is any certainty at all, that is the one certainty we know, and therefore it is not a matter for long speeches. It is a moment for great reverence for a great man has passed and suffice it to say that my Party—and I am sure the rest of this House—is unanimous in supporting the motion made by the Acting Civil Secretary that this expression of our sympathy be conveyed to the Royal Family and to all relations, as well as to the British Government for the great loss that they have sustained.

Your Honour, in expressing this sympathy we must also take into consideration all the great deeds that have characterised the late King's reign. I myself was a student when he visited the United States. We in a colonial territory like Africa, and in particular in Nigeria, have to look back at what has been achieved in several colonial territories during the reign of the late King; it is that achievement, the result of his work during his reign, that has caused us to express our devotion and our deep sympathy for his great loss. During his reign, India gained her freedom and today is taking her place among the nations of the world. During his reign, the Gold Coast became almost a full-fledged nation and is now nearing the achievement of Dominion status. Under his reign, Nigeria was also on

the march. We have not yet come to the real goal but we are on the way to that goal and we hope to reach it. And we must remember that all these came under the reign of this great King, who symbolised the unity of the British Commonwealth of Nations. I do therefore associate myself with the motion of the Acting Civil Secretary that an address be presented by this House to His Excellency the Governor for transmission to the Royal Family.

Mr S. A. George (Mamfe Division):

I would like to crave the indulgence of this House so that I may express the feelings of all those who come from the Trust Territory. We cannot forget that some time ago we were a people who were driven like cattle, and it is a matter for gratification to us that during the reign of the late King George the Sixth the Trust Territory was transformed into something more encouraging to the people who inhabited that territory, and today we are very happy in that. Whereas the past was black, today the future is bright, and for that reason we would like a special mention to be made of the deep sympathy of the people of the Trust Territory to the British Government and to the Royal Family for the loss they have sustained.

The President:

The question is "That a humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor asking him to request His Excellency the Governor to transmit to Her Majesty the Queen through the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies the expression of the deep sympathy of this House to Her Majesty and the other Members of the Royal Family in their bereavement and the expression of their loyalty and their devotion to Her Majesty at all times." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I rise to move that Standing Order 18 (b)—Public Business—whereby the business of Private Members has precedence over Government business, shall be suspended on this 12th day of February, 1952, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 72.

Honourable Members will recollect that Tuesday is Private Members' day and normally Government would not move a motion of this sort, which would in any way interfere with the rights and prerogatives of our Private Members; but on this occasion our main business is the Regional Budget and I feel you will all agree that we should proceed with the main business of this meeting at once, so that we can get to the stage when the second reading of the Bill comes up and we can hear the speech of the Honourable the Financial Secretary. Then, as you know, the debate is automatically adjourned for two days in order to give Honourable Members a chance to study his speech and to prepare for the general debate on the second reading.

I think we shall be able to finish this business this morning, and then it will be possible to proceed to the other motions standing on the Order Paper which have been put down by a Private Member, so that although I have to move this motion, it is to that extent simply a formality. We are thus bringing forward the procedure in connection with the Budget and putting off until this afternoon Private Members' business on the two motions which appear under the name of Mr E. O. Eyo. Sir I beg to move.

The Acting Legal Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That Standing Order 18 (b)—Public Business—whereby the business of Private Members has precedence over Government business, shall be suspended on this 12th day of February, 1952, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 72." (No debate arising).

The President:

The question is "That Standing Order 18 (b)—Public Business—whereby the business of Private Members has precedence over Government business, shall be suspended on this 12th day of February, 1952, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 72." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

Public Business

The 1952-53 Appropriation Law, 1952, Order for second reading read.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

Your Honour, I beg to move that the Bill entitled "The 1952-53 Eastern Region Appropriation Law, 1952," be now read a second time.

It is my responsibility to give to this House an account of the economic and financial state of the Region and a statement of the financial policy of the Region, but, at this first Budget Session, I think that it would be as well if I, with your Honour's permission, prefaced my account with a brief explanation of the changes in the financial position of the Region which will take place as part of the new Constitution.

Under the former Constitution the Region received an Allocation of Nigerian Revenue, voted to the Region by the Legislative Council of Nigeria, and the House of Assembly approved the expenditure of this Allocation on regional services, such as the Administration, Medical Services, Education, etc., subject to the approval of His Excellency the Governor. At the end of each financial year, the Legislative Council has approved that the amount of the Allocation which has not been utilised by the Region on regional services during the year should be transferred to the Eastern Regional General Revenue Balance Account, in the accounts of Nigeria. The Region has then been authorised by Legislative Council to withdraw funds from this General Revenue Balance Account for expenditure in the Region. These withdrawals have been devoted to expenditure on essential capital works, which has been most useful, as the Region, owing to difficulty in balancing its budget each year, has been able to include only token provisions for capital works in the Estimates. But Honourable Members will appreciate the unsatisfactory implications; the revenue allocations have only just covered recurrent expenditure on services and works, and capital works have been dependent on "savings" in this recurrent expenditure; and these "savings" have only arisen because of shortage of staff and materials, which in turn imply that the services of the Region have not been up to the strength required and approved in the Estimates.

Under the new Constitution the revenues of the Regions commencing next financial year, are prescribed in the Nigeria (Revenue Allocation) Order-in-Council. Honourable Members will recollect that on the recom-

mentation of the Ibadan Conference on the review of the Constitution, a Commission was appointed to devise a new plan which would provide for the financial relationship of Nigeria and the Regions. This report was to be considered by a Committee of seventeen appointed by the Conference. The report of the Commission recommended that the revenues of the Regions should be based on four principles, namely, the principle of Derivation, the principle of National Interest, the principle of Needs and the principle of Independent Revenues. In accordance with the first principle, the principle of Derivation, the Regions should be granted fifty per cent of the proceeds from Nigerian Customs Import and Excise duties on the tobacco consumed in each Region. In accordance with the second principle, Nigeria should make grants to the Regions in respect of Regional Expenditure on the Nigeria Police, a fifty per cent grant in respect of the cost of Native Authority Police, and grants in respect of Regional Expenditure on Education Grants-in-Aid, other than Special Purposes Grants-in-Aid. In accordance with the third principle, the principle of Needs, Nigeria should make grants to the Regions on a *per capita* basis, that is, grants based on so much per person or per tax-payer in each Region. Lastly the fourth principle, the Regions should have certain independent revenues of their own, over which they would have legislative powers. In addition, the Commission recommended an outright, non-recurrent, grant to the Northern Region, to help towards bringing the Northern Region to the same stage of development as the other Regions. When the report of the Commission was considered by the Committee of seventeen, the Committee accepted the four principles, but a majority of the Committee proposed amendments to the percentage of the proceeds from tobacco duties which should be allocated to the Regions and in the amount of the outright grant to the Northern Region. These amendments were unacceptable and the Secretary of State approved the recommendations of the Commission, with only some minor amendments, and the Nigeria (Revenue Allocation) Order-in-Council provides for the revenues of the Regions as was recommended by the Commission, with the minor amendments referred to.

Under the Nigeria (Constitution) Order-in-Council the Regions are empowered to expend their Revenues and Funds on the matters set out in the Third and Fourth Schedules of the Order-in-Council. The Regions will in consequence have to take on some additional responsibilities. Also under the Order-in-Council the Regions are empowered to raise loans within Nigeria, upon the security of their Revenues and Assets, for purposes relating to the matters set out in the same Third and Fourth Schedules of the Order-in-Council.

It is also now proposed, in consequence of the constitutional developments, to get away from the old procedure under which every single variation from the Approved Estimates has to be referred to a Committee of the House, and to follow instead the modern procedure of the United Kingdom under which variations in the details of Expenditure appropriated under each Head of the Estimates are placed within the competence of the public officers responsible for such matters, subject, of course, to examination in due course by the Public Accounts Committee. It is therefore proposed that this "power of virement," as it is called, should be exercised by the Financial Secretary in respect of Savings and Excesses,

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provided no excess of the Head of Expenditure is caused thereby. Honourable Members will appreciate that, however carefully the Estimates are prepared, expenditure under one sub-head will sometimes exceed the estimate for the sub-head, whilst there may be savings under another sub-head of the same Head of Expenditure. Additional expenditure under one sub-head with equivalent savings under another sub-head does not involve any additional expenditure over the total provision for the Head of the Estimates on the Schedule to the Appropriation Law approved by this House.

Turning now to the economic state of the Region, I would invite Honourable Members' attention to the fact that of the estimated revenue of the Region next financial year 32 per cent is in respect of the Region's share of the proceeds from tobacco duties, 18.5 per cent is in respect of the Capitation Grant, 32.9 per cent in respect of National Interest Grants for Education and Police and 16.6 per cent in respect of the independent revenues of the Region and the regional share of the proceeds of the import duty on motor spirit. I have joined the last two together because the Commission recommended, and it is provided in the Nigeria (Revenue Allocation) Order in Council, that the Regions should levy a sales tax on motor spirit, instead of the Nigerian import duty; but it has not yet been possible to introduce the necessary legislation to effect this.

These figures which I have given clearly illustrate certain facts which one must always bear in mind, particularly when considering and debating the financial and economic state of the Region and the financial policy of the Region. The greater part of the revenue of the Region is derived from the revenue of Nigeria. Though there are three Regions, Nigeria is one country and the prosperity and progress of each Region is to a very great extent dependent on the prosperity of Nigeria as a whole. It is not for me to give an account of the financial and economic state of Nigeria, but I would stress one matter and that is, Nigeria is primarily an agricultural country and its economic prosperity depends very much on the export of its agricultural products—palm oil and kernels, groundnuts, cocoa, etc.—the quantity and quality of these exports, and the prices obtainable for them in the world markets. Tin and a little gold are produced and exported and we have hopes that, in due course, lead, zinc and oil will be won and produced in quantity, to increase the wealth of the country; but at present the prosperity of Nigeria depends mainly on its agricultural products.

Since the war there has been great demand in the world markets for the products of Nigeria and the prices paid for Nigerian products have soared to high levels. Producers have received far more money for their produce than before; they have had far more money with which to buy goods; and this prosperity is reflected in the increased revenue of the country, particularly in the revenue from Customs Import and Export Duties. Many people, I might add, do not realise how much the revenue of Nigeria depends on Customs Duties. In the Estimates of Nigeria for the current financial year, no less than 67.8 per cent of the total estimated ordinary revenue of Nigeria comes from Customs Duties. The revenue of the country is dependent on the prosperity of the country, and the prosperity of the country depends on the prices paid for the country's products in the world markets. The big question is therefore, will the present prices for Nigerian products be maintained? Whatever may

happen in the future, the Region must at least be prepared for a fall in prices in the future, which might adversely affect the economic and financial state of the Region.

Turning now more particularly to the Eastern Region, there are no separate trade statistics for the Region, but there are available figures which illustrate or indicate the economic state of the Region. The principal exports of the Region are palm oil and palm kernels and a vast number of people depend on the sale of these products for their well-being. During the past three years the figures of the total tonnage of these products (other than Plantation Oil) graded in the Region for export and the total value of these products are as follows:—

		Tons	Value £
<i>Palm Oil</i> —in 1949 ...	...	144,276	4,548,572
in 1950 ...	...	144,196	5,865,514
in 1951 ...	...	124,106	6,697,073
<i>Palm Kernels</i> —in 1949 ...	...	167,886	3,525,606
in 1950 ...	...	177,727	4,620,902
in 1951 ...	...	156,735	5,015,520

Honourable Members will appreciate the significance of these figures. Last year, the tonnage of palm oil sold for export decreased by about 20,000 tons, but the value of the palm oil increased by over £2 million compared with two years ago. The tonnage of palm kernels sold for export has also decreased but the total amount paid for the palm kernels increased in the three years by £1½ million. There has in fact been no increase in the tonnage of palm oil and kernels exported, but the amount paid for these products has increased by about £3½ million. There is, however, one further point which I must add; there has been a satisfactory improvement in the quality of the oil sold for export. The figures of other exports during the three years are:—cocoa, a decrease of 1,050 tons, a decrease of nearly a third. Timber exports have increased in the three years from 5,977 cubic feet value f.o.b. £1,174 in 1949 to 3,543,952 cubic feet value £943,233 in 1951. Rubber exports have increased in the period 1949 to 1951 from 5,454,936 lb. to 6,559,653 lb. the value from £203,405 to £1,130,486.

It is impossible to provide figures of the imports into the Region during the past three years. Goods are imported from the North and West as well as from overseas, and goods are imported through the Region to the Northern Region. But Nigerian imports, in value, have increased from £58,235,140 in 1949 to £83,201,060 in 1951; the imports through the ports in the Eastern Region have increased from £10,783,006 in 1949 to £16,853,386 in 1951, an increase of 56 per cent. There is a great need to produce more foodstuffs in the Region.

More money in a man's pocket is of little real benefit to him unless he can use it to improve his standard of living, an essential part of which is a good balanced diet, at a price he can afford. The Agricultural Department has been experimenting for years on new crops and on the manuring of crops and has been encouraging selected farmers to try out manuring and artificial fertilisers on their farms. Now the Eastern Regional Production Development Board has started an artificial fertiliser scheme which will cost £200,000. Several thousands of tons of artificial fertilisers are

being imported and arrangements are now being made to start the sale of these fertilisers to farmers for this planting season. The artificial fertilisers are being sold to farmers at less than the cost price, in order to popularise the use of artificial fertilisers. In addition, the Board is starting a small cattle ranch on the Obudu Plateau; but this is not enough, and ways and means must be found of bringing more meat to the thickly populated areas of the Region, at prices which the people can afford. There has been a large and most satisfactory increase in the cultivation of rice during the past five years, the estimated acreage throughout the Region having been increased from 10,000 acres to 50,000 acres during this period.

The economic development of the Region must be pressed on; and in planning economic development one most important factor should be taken into consideration. The economy of the Region is to a very great extent dependent at present on one export crop, namely, oil palm products; and the prosperity of the Region and the people of the Region is to a great extent dependent on the prices obtainable for this product in the world markets. It is therefore vitally important that great efforts should be made to produce, if it is possible, other products which are in demand overseas. At the same time part of the economic development of the Region must be an increase in the production of palm oil and kernels, and improvement in the quality of the palm oil. It has been proved that more oil and better quality oil can be produced from palm fruits, fresh fruit, by the Pioneer Oil Mills than by the normal traditional methods of extraction. The Pioneer Oil Mills were started in the Region by the Department of Commerce and Industries, and have been taken over and increased by the Regional Production Development Board. The Board now has thirty-seven mills in operation in the Region, twenty-three more under construction or about to be constructed and it has on order a further fifty ordinary mills and two double sized mills. It has also sold five mills to the Cameroons Development Corporation and private individuals and has three more on order for private individuals. The Board, in addition, has approved a scheme for a plantation north of Calabar and the construction of a road from Calabar to Arochuku, providing for the plantation and opening up a sparsely-populated area for development. The Board has also approved a scheme for processing locally-produced coffee, and a small coffee plantation in Bamenda Province, and a scheme for the growing of cashew on the unfertile lands of Onitsha and Owerri Provinces and the processing of the cashew nuts. But these schemes are far from enough. The vital thing is that every man whatever he may be doing, should do more, produce more, and not merely expect to get more for doing the same thing, the same work.

One hears much about the need for industrial development in Nigeria. Big industrial schemes, and indeed large scale agricultural schemes in undeveloped areas, require large capital outlay and technical knowledge and skill. But there is not the necessary capital or sufficient technical knowledge in this country and so they must come from outside this country. Negotiations are in progress for the establishment of a cement factory in this Region, the Colonial Development Corporation may establish a sack factory at Onitsha and we can only hope that the investigations into the lead-zinc deposits at Abakaliki and the possibilities of oil in the Owerri Province and other provinces will be fruitful. If, I say if, these big industrial projects are undertaken, they will indeed make a vast difference to the economic prosperity of the Region.

Last year, the Ten-Year Development Plan for Nigeria was revised. This was necessary as costs, particularly of materials, have increased considerably since the Plan was first introduced, and the funds available over the ten years for the Plan would therefore not be sufficient for all the projects in the Plan. The revision of the Plan so far as it affects this Region was fully discussed with the Members of the former House of Assembly. It was decided that in the revised Plan more bias should be given towards economic and quasi-economic projects. It is essential for economic development that the principal highways, the Trunk Roads, should be made adequate for heavy commercial transport; and so included in the revised Plan is the completion of the Trunk Roads A under construction, the tarring of the Enugu-Abakaliki and Port Harcourt-Owerri roads, and a project for building permanent bridges on the principal Trunk Roads B, replacing temporary bridges and ferries. I must add also that Government has approved a provision of £300,000 for the construction of a bridge over the Cross River on the Mamfe-Ikom road, instead of a ferry as proposed in the revised Development Plan. Included in the Plan also are provisions for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Services, particularly for staff required for investigations which are essential before economic development can be undertaken. It is sometimes overlooked that the expansion of social services, new hospitals and schools, etc., in the Plan entail additional recurrent expenditure which will have to be borne by the country in the future; and so, as I have said before, economic development must be pushed ahead just as much as the development of social services, so that the country and the people will have additional income to pay for this additional expenditure. The Ten-Year Development Plan is a Nigerian Plan and the annual estimates of expenditure under the Plan are included in the Estimates for Nigeria, and allocations are made to the Region for the approved expenditure in the Region by the regionalised Departments.

At the beginning of my speech I explained in general terms the financial position of the Region and the changes which are taking place under the new Constitution. I will now turn to the present financial state of the Region and the Estimates for next financial year.

At present the balance in the Eastern Regional General Revenue Balance Account is £222,621, but certain adjustments have still to be made which will probably reduce this balance to rather less than £200,000. On the latest figures available (received since the Memorandum on the Draft Estimates, 1952-53, was prepared) the revised estimated expenditure of the Region during the current financial year is £3,338,740 and thus £68,840 of the Allocations to the Region this year will remain unexpended at the end of the financial year. It is anticipated that this unexpended balance of the Allocations will be transferred to the Eastern Regional General Revenue Balance Account, and that the total balance in this Account will be transferred to the Region next financial year. The Region will thus start next financial year with an estimated surplus of £260,000. But the Region next financial year becomes a separate financial unit and it is likely that it will require much, if not all of these surplus funds for "working capital."

As Honourable Members will appreciate, it takes several months to prepare the Draft Estimates of the Region, and the Estimates for next financial year had to go to the Printer at the beginning of last month, January. The Draft Estimates had therefore to be completed before the

first meeting of this House. The Draft Estimates of Expenditure are, in general, basic Estimates providing for existing services of the Region and for the additional responsibilities which the Region must undertake under the new Constitution; and Supplementary Estimates may be required later in the year. The Draft Estimates for next financial year provide a margin of Estimated Revenue over Estimated Expenditure of £92,000, equivalent to 2.3 per cent of the Estimated Revenue. This is a small margin and will permit little additional recurrent expenditure during the year. You have said, Your Honour, in your speech that the Eastern Region ship is financially seaworthy. This is, indeed, satisfactory, more satisfactory than I anticipated a year ago. It must, however, be remembered that, unlike previous years when the Region received definite allocations of Nigerian Revenue, in future the Region will have its own Revenue and be dependent on its revenue. The estimates of revenue have been carefully framed, but the revenue from some sources may be effected by reasons beyond our control and which cannot be anticipated. I referred earlier to the present high level of the prices now obtained for the exports of this country. Any serious fall in these prices would in due course adversely affect revenue, and it is important that at this time of high prices great care should be taken over the expansion of services which entail additional recurrent expenditure, which the Region might not be able to afford if there is a recession and fall in revenue. The Region already has further responsibilities and responsibilities will increase. At present the Region, is, owing to shortage of funds, behind in its Public Works programme, even in such essential requirements as housing for Government staff. Even when the houses now under construction are completed the Region will still require another fifty or sixty houses for Senior Service Officers alone, not taking into consideration replacement of unsatisfactory houses. The services of the Region cannot be carried on efficiently, much less expanded, without sufficient housing for the essential staff required. More office accommodation is also required. Water supplies must be expanded, roads improved and there are the ever-growing requirements of more and better hospitals, schools, etc. Everyone is anxious that the progress of the Region should be not only continued but accelerated; the problem is finding the ways and means of achieving this.

I have stressed earlier that the financial state of the Region is to a great extent dependent on the financial state of Nigeria as a whole. Nigeria is one country and the financial policy of the Region must be in line with the general financial policy of Nigeria. But the Region, as I have shown, has its own responsibilities which the Region itself must undertake, and the object of the financial policy of the Region must be to provide the ways and means of achieving this. And when considering the financial policy of the Region, against the background of the economic and financial state of the Region, one must take into consideration not only the responsibilities and finances of the Region, but also those of the Local Governments; in fact, the total strength and potentialities of the Region. There must be the closest co-operation between the Region and the Local Governments in the development and progress of the Region.

I have explained that the Region under the new Constitution has its own independent revenues prescribed in the Nigeria (Revenue Allocation) Order in Council, but as I have pointed out already this revenue is small compared with the total revenue of the Region. Will it be possible to increase this revenue in the future? Honourable Members will have

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studied these estimates, Heads, 401 to 410. I think that the revenue from existing sources may be increased in the future, but there is not great scope at present for raising revenue from new sources within the Region. Honourable Members will have noticed that the bulk of the independent revenues of the Region come from licences and fees, earnings of Government Departments and revenue and rents from Government property. Honourable Members will also have noted that the estimated revenue from Direct Taxes, under the Direct Taxation Ordinance, is only £37,000. I think that it is frequently not appreciated by many people that by far the greater part of the tax collected under the Direct Taxation Ordinance accrues to the revenues of the Native Treasuries, the Townships and the Local Government District Councils, and not to Government. Last financial year the total Direct Tax collected in the Region was £745,933. Of this amount £707,838 was paid to the Native Treasuries, Townships and Local Government District Councils and only £38,096 was paid to Government Revenue. And it will be noted that the Region pays Codified Grants to Native Authorities and Grants to Townships for the upkeep of their roads and drains, which about equal the Government revenue from Direct Tax.

There are two other sources of revenue to which I would like to refer. The Region receives the rents from Crown Lands, but the Region, in turn, makes grants to Town Planning Authorities up to about 85 per cent of the rents received in the planning areas for the development of the areas and the maintenance of these Crown Lands. Secondly, most of the urban water supplies in the Region have been running at a loss; that is, the Region as a whole has in fact been paying for part of the cost of the water supplied to the people of these urban areas or townships. The cost of the water varies in different townships, between 2½d per 1,000 gallons to 2s 3d per 1,000 gallons, and as the supplies are expanded the costs will be reduced. It is not unreasonable to expect the people of the few places in the Region which have the benefit of these water supplies to pay for it themselves, and they should not expect the Region as a whole to pay part of the cost, though, of course, Government users will pay for the water they consume at the same proportionate rates as anyone else.

To achieve real progress the Local Governments, by which I mean the new Local Government Councils, Townships and Native Authorities, as a whole will have to shoulder greater responsibilities, in particular, for social services and the other local amenities which particularly benefit the local communities. Some have made a start in this direction already. Enugu Township is undertaking a big road and drainage scheme, Onitsha Town Native Authority is to construct a great new market which will be the finest in the country, Abakaliki Native Authority has given the lead in Education Rating and a limited scheme for compulsory education, and a few other Native Authorities have introduced rating for local social services, schools, leper segregation villages, etc. Other Local Governments are anxious to undertake big schemes, if only they could obtain the necessary capital. But it is not only big schemes and new schemes which will have to be financed, but also, just as important, the expansion and the normal growth of existing services. Local Government Councils, Native Authorities and Townships, as I have said, receive the bulk of the revenue from direct taxes, and more important, they can levy rates for the services which they provide. Local Government finances must be considered in a different way than has often been the case in the past. In the past Native

Authorities considered their estimates of revenue and then decided how this revenue should be expended. In the future, and it is happening in some places already, Native Authorities should consider first the expenditure on their local services and the estimates of the cost of services and development works required, and then decide whether by taxes and rates they can raise sufficient revenue for these services. For big development schemes Local Governments require loans, to be refunded with interest over a period of years. The Eastern Regional Development Board has made loans to Enugu Township, Port Harcourt Township and Onitsha Town Native Authority but it is now not in a position to make any further substantial loans; and this vitally important question of the provision of funds for loans to Local Government bodies for public works is now being actively considered.

You have spoken today, Sir, of Community Development. This Region will not achieve that speed of progress, which we all want, without voluntary work. Government, the Region, the Local Governments cannot provide all the works and services which are so much needed for the development of the Region and the welfare of the people. Progress depends so much on the people themselves and it is for the Region and Local Governments to help first those who help themselves. In the Development Plan it is proposed to provide £50,000 a year for five years for Community Development in the Region, to be used primarily to give assistance in kind to those undertaking community development work. You have given details, Sir, of the great achievements by communities, many miles of road, maternity homes, schools, etc., built by voluntary labour. Those communities can be justly proud of their achievements, and it is to be hoped that others will follow their example and that the pace will not slacken. Communities should also remember that when a new road or a maternity centre is built, that is not all—it must be maintained, and this can be achieved by local rating.

Education bulks very large in the Estimates of the Region; no less than 30 per cent of the expenditure of the Region is devoted to Education. Education is very dear to the hearts of the people of the Region, and rightly so, but it has to be paid for. The Region will receive a grant from Nigerian funds equivalent to the Expenditure by the Region on the Grants-in-Aid to Approved Voluntary Agencies, Native Authorities and Townships for Primary and Secondary Education and Teacher-Training in accordance with the Grants-in-Aid Regulations under the Education Ordinance, and the estimate of this grant next year, included in the Revenue Estimates, is £862,500. In 1951, there were approximately, 510,000 children in Primary Schools, assisted and non-assisted, in this Region. The revised estimated total Grants-in-Aid to Primary Schools during 1951 is £652,000, which is equivalent to £1 5s 7d per child in all primary schools. The total cost of these Grants-in-Aid is increasing in this Region alone by over £100,000 a year, a rate of increase which Nigeria will not be able to afford in future without curtailing other essential services and works. It will therefore be necessary in due course to increase the rates of Assumed Local Contributions for Primary Education and it will be for Local Governments and communities to decide whether this increase should be covered by means of local education rates. It must be appreciated that Primary Education is just as much a local responsibility as a central responsibility, and in general the communities which receive most should be required to pay most.

I mentioned earlier that the Public Works programme is behind-hand. The present resources of the Region may not be sufficient for the Public Works which are urgently required to enable the services of the Region to be maintained, and so it may be necessary for the Region to obtain a temporary loan from Government for these essential Public Works.

The Bamenda and Cameroons Provinces are the southern half of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship. The other half, as Honourable Members know, is administered as part of the Northern Region. In the past Nigerian expenditure on the Trusteeship Territory exceeded revenue collected from the territory, but in the last two or three years the revenue from the territory has been increasing considerably, mainly due to increased revenues from import and export duties and companies tax, which together make up more than 80 per cent of the revenue from the territory. Government has undertaken that expenditure on the territory should not be less than the revenue raised in that area, and in implementation of this policy, Government last financial year made a special provision of £350,000 for the development of Cameroons roads. This provision has been placed in a Special Fund for this purpose. Estimates of the Eastern Region expenditure on the Bamenda and Cameroons Provinces last year are now being worked out and will be compared with, what may be considered as, the Bamenda and Cameroons portion of the Allocation of Revenue to the Region last financial year. In the future, records will be kept of the regional revenue from and in respect of the Bamenda and Cameroons Provinces and of the regional expenditure on the two provinces; and the two provinces will receive a fair share of the regional expenditure, not less than the regional revenues from and in respect of the two provinces.

I have endeavoured to give a survey of the economic and financial state of the Region and an explanation of the financial policy which, it is considered, should be followed by the Region. The Region will, from now on, have to shoulder additional responsibilities, and, in view of the present financial state of the Region, caution will have to be exercised in expenditure; and it will not be possible to undertake immediately all the schemes of development which are so keenly desired. But I feel certain that with mutual confidence and with the full co-operation of all, present difficulties can be overcome and the progress and development of the Region pressed on.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

What is your pleasure in view of Standing Order No. 66 (3)?

The Acting Financial Secretary:

I appoint Saturday, 16th February, 1952, for resuming the debate.

The President:

The debate is adjourned until the day appointed.

Motions

(The Acting Civil Secretary in the Chair)

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division):

Sir, the Minister of Natural Resources, being the leader of my party, has informed me that the subject matter of this motion has been discussed

amongst the Ministers concerned who have agreed to resign their seats in the House of Representatives, and the leader has asked me to withdraw this motion. I am asking leave to withdraw.

The President:

The Honourable Member is permitted to withdraw the motion.

Mr A. Ikoku, O.B.E. (Enyong Division):

Sir, I did not get the reasons why the motion is being withdrawn. Could the Honourable Member give his reasons clearly?

The President:

I must rule under the relevant Standing Order that the Honourable Member may, if he wishes, withdraw his motion. The question has not been put to the House and the Honourable Member is not proceeding with the motion.

Mr A. Ikoku, O.B.E. (Enyong Division):

I am asking for his reasons.

The President:

The position at the moment is that the Honourable Member has already stated his reasons for withdrawing the motion. He is not proceeding with it, it is not being seconded and I cannot put the question to the House.

Mr L. N. Mbanefo (Onitsha Division):

When he says that the Minister of Natural Resources has assured him that the Ministers have agreed to resign their seats, does that apply to the Minister of Natural Resources himself?

The President:

I must rule that the position is still such that I cannot put this motion to the House at present.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division):

Sir, I rise to move the motion standing in my name. It reads as follows:—

“That in view of the various demonstrations and riots in the Eastern Region against the installation of Pioneer Oil Mills, a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to investigate and report on the causes and/or reasons for these demonstrations and riots.”

Honourable Members, I think, are aware that during the last three or four years there have been quite a number of demonstrations and riots throughout the Eastern Region against the installation of Pioneer Oil Mills. Government, to my knowledge, has made no investigation into the causes leading to these demonstrations. In 1948, there were three cases of riots and demonstrations and in the year 1949, all the women of Abak Division demonstrated. As a result of their action no Pioneer Oil Mill was installed in that division. Again, in 1950, the women of Enyong Division also demonstrated and there was a riot. One Reverend gentleman who was at the time the President of the Native Authority Council, was attacked and had to be rushed to hospital for treatment. Again, no Pioneer Oil Mill was installed. In January last year the women in Uyo Division (my own division) demonstrated and there was a very big riot. I myself fell a victim to these women because I had offered land to Government so that a mill might be installed, and I am therefore in a position to know what the feeling of the women was when they demonstrated. As a matter of fact I narrowly escaped being murdered, and the Assistant District Officer, Uyo, who came to my rescue, had his car smashed.

What strikes me as wrong is that no inquiry has been instituted to find out exactly what has been the cause of all these riots and demonstrations. Honourable Members must be aware that in principle these Pioneer Oil Mills have been accepted, and it is very surprising that our women, and the men behind the women, are objecting so strongly to their installation in almost all the divisions of the Eastern Region.

With the permission of the Chair I will just read a portion of the first Annual Report of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board, 1949-1950, which is very relevant to this question of Pioneer Oil Mills. Paragraph 12 says "When the mills were first mooted it was decided to adopt a policy whereby the Department of Commerce and Industries should run them while experience was being gained and staff was being trained with the intention of handing them over to private Nigerian enterprise if they proved themselves an economic success. As a result of this decision the mill was designed as the smallest economic unit possible, and an attempt was made to get the cost of machinery and installation within the figure of £5,500 as it was felt that an outlay greater than this would not attract Nigerian capital at the time. In fulfilment of this policy . . ."

The President:

I must remind the Honourable Member that he craved the indulgence of the Chair to read extracts and not the complete report. I must rule that the Honourable Member could have incorporated most of that quite easily in his speech.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division):

Later on the Eastern Regional Production Development Board decided that these mills could no longer be sold over to private Nigerian interests. I am sure Honourable Members are well aware of the feelings of the people when the Eastern Regional Production Development Board adopted the policy of refusing to sell these mills to private individuals. It is not strange therefore that throughout the divisions in the Eastern Region people have been seeking to obstruct the work of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board, and it is even more significant that during all these riots and demonstrations Government did not make any move in the matter. I want to know why Government did not find out from the women and the men why they did not want these mills to be installed and I am counting on Honourable Members of the House to support this motion—that a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to investigate into the matter. It is absolutely essential, in the interest of our people at home, that a Commission be appointed to take evidence in all the divisions in the Eastern Region indicating why the women and the men are refusing to accept these mills. When we have that report this House will see that all obstacles are removed and the mills installed throughout the Eastern Region without further obstruction.

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr J. A. Wachuku (Aba Division):

Sir, I rise to second.

I do so in all sincerity and with a sense of responsibility. It seems to me that on occasion when some good measures are intended to be introduced the people are not taken into Government's confidence, and in consequence what should have been for the good of the country becomes bad.

As the mover of this motion has pointed out, paragraph 12 of the report of the Eastern Regional Development Production Board stated clearly that the primary purpose in introducing these mills was to improve the quality of the oil in this Region and in this country and so enable us to compete with palm oil from other parts of the world. But we must be very careful that the introduction of these mills does not have the same effect as the advent of capitalists in industry in England when the feudal crafts and home industries were destroyed by industry as were also the people dependent upon them. The Board means well, but this House is entitled to know the reasons behind the agitation of the peasant. As the Financial Secretary has mentioned, this is mainly an agricultural country. There are no important industries in this country in a real sense and the industrialisation of this Region has not yet begun—we are just thinking of it. Palm oil and palm kernels form some of the major, if not the most important, products of this Region, and it is vital that this House should move that an Inquiry be made into the whole system and then report the facts to this House.

The President:

At this stage I must ask the Honourable Member to confine his remarks to the relevancy of the motion to which he is speaking. The motion is that a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to inquire into the causes of the disturbances. I have already allowed the Member considerable latitude and I would ask the seconder to confine his attention to the actual wording of the motion. The motion does not ask for a Commission of Inquiry to go into the whole operation of Pioneer Oil Mills.

Mr J. A. Wachuku (Aba Division):

Well, Sir, the appointment of such a commission is very necessary if we are going to have smooth and pleasant development with a thorough understanding on the part of the peasantry and the ordinary people. It is very necessary that this House should be acquainted with the facts making for understanding of the prejudices of the people in the villages. It will then be easier for Government and this House to introduce measures to educate the people and set up machinery to enable the peasantry to understand a project before it is introduced. The lesson to be learnt from this inquiry would be useful not only in this particular case, but in every case where new measures are likely to be introduced. The psychological approach is very important, and once this is realised I am sure the work of Government and of this House will be very much easier. The same trouble that the proposer has mentioned arose in my own division some time ago and I had to do a lot of work to make the people understand that the mill in itself is not a bad thing. I went out of my way to advise the women who were involved in the agitation professionally. I think it would serve an extremely useful purpose if a Commission of Inquiry were set up and I beg to second the motion.

The Minister of Lands and Survey (Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma):

Sir, in regard to this motion I support Government, and in doing so I must point out that the mover has digressed from the real motion. The real motion before the House is that a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to investigate and report on the causes and reasons for the demonstrations and riots mentioned. I would also mention that the Honourable Member has stated that the demonstrations and riots took place about four years ago. He also mentioned the disturbance in 1949 in Aba, and in this

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connection I would refer the Honourable Members to His Honour's Budget Address, page 10, where mention is made of the disturbances in Calabar Province. These disturbances were not real riots or demonstrations, but I am sure the layman, reading this motion, would consider the riots and demonstrations to be current and continuous. But when the real facts are taken into account we would see that in fact these things happened years ago. These disturbances happened at a time when insufficient publicity and propaganda had been given to the people concerned before the introduction of the mills, but since that time general propaganda and information has been diffused throughout the Region and the installation of oil mills in the Region is now a popular scheme.

So far as information coming to Government is concerned, the only recent disturbance was in Owerri Province a little over a year ago, and that disturbance was not directed against the installation of Pioneer Oil Mills. It was a disturbance between two groups of women coming from different villages having a common boundary. The District Officer, in order to settle the dispute, issued an ultimatum that the people concerned must settle their argument within seven days otherwise he would give the mill to other villages. In actual fact the dispute was settled within twenty-four hours and it will interest Honourable Members to know that the mill is now in progress.

The Honourable Member has stated that Government did not care to institute an inquiry. I beg to differ from the Honourable Member. It is not the job of Government to set up Commissions of Inquiry in every small trouble that arises. What happened in the Calabar Province was that the Senior Resident went into the matter and carried on an impartial investigation and the result of his investigation showed that the reason for the trouble was the failure of the propaganda of the Administration to reach the people in their homes and the failure of the Native Authorities to inform the people of the proposed introduction of the mills. Adverse propaganda by interested middlemen and press owners also contributed to the trouble. People in the past have thought that Government was trying to cheat them, but now that the facts have been pushed home to them they are beginning to realise that it is for the economic development of this Region it is essential that the quality of the oil is improved and that this improvement can be brought about by the use of oil mills.

I do not want to talk at length in this debate. It is now too late to set up a Commission of Inquiry; it would be a waste of time and the Commission would serve no useful purpose. It would only revive the grievances of the people who are not educated to know the real reason why Pioneer Oil Mills should come to the Region, and I am asking Honourable Members to refuse to allow this motion to go forth. If this motion goes through, it would stultify the hand of progress and retard the onward march which everyone in Nigeria is advocating. The setting up of this Commission would mean "taking us back to Egypt." It is an expensive and dilatory procedure and, if approved by this House—which I hope it is not—then it would mean there would be no further installations of Pioneer Oil Mills over a long period, and the people who have already been quarrelling over installations might burst into real riots.

My last point is that His Honour is not empowered to appoint a Commission of Inquiry. Under section 2 of the Commission of Inquiry Ordinance that power only vests upon His Excellency. The Honourable

I should explain to Honourable Members that if they wish to catch the President's eye they should rise and not merely put up their hand.

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Mr O. O. Ita (Eket Division):

Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. I happen to come from the same province as the mover of the motion and I know as much about the oil mills troubles as he does. It occurs to me that the mover of the motion has not read the Printed Address of the Lieutenant-Governor to this House. If he had done so he would have read exactly what he wants to know. I do not think any investigation would give us better information than that written by His Honour on page 11 of the Printed Address. May I read you what he has said:—

“It would seem that the women feared that if their menfolk sold palm fruits direct to the mills they would be deprived of their traditional share, the kernels, upon the sale of which they depend to meet the major expenses of their households. This is a legitimate and understandable fear. But it was exploited by irresponsible and reckless opportunists to serve their own selfish ends to the ultimate disadvantage of Nigeria. Because of self-interest and because this emotion was inflamed to satisfy petty political spite, construction of the mills has been entirely suspended except in the Calabar Division. However, I am happy to report that today there are encouraging signs of a change for the better. Requests for mills to be established have now started to come in again even from some parts of the province that have never been anything but hostile to them.”

With such a statement before us from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Region, I do not think we need investigate more into the matter. I am opposed to the motion, and I feel that the Honourable Member who proposed the motion in the House did not direct his mind to that particular section of the Address. Had he done so he would have known that investigations had already taken place, otherwise the Lieutenant-Governor would not have known the causes and stated them in such plain language in his Address.

Mr J. U. Nwodo (Nsukka Division):

Mr President, when this motion was tabled and I read it through I thought the substance of the mover's argument was the riots and disturbances which had occurred in his area, and I listened with interest to his speech for substantiation of that argument. But he failed to satisfy me that there were a lot of riots and demonstrations in his area. When the Member said that a man who wanted a mill installed had to be protected by the police, surely this reveals more the ignorance of his people and lack of tactics and methods in approaching the people and teaching them the use of oil mills. Had he instructed the people well they would not have been against him because he wanted an oil mill to be installed in their place.

In my division misunderstanding in the first place came from the Government. Government wanted to build an hospital at Obukpa and the people were told that the hospital was to be built on the site selected. Later on the District Officer came and said that instead of an hospital, a Pioneer Oil Mill would be installed and the hospital might be built in Nsukka. Then the local traders who did not want a mill to be installed capitalised on this very statement of the District Officer and said “There you are, first you told us an hospital was to be built here and now a mill.” In this way the traders caused confusion and bad feeling, but there were no riots and

demonstrations, and when the young men educated the people to an understanding of the use of the mill, they were quite ready to accept it. I do not support the motion.

The Minister of Education (Mr R. I. Uzoma):

Sir, I beg to oppose the motion on the grounds that the Minister of Lands and Survey has already told us that investigations have been made into the causes of the demonstrations. The investigation was undertaken by the Senior Resident, Calabar Province, and we know the causes. One Honourable Member said that it was necessary to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to look into the matter with a view to educating the people on the issue. I suggest that it is our duty as Members of this House to educate our people and not the job of a Commission of Inquiry.

Sir, the mover and seconder of this motion have some connection with the establishment of oil mills; moreover the seconder of the motion as a lawyer knows what a Commission of Inquiry means to him and his fellow lawyers in term of fees. I suggest therefore that the Honourable Members who moved and seconded the motion have a private interest in the matter and I therefore oppose the motion.

Mr J. A. Nsirim (Ahoada Division):

Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. From the commonsense point of view in the first place we know that the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry would entail great expense and that expense would be wasted because it would bring nothing to the Region. Secondly, it has been stated by the Honourable Minister that it is beyond the powers of this House to appoint a Commission of Inquiry, so we are only arguing air. Thirdly, it is the job of the Public Relations Department, and that Department has not carried out its duties properly because it has failed to educate the people to understand these things. I hope the Public Relations Department will realise that it has a job to do.

Also, I do not feel that the disturbances have been made quite clear to us. The disturbances may simply have been two people struggling over an area where the installation is to be made and the riot might be a riot created simply by the relatives of these two people taking part in the argument. I do not think the situation was very grave then and it is no graver now, so that I feel it would be a waste of public funds if this motion is allowed to pass.

Mr V. K. Onyeri (Port Harcourt Division):

I rise, Sir, to oppose the motion. I think it is ill-timed. The reasons given by the Member why we should approve the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry have not been sufficient for me and I cannot go back to my constituency and say we are going to pay, say £3,000, in order to set up a Commission of Inquiry. All it would do would be to stir up trouble, and so without wasting the time of the House I beg to oppose the motion.

The Minister Without Portfolio (Mr R. J. E. Koripamo):

Sir, I rise to move "That the question be now put."

The Acting Legal Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That the question be now put." Agreed to.

The President:

The question is "That in view of the various demonstrations and riots in the Eastern Region against the installation of Pioneer Oil Mills, a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to investigate and report on the causes and/or reasons for these demonstrations and riots." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Noes" have it.

Adjournment**The Acting Legal Secretary:**

Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn. There is no more business on the Order Paper for today.

The Minister Without Portfolio (Mr R. J. E. Koripamo):

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That the House do now adjourn."

(No debate arising).

The President:

The question is "That the House do now adjourn." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

The House adjourned at five minutes to one o'clock until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 13th February, 1952.

APPENDIX TO THE FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

ADDRESS by His Honour Commander Sir James Pyke-Nott, Kt., C.M.G.,
R.N., (retd.), Lieutenant-Governor of the Eastern Region, at the First
Budget Meeting of the Eastern House of Assembly, February, 1952.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

It is my duty to present a record and a review of events and progress in connection with that annual meeting of the Eastern House of Assembly at which we consider the financial position of the Region and determine the budgetary measures necessary for the financial year ahead. The introduction of the new constitution has required an alteration in the time-table for conducting our affairs. This review therefore covers the unusual period of fourteen months, the 1st September, 1950 to the 31st October, 1951.

This period has seen the reform of the constitution accomplished. It has seen too, the creation of the first County in the Region (and, for that matter, in Nigeria), while in divers places Native Authorities have been reformed and reorganised to pave the way for the setting up of further counties. I cannot refrain from observing here that our Eastern Region Local Government Ordinance has been publicly acknowledged by the Government of the Gold Coast which has now enacted similar legislation. In the field of Community Development there have been striking advances in material progress and, more importantly, a great reorientation in the ideas and attitudes of the people most concerned. I wish that I could say that this livelier appreciation was diffused through all sections of the public, but this is regrettably not so. In some areas, the commonweal has been injured by widespread disturbances that have hindered development and sometimes brought it to a standstill. Nevertheless, broadly speaking, the rate of economic development has been maintained and even accelerated. For good or for bad, the people of the Region are vibrant with life, not standing dumbly watching the world go by, but reacting with vigour in all fields of endeavour.

Five times have representatives met in Enugu to deliberate on our financial affairs but this is the first of such meetings with the newly constituted and greatly enlarged House of Assembly. The intricacies of government, irritating and wilfully perverse as they often appear to the outsider, become resolved with the acquisition of knowledge concerning its code of rules and procedure. Fundamentally, this knowledge, or as the Americans would say, "Know How," can only be obtained from practice and experience. I trust, nevertheless, that this review will help to set broadly before you the extent of governmental activities within the Region, and that the unusually long and comprehensive commentary which has been attached to the Regional Estimates will aid you in grasping the confusing sub-divisions of public finance and accounts.

I open this periodic survey with a consideration of finance. This is very fitting for finance occupies a pre-eminent position. Without money, and a great deal of it, the Eastern Region cannot be developed and its inhabitants cannot enjoy the amenities or services that they need. It is therefore gratifying to say that it has been possible to prepare estimates for a progressive and expanding programme and, at the same time to balance our budget by a small but reasonable margin. You will be aware that this has not always been so.

Turning now to the last Financial year, when the Eastern Region Accounts for 1950-51, were closed (subject to certain adjustments), the Eastern Region had not utilised £335,631 0s 8d of the funds allocated to the Region that year. The funds then allocated to the Region included £193,502 withdrawn from the Eastern Regional General Revenue Balance Account and voted for Supplementary expenditure on capital works, and the large unexpended balance at the end of the financial year was to some extent due to the fact that a number of these capital works had not been completed. Also, there were, as usual, savings under personal emoluments estimates due to difficulty in recruiting officers with the necessary qualifications to fill vacancies in the establishments. The unexpended £335,631 0s 8d was transferred by Government, with the approval of the Legislative Council, to the Eastern Regional General Revenue Balance Account, increasing the balance in that account to £522,521 11s 6d.

Some adjustments are, however, to be made on account of the Regional expenditure on temporary addition to rates of pay and the Educational Grants-in-Aid to Approved Voluntary Agencies, etc.; and it is likely that when these adjustments have been made, the balance in the Eastern Regional Revenue Balance Account will be reduced by over £26,000.

During the current financial year, 1951-52, the Region has withdrawn £300,000 from the Eastern Regional General Revenue Balance Account. In order to balance the Budget for the current financial year with a reasonable margin, it was necessary to keep the Estimates of Expenditure as low as possible and it was only possible to include a token provision of £8,740 for new works, together with provision of £15,260 revoted money under Public Works Extraordinary, in the Approved Estimates. The £300,000 was, therefore, subsequently withdrawn from the Eastern Regional General Revenue Balance Account to provide for Supplementary Estimates of Public Works Extraordinary and other essential Special Expenditure, which were recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance. The Region has, in this way, been able to undertake a reasonable, though far from adequate, Public Works programme this year; but as I stated in my speech at the last Budget Session of the House of Assembly, the Region cannot expect such windfalls with which to finance its Public Works programmes in the future. It is therefore to be hoped that, in future, it will be possible to include adequate provisions for Public Works Extraordinary in the Budget.

The balance in the Eastern Regional General Revenue Balance Account is therefore at present £222,621 11s 6d, but when the adjustments already referred to have been made, it is likely that the balance will be rather less than £200,000. The Revised Estimates of Expenditure for the current year are at present being prepared and at this stage it is not possible to give a firm revised estimate of the Surplus on the 31st of March, 1952, but it will probably be considerably less than the surplus of last financial year.

The Eastern Regional Production Development Board, a statutory body which derives the bulk of its funds from the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board, has continued to meet regularly and additional new schemes have been planned during the year while a number of projects approved in previous years have been launched. Work has started on a road to link Calabar with the road system of the Region via Arochuku: the Cattle Ranch at Obudu is now a going concern and work is pushing ahead with the construction of a road to join the Grass Plateau, where the

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Ranch is situated, to the road system of the Ogoja Province; the development of the Kwa Falls Oil Palm Estate is nearing completion: work on the central mixing store for the Fertiliser Scheme is almost finished and a start has been made on erecting local stores from which the fertilisers will be distributed: a grant to the Agricultural Department has made it possible to arrange for the widespread sale of concentrates for the feeding of livestock: and an excellent area has been obtained at Santa for the Board's Coffee Estate in the Bamenda Province.

Funds received by the Eastern Regional Production Development Board total some £3,154,212 of which £6,376 has been received from the Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Board and the remainder from the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board. The following projects, with the latest estimated cost of their completion, have been approved by the Board since it came into being:—

<i>Project</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>
	£
Pioneer Oil Mills	1,000,000
Ikun Oil Palm Plantation	60,000
Calaro Oil Palm Plantation	300,000
Cashew Nut Scheme	200,000
Obudu Cattle Ranch	76,000
Obudu-Plateau Road	124,000
Central Office	14,000
Central Flats	12,000
Kwa Falls Oil Palm Estate	120,000
Fertiliser Scheme	200,000
Concentrates for Livestock	4,000
Calabar-Aro Road	230,000
B.C.C. Scheme	28,000
Santa Coffee Estate	165,000
Uturu Oil Palm Plantation	50,000
Bonny Coconut Plantation	61,000
Boat Building at Opobo	45,000
Reconstruction of the Onitsha Market	500,000

In my Address to the Fourth Budget Session of the Eastern House of Assembly on the 6th of December, 1950, I called particular attention to two of the Board's projects, and I again wish to emphasise the importance of those projects to the economy and the general welfare of the Eastern Region. Firstly the Fertiliser Scheme. Experiments have provided beyond the shadow of a doubt that in parts of the Onitsha, Owerri and Calabar Provinces the judicious use of fertilisers will increase the yield of crops by some seventy-five per cent. Such increased yields will not only be of direct pecuniary benefit to the individual farmers, but will also go far to meet the acute shortage of foodstuffs which obtains in some parts of the Region. The Fertiliser Scheme, together with its determined drive to open the undeveloped areas of the Region, is typical of the important part that the Board is playing in an endeavour to improve the Region's economy and welfare.

Secondly, I wish to refer to the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme. Details of the Scheme can be found in the Board's Annual Reports and it is to the objects of the scheme, rather than to the present achievements, that I wish particularly to refer now, though the construction and bringing into production of an additional thirty-two mills during 1951, is in itself no small achievement. To appreciate the objects of the Pioneer Oil Mill Scheme we must go to the Ordinance under which the Eastern Regional Production Development Board functions. That Ordinance charges the Board to

expend the funds at its disposal for the development of the Oil Palm Produce Industry, and for the benefit and prosperity of the producers and the areas of production. In interpreting this charge the Board decided to regard the whole of the Eastern Region as the area of production and to set itself a threefold task, namely:—

- (i) To improve the quality and quantity of oil palm products.
- (ii) To introduce new cash crops.
- (iii) To increase the quantity of foodstuffs.

The Santa Coffee Estate, the Cashew Nut Scheme and the Coconut Plantation at Bonny are examples of the Board's efforts to introduce new cash crops, while the Fertiliser Scheme, the Obudu Cattle Ranch and the Concentrates for Livestock are designed to increase the quantity of foodstuffs. But the most difficult, and costly, task before the Board is to try and improve the quality and quantity of oil palm products. The ideal would be to substitute village plantations, containing the best available oil palm stock, for the existing wild palm bush, and this is an ideal towards which we must work if our products are to be of the very highest quality which a world market of falling prices will demand. The Pioneer Oil Mill, however, was designed to meet the present difficulties of the existing system whereby wild palm bush is spread over large thickly populated areas and owned by hundreds of thousands of intensely individualistic farmers. The purpose of the Pioneer Oil Mill is, purely and simply, to provide the means whereby the quality of oil palm products can be improved so that they will command respect in world markets and obtain ready sale.

There has been a great deal of misinterpretation of the Board's intentions regarding the Pioneer Oil Mill scheme and, I regret to say, in some cases wilful misrepresentation. The Board has no ulterior motives whatever and, I repeat, its object is to improve the quality of our oil palm products on which, at the present time, the economy of the Region is so entirely dependent. The Board has decided that, for some very considerable time, it must retain control of the Mills it has itself erected in order that no personal interests shall hinder its task of improving the quality of oil produced. This does not mean that private individuals or groups of individuals cannot erect mills: if they have the cash anybody can open a mill. But the Board's primary concern is the welfare of the industry as a whole and by owning a number of mills it can ensure the welfare of the industry as a whole. If in due course net profits are made by the Board's mills (and I understand that at present most of them are running at a loss), the Board has declared its intentions of ploughing back a large proportion of those net profits into the area which a mill serves, and as a token of its goodwill the Board has, in fact, declared an interim profit in respect of one of its mills where the local people stood firm and resisted the efforts of their neighbours to close it down.

I understand that whether a mill shows a profit or a loss is almost entirely dependent on the amount of fruit that it buys for processing. In view of the Board's declaration regarding profits it behoves the people of an area where a mill is situated to see that it is fed with sufficient fruit to show a profit. In other words the local people must associate themselves with a mill for their own benefit and for the benefit of the industry as a whole, and in order to foster that close association the Board has decided to set up a number of Advisory Committees, composed of representatives of the local people and representative of the management,

so that common problems can be discussed and, if profits are made, the Board can be advised how those profits can best be used to further local interests.

The Ten-Year Plan of Development and Welfare for Nigeria was published as Sessional Paper No. 24 of 1945 and, having received the approval of Legislative Council, became effective in the financial year 1946-47. After the Plan had been in operation for four years it became apparent that drastic revision was necessary; costs of materials and services had risen to such an extent that mere modification of the existing plan would have served no purpose. Accordingly the three Regions were invited to undertake the revision of the plan within ceiling figures (which took into account the amounts already expended in the respective Regions), having due regard to the necessity of ensuring that proper proportions were maintained between economic development and the development of Social Services, and in the light of new necessities which may have become apparent since the Plan was put into operation in 1946.

After a number of meetings the Eastern Area Development Committee, composed of the Unofficial Members of the former House of Assembly and of all Regional Heads of Departments and of all Residents, unanimously approved the Plan which has since been published as Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1951. Details of any activities of outstanding interest or importance will be found in the Departmental sections of this Address, and here it is sufficient to note that the Eastern Region's allocation for the five year period, 1951 to 1956, is £5,494,167. Some £1,200,000 will have been expended during the current financial year and provision will be made to spend a similar sum, details of which will appear in the Nigerian Estimates, during 1952-53.

The Eastern Regional Development Board, best known to most of us as the Loans Board, has met regularly. The popularity of this Board with those who want to borrow money continues unabated and well over seven hundred applications have been considered in the three years since it came into existence. As might be expected, the popularity of the Board is not so great with those whose applications for loans have been rejected, and there appears a universal belief that it is the Board's duty to meet each and every application that it receives. The Board is, in fact, charged by statute with fostering the economic development of the Region it serves and each individual application received is examined in the light of this statutory obligation, and having regard to the needs of the Region as a whole.

The total assets of the Board are £355,514, of which sum £322,962 has been issued by way of loans and grants. To date the sum of £27,958, has been received in repayment of principal and interest which, added to the cash balance of £32,552, leaves the Board at present with liquid assets of £60,510: not a vast sum viewed in the light of the Region's needs.

Details of the loans and grants made are to be found in the Board's Annual Report which, it is hoped, will shortly be laid on the table of this House. The proportions of loans and grants made are:—

	<i>Per cent</i>		<i>Per cent</i>
General Agriculture	5.2	Building Trade	0.8
Plantations	4.0	Pioneer Oil Mills	10.0
Fishing	0.6	Cornmills	0.8
Mechanical Workshops	2.3	Ricemills	1.9
Timber and Woodworking	3.0	To Public Bodies	68.9
Weaving	1.0	Miscellaneous	1.5

I now turn to the subject of Community Development. In spite of the fact that Administrative Officers have had much of their time taken up with elections and preparations for the new Constitution, and in some cases with local government elections, the figures below show that on the whole the number of Community Development projects has tended to increase over the 1950 figures. £50,000 has been made available from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund for Community Development.

Projects	1950		1951	
	Completed	Commenced but not yet completed	Completed	Commenced but not yet completed
Roads (miles)	178½	333	309½	373
Bridges	2	8	14	23
Embankments and Causeways (miles)	—	39	7	5
Maternity Homes	16	26	18	7
Twineries	—	—	1	—
Village Halls	2	21	24	35
Market Improvements	27	48	34	89
Co-operative Shops	3	2	2	—
Co-operative Credit Societies	7	4	9	—
Schools	49	12	38	11
Domestic Science Centres	11	6	12	3
Women's Institute	—	2	2	2
Trade Training Centres	1	3	1	2
Reading Rooms	1	—	—	—
Mass Literacy Groups and Adult Education Centres	54	26	169	18
Leper Segregation Villages	19	21	35	18
Village re-planning and reconstruction	5	22	12	15
Water supply Improvements	63	44	97	43
Sanitary Improvements	—	—	52	8
Sub-dispensaries	1	5	2	3
Postal Agencies	7	5	12	3
Piers	—	3	1	1
Local Industries	5	16	13	10
Demonstration Farm	—	1	1	—
Store for Community Development Materials	—	—	—	1
Lorry parks	—	—	5	—

Other activities include the establishment of athletic leagues and boxing clubs, an anti-smallpox campaign, and agricultural schemes that include the introduction of new crops and improved processes, and the innovation of plantation schemes.

The Calabar Province provides a striking example of how all embracing is the scope of Community Development. Widely varying projects have been undertaken by the inhabitants of the different divisions each being the answer to what they themselves believe to be the direct needs of their own community. In some divisions the emphasis is on the improvement of village water supplies and communications while in others, better village lay-outs and facilities have been the aim. In one division a leper segregation village has been established with a resident Native Authority staff. Yet again, in some areas Community Development has a strong agricultural bias with every effort centred on food production. Nor are education and crafts being overlooked. There are from the women of many areas, and in particular of Uyo Division, encouraging responses where facilities for

adult education, reading, writing and homecraft, have been made available. On the side of crafts, weaving and leatherwork both attract willing learners to the centres that have been established.

Turning now to the Rivers Province, while the advances there are not so striking as in some other areas, there has been real progress in village planning and in the excavation of important roads. In the Ahoada Division 28 miles of road has been dug while in Ogoni the figure is 75 miles. Even in Brass Division the people have constructed more than forty miles of road during the year and the idea of village replanning is spreading.

Market improvements, town halls, village roads, village schools and postal agencies are the most popular forms of voluntary activity in Onitsha Province. In some areas the financial assistance given by "sons abroad" to the furtherance of the welfare of their homeland has been strikingly large.

While it is impossible in this review to describe in detail all noteworthy projects nevertheless the building of a 72-foot motorable bridge in the Ogoja Province is sufficiently notable to deserve mention. In this province, too, leper segregation villages have been established, and a twin's home set up, while particular attention has been paid to devising suitable occupations for unemployed ex-schoolboys by teaching selected groups of boys improved farming methods. A happy note is struck by the fact that in some cases where the menfolk have notably failed, their women have come forward and given the necessary financial assistance to a project that interested them.

In Owerri, the exhibition of local crafts held at Okigwi was perhaps the highlight of the year. Exhibitors came from as far afield as Awka and Ikot Ekpene and the exhibits covered a wide range of local crafts. Assistance was provided by the Agricultural Department and entertainment by a band of the West Africa Frontier Force. Less spectacular but valuable has been progress in the provision of postal agencies, the improvement of markets, the erection of a senior primary Girls' School and cash contributions towards the provision of adequate water supplies.

The Bamenda Province with its rugged mountains presents special challenges to the people. While there has been minor, but none the less important, progress in the improvement of markets, the main stream of effort has been directed towards the improvement of road communications. This work is particularly striking, both to the eye of the beholder, and when consideration is given to the amount of work involved, in the case of a road in the Nkambe Division that falls through 4,000 feet in fifteen miles, with half of this in the last three. In all over 100 miles of road have been hewn from those stony hillsides.

The major theme in the Cameroons Province is the Man-O'-War Bay Training Scheme. During the period under review two courses were held there which provided valuable lessons for the future conduct of this experiment in broad education and the teaching of Community Development techniques. Those who attended the courses came from all parts of the Region. They not only took part in swimming, mountain climbing and other activities designed to foster a spirit of adventure but also actively co-operated in furthering community development projects of use not to the Man-O'-War establishment but to the neighbouring villages and were

thus shown the sort of opportunities for social service that are open to educated young men. It is pertinent to add here that this scheme has now attracted attention overseas and has been the subject of favourable comment in reputable British newspapers.

It is almost unnecessary to dilate on the constitutional progress over the last year. As was said of Sir Christopher Wren, *circumspice, sic monumentum requiris*. Nevertheless, it is right both for historical record and so that this review should be complete, that there should be a brief account of the developments that have led up to your presence here. Last year, the position was that the basis of the Constitution as adumbrated by the Ibadan Conference in 1949, had been established. Before that Constitution could become an entity with a potential value to the progress of Nigeria that is as yet unrealised, an innumerable array of matters, some major, many minor, had to be settled. This involved much correspondence and consultation between the Colonial Office in London, the Nigerian Secretariat in Lagos and the three Regional Secretariats. In all this, the old House of Assembly played an invaluable part. It is appropriate here to state how much I have appreciated its loyal and enthusiastic efforts. This House, which has sprung phoenix like from the ashes of the old, owes more than I can say to the wise, deliberative and zestful manner in which its predecessor compassed its own death and destruction.

In July, after several months of arduous publicity, began a long series of primary elections. Honourable Members will be aware how much the successful and peaceful conduct of these depended on the labours of the officers of the public service, not only on officers of the Provincial Administration but also upon the ready assistance given by many other Departments; in some cases, too, unofficials provided invaluable aid. If levity can be permitted on a serious subject, it was remarkable that one Returning Officer managed to return at all. In going to carry out primary elections in one area he found it easier to swim than to walk. This instance is however typical of a devotion to duty and a complete disregard of personal comfort that has been a common factor throughout the Region.

Passing on to the secondary elections, we leave the period of which this statement is a review. Suffice, therefore, to say that throughout the Region these were carried out in an orderly manner reflecting at once a rising political consciousness and a new sense of responsibility beating in the hearts of the people.

During the Fifth and final Session under the 1946 Constitution, the House of Assembly met in December, 1950, and in February and July, 1951. The meeting in February was an Extraordinary one and among the matters dealt with was the consideration of the "Revised Plan of Development for Nigeria, 1951-56, and the Draft Development Estimates 1951-52," and the Bill for "An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of an Industrial Council for the purpose of regulating the conditions of employment and the remuneration of certain workers employed by the Nigerian Coal Corporation." At the same meeting two temporary vacancies in the Legislative Council caused by the absence from Nigeria of Sir Francis Ibiem, K.B.E., and the Honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E., were filled.

Among other things dealt with at the meeting in December, 1950, were the consideration and adoption of the Reports of the Select Committees of the House firstly, on two petitions addressed to the House, one by the Non-Onitsha Ibo Community in Onitsha, and the other by Messrs J. O. Osondu and P. P. T. Nwaonu on behalf of the people of Udonaobizi and Umunwanwa Bridge Union of the Bende and Owerri Divisions, and secondly on the Electoral Procedure to be adopted in the Eastern Region for representation in the new Eastern Regional House.

At the meeting in July, 1951, the recommendations of the Select Committee of the House appointed to report on the petition addressed to the House by Mr A. K. Nwankwo, ex-employee of Awka Native Administration, the reports of the Select Committees of the House appointed to inquire into the proposal to introduce Local Rating in Aid of Primary Education in the Eastern Region, and to examine the Memorandum on Negotiating Machinery for Teachers' Salaries, were all considered and the recommendations adopted.

Of the Bills considered by the House during the Fifth Session, the most important were a Bill for the Pensions Ordinance, 1951, a Bill for the Regional Production Development Boards Ordinance, 1951, a Bill for the Local Borrowings Ordinance, 1951, a Bill for the Nigeria Local Loan Ordinance, 1951 and a Bill for the Native Authority (Modification) Ordinance, 1951.

It is to be regretted that, as far as can be assessed, the cost of living has increased. It is not possible to quote scientifically accurate figures but all the inflationary factors of the past years persist today. In the world markets, the demand for and therefore the price of all primary products does not decrease. With this, the cost of imported goods tends to go up. And so surely as the farmer, spurred by high prices to devote more and more energy on export crops, allows his attention and his labour to be diverted from food crops, so does the cost of food tend to rise. Nevertheless, this increase has not been very appreciable in many areas. If the fertiliser scheme, to which I have already referred, is a success, the increased food production will go far to reduce inflationary pressure.

Inflation brings especial problems to the urban dweller. In August, 1950, Enugu became, as it continues to be, the only town in Nigeria to make use of section 5 of the Increase of Rent (Restriction) Ordinance. Notwithstanding that the report forming the basis of the order was signed by four representatives of the Enugu Landlord's Union, there has been bitter opposition to it. The Acting Chief Magistrate heard no less than 347 rent cases during the period under review. But I believe that this control is accepted and appreciated by most of the inhabitants of the Township.

In my last address, I foreshadowed a similar order for the "Garden City." There have, however, been unexpected delays and a final and acceptable basis for an order had not yet been determined by the end of the period under review.

The number of industrial disputes leading to stoppages of work has been gratifyingly low. In December, 1950, there was only isolated response to the general strike called by the United Africa Company Amalgamated African Workers Union. One dispute in the Calabar Province led to a four-day strike on the part of the employees of a timber company. The

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five other disputes that led to stoppages of work were all in the Cameroons and concerned employees of the Cameroons Development Corporation. Not a little of the credit for these improvements in the spirit of labour must be given to the experience gained in the conduct of joint consultative machinery which has been consolidated and perfected over the period. The scope of such machinery has not been greatly expanded though there is every hope that a Joint Industrial Council will shortly be established to cater for the needs of the coal industry. It is appropriate to record here that the Regional and Provincial Wages Committees, which make recommendations concerning regrading of labour within the Miller Scales, were revived towards the end of the period under review. The Regional Wages Committee did not meet however until November.

There have been a number of disturbances over these fourteen months that have necessitated police action. Some were local in character, others widespread: and all serve as necessary reminders that the violent clamour of the mob, ignorance and irresponsible conservatism in the face of necessary and much acclaimed progress are still with us. It falls upon each and everyone of us and upon you, Honourable Members, in particular to make every effort to ensure that orderly economic development and a sober minded recourse to legal channels of redress with a consequent acquiescence to the due processes of law are the rule.

In the Ogoja Province, some three hundred inhabitants of Nko obstructed and threatened a survey party acting in pursuance of a court order. This party, with police protection, made a further attempt to erect boundary pillars. Again there was resistance by irresponsible elements amongst whom lepers and Ex-servicemen were prominent. In the end thirty-three men and one juvenile were convicted. The only satisfactory feature of this affair was that although police reinforcements were sent from Enugu as a precautionary measure, they were not employed, the Provincial establishment proving to be adequate for the purpose.

A similar refusal to accept the award of a court of law was an incident in the Uyo Division where the District Officer, with a small police escort, was forced by the menaces of the losing party in a land dispute that had been adjudicated upon by the Supreme Court as long ago as 1942, to abandon an attempt to obey an order of the Court to assist in demarcating the boundary that had been awarded.

In the Calabar Province, there were widespread disturbances in connection with Pioneer Oil Mills. By November, 1950, mills had been established in the Calabar and Eket Divisions while in Opobo and Uyo others were in the course of erection. Then the first opposition appeared when negotiations for clearing a mill site in Ikot Ekpene were rudely interrupted by a mob of women in opposition to the scheme. Police assistance had to be invoked to preserve the peace. The flame of opposition spread to Abak where all projects had to be abandoned. In Itu, over five hundred women, who had already assaulted a prominent member of the Native Authority, prevented the District Officer from assisting the negotiation of a lease by tumultuously blocking the highway. The chain of disturbances reached its peak a few days later in the jurisdiction of the Ibiono Native Authority. A small crowd of women gathered at a mill site and obtained an assurance that the project would be abandoned. Meanwhile, another crowd of women had stormed the

Treasury Offices and assaulted members of the Native Authority. They did extensive damage, only the reinforced concrete building itself resisting their ignorant excesses. They then dispersed but it proved possible on that and the following day to arrest forty-five participants and detain them at Uyo. Two days later, hordes of women converged on Uyo and demanded the release of their sisters who, as a precaution, had been removed to Opobo. Police reinforcements from elsewhere within the province were sufficient to control the crowd which eventually exceeded 2,000 in number. The arrested women were brought back from Opobo and released on bail. The crowd then dispersed. This was the last major disturbance but others still occurred for a while sporadically and on a much smaller scale in the Uyo Division.

It would seem that the women feared that if their menfolk sold palm fruits direct to the mills, they would be deprived of their traditional share, the kernels, upon the sale of which they depend to meet the major expenses of their households. This is a legitimate and understandable fear. But it was exploited by irresponsible and reckless opportunists to serve their own selfish ends to the ultimate disadvantage of Nigeria. Because of self-interest, and because this emotion was inflamed to satisfy petty political spite, construction of the mills has been entirely suspended except in the Calabar Division. However, I am happy to report that today there are encouraging signs of a change for the better. Requests for mills to be established have now started to come in again even from some parts of the province that have never been anything but hostile to them.

There were major and protracted disturbances in the Owerri Province. The scene at the opening of the period under review was that while in Aba Division, the tension was somewhat relaxed after the rioting of the previous November and a succession of situations whose gravity required substantial police reinforcements to Aba town on no less than four occasions, in the Bende Division ex-servicemen were beginning to meet and engineer a campaign of defiance and intimidation of those responsible for tax assessment and collection. On the 16th October, 1951, the Magistrate in opening a session at Umuahia, called over the names of six members of the Unemployed Ex-servicemen's Union who had been charged with unlawful assembly and the holding of an unlicensed meeting. He fixed the hearing for the 21st of October. The public had not been aware of the formal nature of the first appearance of the accused. Consequently over three hundred ex-soldiers mustered at Umuahia, most of them in military or quasi-military uniforms. When the adjournment was announced they withdrew from the government station in formation recalling outlying pickets by bugle calls.

At noon a police officer came upon two to three hundred of these men drawn up on parade in the town. He was man-handled and his car was stoned after he had approached one of these whom he suspected to be carrying a pistol in bag. This incident appears to have provided a pretext for what followed.

Just before one o'clock, fifty men invaded the Post Office, evicted the staff and took over control of the telephone exchange, thereby severing communication with the outside world. Fortunately, a message had been got through to Enugu before this happened. The men were disciplined and neither looted nor damaged anything. Simultaneously, but probably as a part of an operation planned before the criminal case had been

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adjourned, and subsequently not countermanded, groups of ex-servicemen ordered all shops to close, pickets established nine road blocks to cordon off the town and others were posted on the railway line. A Railway officer who attempted to dissuade these latter was man-handled and later driven from the station by a mob of town hooligans. One passenger of the Down Limited train which arrived at this juncture was wounded by an arrow.

The police available were so few in number that after a bloodless re-occupation of the post office, which had been evacuated by the rioters, and a vain attempt to persuade the truculent leaders of the large and well armed road block nearest the town to disperse, it was necessary to await reinforcements from Aba. With dusk, just as a final order was being given to these men to disperse, the reinforcements arrived. The men forming the block melted away in ragged sullen groups without resistance.

During the breathing space afforded by the adjournment of the criminal case the police strength was brought up to three hundred and seventy-five with, in addition, one company of the West Africa Frontier Force. His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government had presided over a conference in Enugu and a statement issued by him of Government's determination to enforce law and order was widely published. A group of Umuahia townsmen formed themselves into a Peace Preservation Committee which worked hard and with credit to avert further disturbances. Four delegates of the Eastern Branch of the Supreme Council of Ex-servicemen arrived from Enugu and did all they could to reason with the leaders and to secure that ex-servicemen coming into Umuahia should be turned back.

On the 21st the counsel for the defence was granted a further adjournment until 23rd October. On the day of the trial spectators, many of whom were ex-servicemen, numbering over seven hundred gathered in the neighbourhood of the court, which was guarded by one hundred police. After a judgment by which fines totalling £120 were inflicted and after one member of a road block had received six months imprisonment, the civilian spectators drifted away, leaving three hundred ex-servicemen who although they looked menacing and threw a few stones, were dispersed without force. The fines were paid by public subscription on account of a regrettable undertaking of the Peace Preservation Committee actuated not by sympathy but by fear.

The troops were never used but by their presence and by the greatly increased strength of the police, bloodshed was undoubtedly averted and order restored. Seven men were convicted of riot.

In all this unhappy tale, I am happy to record that His Excellency commended the resolute stand taken by the members of the Etitu Native Authority, whose jurisdiction in Okigwi Division borders on Bende Division. At dawn on that critical day, the 21st of October, the leading members posted themselves on the Umuahia road and, stopping all ex-servicemen, gave them the option of turning back or of being charged on the spot before the adjoining Native Court, which had been opened at 6 a.m., with conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace.

The problem of extracting tax from the defaulters still remained. After an encouraging start when some paid after learning of the issue of

summonses to others, the Native Court was intimidated by ex-servicemen and became demoralised. Some cases were then prosecuted in the Magistrate's Court. This was slow and the final solution came from the Bende Divisional Native Authority itself. It stimulated the Clan Councils by assurances of unqualified support in all legal measures adopted by them, and advised that when a summons in their name had been issued, the Clan Council concerned should appear in a body at the trial. I am more than happy to say that this has succeeded beyond all expectation; happy because of the success and happy because of the manner in which the success was achieved. There are still some defaulters from whom tax has not yet been collected but not many.

There have been other depressing instances of mob rule. Again in Calabar Province, a family dispute at Ekit Itam resulted in one party's houses, compound and crops receiving considerable damage at the hands of their opponents, assisted by the members of a Women's Society. Subsequently, when twenty of them were arraigned in the Magistrate Court, the accused attempted to defy the course of law by invoking the aid of Women's Societies over a large area. Only tact on the part of the Magistrate saved the situation. In Owerri, a chief set aside some of his land to form a leper segregation village. Police had to be sent from Aba to quell a disturbance caused by some two hundred women and fifty men who banded together and damaged this gentleman's house, and other property. Seven female ringleaders were sentenced to nine months imprisonment. In this province too, the inhabitants of one village illegally detained members of a Rural Water Supply well sinking team in an effort to force them to drill in their village and not in another, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away, where work was scheduled to start. This understandable but none the less grossly reprehensible action was caused by the fact that the drilling gear was deposited in error at the offenders' village. A more serious disturbance was when adherents of the True Faith Tabernacle Gospel Church in Bende, which is a splinter group of the Faith Tabernacle Congregation, burnt certain jujus and violated the secrets of the Akang Society. This and allied societies reacted violently and damage amounting to some thousands of pounds resulted. A number of offenders on both sides were punished.

In Bamenda Province, there was local friction in Wum town over the wholesale enforcement of some newly passed sanitary rules. I regret that the breach between the Fon of Bansa and the quondam Fai Ndzendzef has not been healed.

While there have been no incidents during the period under review in the Rivers Province, the Ochokorocho massacre of Okrikans still dominates the scene in the creeks. The Administration and the Police have strained every nerve to arrest the assassins but no conviction has been obtained. On the 29th of January, 1951, His Excellency appointed a Commission of Enquiry under the Collective Punishments Ordinance; as a result of its report, a fine of £20,000 was imposed upon the Kalabaris. £12,000 was set aside, by His Excellency's direction, for the payment of compensation to the relatives of the deceased. After consultation with the Okrika Native Authority, it was decided to reserve a portion of this sum to provide free elementary education for the deceased's children, leaving the balance to be divided equally amongst the next of kin. I regret that tension still exists in the Okrika-Kalabari area. Many Okrikans are believed to have migrated while the Kalabari house heads, arrogant and unabashed, have

not only prevented any settlement with Okrika but have also attempted to provoke those of their own brethren who, being innocent, were not fined.

A side light, but none the less important for that, on the Ochokorocho massacre was the proscription by His Excellency in Council of the Anguluma-Nom-Awo juju.

The area within which the Idiong Society is proscribed has been increased. In September, 1950, information was received that the practice of compelling people accused of witchcraft in the Eket Division to eat *esere* beans had recrudesced and become widespread after many years of quiescence. It is believed that this cruel and superstitious habit was revived because of a smallpox epidemic, witches being accredited with the power to cause this disease. It is not impossible that more died from trials by ordeal than did from smallpox. These last were over two hundred, and were due not a little to the widespread evasion of vaccination. Several charges of murder were brought to court in some of which the accused were sentenced to death, the sentences being upheld on appeal. In other cases the accused were sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

Let us turn away now from the dark and repressive atmosphere of unrest and barbarism, selfishness and superstition, and consider the great advances that have been made in the field of Local Government and Native Authority reform. The 1st April, 1950, heralded the first county established under the provisions of the Eastern Regional Local Government Ordinance: Ikot Ekpene. Out of four Native Authorities were formed three Rural Districts and an Urban District. The elections at the village level were completed between December, 1950, and February, 1951, and in general, were well attended and not mere formalities. In the four rural local council areas of the Otoro District, for example, out of ninety villages, eighteen elections were contested. The membership of the councils reflects the occupational pattern of the countryside. In the Eastern Ibibio-Ikono District, for example, out of a total Local Council membership of four hundred and ninety-five, three hundred and seventy-nine are peasants. The percentage of literacy, though low, is higher than in the Ikot Ekpene Division as a whole. The average age of the members varies from thirty to forty-two.

In March, 1951, the Rural District and County Councillors were elected from the Local Councils. All councils expressed a desire that the District Officer should continue to assist and advise them and this he does. How ill or how well the battle will now be fought, whether or not the new council members will answer the challenge selflessly, how soon public opinion will exercise a necessary spur and brake, too, upon the councils, it is too soon to judge. I feel confident, however, that with sympathetic encouragement, these new councils, gradually and in the course of time, will develop into efficient and democratic organisations and will engender a new sense of responsibility in the management of local affairs.

Elsewhere in the Calabar Province, reorganisations have been effected within the framework of the Native Authority Ordinance whereby the future adoption of the Local Government system will be facilitated. Within the next financial year, the Native Authorities of the Eket Division will be replaced by a Local Government system; during the period under review the Native Authorities and their staffs have been given training so that they shall not be entirely ignorant of running their affairs. In the

Calabar Division steps are being taken to establish as a forerunner an Urban District Council for Calabar Township. The Calabar-Ogoja Provincial Boundary was amended to include, with effect from the 1st of April, 1951, the Biase elements of Afikpo Division and the Egup-Ipa group of Obubra Division in the Enyong Division and thus form the basis of an Enyong County. Contemporaneously, the Native Authorities were reorganised and a Joint Committee set up so that in due course, when understanding and expertise alike have been gained, it will be possible to adopt completely the Local Government system. While it is not possible to say when this will be, I am happy to be able to report that there is already a remarkable degree of co-operation and consideration being shown both in the working of the Joint Committee and of the Native Authorities themselves. In the Uyo Division, Offot, Oku, Etoi and Ikono, four of the five Native Authorities comprising the Uyo Federated Treasury, became, with effect from the 1st of April, 1951, Native Authorities subordinate to a newly created Uyo Federal Native Authority. The remaining fifth together with the new Native Authority and four others already existing will, it is hoped, form the bases for six Rural District Councils. In Abak and Opofo the period has been one of consolidation. Much progress has been made in the day to day running of the Native Authority machines while there are healthy manifestations of a constructive body of public opinion, ready to criticise but ready, too, to devote itself to more than empty words.

In the Onitsha Province, the Onitsha Town Native Authority has settled down after the disputes and excitements surrounding its formation and has gradually strengthened its position and authority. That is not to say that all is perfectly satisfactory. Particularly regrettable is the continued absence of Non-Onitsha Ibo representation. This community found itself unable to accept defeat when their petition to the House of Assembly was not granted. However, the Council has paid close attention to and debated with skill and relevance upon major issues such as the expansion of the town, the market scheme and the lorry park dispute. It is pertinent here to refer also to the Fegge Lay-out, a residential area that is to be established upon Crown Land south of the Otumoye Creek. This will be linked to the main Onitsha Town with an 80-foot bridge which is already under construction. £3,500 has been provided from Regional Funds while further funds will be raised by the imposition of a premium rate on all plots.

By July, the Onitsha Rural Areas Native Authority ceased to exist being replaced by two new Native Authorities called the Onitsha Northern and Onitsha Southern District Councils. The main purpose of this and a similar reorganisation in the Awka Division was to establish and build up at the district level an efficient staff organisation and a body of records as a preliminary to the creation of an Onitsha-Awka County.

There have also been changes in Awgu that will conform to the probable machinery of the Awgu-Udi County.

The Udi and Nsukka Divisions are not so politically alive as the others in the Onitsha Province. Nevertheless, there too has been progress. In the former, Joint and Finance Committees have begun to function while in the latter four new District Councils have been democratically elected.

There have been few changes in the constitution of the Ogoja Province Native Authorities but what there were had as their yardstick the future

Local Government organisation. The province offers peculiar and particular problems but it seems likely that a two-tier system rather than a three-tier system will prove more practical. In the Afikpo Division a joint Committee has been appointed by instrument with delegated powers to exercise both executive and financial powers for the whole division. In the Abakaliki Division, the three major subordinate Native Authorities have been quietly impressive. The Divisional Native Authority Council has now replaced its single Executive Committee by three, a Finance and Staff, an Education and a Lands Committee. There have been important but minor changes in the membership of the Native Authorities of Obubra where it is proposed to establish a Divisional Native Authority. The councils have shown themselves encouragingly businesslike and receptive of new ideas. The Native Authority of Obudu District has lived up to its reputation as a responsible body. I must nevertheless report the bad with the good. The Ogoja Divisional Council is not constituted as a Native Authority. It is a purely advisory body made up of delegates from each Native Authority. When it was approached with regard to sponsoring a candidate to undergo local government training in the United Kingdom, all but one declared that their several authorities agreed to provide the necessary £500. In fact, not one had so decided and few had even been consulted. The Native Authorities reacted strongly and most of these irresponsible delegates were forced to resign.

In the Rivers Province, the Western Ahoada Federated Native Authority has now been set up while its complement, the Ikwerre-Etche Federated Native Authority has progressed. In the Degema Division, the Kalabari Native Authority elections which were postponed owing to the disturbed state of the area have now been held and the new council will hold office from the 1st of November, 1951. In the Brass Division, I regret I must report ineffectiveness on the side of the Native Authorities and cupidity on the part of their members. In Ogoni, the subordinate Native Authorities have on the whole responded not unfavourably when called upon to play a more active and executive role.

In Owerri, rival factions for a while made it impossible for the Ngwa Native Authority to operate since a quorum became unavailable. Nevertheless, it has done a great deal of valuable work. Elsewhere, there is in general, a great need for improvement in industry, integrity and drive.

The Native Authorities of the Bamenda Province have not perhaps lived up to the hopes vested in them at their inception two years ago. In particular, the inclusion of women members has not borne fruit, mainly because of the women's own lack of public spirit. But there have been improvements and a greater willingness to shoulder increased responsibilities. The unofficial Fulani Council has not however proved any less vacillating or more coherent than heretofore.

I believe that, in the Cameroons Province, where Native Authorities have seldom proved successful unless based on traditional units which are too small to be of administrative value, the intensive indoctrination in modern constitutional ideas that the people have received during the recent elections will be reflected in a willingness to establish and co-operate in a more modern and democratic machinery, albeit artificial and without traditional bases. In Kumba there is considerable demand for the existing federations to be broken up and for the constituent Native Authorities to become subordinate to a Divisional Native Authority. In Mamfe, while

the Nchemte Native Treasury came into being on the 1st of April, 1951, its complementary Native Authority still remains to be achieved. Two of the constituent units of this are resisting amalgamation. In one case at least it appears to be true that the Native Authority members concerned consented to amalgamate without ascertaining the wishes of the people they represented. In Victoria, no progress has been made towards a more virile democratic Local Government that will embrace the plantation population. This group pays more than half the total tax collected within the division and yet has no representation in the councils.

I have little to say on the financial side of the Native Authority machine. The great advance that can be reported is the willingness to impose local rates additional to taxes in order that special projects may be financed. In most cases these are education rates and I would single out the Odual-Saka Native Authority not because the rate it proposes is exceptional but because it is noteworthy that one of the smallest Native Authorities in Nigeria should be in the forefront. Generally speaking, the Native Authority finances are in a healthy state. The Native Authority members evince increasingly a real interest in the disposal of their funds and in the development and progress of all aspects of their administrations.

The District Officer ceased to be President of the Port Harcourt Town Council at the beginning of 1951. His place was filled by an elected member chosen by his fellows. The work of the seven Standing Committees and two Special Committees has not, I regret to say, been impressive, though in some directions progress has been made. One hundred and fifty-two new market stalls have been standing unallocated since their completion owing to the operation of an interim injunction. The construction of a number of lock-up shops has been suspended. However, drains have been constructed round the main market. Some roads have been tarred and received general maintenance. I am informed that the state of Port Harcourt's roads have excited adverse comment in the local Press and that the council is not held in high public esteem.

At the opening of the period under review there were three approved lay-out schemes within the Port Harcourt Planning Authority area: Diobu D, the Creek Road Extension and the Hospital Road Extension. The Diobu D development still progresses at a disappointing rate. In the Creek Road Extension, the Market was handed over to the Council in August and building on the plots in the lay-out continues apace. Negotiations are now in progress to construct the necessary roads and drains through the agency of Messrs Costains (West Africa). The majority of the Hospital Road Extension Lay-out plots have been built upon.

It is with pleasure that I report that progress and development in the Enugu Township has been good. Considering first the controlling mechanism, in July last the Township Advisory Board was reorganised. It now has twenty-three members of whom fifteen are unofficial African members appointed by name. The decisions of the Board have been accepted right or wrong. Consequently, the Board has gained in stature, confidence and maturity. On the debit side in Township affairs, the water supply still remains poor as the necessary mains have still not arrived from the United Kingdom. On the credit side, there are many facts to quote. A loan of £100,000 was obtained from the Eastern Region Development Board and Messrs Costains (West Africa) were engaged to construct

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seventy culverts and twenty miles of concrete drains and to tar eleven miles of road. With the exception of half the tarring, the task has been completed. When all is finished, Enugu will probably be unique in Nigeria in that even the smallest of side streets will be tarred and served with a concrete drain. I wish to stress, too, that it was the Township which obtained the loan and it will be the Township that refunds it.

Only sixteen street lights remain to complete the installation of 311 required. The Sports Stadium which I opened in May has already proved its value in the community life of Enugu.

While outside the purview of the Township Advisory Board, I should draw attention to the near completion of 201 quarters in the Junior Service Railway Housing Estate. These and the further 176 that are projected, will do much to relieve congestion in the township.

The Enugu Town Planning Authority, whose membership is the same as for the Township Advisory Board with the addition of the Regional Architect, began in July to operate as an independent organisation with its own estimates and bank account. Its basic source of revenue is a subvention equal to the Crown Land rents. The acme of its achievement is the Uwani Lay-out: six hundred plots with tarred roads and concrete drains provided before ever a house was erected. This work, which was undertaken by Messrs Costains (West Africa) as a project additional to their other work in the Township, cost £48,000, of which £12,000 was provided as a loan by the Eastern Regional Development Board and a further £36,000 by means of a premium rate of £60 on each plot.

The Calabar Planning Area was declared and gazetted in November, 1950. The schemes that have been approved are, to demolish the existing slum area around Duke Town and to build a better class of house thereon, to establish a housing estate in the less congested Efut-Edgerley area to absorb those displaced from Duke Town and generally to undertake street improvements and provide open spaces and other necessary amenities. The estimated cost is £220,000 and a loan of £200,000 is now being sought. While not within the scope of the Approved Scheme, it is appropriate to record here that there have been improvements to the Market, to the road network of the Township and to its sanitation, all funded jointly from Native Authority and from Colonial Development and Welfare sources.

In Aba Township, the Township Advisory Board and the Planning Authority have both worked with great keenness. The new lay-outs have been rapidly developed in an orderly and regulated manner, and a variety of improvements has been effected.

While I made some reference to the achievements of Community Development in the field of public works projects and while the major endeavours of the Public Works Department are outlined in the relevant departmental report contained in this printed address, some reference must be made, however cursory, to the important part played in the development of this Region by Native Authority Works. All over the Region the Native Authorities continue to improve and extend the road system, to bring health services nearer to the people by the erection of new dispensaries, maternity homes and lying-in-wards, to improve the conditions under which their staffs are housed and in a hundred and one other ways make the countryside a better, a healthier and an easier place to live in.

I must refer now to our Native Courts. The Brooke Commission has completed its investigation except that it was unable, owing to bad communications, to visit Bamenda and the Cameroons Provinces. Its report is awaited. While therefore any sweeping change in the system has been held in abeyance, many redundant courts have been abolished and the policy of replacing mass benches by panels of members appointed by name by the Resident has continued. In general, Native Court expenditure exceeds revenue. However, the Courts are not to be considered as primarily revenue earning bodies but as essential services that satisfy a definite public need.

Nevertheless, I am sure that the standards of justice administered by the courts leave no room for complacency. Dilatoriness, lack of care, delay, venality, arrogance and prejudice all exist, and must disappear so that the progress of the Native Courts shall be not slower than the pace of development in other fields.

The Native Court Statistics reveal little marked change in cases heard or placed on Appeal or Review in most provinces. In the Onitsha Province there has been a steady decline over the last two years in the number of cases heard while in Rivers Province there has been an increase of 38 per cent; in both cases the percentage of cases taken on Review or Appeal remains much the same. While the decrease in Onitsha cannot be explained, the Rivers increase may well reflect the success of the reformed Ogoni courts.

Agriculture

The Senior Service staff position has improved during the period under review. The return of one officer from a year's course of instruction in rice cultivation kindly arranged by the Department of Agriculture, Sierra Leone, has enabled the Department to post an officer to Rivers Province for the first time. The Department is still far from being up to strength but the prospects of giving better services to the Region are improving.

It has been a good season for yams and rice. The expansion of the rice industry in Ogoja Province has been a notable feature of the season. The maize yield was decreased in the southern half of the Region by an attack of maize rust disease which was appreciable for the first time. Prices of foodstuffs, though at a high level, have not risen very greatly throughout the Region and in some areas a number of staple commodities have actually decreased slightly in price. The output of palm products has decreased to a small extent as will be seen from the following table of graded products:—

1st December to 30th November	Palm Oil (tons)	Palm Kernels (tons)
1948-49	143,221	176,069
1949-50	147,363	180,334
1950-51 1st Jan.-31st Dec., 1951	131,123	157,037

A remarkable pleasing feature is the big improvement in the quality of oil being produced; it is estimated that 8,000 tons of special grade palm oil (F.F.A. content less than 4½ per cent) will be produced in 1951 compared with under 200 tons in 1950, when the scheme began to operate. More oil is also coming into the grade I category and less into grades III and IV.

Good progress was made with the supply of improved palm seedlings for distribution to farmers. In some areas, however, notably the Calabar Province, many farmers failed to take up seedlings reserved for them in nurseries. A far more progressive outlook is required from farmers and steps are being taken to strengthen field and propaganda services; much can be done to concentrate new plantings round Pioneer Mills and to replace old, exhausted palm groves.

Though the oil palm is the economic mainstay of the Region, attention is also being paid to diversifying the number of tree crops in the Region. Thus the future expansion of the cocoa industry is being foreseen by the establishment of experimental plots of improved strains of cocoa. Some of those established in the Ogoja Province are particularly promising. Surveys of areas likely to be suitable for production have begun. In the Cameroons Province two phenomena known as leafless twig disease and secondary vein-clearing leaf disease are under close observation. Active steps are being taken to improve the low standard of maintenance of cocoa farms, especially by black pod control, and the preparation of the beans.

Arabica coffee planting in the Bamenda Province stimulated by very high prices continues to increase; the plantations of Robusta coffee in Cameroons Province producing a lower quality coffee, are coming into production again after a period of neglect. A coffee hulling machine is being erected at Bamenda.

Plots of coconuts introduced from Ceylon have been planted at some provincial farms and preparations have been made for the testing of high yielding rubber clones.

Work on annual crops has been concentrated on expanding the rice industry and on the use of artificial fertilizers. The rice industry is capable of expansion in new areas and existing areas by improvement in the quality and amount of seed supply, by opening small observation plots throughout wide ranges of conditions in undeveloped areas and by the erection of rice mills with the aid of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board. Active steps are being taken along these lines. Progress has been made with testing agricultural machinery in rice swamps and the results are promising.

Artificial fertilizer experiments on yams have given very useful general results. These warrant intensification of research to find out the exact requirements of soils within limited areas; this may lead to savings in the use of certain fertilizers and reduce the cost of application. Side by side with research has gone the widespread demonstration to farmers in the use of fertilizers. These have been markedly successful, especially in Onitsha Province and it is thought that an encouraging number of farmers in that province will patronise the Eastern Regional Production Development Board's scheme for commercial distribution. Much more, however, remains to be done to bring the full benefits of the scheme before the millions of persons who should be interested.

Further research on fertilizers applied to cassava, rice and jute is in progress. The local fibre *clappertonia* of which much was at one time expected, is not fully acceptable to the fibre spinning industry and trials are therefore continuing on jute.

The pilot urban market garden at Enugu is being extended to other communities by private enterprise.

In implementation of the Revised Ten-Year Colonial Development and Welfare Plan a site has been selected for an agricultural station near Kumba in Cameroons Province. Good progress has been made by the Public Works Department with houses and laboratories at Umuahia and buildings and water supplies at other provincial farms.

Audit

Shortage of housing prevented the Director of Audit from providing the necessary Senior Service staff. As a result, although the examination of Government, Township and Planning Authorities' accounts and the accounts of the Coal and Electricity Corporations and of the Regional Production and Development Boards is reasonably up-to-date, only thirteen out of the seventy-seven Native Treasuries in the Region have been visited.

Aviation

Regular services have been maintained throughout the year to Enugu whence there is a daily service to Lagos except on Sundays. Other links are to Tiko, Calabar, Port Harcourt and Kano. There is a weekly second class service from Port Harcourt to Lagos via Benin which is proving popular. During the year Enugu was visited by the larger Marathon aircraft which was being tested with a view to replacing the Doves by it.

The Tiko airfield has been improved while it is proposed to tar the Calabar runway. At Mamfe, the runways were consolidated but this aerodrome, while it has occasionally been used, is not yet a point on a scheduled run.

On the 3rd of February, a Skymaster belonging to Air France crashed into the northern end of the Cameroon Mountain. Twenty-nine passengers and crew lost their lives. All sections of the population, organised by the Provincial Administration, assisted the French Authorities in recovering the bodies of the victims and transporting them for the seven hours arduous climb down the mountain side. An officer of the Department assisted the French authorities in attempting to ascertain the cause of the tragedy.

Commerce and Industries

The Fisheries section of the Department has continued its work of instructing and advising local fishermen in the use of improved types of equipment. The work as in previous years has been almost entirely confined to the coasts of the Rivers and Calabar Provinces—though some interest has been shown latterly by the people of the Cameroons Province. Advice has been given to established fish farmers inland but through shortage of staff, it has not been possible to develop this branch of fishing during the year.

The Potteries training centre at Okigwi has made considerable progress during the year and a number of trainees are already established in their home towns producing a high grade of glazed ware.

Although it was not possible to provide for the continuance of the Textile Centre at Aba under the Development Plan, funds have been provided from an alternative source and the Department has been able to keep the Centre open under the charge of a Textile Officer as in previous years.

whose parents demanded their entry regardless of whether they were in fact compelled to send them to school or not under the existing rules. During the next few months it is hoped to provide detailed information to many more Native Authorities so that they can, at the earliest possible date, take the necessary steps to introduce a system of rating.

Popular imagination was stirred by the visit to the Region of an Education Study Group under the chairmanship of Dr G. B. Jeffery, which included in its membership the Chief Education Officer of the County of Kent, one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Secondary (Modern) Schools, and an authority on Education and Welfare Work amongst adolescent girls. This group, which preferred to visit definite specimen areas rather than to attempt the impossible task of visiting widely separate parts of the Region, spent about three weeks in the Eastern Provinces. The areas on which they concentrated were the thickly populated parts of Owerri and Orlu Divisions, the Abakaliki Division and Onitsha Town. During their stay they met the Regional Board of Education in session and had what it is hoped was a fruitful discussion with a conference of members of the Education Department. In addition to visiting schools of all types and Teacher Training Centres, they had discussions with Education Committees, representatives of the Voluntary Agencies and teachers and many others. The Study Group, which is sponsored by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Nuffield Foundation, had visited the other West African colonies before their arrival in the Eastern Region, and on their departure visited the other Regions of Nigeria. The Study Group, while impressed with the quantity of education, was somewhat disappointed in its quality, and it is felt that the Group may not have realised the extraordinary increase in the demand for education which has taken place in this Region in the last ten years or so—a demand which began at a time when not only were few qualified teachers available, but when it was next to impossible to do anything about producing trained teachers at anything like the required rate. Only recently, in fact, has the supply of qualified teachers become anything like commensurate with the demand.

In the preceding paragraph the quantity of education in the Region was mentioned. Figures are apt to be misleading when they cannot be related to any accurate statistics of population, but in this Region there are now over half a million children receiving education, about one-fifth of these being girls. Of this large number just under 400,000 are in junior primary schools and just over 100,000 in senior primary schools. Only 14,000 in all are at present in secondary schools in the Region. About 2,300 junior primary and 750 senior primary schools are assisted from regional funds to a total amount of just over £600,000. Such grants do not meet the full cost of running an assisted school and have to be supplemented by school fees and contributions of various nature.

To turn to secondary education, the provision for capital grants provided under Colonial Development and Welfare schemes for the expansion of existing secondary educational facilities or for the establishment of new secondary schools is almost exhausted. It would be pleasing to report that this means that the secondary schemes which have been assisted under Colonial Development and Welfare schemes are now completed. Unfortunately this is not the case, the reason being that money has now less value than it had when the schemes were drawn up six and more years ago. It is true that secondary schools have benefited under

these schemes to a considerable extent, and many are now provided with excellent buildings. At Umuahia the original temporary buildings are being replaced by permanent buildings. Of Voluntary Agency secondary schools, St. Joseph's, Sasse, near Buea, a Roman Catholic secondary school for boys, and the Cornelia Connelly College, Uyo, a secondary school for girls owned by the same Voluntary Agency, can be mentioned as examples of excellent value for money. However, it has been impossible to provide much equipment either under Colonial Development and Welfare schemes or from Regional funds. As a result, with the exception of the Government College, Umuahia, and of some Voluntary Agency Secondary Schools of long foundation, the standard of equipment is regrettably low.

At the commencement of the school year, 1950, some 1,100 additional trained teachers became available, about 200 of these being women. It is unfortunate that the percentage of failures in the qualifying examinations is still unduly high and the figure given above includes these failures. While to some extent this can be accounted for by the shortage of equipment which is evident in many of the Teacher Training Centres, it is also in part due to the poor quality of some of the entrants into the Training Colleges. This is the result of a vicious circle, the effects of which should soon decrease; owing to an inadequate supply of trained teachers in the past the quality of many of the primary school leavers is not what it should be and it is from these school leavers that the majority of entrants to the Teacher Training Centres are chosen.

Amongst events in the teacher training field must be mentioned the opening of the Government Women's Training Centre at Enugu where fifty-six girl students embarked on their course of training in January, 1951. The Public Works Department has not been able to complete the full building plan. As a result, no definite date can yet be given of the Centre reaching its full quota of 200 students in training. The Church of Scotland in August transferred its Elementary Teacher Training Centre from Hope Waddell Training Institute, Calabar, to the new Macgregor Training College at Afikpo, which has been built with the assistance of a grant under Colonial Development and Welfare schemes.

In technical training, the Government Trade Centre in Enugu has had a successful year, while alongside it the buildings for the Technical Institute are being erected. A Handicraft Centre where part-time instruction in wood and metal work is given to boys in the top classes of primary schools was opened in Enugu during the year and another is shortly expected to open in Calabar. It has however been decided not to continue with the building of the Women's Trade Centre at Aba, the site of which has been found to be unsatisfactory. A new site is being sought. Land near Enugu has been surveyed for the Regional branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology.

The appointment of a Regional Adult Education Officer has facilitated closer supervision of the many Adult Education Centres. The main difficulty in this branch of the Department's work continues to be the difficulty of distribution of literature. It is hoped to establish an Eastern Regional Literature Committee whose duties will include liaison between authors of vernacular literature and publishing houses.

During the year a setback to work with adult and illiterate women was experienced on the resignation of Mrs Sandiford, who left the Department

to get married. Mrs Sandiford has done invaluable work amongst the women of the Bamenda highlands and it has not been possible to find a successor for her.

There are no Institutes for Higher Education in the Eastern Region, but, as in previous years, the Region is well represented at the University College, Ibadan. It is to be hoped that when the first graduates of this College leave in August, 1952, the educational service of the Region will reap a benefit.

As regards out-of-school activities, football remains the most popular game and is played with universal enthusiasm and varying degrees of skill at practically all schools, great and small. In athletics, the Region has not yet reached the high standards set by Lagos and the West, but the control which is being exercised by the Eastern Region Committee of the Nigerian Amateur Athletic Association is having its effect. Enugu now possesses a fine Stadium although the running track is as yet far from perfect. It is probable that this Stadium will become the venue of inter-school athletics. Hockey is gaining in popularity at the secondary schools and Teacher Training Centres, but there has been no increase in the popularity of cricket, which is still confined to the Government College, Umuahia, and one or two Protestant secondary schools.

Electricity Corporation

The Electricity Corporation came into being on the 1st of April, 1951, and was created out of the Electricity Department.

Preliminary survey work has been undertaken in connection with the proposed Oji River Power Station. In Port Harcourt, the Power Station is being extended to accommodate additional plant while in Calabar the electricity supply has been improved by the introduction of an additional Diesel generator. Construction at Aba proceeded satisfactorily while preliminary investigations were instituted to determine the possibility of linking Aba with Port Harcourt by a High Tension transmission line. The installation of an Electricity Undertaking at Abakaliki has made satisfactory progress.

In the Cameroons Province, the Njoke Hydro-Electric Power Station was, by the end of the period under review, well advanced towards completion.

Forestry

As the work of consolidation of forest reserves nears completion the activities of the Department are more and more centred on active forestry in the reserves. The period of acquiring an estate and acting as caretaker is finishing and forest management is beginning. This is taking three forms; enumeration and vegetation surveys in order to make plans of management, planting and improvement operations and exploitation.

As regards enumeration, work on part of the Stubbs Creek Reserve has been carried on and a vegetation survey of the Nkom-Wum Forest Reserve has been completed. Enumerations are just starting in the Umon-Ndealichi and Ukpon Forest Reserves.

Planting and improvement operations which last year were on a small scale have been accelerated by the grant of Colonial Development and Welfare funds for use in the Bafut-Ngamba Reserve in Bamenda, the Mamu Reserve in Onitsha and the Bende Forest Reserves. The intention

in Bamenda is to grow *Eucalyptus* and possibly some conifers on the high altitude grass lands. In Onitsha the funds will be used chiefly for planting up the savannah areas of the Mamu Reserve but also in making some improvement to the existing high forest. In Bende the funds will be used for improvement operations to the present high forest. During the year very large nurseries have been made in Bamenda and Onitsha and the results so far have been very satisfactory. Work has also continued on the experimental plantations in Calabar and on experimental natural regeneration in Kumba. Regeneration on a small scale has started in Stubbs Creek and planting continued in the fuel plantations in Bamenda and Onitsha.

As regards exploitation, progress has again to some extent been held up by lack of suitable exploiters, by legal difficulties and to a small extent by difficulties over the apportionment of revenue. The legal difficulties have been straightened out as will be those over revenue apportionment. The position in Kumba is now much clearer and Société Africain Forestière et Agricole are expected to start work in the Southern Bakundu Reserve early next year. It is expected that shortly a long term agreement will be made with that firm for the exploitation of the Kumba Reserves. No definite arrangement has yet been made regarding the exploitation of the Cross River Reserves, but enquiries have been received and it is only a matter of time before exploitation does start there.

Exploitation has been started or carried on in several reserves during the year. The Nigeria Lead-Zinc Mining Company has started cutting the over mature timber in the Effium Reserve. A contractor has successfully worked part of the Bende Reserves by pitsawing. Exploitation has continued in Stubbs Creek. The Enugu pit wood plantations have prouced from thinnings, pit props and fuel. Fuel has also been produced from the plantations in Bamenda and Onitsha. It is as well to emphasize that wherever exploitation is or will be carried out, it is being done in an orderly manner to provide a sustained yield and regeneration is carried out.

It is melancholy to record that destruction of good timber outside Reserves has continued at a great speed especially in the Rivers Province. This does however increase the great need to protect and improve our forest reserves and it is showing that reserves such as the Oban Group, formerly considered of doubtful value, are becoming increasingly valuable and will one day have to supply a very great demand. It should also be added that unthinking exploitation does not indefinitely bring in its own record. In the Rivers Province, unscrupulous and inefficient timber exporters have been forced out of the market by an overseas buyers strike. The timber broker will not forever endure bad goods. The time comes, and has come in the Rivers Province, when he will refuse to deal with any dealer whose products are not above reproach.

Geological Survey

A considerable amount of work covering a wide field was done by the Geological Survey Department in the Eastern Provinces during the period 1st September, 1950, to 31st October, 1951. Much of this was of fundamental importance to Nigerian development.

The work on the coalfield to the west of Enugu was continued. The Geological Survey supervised the drilling programme which is being undertaken by the Coal Corporation to prove the extent and persistence

of the period there were only 260 registered; the balance of 936 either having found work themselves or having failed to maintain their registration for work.

The Anglo-Spanish Employment Agency is authorised to recruit workers under licence from the Eastern Region for work in the Spanish Fernando Po and French Gaboon. The conditions of employment are the subject of a Treaty and an Agreement respectively, the former being revised as from the 1st January, 1951, with considerable improvements in both wages and conditions for Nigerian workers. Recruitment for Fernando Po during the first seven months totalled 1,032 workers (males only) and for the second seven months totalled 2,309 making an overall total of 3,341. The increase in the latter half is due entirely to increased recruiting activity in the Region. During the fourteen months a total of 3,425 males returned from Fernando Po on completion of contract. Recruitment for the Gaboon totalled 372 (males only) in the first seven months and 388 in the second seven months. During these periods 6 and 103 respectively returned from the Gaboon on completion of contracts.

There is evidence that employers generally, and particularly the larger ones, endeavour to comply with their quota obligations under the Ex-servicemen's Ordinance. There has been difficulty in meeting some employers' requests for ex-servicemen, and where necessary exemption permits have been issued to free them to engage civilian workers. At the beginning of the period the number of ex-servicemen registered at local offices for employment was approximately 11,000. By the 31st October, 1951, this number had dwindled to 1,296. The decrease has been due to (a) placings in employment; (b) lapsing of registrations and (c) removals from the register of those available, for refusal to accept offers of work. A high proportion of those remaining registered seek only Government employment.

1,200 complaints about non-observance of the Labour Code Ordinance or other enactment, mainly by work-people against their employers, have been dealt with throughout the Region. Many of them relate to (a) terminations of employment without proper notice; (b) underpayment of wages and (c) non-payment of wages. These complaints form one means of identifying employers who need some advice and guidance about their obligations and responsibilities under the Labour Legislation.

Lands

Much of the time of the Department has been taken up with negotiations for the acquisition of land under the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance or otherwise. Such acquisitions are always preceded by negotiations with the landlords on the basis of a fair valuation of the land. Compulsion is only necessary when it is found impossible to reach agreement or to obtain the land without unjustifiable expenditure of public funds. Were Government however to be deprived of all compulsory powers, much of the development now taking place would be brought to a stand-still.

During the period under review, eight Certificates of Title have been obtained, covering 1,866 acres, and fourteen other approved acquisitions, covering 2,429 acres, are in hand. Those completed or now in hand include sites for a hospital, two aerodromes, an oil palm research station, a Technical College, a waterworks, three post offices, two Veterinary institutions, and three Police posts.

There has not been a rise in the value of agricultural land within the last three years, though such land values are appreciably higher than those for 1947 and earlier. On the other hand, owing to the very high rents obtainable from urban workers there has been an appreciable, probably largely speculative, rise in the value of land within and on the fringes of prosperous and growing towns.

Financial relations between Government and the four Planning Authorities which now collect Crown rents on behalf of Government have been placed on a more satisfactory basis. It is now clear that their function in respect of Crown land is that of an agent, and that the subventions which they receive from the proceeds are at the discretion of Government.

In the Cameroons Trust Territory, the principal change has been a forward move in developing the largely unoccupied lands of Bamenda Province. Three proposals are now envisaged, for coffee growing, cattle ranching and a leper colony, involving a total of some thirty-two square miles. The bare hills of Bamenda have, up to the present, presented a striking contrast to those of the French Cameroons across the frontier, which, as the result of French and African private enterprise, are covered with coffee plantations of all sizes. Nearly 500 acres have also been set aside for the two new Government stations at Wum and Nkambe, and a Post Office at Bamenda.

A Provincial Farm is proposed near Kumba, and fifteen acres have been acquired on agreed terms for a hospital at Victoria. In addition the title to a number of Customs Preventive Posts on the Eastern Frontier has been investigated. Of the nineteen posts in existence, customary rights have already been revoked in ten cases. Action is being taken to acquire sites for two more posts from the Cameroons Development Corporation, and to revoke customary rights over the remainder.

Seven Certificates of Occupancy totalling seventy acres have been granted in the Trust Territory to natives, firms and missions, all at economic rents except where they were for educational or religious purposes.

Twenty-one more properties, formerly belonging to ex-enemy firms, have been surrendered to the Governor by the Custodian of Enemy Property, and Certificates of Occupancy are being issued for twelve of these to the Cameroons Development Corporation. The remainder are not required by the Corporation, and five have been retained for the use of Government Departments. The remaining five are being let to firms and private persons. Five claims to old titles, dating back to German days, have been investigated. In four cases the titles of the Firms occupying have been accepted, and two of them will be added to the Fourth Schedule to the Land and Native Rights Ordinance. The fifth, a small area on the bank of the Meme River, has been abandoned.

Five more Divesting Orders under the Niger Lands Transfer Ordinance were made, bringing the total to nine. Of the forty-four properties vested in Government under the Ordinance, thirty-one have been abandoned in toto, seven have been abandoned in part, and six are being retained.

With the assistance of the District Officer, a planned lay-out of land adjacent to Abakaliki station has been made, and the Abakaliki Native

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Authority (Alienation of Land) Rules were applied to the whole division on 1st August, 1951. The effect of this is that land cannot be sold or leased to strangers without the approval of the Native Authority, and that such transactions have to be registered at the Native Authority's office.

The number of deeds prepared has increased from 119 in 1949-50 to 314 in 1950-51. The Registry dealt with 873 deeds as against 598 in the previous year.

The revised estimate of revenue for which the Department is responsible is £31,750. This is nearly double the approved estimate for the previous year, and the increase is due partly to the charging of higher fees for short-form leases but chiefly to the effect of revision of rents, which had been postponed in 1941 on account of the uncertainty of land values during the war. A substantial proportion of the increase is paid by alien firms in the larger townships and in four of these some 85 per cent of the rents collected is handed over to the Planning Authorities for local development.

Legal

The Legal Department has been reconstituted. There is now a Legal Secretary. As there are five judicial divisions in the Eastern Region and eleven magisterial districts, it is hoped that the staff of the Legal Secretary will be increased by at least one other Crown Counsel this year.

There has been no startling change in the amount of work or in the type of crime with which the Department has been dealing, though motor traffic cases are now causing congestion in certain Magistrates' Courts.

Marine

In the Rivers Province, the Marine Department strength has risen to seven Senior Service Officers, three hundred and twenty-five Junior Service and two hundred and fifty-five daily paid labourers. The fleet of launches has increased to fourteen. Four hundred and seventy-eight ships have been piloted up the river. At one time during the period, serious consideration had to be given to closing Port Harcourt temporarily to relieve congestion. An officer was posted specially to consider the problem. Many of his recommendations capable of local implementation have been adopted and as a result, the situation has improved. It is expected that a new slipway now under construction will shortly be completed.

In Calabar, the Department has operated to capacity and with an efficiency that is becoming proverbial. Although pilotage is not compulsory, the number of vessels requesting this service has markedly increased. A twin-hull power ferry and two steam power boats have been constructed while three more of the latter are on the stocks.

Medical

This year, medical, health and related developments have shown striking if uneven activity. All registered Voluntary Hospitals in the Region have either increased their bed strengths or have been raised in status. They have been assisted by a grant of £10 per occupied bed per annum and by grants to foster and encourage the training of midwives and nurses and rural health activities. Such grants are designed to supplement and not to substitute charitable assistance. There are indications that the private practitioner is seeking to establish himself in the more rural areas. Public

corporations and private firms alike have made progress in the provision and planning of medical facilities for their employees to the satisfaction of the Department. The Native Authorities, with over 180 dispensaries, over fifty small maternity homes, a growing ambulance service and an increasing sanitary inspectorate, make a great contribution to public health. In the period under review, well over a million persons attended their dispensaries, half of them being new cases. Government Hospital expansion has reached a peak with the completion of the Onitsha Hospital and the major constructing works in progress in Bamenda, Ogoni and Aba. Before describing in more detail the activities of the Department, it must be emphasized that the health progress of the Region depends on the wide expansion of all agencies, whether public or private.

The prevention of smallpox is a problem which cannot be solved by medical man-power alone and health education is here a primary need. Hostility to vaccination and concealment of cases are still prevalent. The organised campaign in the Ogoja Province during the year resulted in 500,000 vaccinations. 1,074 cases of smallpox, with 194 deaths occurred in the first six months of the present financial year.

The treatment of leprosy by Sulphone is now standard throughout the Region, and indeed, throughout Nigeria, having virtually supplanted Hydnocarpus Oil in the space of little more than twelve months. This new treatment has been received with great enthusiasm and an immense increase in out-patient work has resulted. In Onitsha Province alone, twenty-seven new Segregation Villages have come into existence in less than eighteen months, and in Owerri it is now rare to find the smallest locality where control is not effective. In this latter province, the Assistant Director of Leprosy Service has now definitely proved that leprosy is on the wane, and the impending closure of a clinic at Bende will be a landmark in the progress of leprosy control. However measures cannot be relaxed; they must be maintained and increased, not only in the specialised field of leprosy control, but also to secure a better standard of living which alone can finally eradicate leprosy. The training of Leprosy Inspectors and Ward Attendants is being intensified and there are at present 121 of these trained or in training. Of the Government Hospitals in three major Provincial Settlements, two have been recognised as Hospitals for the training of nurses up to registration standard. Nurses, after completing two years in General Hospitals, proceed to these for a final year of training in the nursing of leprosy and its complications and inter-current diseases.

In December, 1950, there was an outbreak of Epidemic Jaundice in a portion of Onitsha Province where 1,000 cases of a sharp febrile illness, accompanied in a proportion of cases by jaundice and with eighty deaths, occurred in a relatively isolated population of 4,000.

The Cameroons Medical Field Unit assisted in *loaisis* research at Kumba and environs and conducted systematic surveys in Bamenda and Kumba, establishing levels of incidence of yaws and helminthic disorders in these areas and making special study of *belharzia* and *paragonomiasis*. All conditions found were treated, and it is interesting to observe that the hostile attitude towards vaccination so often met with in a purely vaccination campaign entirely disappears when this measure is but part of a general mass survey and treatment programme.

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In the larger urban areas, the provision of housing accommodation cannot keep pace with demand. Mean and sordid slums develop on the boundaries menacing the health and amenity of the town so that by the time a standard of urban health control is applied and enforced, they constitute major health problems. It is pleasing, therefore, to record a year of great achievement in Enugu where a new suburb has been laid out and surfaced roads and permanent drains provided in advance of building. Much drainage and resurfacing work is being carried out throughout the existing Township. In the housing of estate workers, the Cameroons Development Corporation at Tiko and Bota in the Cameroons has made a signal contribution this year by its two large housing Estates consisting of detached and semi-detached houses and in addition, a school and Community Centre.

Forty-seven pupil nurses were given successful training courses during two sessions of six months at the Preliminary Training School at Aba. In addition, sixty-one nurses, having completed three years' training, after their preliminary pupilage at the Government Training Hospitals of Aba, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Calabar and Enugu, have succeeded in the examination for the Nigerian Registered Nurses. In the major Government Midwifery Training School in Aba and Calabar, twelve pupils qualified as Grade I Midwives. In the new Government Sanitary Training School at Aba, fourteen Sanitary Inspectors are undergoing the two years' course of training in preparation for the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. In this school, a shorter and more practical one year course for Native Administration Sanitary Inspectors has been given to fifteen pupils. All Government Hospitals train Native Administration Dispensary Attendants and thirty were given a year's training. Practical work in the Out-patient Departments, including recognition of commoner diseases and states, the administration of simple drugs, the care of wounds and sores, forms a major part of the training by the Medical Officer, in addition to which is added work on the care of medical buildings and equipment by the Sister or Nursing Superintendent, and measures of simple compounding of medicine under the direction of the Hospital Pharmacist.

A great volume of training is also done in the Midwifery Training Schools of Mission Hospitals of all denominations. Of the thirteen General Hospitals registered, four are approved for nurses training leading to Registration by the Nigerian Nursing Council. These hospitals, and others registered for midwifery training purposes only, make up a total of six midwifery training schools for Grade II Midwives. From these fifty-nine persons qualified. The importance of these schools is very great and they alone have made possible this rapid expansion of Midwifery service. There is a grant of £50 for each midwife trained.

The new Onitsha Hospital of 106 beds was opened in August, 1951, and is in full working order. At Bamenda, a modern hospital is rapidly approaching the stage of occupation. A Country-type Hospital with seventy-five beds, and a Tuberculosis Pavilion of thirty beds, it replaces the old out-moded hospital. Plans are advanced for the immediate expansion of this hospital up to 150 beds, a project made possible by the provision of substantial funds from the Cameroons Development Corporation. Funds from the same source have made possible both the newly planned Native Authority Maternity Centres in Bamenda Province and also a modern Native Authority ambulance service whereby abnormal cases will be brought to the Maternity section of this hospital.

Aba, during the last year, has added to its hospital strength by completing and bringing into use a further seventy-five beds, and the Maternity Section has reached a formidable total of 2,500 confinements per annum with a proportionate increase in ante-natal and post-natal work. At Calabar, the new Children's Ward of twelve beds was opened during the year. In this hospital too, some provision has just been made for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. In Ogoja, a new sixteen bedded ward is approaching completion. In Enugu, a new theatre for the existing General Hospital will shortly be ready. Power Houses are constructed and tenders are being prepared for the installation of electric lighting sets for Country-type Hospitals in five Units. These installations will make possible the introduction of Portable X-Rays to these units and will greatly facilitate treatment.

Reference has already been made to the great volume of work done in Mission Hospitals and to some of the forms which Government assistance takes: a grant of £10 or in some cases £15 per occupied bed per annum, grants of £50 and £180 respectively for each midwife or nurse trained to registration standard, grants of an average of about £750 per annum for additional building and equipment. These have been in addition, other more substantial forms of assistance during the year. In Eket, the Lutheran Mission have commenced the building of a full Country-type Hospital, once part of Government's Ten-Year Plan. The Lutheran Mission has here chosen that type of assistance (a grant of just under £10,000) which involves Government in no obligatory recurrent assistance other than the types mentioned above.

Another complete Hospital project which appears in the Development Plan has been undertaken by the Roman Catholic Mission at Amaigbo. In this instance, the grant has taken the form of the full capital cost of the buildings (£30,000) and the hospital will become a Joint Hospital, having a Board of Governors, representative of Government and the Missionary Body. While certain conditions have to be fulfilled by such Hospitals, *i.e.*, the admission of persons of any race or creed, the controlled scale of fees, and the submission of annual accounts so that annual recurrent grants to make good any adverse balance may be assessed, the staffing and day to day running of the hospital is carried out by the Missionary Body alone.

An agency which is making a significant and growing contribution to health and medical work is the British Red Cross Society. In Hospitals, for example, the personal needs of the patients are being catered for in an increasing manner, such as the writing of letters, the circulating of books, dealing with personal problems and many services connected with the rehabilitation of the sick. The Society has wisely declared that it will pursue a positive policy of health education, and this has already included the provision of a series of remarkably educative posters for use in schools and elsewhere.

Mines

Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria, Ltd., submitted an application for the renewal of Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence 51 which expired on 31st December, 1950, and were granted Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence 74 over 666 square miles in Ogoja Province for a further year.

Settlement with the holders of the Surface Rights has been reached and Temporary Mining Leases 9,800, 9,801 were granted on 24th April, 1951.

Up to this time there has been no activity within the Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence and there has been no attempt yet, on the part of the Company, to mine for Lead. However, exploratory work by means of trenching, and the sinking of a prospect shaft began during the wet season. The Balakhany Black Sea Oil Company has been engaged to carry out a diamond drilling programme in an effort to prove the continuation of the galena veins at depth. This work is expected to begin in mid-November, 1951. Further geological examination of the area will be carried out by three Geologists at the same time.

The benefits to the local community can be seen to-date, when it is realised that regular employment has been given to ninety-eight local Africans. In addition to Surface Rent at £1 per acre, the company agreed with the Ihetutu and Amatta Clans to pay them compensation for the loss of customary takings at an annual rate of £600 and £100 respectively. Further, the Company have made a generous settlement of £300 per annum towards the maintenance of the African Gospel Mission School at Ishiogo.

The American Smelting and Refining Company, with its general offices in New York, have completed negotiations with the Mines Development Syndicate, Limited, to enable them to participate in the development of the Syndicate's Leases. For this purpose the Nigerian Lead Zinc Company was registered in May. There has, in consequence, been increased activity in the area during the period under review. The staff at present consists of eighteen British and American technicians, and a labour force of 857 Africans, all recruited locally.

Activities have been largely confined to exploratory drilling and geological reconnaissance of the mineralised areas of the lower Cretaceous shales within Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence 55 in the Abakaliki area. The Balakhany Black Sea Oil Company completed a contract for drilling 12,000 feet by the end of June. A further contract for drilling has been given to the Cementation Company of South Africa. Encouraging results have been obtained mainly around Ameri where drilling has indicated lead and mineralised veins at depths of 750 feet and 900 feet.

Underground development has been carried out in and near old workings at Nyeba, Ameka and Ameri, where shallow shafts have been sunk to allow sampling and examination of formerly worked veins. A major sinking operation is being carried out at Ameka Main where a shaft has reached a depth of 190 feet. An examination of known lead veins in the vicinity will be done by driving on to them by levels at 170 feet.

At Ameri, work began in August on the main shaft which it is intended to sink to a possible depth of 900 feet to examine veins discovered by drilling.

The Nigerian Coal Corporation Ordinance was enacted on 12th October, 1950, and the Coal Corporation was then established with effect from 1st January, 1951, with Dr C. Raeburn, Commissioner on Special Duties (Minerals), as the Chairman. Mr T. J. Jones, the first Agent of the Corporation, assumed his appointment in October, 1951, having been seconded from the National Coal Board.

Output for the period under review amounted to 688,040 tons and showed an increase of 38,676 tons over the last corresponding period. Output per man-shift averaged 6.28 cwts. and shows no improvement on the previous report. The total labour employed is 6,569.

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The Police wireless network is now completed and links the important centres in the Region with each other, with the Central Station at Enugu and, through the Central Station, with Lagos, Ibadan and Kaduna. Three Mobile Sets (one of which has already arrived) are also to be provided, thereby further improving communications.

Housing is probably the most crying need at present. To house all the rank and file of the Police in the Region so that they have two rooms each in permanent buildings will necessitate the spending of nearly a quarter of a million pounds. The rate of progress in this matter rests entirely with the Region which is required to pay for Police Housing from Regional Funds. Much progress has been made this year and new buildings to a greater or lesser degree have been achieved at many places not least at Enugu where quarters for Headquarters Staff, new Barracks at Asata a new Regional Stores and Garages to say nothing of 130 new double quarters in twenty-six blocks of five quarters each at the Refresher School have all been finished or nearly so.

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Posts and Telegraphs

During the period under review, six Post Offices have been opened, including one at Asaba which is outside the Eastern Region but is, for

postal matters, controlled from Enugu. Twenty postal agencies have also been opened while a much appreciated service has been the Mobile Post Van. Introduced in June and stationed at Aba it brings all facilities except those of a telegraph office to an extensive area and is much used by the public. Arrangements are being made to introduce Post Office Saving Bank facilities at several of the larger Postal Agencies early in 1952.

During the period under review emphasis in tele-communication has been on development, and the progress made in this direction might be considered remarkable in view of the handicap of insufficient supervisory staff and shortages of some essential materials. It should be noted that the area involved overlaps the Eastern Region and includes portions of the Northern and Western Regions.

Larger telephone exchanges were installed at Enugu, Port Harcourt (automatic) and Calabar. At Aba, Onitsha and Victoria new exchanges will shortly be ready for opening; also, at Abakaliki where a small board is being installed.

The construction of overhead routes proceeds and will provide trunk and telegraph facilities, between:—

- (i) Uyo-Itu-Arochuku.
- (ii) Port Harcourt-Degema.
- (iii) Enugu-Onitsha (extra pair).
- (iv) Enugu-Abakaliki (work nearing completion).
- (v) Umuahia-Bende (work in progress).
- (vi) Tiko-Bota-Tiko-Ekona (for C.D.C.).

Main lines continue to be heavily loaded, the only real relief being provided by the installation of carrier equipment at Enugu. Two speech channels are terminated on to the Oshogbo exchange whilst one teleprinter channel and two key and sounder circuits have been made available to clear traffic expeditiously to Lagos. Speech is now possible between Enugu, Lagos and Kaduna, via Oshogbo.

Wireless development made good progress and provided the following additional facilities:—

- (i) New wireless installations for the Police at Enugu, Onitsha, Abakaliki, Umuahia, Aba, Calabar, Port Harcourt and Buea.
- (ii) New wireless installations at Mamfe and Bamenda to replace obsolete equipment.

The installation of a Radio Diffusion Station at Onitsha will shortly be completed and will provide for an initial service for 250 subscribers.

Apart from new projects, as detailed above, existing Telephone and R.D.S. service have been greatly expanded, involving the construction of overhead routes and the laying of many miles of underground cable.

Printing and Stationery

During the period under review the volume of work produced by the Printing and Stationery Department has steadily increased. Notwithstanding the continued grave paper shortage and delayed deliveries of essential equipment, most demands of Eastern Provinces and Cameroons are met promptly. Much of the printing machinery for this establishment

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arrived in a damaged and unserviceable condition, but the position is gradually improving with the arrival of replacement parts and the efforts of the engineering section. The demand for large and important publications such as various reports, and the Eastern and Western House of Assembly Debates is increasing, but perhaps most important of all is the *Eastern Outlook and Cameroons Star*. The production of this since May, 1951, greatly retarded the flow of normal work; an average of 150 hours overtime weekly were worked on the *Outlook* at a cost of £600 per annum. The cost of the *Outlook* for a year is estimated at £3,524 for printing only (*i.e.*, less editorial and other work and cost of paper and ink).

The number of printing and binding orders completed at Enugu including the *Outlook* was 787, which involved 2,193,000 impressions producing 5,686,000 forms and pages, or, 1,484,300 forms, 216,200 pamphlets and reports and 9,767 books at an approximate costs of £8,000; over 15 tons of paper and 4 cwt. of ink costing over £2,000 have been consumed. Paper which previously cost £64 per ton has now risen to £215 per ton in some cases, if at all obtainable, and type metal increased from £26 to £325 per ton. Production has been maintained by one Senior Service and thirty-eight Junior Service officers.

Work on the completion of the premises and installation of machinery is in progress. The Typewriter Repair Depot was established in February, 1951, since when 133 machines have been repaired. A Stationery Depot will be opened during the present calendar year.

Prisons

The Administrative Headquarters were transferred from Enugu to Lagos during the months of June and July.

A series of courses was held for junior warders at the Warders Training School. The results of these courses were encouraging.

It is to be regretted that strong representations for the building of Warders Quarters have not as yet yielded results. The housing situation is bad and has been adversely commented upon by Medical Department Inspecting Officers.

However, there has been steady progress during the period under review. The general efficiency of the warder staff remained good, while the high standard of discipline that is essential in Government Prisons was maintained throughout the Region.

The Approved School for Juvenile Offenders at Enugu has been efficiently maintained and the valuable and educative anti-erosion work undertaken by the inmates has been continued.

The Prisons have, as far as possible, been regularly inspected. In all Convict Prisons there are now classes in elementary education while the library services have been extended. These facilities are gradually being provided in the smaller prisons also. All Long Term prisoners, after having served two years with good behaviour, are permitted to join the Earning Scheme whereby they receive earnings of two shillings a month. This incentive to good work and industry is reflected in the very few cases of indiscipline amongst this class of prisoner.

Selected prisoners, having been taught a trade whilst in prison, have been aided on discharge with a monetary grant to enable them to purchase the tools of their trade. In a few cases, sewing machines have been provided for them.

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expenditure of £300,000 for the Cross River Bridge and the Crown Agents have been instructed to obtain tenders, from suitable contractors, for its construction. On the Calabar-Mamfe road, a further 14½ miles of road including 550 feet of bridging have been completed, through extremely difficult terrain. On the Bamenda Ring Road, a further twenty-one miles of road including fourteen bridges were completed and handed over to maintenance. The 250 feet long Mbu Bridge on the Bakebe-Fontem road was also completed. All told, some 42½ miles of new road was constructed including some 1,732 feet of bridging.

Aerodromes were maintained at Enugu, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Tiko and Mamfe. During the period under review, the runway at Tiko was lengthened and given a bituminous surface and work was put in hand on strengthening and regrading No. 3 Runway at Calabar prior to bituminous surfacing.

Work on Urban Water Supplies has been mainly confined to investigation and planning; schemes for the extension of the water supply at Enugu, Port Harcourt, Calabar and Aba have been worked out and approved. The way is now clear for implementation when the financial side has been settled. Draft indents are now being prepared so that when the towns accept financial responsibility for the schemes, no time will be lost in ordering the necessary materials. In the meantime every effort is being made to keep going and if possible, improve the existing supplies with such material as is available.

Rural Water Supplies have again progressed in a satisfactory manner, 238 wells, seventeen drive tube wells, thirty-three tanks and four boreholes have been constructed during the past twelve months.

Survey Department

During the period under review the field staff increased from four Surveyors and eight Junior Technical Staff, Grade II (Survey Assistants), on 1st September, 1950, to four Surveyors and twelve Junior Technical Staff, Grade II, at the end of October, 1951.

As a first step in decentralisation of the Department, a Senior Service Surveyor is being posted to Aba in November, 1951, to take charge of all survey work in Owerri, Rivers and Calabar Provinces. It is hoped to post another to Bamenda to take charge of surveys in Bamenda and Cameroons Provinces about next January. It is expected that offices and quarters for these officers will be built during the financial year, 1952-53.

Forty-four surveys for Government have been completed, including acquisitions for Government Stations at Udi and Ikom, three sites for Police Posts in Rivers Province, five sites for Eastern Preventive Service Stations on the Cameroons frontier and Ground Control for air surveys at Umuahia and Port Harcourt. Important surveys which were still in hand at the end of the period included the lay-out of Nupe Settlement at Onitsha, the revision and extension of detail survey at Kumba, the Diobu lay-out at Port Harcourt, and Ground Control for air survey of Enugu.

In addition, fifty surveys for companies and private individuals, including one of over 500 acres for the Eastern Regional Production Development Board, and three areas the subject of applications for mining leases totalling about 3,870 acres, were completed.

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(c) Provision of pipe borne water supply to scattered rural inhabitants is not practicable on financial and technical grounds. For an urban supply, where the population is concentrated within a reasonably compact area, the capital cost is between £2 and £3 per head of population served, and the cost of operation, maintenance and replacements is approximately 10s per head per annum. For a pipe borne supply in a rural area, where the population is scattered, the cost would be many times greater.

(d) Under the Rural Water Supply Scheme, work is normally carried out at no cost to the consumers. Clearly, more can be achieved if the consumers exercise some form of self help such as free supply of sand, gravel and labour.

Mr J. U. Nwodo :

19. To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region :—

(a) By what means the Government acquired a vast area of land claimed as "Crown Land" in Nsukka Station ?

(b) If the land was given by native land owners, may I know the signatories of those who gave the land and in what terms the land was given out ?

Answer—

The Minister of Lands and Surveys, Eastern Region :

(a) By private treaty.

(b) The signatories were Chief Atuguebe of Ozala and Chief Enejelu Odumodo of Nsukka for and on behalf of themselves and their people. The instruments of title may be inspected in the office of the Regional Lands Officer, Enugu.

Mr E. A. Chime :

31. To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region :—

(a) Who are the unofficial members of the Colliery Board ?

(b) Are any of these unofficial members from the Udi Division ?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, is it not advisable to appoint, at least, a member from the Udi Division in view of the fact that the majority of the workers are from this division and any such member will be of invaluable service in cases of labour disputes ?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region :

(a) The Colliery Board became defunct with the creation of the Nigerian Coal Corporation. The rest of the question does not arise.

Mr D. A. Nnaji :

39. To ask the Minister of Works, Eastern Region :—

(a) What is the cause or causes of the frequent shortage of water supply in Enugu Township ?

(b) What plans are being made by the Government to improve water situation in Enugu Township ?

(c) What steps are being taken to extend pipe-borne water supply to Ogui Urban Area and other urban areas in Enugu ?

Answer—

The Minister of Works, Eastern Region :

(a) The number of consumers has greatly increased since the Enugu Water Supply was opened, but the amount of water available from the source has remained unchanged.

(b) From funds provided under the Revised Plan of Development and Welfare for Nigeria (Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1951) a new intake is being constructed, a new reservoir built and alterations in the distribution system effected. The first is nearing completion ; the second is in hand ; and the third awaits delivery of pipes which have been on indent for a considerable time.

(c) Improvement to existing supply and extension of the distribution system to Ogui, Asata and other parts of Enugu are included in the scheme, and the work will be put in hand as soon as materials, chiefly pipes, valves, etc., become available, and the supply augmented as detailed in (b) above.

Mr D. A. Nnaji :

40. To ask the Minister of Works, Eastern Region :—

(a) How soon will the Enugu-Abakaliki road be tarred ?

(b) How soon will the Public Works take over the maintenance of—

(i) Enugu-Agbani-Nomeh-Awgu Native Authority road ?

(ii) Ngwo Uno-Eke-Oye Native Authority road ?

(iii) Eke-Egede-Affa-Nze Native Authority road ?

(iv) Owa-Nachi-Oji Native Authority road ?

Answer—

The Minister of Works, Eastern Region :

(a) As stated in the answer to Question No. 16, the Enugu-Abakaliki road will be tarred during 1952-53. A start has already been made : materials have been ordered.

(b) The Public Works Department cannot take over maintenance of any additional roads unless authorised by Government to do so, and additional provision is made in the Department's Recurrent Estimates. The Native Authorities must first convince Government that the roads are essential for Government. Government cannot alter the classification of a road for the sole reason that the Native Authorities cannot afford the annual cost of maintenance.

Mr D. A. Nnaji :

42. To ask the Minister of Education, Eastern Region :—

(a) How many Primary and Senior Primary Schools are there in the Eastern Region ?

- (b) How many of these belong to—
- (i) The Government ?
 - (ii) The Missionaries ?
 - (iii) The Native Administrations ?
 - (iv) Private individuals ?

Answer—

The Minister of Education, Eastern Region :

The classifications of schools as given by the Honourable Member in his question differ from those used by the Education Department, which divides Primary Schools into Junior and Senior Primary Schools or departments of schools, and ownership as that of Government, Native Authority or Township, approved Voluntary Agencies and other Voluntary Agencies. It is not possible therefore, with the statistics available in the records of the Department, to reply to the question in the form in which it was put, but the following information is culled from the latest complete returns, which are for 1950.

(a) There are 3,080 Primary Schools in the Region, of which 1,043 have Senior Primary Departments or are Senior Primary Schools.

(b) (i) Government owns seventeen Primary Schools in the Region, each of which is comprised of a Junior Primary and a Senior Primary Department.

(ii) of the 3,080 Primary Schools in the Region, 2,798 are owned by Voluntary Agencies which have been granted the status of "approved" Voluntary Agencies under Regulation 4 of Schedule "A" to the Education Ordinance, 1948. A "Voluntary Agency" is defined in section 2 of that Ordinance and is not confined to a mission.

(iii) Native Authorities and Townships own seventy-three Primary Schools, all of which have Junior Primary Departments, and forty-eight have Senior Primary Departments in addition.

(iv) 209 Primary Schools are owned by Voluntary Agencies which have not been granted the status of "approved."

Mr D. A. Nnaji :

43. To ask the Minister of Education, Eastern Region :—

(a) How many Teachers' Training Centres are there in the Eastern Region and in what places are they ?

(b) How many of them are—

- (i) For Male Teachers ?
- (ii) For Female Teachers ?
- (iii) How many belong to the Government ?

Answer—

The Minister of Education, Eastern Region :

(a) There are thirty-two such centres. The tabulated reply to part (b) of this question shews where they are situated.

(b) (i) The following are the centres for male teachers :—

Bamenda Province	...	...	Bambui. Batibo.
Calabar Province	...	...	Abak. Calabar. Eket. Urua Inyang. Uyo.
Cameroons Province	...	...	Kumba.
Ogoja Province	...	...	Afikpo. Ogoja.
Onitsha Province	...	...	Agulu. Awka. Ihiala. Onitsha. Nibo-Nise.
Owerri Province	...	...	Ihia. Irete. Orlu. Umuahia. Uzuakoli (two centres).
Rivers Province	...	...	Diobu.

(ii) The following are the centres for female teachers :—

Bamenda Province	...	...	None.
Calabar Province	...	...	Ikot Ekpene. Oron.
Cameroons Province	...	...	Kumba.
Ogoja Province	...	...	Afikpo.
Onitsha Province	...	...	Adazi. Enugu (two centres). Ogbunike.
Owerri Province	...	...	Aba. Emekuku.
Rivers Province	...	...	None.

(iii) Three. Uyo and Kumba for male teachers. Enugu for female teachers.

Mr D. A. Nnaji :

44. To ask the Minister of Education, Eastern Region :—

(a) Why has the Government handed over the former Government School at Udi to the Roman Catholic Mission ?

(b) Does the Government contemplate on building a school at Enugu Township ? If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative,

(i) Will it be a primary or secondary school and how soon will the school be built ?

(c) Does the Government contemplate also on building schools for the people of Udi Division outside the Enugu Township? If the answer to (c) above is yes,

- (i) how many schools are contemplated on for the people?
- (ii) in what areas of the division will the schools be built and how soon will they be built?

If the answer to (c) above is in the negative,

- (i) will the Minister of Education give the reason or reasons why the Government will not build schools for the people of Udi Division including Enugu Township?

Answer—

The Minister of Education, Eastern Region :

(a) The former Government Primary School at Udi was handed over to the Roman Catholic Mission on 1st January, 1936. The policy as stated by the then Director of Education, Nigeria, was that Government Schools should be handed over to Missions or Native Administrations in order to reduce expenditure without impairing efficiency.

(b) Yes.

- (i) A single stream secondary boarding school for girls. Building will be commenced, it is hoped, in the coming Financial Year.

(c) No. The next two questions, numbered (i) and (ii) do not therefore arise.

As regards the third question, numbered (i) also, the secondary girls' school referred to above is not intended to serve only the people of the Udi Division or of Enugu Township, but the whole of the Eastern Region. It is not the policy of Government to build schools exclusively for the people of Udi Division or of any other Division. Schools will continue to be provided, as in the past, by Voluntary Agencies, but it is hoped that as Local Education Authorities are set up they will become increasingly responsible for the provision of educational facilities in their areas.

Public Business

The Native Authority (Borrowing Powers) Law, 1952. Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Local Government (Mr E. I. Oli):

Sir, I beg to move that the Bill entitled "The Native Authority (Borrowing Powers) Law, 1952," be read a second time.

Your Honour, under the Townships Ordinance (Cap. 126) and the Eastern Region Local Government Ordinance No. 16 of 1950), Townships and Local Government Councils are empowered to raise loans within Nigeria, but at the present time Native Authorities are not so empowered.

The object of raising these loans is to enable Local Government bodies to carry out important public works which are needed, without waiting to accumulate surplus funds over many years to pay for such works. Such loans are repaid with equated payments of capital and interest over the period of the estimated life of the particular work concerned.

There is no reason why Native Authorities should be excluded from this beneficial arrangement, and the Bill now before the House is designed to repair this omission, and also permits Native Authorities to obtain advances from banks by overdraft upon the credit of the Native Authority concerned (clause 4). Under section 128 of the Eastern Region Local Government Ordinance, Local Government Councils are already so empowered.

Clause 3 of this Bill follows the provisions of section 127 of the Eastern Region Local Government Ordinance with the difference that in sub-clause (3) it is the Lieutenant-Governor who is empowered to order a rate, whereas under the Eastern Region Local Government Ordinance it is the Regional Authority. This is, however, in accordance with all the other powers of the Lieutenant-Governor under the Native Authority Ordinance.

Honourable Members know quite well that when we are in difficulties we like to get loans which we agree to pay back in due course, and there is no reason why Native Authorities should not be allowed to get loans as long as these loans are repaid.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Acting Legal Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That the Native Authority (Borrowing Powers) Bill be now read a second time."

Mr M. W. Ubani (Aba Division):

Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Bill so ably proposed by the Minister of Local Government. I think it must be a great pleasure for all Members of this Honourable House to know that we have reached that stage where we are considering giving facilities to the Native Authorities of the Region to have the power to raise loans for development and other aspects of their work. I think every Member present who has the interests of the Region in general at heart would be doing himself an injustice if he did not give his whole-hearted support to this motion so ably proposed.

For many years we have been crying that there has not been enough development work done in our rural areas. But these things are not achieved by mere words. The only method we have had for raising revenue for the Native Authorities has been by taxation, and when the Native Authorities raise their taxes, particularly when it happens every year, the people do not like it. But now when we have need of development in local areas we will have at our disposal the facilities that have been proposed this morning, giving us borrowing powers to raise loans which can be repaid over a number of years. I feel that now we are actually following the steps that have been adopted and followed by Local Authorities in different parts of the world.

If we agree that the Local Government Ordinance of the Eastern Region, which embodies these borrowing powers, is acceptable to the whole of the Region, then it is vital that we raise no arguments against the motion. This motion in effect only gives powers to the Native Authorities to raise loans before they are able to assume their responsibilities as a Local Government body. Until they are able to assume their full responsibilities we cannot allow them to remain undeveloped and I therefore feel that the motion is such that it should receive the whole-hearted support of this House.

I feel, Sir, that this Bill should have a very easy passage and should not provoke any criticism. This, Sir, is a very welcome motion indeed and I can assure you that the people of the Eastern Region will be greatly benefited.

Mr T. N. P. Birabi (Ogoni Division):

Sir, I beg to make a few observations on this motion and would also like to have a few points clarified. In the Eastern Region we have a series of communities, some in the townships, and some in the rural areas. It is quite easy to talk of rating in the townships but in the rural areas it is quite another matter, and I would like to suggest that the Bill makes special provision for this difference, with particular reference to the needs of the areas concerned and the facilities available.

I, myself, would not like at the start of our first session to begin with borrowing money. I do not consider it a privilege that I should be given the power to borrow money. I do not consider that a step forward at all. I think it is more a step forward to explain our needs to the people and then encourage them to rate themselves and produce the money. Supposing we borrow £20,000 for the development of Ogoni Division and agree to pay that money back say in three months or five years. In either case it is easy to get the money and not easy to pay it back, and I consider it would be a calamity to sell land in order to find the money to repay such a loan. I consider that Local Government should be properly constituted all over the East before we give authority to Local Councils and Native Authorities to borrow money. I suggest that the Bill be postponed until such time as Local Government is properly constituted in the East. I do not think that it is necessary at this stage to begin by making loans. I do not think it is a very happy omen nor do I think it is a privilege.

Mr J. U. Nwodo (Nsukka Division):

Mr Chairman, Honourable Members, while I stand in support of this Bill, I have one objection to make. Local Government bodies in England are empowered to float loans, but they are not empowered to build reserves. I do not know whether or not this obtains in the Eastern Region Local Government Ordinance. If Native Authorities have already invested money overseas and built up surpluses, they should withdraw those surpluses and be allowed to float loans.

Apart from this objection, I fully support that Native Authorities should have the power to float loans.

The Acting Legal Secretary:

Sir, at this present stage we are speaking to the principle of this Bill. All this Bill seeks to do is to enable Native Authorities, if they wish, to borrow. The provisions with respect to rating are there for the benefit of the person or body who loans the money. No one is going to loan money unless he knows that he is going to get it back, and one way that he can be sure he will get his money back is if there is provision such as here, that when all else fails the local area can be rated to produce the money due to him. There is no suggestion that Native Authorities have got to borrow, as one Honourable Member seemed to think, nor is it considered that this power will immediately be invoked by all or many of the Native Authorities. What is intended is that Native Authorities should not be in any worse position than other Local Government bodies in the Region, and that is all that this Bill seeks to do. It is true that some

Native Authorities may be ready to have investments overseas, and in that case they will not require to use the powers conferred upon them by this Bill.

Mr E. Essien (Calabar Division):

Mr Chairman and Honourable Members . . .

The President:

I must invite Honourable Member's attention to a point of order: a Member must address the Chair and not the House. The Honourable Member is addressing the House, which is out of order.

Mr E. Essien (Calabar Division):

Mr Chairman, while I rise to support the motion moved by the Minister for Local Government, I have only one objection to make and that is contained in paragraph 3, sub-section (a) which says . . . "and for the purpose of raising such sum the Lieutenant-Governor shall have the power to make and levy a general or special rate."

The Acting Legal Secretary:

On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member is not speaking to the principle of the Bill.

The President:

I must hold that the Honourable Member is out of order and must speak to the principle of the Bill.

Mr A. U. A. Inyang (Ikot Ekpene Division):

Sir, I think the Bill is just one to bring the Native Authority Ordinance into line with that of the Local Government Ordinance inasmuch as no Native Authority is compelled to raise loans if it has enough money to foot its Bills. They will not be compelled to raise loans. I am sure no loan will be granted to a Native Authority without the revenue of the area concerned being known, so that the money can be refunded after tax collection. If the people of an area are rated and have been notified that the loan was being used for the benefit of the area, they will gladly pay the rates. Once they are told how the loan is to be liquidated I do not see anything controversial in this Bill and I support it.

Mr J. A. Wachuku (Aba Division):

It is not often that bouquets are given to Government but I think it is time for one now. I think this Bill is fairly opportune and anyone who sees developments in the townships realises it is not because the townships have all the money but that they have borrowing powers. They are able to borrow money, give guarantees and securities and are allowed a time-limit within which to pay. The result is that we have developments in the townships. I think Native Authorities stand in a very good position now to make long-term plans to get loans and give assurances that within such and such a time they will be able to pay the loan back. I think anybody here who understands the principle of the Bill would not oppose it and I am confident that Members of this Honourable House will decide to give it a very easy passage.

If you cannot show people a concrete benefit and talk of something far remote from what they can see, they are unwilling to pay a rate. But if you show them something concrete and say this is what we have done, I

am quite sure they will be willing to pay a rate because they can see a concrete benefit. That is why I support the principle of the Bill. I think this is a good time to introduce the Bill now that we have entered into a new era even if we are on the verge of bankruptcy. I do not think this Bill should take a long time to debate and I am confident that Members on this side of the House will support it wholeheartedly. There may be slight objections but they will not affect the principle of the Bill and I recommend it as something worthwhile. It should have a very easy passage.

The Minister of Lands and Survey (Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma):

Sir, I beg to move that the question be now put.

The Minister of Education (Mr R. I. Uzoma):

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That the question be now put."

(No debate arising).

The President:

The question is "That the question be now put." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

The question is "That the Native Authority (Borrowing Powers) Bill" be now read a second time. Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Native Authority (Borrowing Powers) Bill. Committee Stage.
Order for Committee read.

In the Committee.

Clauses 1-2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3.

Mr E. U. Eronini (Owerri Division):

Sir, I beg to move that the words "in Council" be inserted after the words "Lieutenant-Governor" wherever the latter appear in the clause.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3 as amended ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Chairman:

The question is "That I do report the Bill to the House as amended."

Agreed to.

The President resumed the Chair.

The President:

I have to report that the Committee has gone through the Bill and directed me to report that four amendments of some substance have been made thereto. The Minister of Local Government, what is your pleasure?

The Minister of Local Government (Mr E. I. Oli):

That the Bill be read a third time forthwith and passed.

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

The Native Authority (Borrowing Powers) Law, 1952—Third Reading.

The Minister of Local Government (Mr E. I. Oli):

Sir, I beg to move that the Bill entitled "A Law to enable Native Authorities in the Eastern Region to raise loans within Nigeria" be now read a third time and passed.

The Acting Legal Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That the Native Authority (Borrowing Powers) Bill be read a third time and passed." (No debate arising).

The President:

The question is "That the Native Authority (Borrowing Powers) Bill be read a third time and passed." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I rise to move that this House do now adjourn until 9 o'clock on Saturday morning. There is no further business notified for the Order Paper before this time and I think Honourable Members will welcome an opportunity to study the estimates and the memorandum on them, and also the Honourable the Financial Secretary's Speech, so that they can be adequately prepared for the debate on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill which will be coming up on Saturday morning. We cannot adjourn until Friday because, as I stated yesterday, in this Region we are observing Friday as a Day of Remembrance for His late Majesty. Memorial services have been arranged which I trust Honourable Members will wish to attend.

Another point that arises is that we have a good deal of business to transact in the Committee of Selection. This Committee has a very important and urgent task before it, that is to arrange the membership of all the Committees of this House. The business of this House can hardly go forward satisfactorily until these Committees have been appointed. I expect that it will probably take the Committee of Selection the best part of the time remaining today and probably the greater part of tomorrow to get these committees satisfactorily arranged so that they are thoroughly representative of the House.

I therefore beg to move that the House do adjourn until 9 o'clock on Saturday, because under our Standing Rules Saturday is a short day and on a short day the House meets at 9 o'clock.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is that the House do now adjourn until 9 o'clock on Saturday morning.

Mr S. A. George (Mamfe Division):

We who attend the meetings find it rather difficult to obtain the papers which we require for our study before the House sits. I appreciate the papers may have to come from Lagos, but unfortunately I am at a loss because I have not got my copy of the Regional Estimates. I hope I can get one.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

If the Honourable Member will see me afterwards I will do my best to remedy this; but it is hardly a matter for debate on a motion to adjourn.

Dr A. A. N. Orizu (Onitsha Division):

I wonder whether the motion could be considered and that we adjourn until Monday at 10 o'clock, so that we would have more time to study the Estimates and consequently have a more expeditious House on Monday.

The Acting Legal Secretary:

I move that the question be now put.

The Minister of Education (Mr R. I. Uzoma):

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That the question be now put." (No debate arising).

The President:

The question is "That the question be now put." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

The President:

The question is "That the House do adjourn until 9 a.m. on Saturday morning." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The House divided: "Ayes" 43, "Noes" 26.

Division No. 1

Time 10.55 a.m.

AYES

NOES

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region.
The Financial Secretary, Eastern Region.
The Development Secretary, Eastern Region.
The Resident, Cameroons Province.
Agim, E. A.
Akpabio, I. U.
Awgu, M. C.
Birabi, T. N. P.
Chalcroft, R. H.
Chikwendu, A. O.
Chime, E. A.
Davies-Manuel, D.
Ekpe, A. J.
Enang, D. O.
Eyo, E. O.
Ezerioha, F. N.
Foncha, J.
Ibe, M. N.
Imeh, I. U.
Ita, O. O.
Iwuagwu, R. O.
Kangsen, J. C.

Anu, D. O.
Anyika, N. N.
Assam, D. U.
Charley, R. N.
Eronini, E. U.
Essien, E.
Foju, M. N.
George, S. A.
Ibeagi, U.
Inyang, A. U. A.
Motomby-Woletae, P. N.
Nwachuku, A.
Nwankwo, V.
Nweke, O. O.
Nweze, N.
Nwodo, J. U.
Offor, F. E.
Okon, G. I.
Okpokam, K. J. N.
Onukaogu, S. E.
Onyike, A. N.
Orizu, A. A. N.
Saronwiyo, F. M. A.

Koripamo, R. J. E.
Lainjo, V. T.
Mbu, M. T.
Mpi, J.
Muna, S. T.
Ndze, J. T.
Ngala, A. T.
Nnaji, D. A.
Nsirim, J. A.
Okoya, E. P.
Oli, E. I.
Onyeri, V. K.
Read, K. W. H.
Tom-George, D. D.
Ubani, M. W.
Udoma, E. U.
Umoh, A. G.
Umo-Inyang, R. U.
Una, S. J.
Uzoma, R. I.
Wachuku, J. A.

Udom, H. P.
Ugwu, D. C.
Ukuta, R. O.

Tellers for the Noes:
N. N. Mbile and M. E. Ogon

Tellers for the Ayes:
The Legal Secretary and S. W.
Ubani-Ukoma

The President:

For the "Ayes" 43, for the "Noes" 26. The "Ayes" have it.

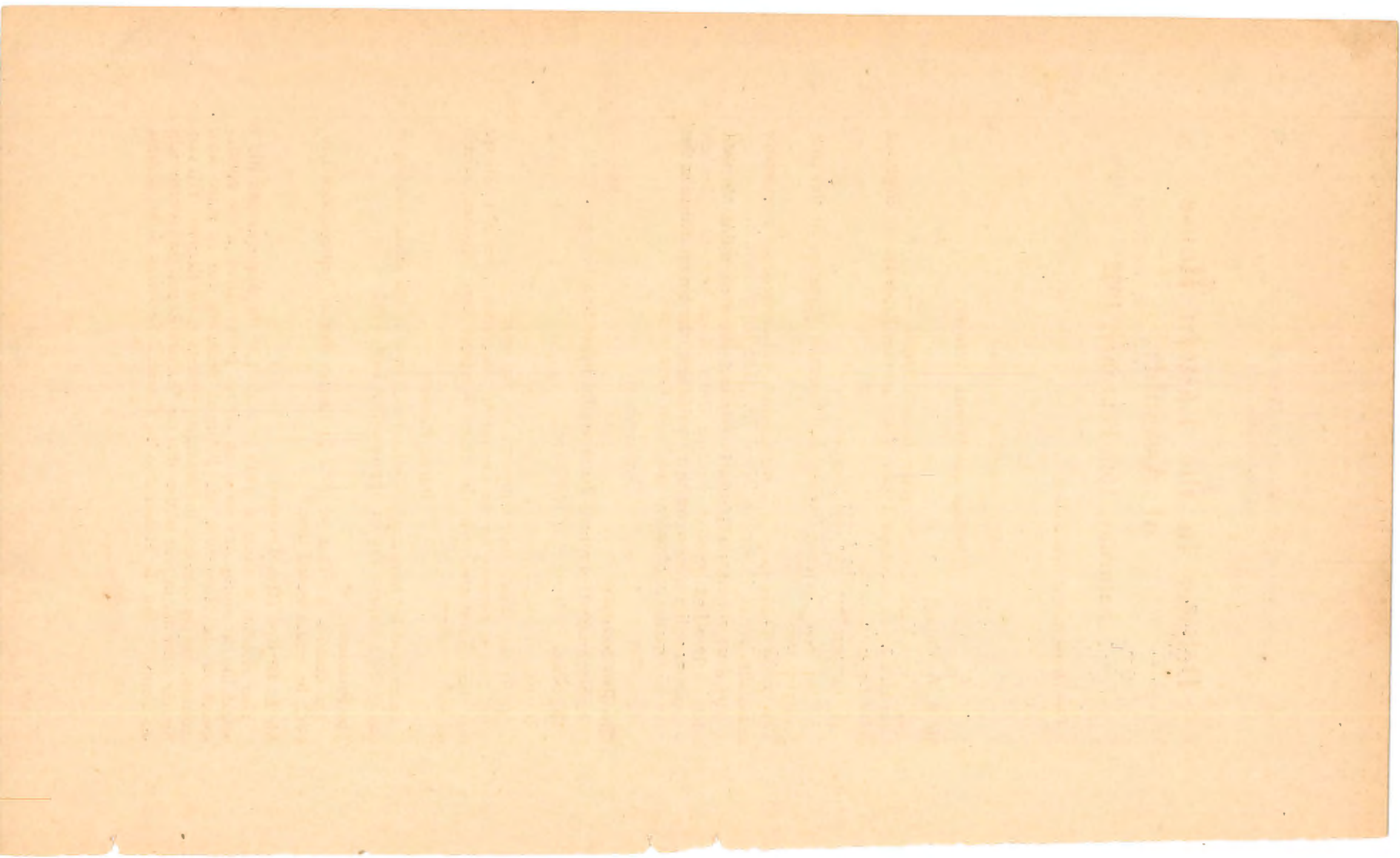
Before adjourning the House I wish to invite Honourable Members' attention to subsection 8 of Standing Order 38 on page 20. Members' consciences will I think agree that on this first occasion of a division they were very much out of order.

Adjournment

The President:

I adjourn the House until 9 a.m. on Saturday, 16th February, 1952.

The House adjourned at 11.10 a.m.



Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Saturday, 16th February, 1952

The House met at nine o'clock.

Prayers

(Mr President in the Chair)

Questions and Written Answers

Mr E. A. Chime:

32. To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:—

(a) How many Secretary-Typists and Verbatim Reporters are employed in the Eastern Region?

(b) Of these, how many are Nigerians?

(c) Do these Secretary-Typists and Verbatim Reporters sit the same qualifying tests?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, will Government consider the advisability of:—

(i) these Secretary-Typists and Verbatim Reporters sitting the same qualifying tests?

(ii) arranging a short course of training in the United Kingdom for aspiring Nigerians to qualify for these posts?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary:

(a) Six Secretary-Typists. No Verbatim Reporters.

(b) None.

(c) No.

(d) (i) No. Since their duties are not the same.

(ii) This is a matter for the Central Administration. But it is believed that there are at present in the United Kingdom some Nigerian trainees on such a course.

Public Business

Order read for resuming the adjourned debate on the second reading of the 1952-53 Eastern Region Appropriation Law, 1952.

The President:

The question is "That the 1952-53 Eastern Region Appropriation Law, 1952, be read a second time."

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division):

Your Honour, in rising to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill I would like to express my views on certain points raised in the opening speech of the Honourable the Financial Secretary and to make some comments on the economic and financial problems of the Region. You said, Sir, the other day in your address that the "Eastern Region ship is financially sea-worthy." But the Honourable the Financial Secretary, in his address,

revealed two things, (1) that the greater part of the Region's revenue is derived from the revenue of Nigeria and (2), that the Region in the next financial year becomes a separate financial unit and it is likely that it will require much if not all of the Region's surplus fund, estimated at £260,000, for working capital. Surely, Sir, those two statements made by the Honourable the Financial Secretary do not offer any grounds for optimism. It is noteworthy, Sir, that for the past five years we have been planning our own economy on the famous 10-Year Development Plan which was formulated in 1945 and was intended to cover developments up to the year 1956. Incidentally, Sir, the year 1956 is the year that this House will be dissolved. Reading through the commentary on the Draft Estimates and going through the opening speech of the Honourable the Financial Secretary, there is no indication and I would say no basis for computation as to the Region's ability to bear the residual cost of the Plan when the Colonial Development and Welfare Grants shall cease in 1956. That omission, Sir, will surely evoke a debate from this side of the House, on Government long-term policy. It is true, Sir, that the Region has some potential wealth which, if developed, will mean a lot to the Region, but it is equally true that these minerals lying below the surface of the ground are worth nothing to the Region until they are brought to the surface. The problem therefore arises as to how and when shall we develop these minerals and how and when will factories be established in this Region so that the wealth of the Region may be increased and all the people of the Region brought to share in the resultant prosperity. The two things are vitally important, Sir, and I lay great emphasis on them: (1) the wealth of the Region must be increased and (2) all the people of the Region must be brought to share in the resultant prosperity. Until these two things are done there can be no talk of development in this Region.

We have heard of the operations of the Shell D'Arcy Company which is prospecting for oil in Owerri Province. We have heard of the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria also prospecting in Ogoja Province and we have also heard of the Anglo-American capital connections in the lead-zinc deposits in Abakaliki. All these, Sir, are foreign companies and it would be of public interest to know three things about these foreign companies. (1) Whether these companies are registered and incorporated in Nigeria. (2) Whether these companies are incorporated in Great Britain and America, and are only registered in Nigeria in order to carry out their mining operations, and (3) whether Nigerian capital has been or would be invested in these companies to enable Nigerians to share in the net profits and have some sort of controlling interest in the minerals of their own country. These three questions do arise and they are pertinent to the issues, bearing in mind the fate of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in the oil dispute in Persia.

Now, Sir, two things stand out quite clearly in the 1952-53 Estimates. The first is lack of revenue, and the second is what I would like to describe as the insatiable proclivity to spend all the money that the Region can afford. I am afraid, Sir, that these two things will eventually land this Region in bankruptcy. The essence of good politics, the essence of good administration, is sound financial practice. That, Sir, is an acceptable principle, has been accepted universally, and should be accepted in this Region and adhered to rigidly. I would attribute lack of revenue to the fact, Sir, that the revenue-earning Departments have refused to earn enough revenue. I say they have refused to earn enough revenue because while

they are in a position to earn enough revenue, they have not done so. The Agricultural Department is an outstanding example. This Department, Sir, could earn more revenue than any other Department. Instead of producing all the yams, rice, cassava, plantains, coco-yams and all the foodstuffs required in this Region, this Department specialises in, and is eternally bent on research, demonstrations and experimentation, with no substantial dividend. Now, Sir, I must point out that these researches, demonstrations and experiments are of interest only to the scientists of the Agricultural Department. They do not interest the tax-payers of this Region. These tax-payers want the scientists of the Agricultural Department to apply the result of the various researches and experiments and lay large areas into production of food-crops, and increase the crop output to meet the demands of the Region. The tax-payers want the scientists of the Agricultural Department to lay out, say, 1,000 acres in each of the thirty-three divisions in the Region, and apply all the fertilisers, manures, lime, phosphates and everything that science has offered to them, to produce all the foodstuffs required in this Region, so that each division may have enough food and more to supply to the Northern and Western Regions, and then the Agricultural Department will earn more revenue than any other Department. It is very surprising, Sir, that it has never occurred to Government all these years, that most, if not all, of the agitations in this country, have their roots in the stomach. Each time a civil servant agitates, each time the tax-payers agitate, the cause can be traced to hunger. It is therefore, the duty of Government to provide enough food for everybody in this Region. In India, Sir, Mr Nehru is reported to have urged agricultural colleges not to grant degrees or diplomas to any students until they have gained at least twelve months' practical experience on farms. Following this example, Sir, I would suggest that no employee in the Agricultural Department should earn any increment or promotion until he has cultivated and produced foodstuffs from at least one acre of land. Until this is done, Sir, every penny spent in that Department is simply money wasted. While on the question of food production, I must draw attention to the awful waste of man-power in the Region. It is disgraceful, Sir, that owing to lack of proper economic planning, most of our young men have been driven by hunger into the Fernando Po Island in order to earn some living. Surely, Sir, the Fernando Po Island is not more of an agricultural country than Nigeria is. When we shall come to plan our economy seriously, and undertake large scale productions, this question of man-power will arise, and I am sure, Sir, that we will then be forced to pay higher wages as sufficient inducement to attract labour.

I now come to my second charge of insatiable proclivity to spend all the money that the Region can afford. This is a very serious charge, Sir, and is a serious reflection on the administration. Government must limit its recurrent expenditure to absolute necessities. It can do this in two ways: (1) by abolishing all redundant posts in the civil service, and (2) by recruiting only technical and professional personnel into the civil service. These two points have been harped upon in the past, but no notice appears to have been taken. If the worst came to the worst, Sir, I am afraid that the tax-payers of this Region will have to take a definite stand, and, dictate exactly what they consider to be the essential services for which their money should be expended. I pray and hope, Sir, that it will not be necessary for the tax-payers to do this. Development, Sir, is not merely planning schemes and spending money. There are many agencies fostering

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development in this Region, but the trouble is that co-ordination between them is not strong enough. I have in mind the various Native Authorities, Township Authorities and Local Government bodies. It is impossible for this House to attempt to develop the whole of this Region. These Native Authorities, etc., must undertake more and more of the development of their own localities. It is necessary therefore, Sir, that the Local Government reforms be introduced as quickly as possible in all the thirty-three divisions in the Region. It is true, Sir, that the Eastern Regional Production Development Board has initiated certain schemes in the Region: cocoa and coffee cultivation, coco-nut plantations, pioneer oil mills, and is now planning to spend £300,000 for a 10,000-acre Oil Palm Estate in the Calabar Province. This Oil Palm Estate, we are told, will be managed by the Colonial Development Corporation, which, curiously enough, will soon establish a sack factory at Onitsha. Now, Sir, I would like to point out that the operations of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board and its connections with the Colonial Development Corporation all point to one direction, and one direction only, namely, the production of agricultural products for export, and nothing else. It is a matter for debate, Sir, in this House, as to whether the schemes proposed by the Eastern Regional Production Development Board in partnership with the Colonial Development Corporation are really, truly and sincerely in the interest and welfare of the people of this Region. At the risk of striking a discordant note, Sir, I am afraid, I must say here that the story of the notorious Groundnut Scheme in East Africa which was initiated by the Colonial Development Corporation is still fresh in the minds of all Nigerians; and, while we, as Colonials, are very much in sympathy with Great Britain in the economic crisis which she is facing at the moment, I will refuse to support, and I am certain we were not elected into this Legislature to support, any economic policy and/or schemes designed wholly and solely to keep the British Pound which we know is falling. Subject to my observations, Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr L. N. Mbanefo (Onitsha Division):

Your Honour, I feel that as this is the first Budget Session under the new Constitution, it is gratifying to feel that the Budget has been balanced. But I say that, Sir, with a great amount of trepidation. In the course of my speech I shall endeavour to explain why I have a feeling of satisfaction in a way that the Budget has been balanced and also at the same time a complete sense not entirely of frustration but of lack of direction and guidance for the future. In accepting the Budget, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our new Ministers. Although the Budget is the Budget of the Honourable the Financial Secretary, we have no doubt that he is now in a position where he can draw from the knowledge and support of our new Ministers. It is the first time in history that the Budget has been introduced in a legislature in this country with the previous knowledge, co-operation and assistance of African Members of the Government, and I feel that this deserves to cause a certain amount of jubilation. It shows that we are now marching forward towards the goal of self-government, of which this is only the beginning. Now, Sir, in the past, it was relatively easy for the Financial Secretary to prepare estimates or rather to balance the Budget. It was easy in this sense: when he had worked out the needs of the Region and prepared his figures he jumped into a plane to Lagos to meet the Financial Secretary of the Central

Government and across the table he would argue out his case for greater allocation and try to convince him that it was necessary for the needs of the Region to be met. It was not all that easy but it was certainly a happier position for him than he is in now under the new Constitution. He has got a definite allocation and he knows the sources from which he can expect money from the Centre, and he is left with the co-operation of the Ministers to find out ways and means of planning the Budget within the Region. We, who are on this side of the House and who have the privilege of being the watch-dog of the public to see that the Honourable the Financial Secretary and the Ministers behind him do not too easily run away with things, would like to give them an assurance that when it comes to economic matters and the general policy of the Region they will have our co-operation, provided we are satisfied that they are acting in the best interests of the Region. But when they begin to fail in their duty we shall not sleep and we will not let them rest. In dealing with this Budget I should like them to appreciate that we are not completely satisfied with the indications for the future, or rather the lack of indications for the future policy of the Region on economic matters, which is so conspicuous from the speech of the Financial Secretary. The Budget has been balanced with a small margin of surplus, £92,000, about 2 per cent of the total revenue of the Eastern Region. In my humble opinion, this is a very small margin, especially as we have not built up large reserves in the past on which we can fall in case of need. I wonder what will happen if we have to prepare a supplementary estimate during the course of the year which will eat up all this balance. How then, could we hope to run the country for the remaining part of the year? I know we have a quarter of a million pounds in the Eastern Region General Revenue Balance Account, but I do not regard that as a Reserve because that money was voted in the past to be spent on certain essential services but could not be spent for lack of staff and materials. Therefore that money is not reserve at all, because the services for which it was voted still remain and will have to be carried out some time. Our reserve, therefore, is only £92,000, and at the end of the Budget of the Financial Secretary we are left completely in the dark as to what is going to be done to build up reserves in the Region. It is absolutely essential in the Eastern Region that ways and means be found on which we can hope to establish the economic policy of the Eastern Region. At the Centre there are no doubt formidable reserves built up for the country which we cannot get at, but if we put forward a claim we shall be met with equal claims from the other Regions. I hope that in the next twelve months before the next Budget Session plans will be forthcoming showing us what is proposed to be done in order to eliminate this unhappy position. As I said before, the Honourable the Financial Secretary has now the support of the Ministers elected from the floor of this House. But if our Ministers come from the same school of economics as we have heard propounded in a speech this morning, then there is no hope for the country. I hope they will not hesitate to be bold in initiating sound economic policy in the interest of the Region, based on sound economics, without regard to the consequences that might follow. It is their duty to the Region that they must be able to do their duty without regard to consequences. In the speech of the Honourable the Financial Secretary, he said that the pace of progress of the Region should not only be continued but accelerated. The problem is to find ways and means of achieving this. The problem is the responsibility of Government, but we

are prepared, of course, to give whatever assistance is required. It is no longer the Government we knew in the past, it is Government with the support of the Honourable Gentlemen sitting on the other side of the floor, and it is their responsibility as much as that of the Ministers.

Your Honour said in your address that our policy should be the unity of Nigeria and the development of the Region. We fully endorse that statement. I do not think there is any Honourable Member on the floor of this House who would not subscribe to the statement that it is essential for the future of this country and for our desire for self-government that there must be unity at the Centre and development in the Regions and a Central Government responsible to the people. The Honourable Gentlemen whom we have sent to the Centre are fully aware of this fact; they have shouted it for so long and we expect them to work hard to achieve it at the Centre. It is the one outstanding aspect of the new Constitution that at the Centre no one Region is given real majority, and therefore the only policy open to all the Regions is the policy of working together. Nothing can be achieved at the Centre unless they do all work together, and therefore it behoves our Members who represent this Region at the Centre to do everything they possibly can to see that this policy is carried out. If they start to talk on other lines I am sure they will not be doing any service to this country.

We now come to the other part of Your Honour's statement, the progress and development of the Region. Under the new Constitution it is implicit that if Nigeria is to be developed, development has to come from the Regions. To put it another way, it is clear that there can be no party politics at the Centre. We can only develop Nigeria by developing the Regions and, therefore, the greater burden of development rests on the Ministers in the Region. We shall expect from the new Ministers, schemes and plans for development, for the most they can expect from the Centre is their blessing. When the House meets again before the Budget Session in another twelve months we shall look forward to definite schemes from our Ministers in this respect. Sir, it is gratifying to know that our Minister for Natural Resources is the leader of the party with a majority in this House. We shall look forward to seeing them carry the burdens of the Eastern Region with the same degree of enthusiasm as they have shown in the elections. In this respect I should like to sound a note of warning. You cannot develop our natural resources by empty words. We must have capital. If we haven't got it then we must attract it and you don't attract it by irresponsible talk. The Eastern Region cannot be changed overnight by waving a magic wand. We have to attract not only capital but men. If you want to attract people to put money into the Eastern Region we must be careful what words we utter. The conditions under which we get the money is another matter but capital by itself does not go very far however. If you put £20 into the coffers it remains £20. It is idea that multiplies it and we have to attract ideas if we are to make the maximum use of the capital we are going to expend. It is very easy to draw parallels with Persia, India and the United States of America. By all means draw parallels but remember we are in Nigeria and not in those places. And when we think of the development of this country we have to think in terms of Nigeria and not in terms of Persia, India or the United States of America.

Having dealt with the question of the general policy in the East we now come to the Estimates. It is gratifying to see that 30 per cent of the

whole sum will be spent on Education. There is no matter so dear to the hearts of the Eastern people as Education, and we are glad to see that it has been given pride of place in the Budget. We will like to warn our Minister for Education, however, that when we have spent this enormous amount of money we shall expect to get results. We want more schools but we want an improvement in the quality of education. Bad education is worse than no education at all and we hope that when next we come here we shall be able after hearing what he has to put before us, to say that our money has been well spent. We want more and better roads in the Eastern Region. I wish it were possible for us to know exactly what proportion of the money voted for expenditure by the P.W.D. is devoted to the building of roads. It is useless looking for a bright economic future in the East unless we can improve our means of access. There is no doubt that some of our roads in the Eastern Region are in such a deplorable condition that instead of helping to promote our economic advance, they are, in fact, creating a waste for the Region. We are aware, of course, of the proposal under the Ten-Year Development Plan for expenditure on roads. That is not enough. Native Administration roads have got to be maintained. We are setting up Local Governments, of which I shall say more later on, and one of their heaviest responsibilities is the maintenance of roads. Something has to be done to see that these roads, which in the past we have not bothered very much about and which now have become serious links in our pattern for economic development in the Region are well looked after and well maintained.

When one looks at the expenditure on our Medical Services side by side with Education, it looks quite small. This year, there is about £100,000 increase on last year's Estimate of Expenditure. I wish it were possible for us to see that more money would be spent on it, but unfortunately our reserve is only £92,000 and that does not leave the Region with much elbow room in which we can improve our Medical Services. We should like to sound a note for the future, that as soon as it is possible to do so, we should like to see their item increased and also improved medical facilities provided for the Region. I will not go into details here because that will be a matter for the Committee Stage of the Bill but we want our Minister for Public Health to take note that the economic advancement of the Region is useless unless the health of the people is also improved. It is absolutely essential for economic progress to maintain the health of the population. Our labour resources are drawn from the people and if the health of the people is not good you can't expect much from them. We hope that this side of expenditure will be increased as soon as means are available.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I am rising on a point of order. Under Standing Order 32 a Member is limited to a speech of 30 minutes but this time may be extended on a motion accepted by this House. I propose that the Member in question be allowed, in your discretion, a certain amount of extra latitude.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That the Member's time should be extended by half an hour." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those against "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

Mr L. N. Mbanefo (Onitsha Division):

Thank you very much, Sir. Unfortunately our problems in the East are so complex that one cannot easily talk about them in thirty minutes, and I am much obliged for this extension of time given to me. It will be necessary in examining our economic policy to look round and examine our revenue resources in the Region. We get the bulk of our revenue as grants from the Centre. As a matter of fact 83.4 per cent of the total Estimates of the Region will come as grants from the Centre and that figure accounts for about £3,581,950 of the total estimated revenue of £3,949,190, leaving only £367,000 to come from the Region. Of this, tax on sale of motor spirit account for just under half, and if we leave out revenue from motor spirit we find that about 9.3 per cent of the total revenue of the Region has to come from sources within the Region. That, Sir, is nothing to be proud of and we must re-examine our sources of revenue within the Region. One of our sources we have to examine is the system of taxation. The double system of taxation, Sir, is in my humble opinion, of no help, and I had hoped that the Honourable the Financial Secretary in his speech would have given us some guidance or indication as to what is going to happen in the future with regard to this double system of taxation. We have to make sure that we get the maximum that is required for the Region out of our system of taxation. Financial relations between the Region and the Local Governments will also have to be re-examined. We have adopted, or rather followed on the old system, and if our Local Governments are to have any future at all, it must be quite clear to them from what sources they are to expect their money to come. The division of tax between the Regional Government and the Native Authorities or the Local Government has to be re-examined. It may be necessary to have it clearly set out what every citizen is paying to the Region and what he is paying to the Centre. At present some Native Authorities and Local Governments get 100 per cent of the tax, others 50 per cent or 75 per cent. I feel, Sir, that this requires to be fully examined and the position set out so that the Native Authorities and the Local Governments in working out any official policy would know exactly what they could expect.

Your Honour, in your Budget Address you mentioned steps that are being taken to improve food production. I agree with the Honourable Member who spoke last that it is very essential to look after this aspect of our economy, but I do not agree with him in his remarks about the economic schemes of the Agricultural Department. This Department has done a tremendous amount in the last few years to give guidance and show how best to improve food production, and I do not think we can expect more than that. After all, how much are we spending on agriculture—barely £100,000. You cannot run plantations, finance food production and open up thousands of acres on £100,000. In fact that is not the job of the Agricultural Department. I am sure if the Agricultural Department tomorrow started to open up big schemes and large-scale food production, the schemes would be attacked not by Government but by the public. That is not what the Department has to do. I am sure there is scope for private enterprise to invest in the large-scale production of food.

One of the bright spots in Your Honour's address was the Eastern Regional Production Development Board, which unfortunately is being confused with the Eastern Region Development Board. The Production Board is different from the Loans Board. When one looks at the catalogue

of schemes proposed by the Board it gives one hope for the future. It seems to me that Honourable Members have not fully digested what the Board is set up to do and what it has achieved. Schemes such as the Board has proposed hold out tremendous hope for the future, both in economic development of the Region and food production within the Region.

In conclusion, I would like to say that while we support the Appropriation Bill, we would like to emphasise, as I said before, the lack of definite direction for the future; we hope that we shall be told in due course how best we can hope to improve the economic development of the Region and to improve the revenue coming from the Region. We have heard of certain industries that might come in the future, but we would like a more direct exposition of how the revenue of the Region will be improved in the future. We can assure the Ministers and the Honourable the Financial Secretary that provided the schemes work well and can really make for the betterment of the Eastern Region, they will have our whole-hearted support in negotiating any policy they introduce on these lines.

Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr E. U. Eronini (Owerri Division):

Your Honour, it is not my wish to speak long, but I would like to raise a few points from the address of the Honourable the Financial Secretary. The first I would like to refer to is in connection with paragraph 5 of that address and with Your Honour's permission I will read an extract:—

“It is also now proposed, in consequence of the constitutional developments, to get away from the old procedure under which every single variation from the Approved Estimates has to be referred to a Committee of the House, and to follow instead the modern procedure of the United Kingdom under which variation in the details of expenditure appropriated under each Head of the Estimates are placed within the competence of the public officers responsible for such matters, subject, of course, to examination in due course by the Public Accounts Committee. It is therefore proposed that this “power of virement,” as it is called, should be exercised by the Financial Secretary in respect of Savings and Excesses, provided no excess of the Head of expenditure is caused thereby.”

Your Honour, the last speaker before me has said we are in Nigeria and not in America or Persia, and that seems to hold good here. We are in Nigeria, and if the Financial Secretary can take upon himself to allow Heads of Departments to spend more on one item and spend less on another, it means that we can only come here to approve the Estimates *en bloc*. If we allow this, then I think we are signing our death warrant. Perhaps so much will be allowed for labour on a certain item and so much for transport and travelling, and in the end may be much less is spent on labour than on transport and travelling allowances, and the Financial Secretary is the only person to say Yes or No. We shall have no balance at the end of each year because whatever amount is allocated must be spent. If this is allowed to pass it will be a waste of time for Honourable Members to come here and examine the items of expenditure, for after all in the end the money may be spent on another item. It may be workable in England, but even there a Committee must examine these changes. Here the only person to examine the changes is the Financial Secretary,

not even with the approval of the Ministers. He is the only person to have this power and if we allow it I fear we are giving very great power to Heads of Departments to spend however they like.

It is interesting to note that the Loans Board has made a few loans, but that in respect to one loan it has arranged to hand over up to half a million pounds just to build one market. It is wonderful. It is just like a mother who has two children. One of them gets almost everything and the other gets very little. And yet when they go to hospital the doctor diagnoses malnutrition. The mother cannot understand it, but of course one is getting too much and the other too little. And therefore I think it is wrong to grant too much money just to improve one market.

The Loans Board has done a lot to improve the quality of our palm products—our principal export—but what has done more to improve our palm products, especially palm oil, is the increase now being given to our producers. But in the Financial Secretary's speech it is alarming to note that the palm oil sold for export decreased by 20,000 tons. This may be so, and there are reasons for it. There has been an increase in local consumption due to a rise in the standard of living and more oil has been consumed locally. The local price is more than the export price and therefore the producer is necessarily sending his oil to the local market. Therefore it is obvious that the price to the producer must be increased so that he will be prepared to send more of his produce for export. Another cause of this fall in export production is that many of the trees are becoming very old and are bearing little fruit. Unless we look sharp there will be a further decrease in our palm produce production. More trees must be planted, and that can only be done by giving loans to producers. Unless this is done there is no doubt that in the near future we shall have less oil for exportation.

Another point I should like to raise is in connection with Pioneer Oil Mills. Your Honour, at the start of this project it was the policy that the mills should be handed over to private individuals who are interested and capable of buying and running the mills. But recently the policy of the Board has been changed in regard to selling to private enterprise. Also, I have noted with concern the large number of expatriate officers employed in these mills. It is impossible for these mills to make a profit while they have to stand the heavy burden of the salaries of expatriate officers. I see no reason why Africans should not be trained to supervise these mills; there is no reason why we should not have African engineers and African managers. If that could be done in the near future then there would be enough profits to make the Pioneer Oil Mills a worth-while concern.

Sir, I now come to education. It is true, as the last speaker has said, that about 30 per cent of the expenditure of this country goes on education. That is all well and good, but are we having the maximum results from this expenditure? As far as I can see, most of the money goes on Education Officers. In almost every district now there are education officers. They go about collecting statistics and doing very little work. Most of the money goes in administration and very little goes to doing the actual work of teaching.

If I may, Sir, I will now come to the Administration. Under this new Constitution we now have our Ministers at the top, the Financial Secretary,

the Civil Secretary, the Legal Secretary and the Development Secretary. It seems to me now that our Administrative Service must be reorganised. The time has now come when we regard District Officers as Development Officers, because there is no need for District Officers as such. Those who cannot do development work must go somewhere else. The time has passed when the District Officer would remain in his office or remain in his house writing reports. He must now be a real Development Officer. And that brings me to Residents, Sir. As far as I can see there is now no place for Residents. The District Officer can write his reports direct to the Civil Secretary or to the Department concerned. It just means extra copying all the time if development reports have first to go to the Resident before they go to the Civil Secretary or Head of Department concerned. I hope our Ministers will see what can be done in that direction. No doubt the Residents have done a lot in the way of improvement and have helped the progress of this country, but the time has come for the Administration to be re-organised, otherwise we shall be nowhere.

And now, Sir, I will turn to the Medical Department. A great deal of money is being expended on this Department, too, and we must look to it that we get the maximum results for this expenditure. Some time ago our doctors were deprived of their private practice and this has made the service worse. In certain districts the doctor hardly ever comes to his office, and I think the Medical Department should arrange some sort of Advisory Board to direct local conditions and see that efficient work is done. There should be somebody staying a day or two with the native dispenser to see that the work is being done properly. Sometimes they do not see a doctor for five or six months and it seems to me that the doctors have lost interest in their work because they have been deprived of their private practice.

Sir, I give my support to the Bill.

Mr D. A. Nnaji (Udi Division):

I have but few remarks to make about the Appropriation Bill here before us because, being a new Member of the House I do not yet know how to express my criticisms or express my gratitude on looking at the Estimates. As it is, I must start off by congratulating the man who prepared them, that is the Honourable the Financial Secretary. Whether the draft is good or bad I have to congratulate him.

When I saw the Draft Estimates I compared them with what was printed last year and saw to my great surprise that instead of the Eastern Region becoming rich under the new Constitution it has become poor. I was also greatly surprised that instead of a reduction in the number of expatriate officers, more have been imported, and this is the main reason why the Region has become poor. When we talk about the ways of increasing the revenue of the Region we are talking about the future, but the present revenue is being drained away under the new Constitution, by enormous increases in the salaries of expatriate officers. Those who were earning £1,500 have gone to over £2,000; those who were on £950 have gone to over £1,000. So what I feel is we shall never have money in this Region while we are having all these people from overseas coming to take appointments in Nigeria, especially in the Eastern Region. Expatriate Officers should be reduced to the lowest minimum and they should be

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imported only in specific instances where local material cannot be had. Out of the £1,000,000 odd voted for Education in the Eastern Region we find that £111,250 goes to Personal Emoluments of which £10,000 is expatriation pay. How much then remains for the work of the Education Department in this Region? If it had not been for the agitations of certain organisations in this country the present Ministers would all have been expatriate officers, but none of the Ministers is getting as much as any of these expatriate officers. What shakes me most of all, Sir, is entertainment allowance. When a stranger comes to my house I hold myself responsible for his entertainment. I cannot ask people to collect money to help me entertain him. This money you call entertainment allowance, £1,680, is just draining away our money for nothing. And then we have travelling allowances. If I am an expatriate officer I can just get into my car, run down to a certain place, say I have inspected something and get travelling allowance. Travelling allowance is not included in car allowance. If you read the Estimates through you will see with what ingenuity they have been drafted. As I said before we have acting allowances. I do not know how many Africans in the Senior Service get acting allowances. These acting allowances put together for all departments come up to £7,520, and yet we say we have no money. We have money but it is being drained away unnecessarily. When we speak about the economic condition of the Eastern Region I say that the Eastern Region is very rich, particularly in natural resources. Our mineral resources in the Eastern Region are greater than those in the other two Regions but we have not got the companies ourselves to do the job in order that the profits derived would remain in the Region. The last speaker was talking about Pioneer Oil Mills. I fully support him in saying that there is no need to bring people here to sit and sign things and do travelling and inspection and take away the greater part of the money derived. That is very bad and we should train people to carry out these responsibilities here.

Your Honour, Education in this Region is a very important thing. In my area we have been trying to do the whole thing without the aid of the Government. Under the old system only Missionaries and Voluntary Agencies were helped to establish schools. Here in Enugu many people pay different kinds of rates and taxes but there is no single school provided for them by the Government. Yet over £1,000,000 has been voted for Education. My own people in Udi Division, have not benefitted at all from this money. If the educational system is to be improved I advocate that each division should be provided with a Government school and if people wish to pay money towards the maintenance of the schools they will be able to do so. In my own area we are proposing to levy rates ourselves in order to see that we get sufficient up-to-date schools but we were given no special encouragement. Voluntary Agencies do good work but they discriminate. I am a Catholic and if I send my son to a Methodist school they will ex-communicate me. This is the difficulty in allowing only Voluntary Agencies to continue establishing schools.

Now I come to the Agricultural Department. There have been those who criticise this Department but my own people in Udi Division do not criticise the Department. We have been given fertilisers and demonstration plots and we have been carrying on with them and if other divisions followed our example I do not think there would be the shortage of food

of which we hear so much. But the question that does worry us is the question of our young men who leave rural areas to go to the towns where they will do any kind of work—act as porter or conservancy man. In my opinion the Agricultural Department has done a lot of good work and the vote for that Department is too small and should be increased. If the money were increased there would be more demonstration plots, more fertilisers and more lime supply to the different localities, which would give more production of food.

I will refer to the question of pioneer oil mills again. Palm oil to us is just like cotton in the North and cocoa in the West—export crops. Personally, I want food crops. I think it is wrong to export food while our people suffer from hunger at home.

Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr D. D. Tom-George (Degema Division):

Your Honour, first of all, I have to congratulate you and all the Members who have made it possible for a majority of Africans to be in this House under the new Constitution. I know that it must have taken some months of consultation for this House to sit as it is today and Members must have spent a lot of time and energy in bringing about this new Constitution in which we have elected Members sitting here, and not nominated or appointed Members as in the past. That is something for which Nigeria and especially Eastern Nigerians should be happy about. We are just at the beginning of a new era and I think it is safe to say that we are now *en route* towards our goal. In the past, Members have been nominated to sit in this House and these nominated Members never knew the people they were representing; consequently they never got down to the difficulties and the problems of the people they were supposed to represent. Many of the Members have criticised the Draft Estimates and most of these criticisms have been fair and to the point, but I want to make a few observations myself. First of all, this question of education which has taken up so much of our time. I think we cannot say that we are making any advance in this country until we have mass literacy so that the people can understand what we are actually doing. I know there are many people in this Region who do not know that the new Constitution has come into force.

I am constrained to ask whether this £1,000,000 which is devoted for education in the next Financial Year will be given out entirely to the so-called Voluntary Agencies, leaving out those schools which are founded and run by Africans and which are wrongly called private schools. I do not quite remember but according to statistics I think there are no more than two of the so-called private schools in the Eastern Region that are being supported. Where a sincere effort has been made by the people themselves for the improvement and advancement of the people of that particular section I think it is the duty of Government to help such a school or community to carry on and not discourage it in such a selfless service. Where people have helped themselves I think it is safe to say that Government should come in and help such people. For that reason I am asking that the money earmarked for Grants-in-Aid to different schools should not go entirely to the Voluntary Agencies. Some Honourable Members have remarked that in their areas they pay education rate but have derived nothing whatsoever from it. That is true. Most of us pay

education rate and the people have welcomed it, yet nothing is said about schools in these areas. I am not saying, of course, that no Grants-in-Aid should be given to the foreign missions but at the same time I do not think it is a very good policy to recognise only one section of the schools in this country, for that is discriminatory. This is just the beginning and I say here that Government will find it safe to change its policy in this respect.

I want now to talk about this question of health. At the risk of becoming unpopular I must say that the Medical Department has not received what I think it deserves in the Estimates. I must say I am not very much impressed by the fact that the Police Department has received more than the Health Department. I know quite well we need more Police for our protection but whom will the Police protect if there is no one living. The Police want to protect living people. We want to increase the establishment of Medical Department and this should take precedence over the Police Department. For instance I can safely say there are places in the Eastern Region which a doctor visits once a year. The result, of course, is that the people are superstitious about diseases, and since the only available hospital is miles and miles away they cannot get to it and therefore they go to juju men who tell them lies and consequently they die. I think therefore more money should be expended on Medical Services. It is perhaps the most important service after education and it should be given consideration so that the villages and the rural areas as well as the townships have Medical facilities.

I now want to say something about our local industries. I do not know exactly what is meant by local industries, but £1,960 seems to me a very small sum to help the industrialisation of this country. Perhaps the Minister of Natural Resources will tell us what these industries are. I think this country is essentially an agricultural country and I do not think it is too much to say that we require a proper expansion of agricultural policy. We should have enough to live on and some surplus to export so that we make more money. I think the Agricultural Officers should go to all parts of the Region to advise people on how best to get a really good supply of food. Some small areas are completely neglected, but there is no reason why an area should not be reached simply because it is small and the people should not be helped. It is not the fault of that area that it happens to be in a part that Government is not interested in. All areas should advance at the same time.

Honourable Members have already spoken about expatriation pay but I do not think it is too much to reiterate the point. Your Honour, while I agree that we want expatriates, for no nation can advance unless it has people who know how to develop that nation, I still think we spend far too much money on expatriate officers. Shakespeare's dictum "what can they say of England who only England know" is still our model to look up to, for we cannot achieve anything unless we compare ourselves with someone else. It is only then that we can see if we are doing well or not. We must look at ourselves from that standpoint. The population of the Gold Coast is just about half that of the Eastern Region but the Gold Coast boasts of a revenue of 33 million pounds. This surely means that we have not adequately explored the natural resources of this country.

So far as I know Government has not been interested in exploring all parts of the Region but has confined its attention to a single section of the country, neglecting other sections because they have not found anything.

I don't know if Government is interested in fishing industry because I have seen nothing about fishing in the Estimates. We have our seas and waterways and there is plenty of fish in this Region. There is the Fisheries Department in Lagos and a part of it in Port Harcourt but I do not know if they have done anything yet about deep sea fishing. They are still on an experimental basis and that is why we have nothing from them.

I turn now to the Public Relations Department. I do not see why we have voted £15,000 to the Public Relations Department. I know that we get some revenue from that Department but I still do not see why as much as £15,000 has been voted for it.

Public Works, Your Honour. Nearly all the Public Works are carried out in Port Harcourt, Enugu, Onitsha, Aba and other areas where we can easily take our cars but not much attention is paid to feeder roads to the rural districts; in fact, it would be true to say these districts are completely neglected if my understanding of the Estimates is correct. There is no road from Degema to Port Harcourt and from Buguma to Degema, and it seems to me that Government's attitude to these areas of the Region is that they are a people to be heard and not seen at all. But, Sir, there are people living in these areas. It is no wonder that these people do not want to pay tax. They say every year Government gets large sums of money from them and yet does nothing for them with the money. Unless we are able to say now what we are doing with the money, it will not be easy to convince the village people for they want to see what is being done from day to day. In Enugu we see developments and all sorts of amenities being supplied and people here can see what is happening and we are on safe ground. Your Honour, I do not want to take much more time but I think these things should be seriously looked into by the Ministers of different Departments.

Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr K. J. N. Okpokam (Ikom Division):

President, I rise to make a few observations on the Draft Estimates. I feel that after so much money has been voted for services, everybody in the Eastern Region should be able to see what has been done with that money.

First of all, I will take the Department of Agriculture. I do not quite agree with the first speaker who said that the Department is not doing well because I do not think that it should be the Department's job to establish farms. I would not welcome the idea of giving out vast acres of land to the Agricultural Department to make farms. We want to produce the food ourselves but to receive instruction on how to make the food more abundant. I remember speaking to the Senior Agricultural Officer in Abakaliki, where a lot of good work is being done, that it was unfortunate the tractors he has brought to this country were only suitable for use in grassland and cannot be used in forest regions. I contend that the Department should be able to find tools suitable for use in all areas of the Region. I also gathered that the fertilisers he has produced were only good for certain areas in the Region and I hope the Department would see to it that it does good work in all areas of the Region.

I will now turn to the Education Department. So much money has been voted for education this year that I hope it will mean an increase in the number of schools and assistance not only to Mission Schools but also to schools established by Nigerians. All the schools have been established for

the education of the young children of this Region. If it happens that for lack of funds a man is not able to run a school properly, then he should be given assistance by Government. Teachers have been complaining seriously about their salaries. We cannot educate the people properly unless the teachers are happy. Happy teachers make happy children and happy children make a happy nation. More schools should be assisted and the teachers should be listened to.

Medical Services. I am indeed pleased to see that there has been an increase in the vote of the Medical Department. As one Member has already observed the doctors have not been happy since private practice was abolished and most of them are not doing the work they ought to do. I am talking from personal experience. I think that school children should not be charged fees when they go to Government Hospitals. Only people with income should be charged. School children should get free injections and free treatment and I feel that this money which has been voted should go, not only to pay doctors, nurses and dispensers, but, also to help the children who are the future rulers of this country. In Ikom Division there is only one Government Dispensary and one Native Administration Dispensary. The nearest hospital is ninety-three miles away. What a gross neglect! How long will Government continue to show no interest in the health of the people of this unfortunate division?

Sir, I do not know whether the Public Relations Office should not be regarded as a waste paper office if it exists only to print news. I think the Public Relations Office is meant to promote good relationship between Government and the people, and if that is so they cannot do it by just sitting and publishing newspapers. These people should go out into all parts of the Eastern Region and see what the sufferings of the people are and find ways to help them.

When we talk of development at present I think we are only referring to Enugu, Onitsha, Port Harcourt and Calabar. When you go out into the bush you do not see any development. Four years of the Development Plan have already gone and soon the whole thing will be over and the people would wonder, what has been done, with the development fund. The people of the Cross River are very hard-working and could produce all the yams for the Calabar, Onitsha and Owerri Provinces, but they are given no encouragement. The farmer has no bicycle because there are no roads and he has to trek four to ten miles into the forest to plant yams. Here in Enugu, I have seen many boys from my own division but they are not as happy here as they would be at home. What drives them away from the villages? It is because the villages are not developed. They come here because they are dissatisfied with conditions at home. If there is going to be any development in this country we should send people to tour the different parts of the Region so that they can see for themselves the difficulties under which the people actually work. I say that Government should send people out into the interior to see the difficulties which face the people and make recommendations for improvement. I am not against travelling allowances provided that the people travel for the benefit of the people of the Region.

Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr M. E. Ogon (Ikom Division):

Your Honour, many Members have spoken and I hope the things they said are taken seriously. For the past, Honourable Members have spoken

in this House and yet nothing was done to implement what they said. As I speak I want the Financial Secretary to take note of what is said and put right his omissions in the next financial year. I must disagree with the Second Member for Onitsha Division about what he calls "school boy economics." We should not discuss high economics here but take stock of common everyday economics and see where a drain upon our funds is being made. When this has been done progress will, undoubtedly, be accelerated. The Eastern Region is a very rich Region but it is being impoverished by the huge sums of money paid out in Personal Emoluments. To cite one concrete example—the expatriation pay of His Honour can pay all the Honourable Members of this House. His Honour would be doing great service to the Region if he uses his expatriation pay for the construction of two miles of road in Ikom Division.

The Second Member for Onitsha Division has destructively criticised the N.C.N.C. policy of unity. He should remember that it is as much his duty to unite the country as it is ours. Therefore, let him begin to unite the country by stopping the quarrels in the Onitsha Town Council, so that there will be unity in Onitsha, unity in the Eastern Region and unity in Nigeria.

I am not against the work of the Agricultural Department for I consider it very essential but I cannot see the point of demonstrating with implements that cannot be bought by the common farmer of Nigeria. There is no need to give us fertilisers yet because I know of instances where the local farmer has had a greater and better output than that obtained from the Agricultural Farm. All we want for the present is for the Public Works Department to extend and construct good roads so that the people of Ikom Division will not be separated from the rest of Nigeria, thereby forcing the people to live in a Robin Crusoe fashion.

I have no fault to find with the Police Vote because we are in need of more Police Officers but I am very dissatisfied with the work of Traffic Police. They are not doing their job of checking up on lorries, and, in fact, they are becoming more or less friends of the drivers.

In the Public Works Extraordinary Estimates, you will see that the Resident's house at Abakaliki costs £3,000 while his office cost £2,000. I think it is a very bad thing that an officer's living quarters should be bigger and better than the office where he gives his service to the country. It seems to me that if the Resident's Office, Abakaliki, cost £2,000 while the District Office at Aba cost £3,000 that Government is following its avowed policy of making Ogoja the most backward province in the Eastern Region.

We know that the aim of Government is to give us self-government but our aim is to get it as quickly as possible. This now can rightly be called the period of handing over but we do not want to receive only theoretical or fancy education. What we want is practical or industrial education. I hope that the Minister of Natural Resources will build the first industry for Nigeria by using his knowledge of ceramics.

There is not a great deal wrong with the Education Department. Too much money is spent on Education Officers and I cannot agree with the system of giving Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies and Private Schools. I think that where a new school is built Government should provide 50 per cent of the cost of the building whether or not it is a Voluntary Agency or Private School. Where a Private School can turn out good students there is no reason why they should not be given Grants-in-Aid. I see no reason

why Voluntary Agencies should receive precedence over Private Schools. After all, there are many Private School buildings which are better than Voluntary Agency school buildings—Iheme College is one example.

The question of community development does not arise in the Ikom Division of Ogoja Province where the huge tropical trees stand as they were since the creation of the world. Let the Public Works Department help in hewing down the trees and we shall help in levelling with our hand hoes.

It seems to me that the Nigerianisation Commission has not been a great success. Many scholarships have been given to students who on their return only know how to put up telegraph posts, many doctors with good academic degrees cannot even manufacture Mist Alba. We need technicians in this country. We want the people who can do things and not just those who know how it is done.

Your Honour, I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr J. U. Nwodo (Nsukka Division):

In rising to support the Appropriation Bill, I have the following observations to make. About 65 per cent of the total expenditure of £3,857,190 is being spent on Personal Emoluments. The consequences of this aspect of expenditure are the recurrent increases involved by annual increments and the long age retiring benefits which are part terms of contract. The early planning in the expenditure of Regional Revenue should aim at setting aside a fixed percentage amount for social services. The people of this country want something concrete in exchange for the money they pay. In this can be argued that money is not forthcoming to meet simultaneously all the requirements of the people in the Region. But even holding this hypothesis as correct, I can assure you, Sir, that there are a lot of social services which one or two divisions in this Region are prepared to finance not only the capital cost but also the maintenance cost. My people for example want water and will be quite willing to contribute to the cost of pipe borne water supply and help pay also fractional cost of maintenance services. In a division like Nsukka with 350,000 people, there is no good water at all. We want pipe borne water and not just catchments which breed mosquitoes and lizards. During the dry season the wells in Nsukka Division dry up and there is no water at all. It is not fair that the demand for pipe borne water for the thickly populated district of Nsukka should not be heeded to especially when the people are willing to finance the cost.

I will now turn to Medical Department. A lot of money has been voted for this Department and that is all good. I associate myself with the views of previous speakers and advocate that doctors should either have their pay increased or be allowed to continue private practice. The way the patients are looked after in hospitals is not at all satisfactory, and the nurses must be checked in the way in which they treat and care for the patients. The normal routine when a patient enters an hospital is that his temperature is taken, he is then covered up and left for hours without immediate aid. For goodness sake, doctors should be allowed to continue private practice so that they would take proper care of the patients. This time no one is willing to go to General Hospital for treatment. People prefer private treatment even though it is administered by native doctors. I would submit, Sir, that in my own division, which is almost the largest division in the Region, there is not one hospital. In 1924, there was a

hospital which was attached to the Prisons Department but later when the Prisons was temporarily abolished, the hospital was removed. It would seem that the hospital was put up for the benefit of the prisoners and not for the benefit of the people of Nsukka. Now, if a man is ill, he has to be transported by lorry from Nsukka to Enugu for treatment.

The President:

Order, Order.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

Sir, I appoint 10 a.m. on Monday the 18th February, for the resumption of the debate on the Appropriation Bill.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn.

The Minister of Works (Mr S. T. Muna):

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That the House do now adjourn." (No debate arising).

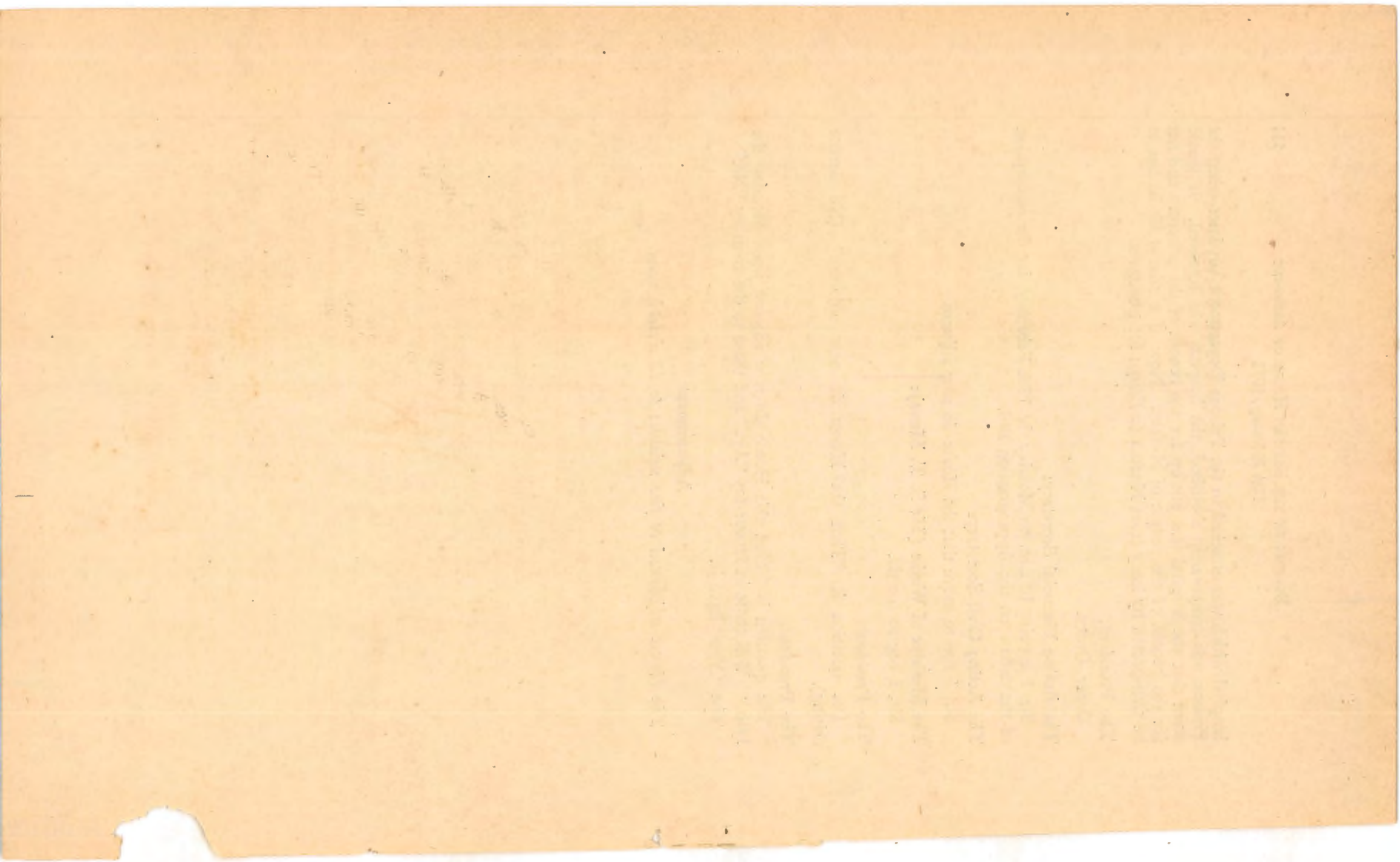
The President:

The question is "That this House do now adjourn until Monday the 18th." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

Adjournment

The House adjourned at five minutes to 12 o'clock noon.



Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Monday, 18th February, 1952

The House met at ten o'clock.

Prayers

(Mr President in the Chair)

Announcements by the President

The President:

Honourable Members, in accordance with Standing Order No. 57, I nominate the Legal Secretary as Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee and the following Members of this House have been selected by the Committee of Selection as Members of the Committee:—

The Honourable O. O. Ita.
The Honourable J. A. Wachuku.
Dr the Honourable E. U. Udoma.

Under Standing Order No. 58, I nominate the Financial Secretary as Chairman of the House Committee. The Committee of Selection have selected the following Members to serve on this Committee:—

The Honourable J. T. Ndze, Bamenda Province.
The Honourable E. O. Eyo, Calabar Province.
The Honourable P. N. Motomby-Woleta, Cameroons Province.
The Honourable V. A. Nwankwo, Ogoja Province.
Dr the Honourable A. A. N. Orizu, Onitsha Province.
The Honourable K. O. Mbadiwe, Owerri Province.
The Honourable E. P. Okoya, Rivers Province.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 59, I nominate the Legal Secretary as Chairman of the Public Petitions Committee. The Committee of Selection have selected the following Honourable Members of this House to serve on this Committee:—

The Rev. and Honourable J. C. Kangsen, Bamenda Province.
The Honourable E. Essien, Calabar Province.
The Honourable N. N. Mbile, Cameroons Province.
The Honourable K. J. N. Okpokam, Ogoja Province.
The Honourable L. N. Mbanefo, Onitsha Province.
The Rev. and Honourable M. N. Ibe, Owerri Province.
The Honourable E. Ashirim-Unosi, Rivers Province.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 68, I nominate the Development Secretary to be Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, and the Committee of Selection have selected the following Honourable Members to serve on this Committee:—

The Honourable C. Paris-Jones, Special Member.
The Honourable V. T. Lainjo, Bamenda Province.
The Honourable A. U. A. Inyang, Calabar Province.
The Honourable M. N. Foju, Cameroons Province.
Dr the Honourable Sir Francis Ibiam, K.B.E., Ogoja Province.
The Honourable R. O. Ukuta, Onitsha Province.
The Honourable U. Ibeagi, Owerri Province.
The Honourable D. Davies-Manuel, Rivers Province.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 69, I nominate the Financial Secretary to be Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance. The Committee of Selection have selected the following Honourable Members to serve on this Committee:—

The Honourable R. H. Chalcraft, Special Member.
The Honourable J. N. Foncha, Bamenda Province.
The Honourable A. Ikoku, O.B.E., Calabar Province.
The Honourable S. A. George, Cameroons Province.
The Honourable M. T. Mbu, Ogoja Province.
The Honourable A. N. Onyiuke, Onitsha Province.
The Honourable M. W. Ubani, Owerri Province.
The Honourable T. N. P. Birabi, Rivers Province.

Public Business

Order read for resuming the adjourned debate on the Appropriation Bill.

Mr J. U. Nwodo (Nsukka Division):

Continuing my remarks on the Medical Department, I wish to say that health is a precious possession. Whilst I agree that more money should be spent on this Department, I want to emphasise that immediate and prompt care should be given to patients. I hope that by next Budget Session the Minister of Health will be able to submit statistics and show us real progress.

I now come to the Police Department. I am not at all alarmed by increased expenditure on certain Departments. What I generally compare is the service the people receive for the money they spend. As far as the Police Department is concerned I would even have advocated for an increase, but when I think of the capital crimes committed in this part of the country and the major expense it will involve the country to find out the real offenders, I stop to think twice. The recent death of Mrs Agnes Onyia of His Majesty's Prison is a case in point.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary in his speech said that the principles of revenue in this country are the Principle of Derivation, the Principle of National Interest, the Principle of Needs and the Principle of Independent Revenue. I was very much interested in this part of his speech and feel that we should become a very rich Region, but with all these amalgamated principles of income the Eastern Region is still not financially stabilised. In last year's Estimates, 1951-52, the surplus was £86,870 about 2 per cent of the revenue; this year, with the same 2 per cent surplus it is difficult to understand how stringent control was exercised over the Approved Estimates.

I think the increase of staff in the Administrative Department is adversely affecting the treasury of this Region, and it would seem that colour is the criterion for making appointments. It is the post and not the colour that should receive priority.

The share of the Region's revenue allocated to the Education Department compares very unfavourably with the Regional Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies, and the local Government Schools. Whilst I understand, Sir, that it is the direct responsibility of the Nigerian Government to make sufficient subsidies to this Region I cannot justify a policy whereby the Region expends more than it receives.

In my view the Veterinary Department should be part and parcel of the Agricultural Department. The two are correlated and their functions with animal husbandry are identical. I feel that this Region is too poor to undertake the maintenance of some Departments, particularly the unproductive ones which involve mass employment of expatriates and other officials.

In conclusion, I think the proper procedure for the Honourable the Financial Secretary to take in the future is to receive primarily the advice of the Members of this House of Assembly, for there is always a tendency to give more to those that have. I think it is wrong for him to obtain information on the Draft Estimates from Administrative Officers and Regional Heads of Departments, for they do not know the real needs of this Region: in fact, it is this system of consulting Heads of Departments when preparing the Estimates that makes for long speeches and long discussions.

In principle I support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr M. W. Ubani (Aba Division):

Your Honour, in rising to support the Appropriation Bill, I am doing so with mixed feelings of optimism on the one hand and pessimism on the other. I am optimistic on the one hand because, according to Your Honour's view which is supported by the Draft Estimates, it has just been possible for us to balance the budget with a small surplus to hand and a margin to help us to undertake development expansions and the additional expenditure complementary to the constitutional change. In fact, this means that we have just managed to be out of the wood. I am pessimistic on the other hand because, again quoting Your Honour, Sir, although there is every reason for satisfaction, there is need for caution and a word of warning. Unlike Constitutions which have possessed financial autonomy over a number of years, the Region does not possess reserves and unemployed surpluses which could act as a cushion in time of need, and more so when our expectations could not be reached. According to Your Honour, sound financial backgrounds demand this, and it follows, therefore, that most of the developments which we anticipate in the next five years will not be as speedy as we expect them to be. With this apparently pessimistic view, we may be justified in saying that this Government is faced with a grim and herculean task ahead. It is not all rejoicing for balancing the budget when one has laboured under great devotion of service to get us out of the wood. Your Honour, a grim task awaits us ahead. This present Administration and the Ministers, for that matter, are charged with sacred and heavy responsibilities in the service of this Region. The other day it was the question of the child who looked upon the parents to supply him with everything that he needed, but today it is the youth, quite brimful with impetuosity and youthful zeal and prepared to sail on the wide ocean to man the boat inexperienced, that is the fellow standing before us. How, when and where he will land is yet in the limbo of time and history. The new Constitution with all its perfections has, to my mind but one palatable ingredient and that is that each of the Regions of this country had been given a certain amount and degree of autonomy whereby it can legislate and propound its policies and be able to spend its funds on those matters set out according to Order in Council, Schedules 3 and 4 and I hope the Honourable Members of this House are aware of the fact that Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure stood as an index of the measure of the Region's capacity towards services, those

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services which are of two minds—economic and social. I refer to those figures contained in these Estimates for which Honourable Members have met here to consider. Before touching on certain aspects of the Draft Estimates, Your Honour, I wish to congratulate the Honourable Members to whose lot it has fallen to assume the miscellaneous responsibility in the political evolution of this country and I can assure them that they can always expect nothing but co-operation and support from this mingled House if and when they introduce measures which will make for the good Government of this country.

The Minister Without Portfolio (Dr M. I. Okpara):

The Honourable Member is reading his speech.

The President:

I think we will allow Honourable Members as much licence as possible.

Mr M. W. Ubani (Aba Division):

Before touching on certain aspects of the Draft Estimates I wish to congratulate those Honourable Members to whose lot it has fallen to assume ministerial responsibilities for the first time in the political evolution of this country. I can assure them that they can always expect nothing but co-operation and support from this wing of the House if and when they introduce measures which will raise the standard of living of the people; measures which will raise our educational, medical, commercial, agricultural and social status to the best interest of the peoples of this Region. On the other hand they must expect opposition and criticism in unqualified terms which do not give an inch for concession if and when they present us blank papers for approval for the mere display of ministerial authority. The peoples of this Region are anxious for the race—the race for sincerity, race of honesty of purpose, the race for dignity and of prestige of all that we do and think in the interest of our people and I am afraid too, Sir, according to the present standard of our political development, politically speaking, I am in a way thinking, I do not know, I am subject to correction, if all that is implied and all that is before us in the service of this Region in particular could be adequately accomplished by this party ideal. I feel, Sir, all the Members of this Region who are congregated in this Honourable House will really be doing a great service to our people if we can pull our weights together, and if I may go further, it seems to me that if we are not aware of the implications, it might be like a game of two persons who are fighting against a third party. Probably, the party they have in mind to remove would become an onlooker towards the two members themselves—members of the same kith and kin—struggling and staging political acrobatics for the lust of power and gain. Your Honour, Honourable Members will also remember that the need for more development goes with it the need for increase of revenue. According to Order in Council we have grants from the following sources from the main Government:—

	£
Tobacco Duties under which we have been granted ...	1,263,700
Motor Spirit	287,000
Capitation Grant	732,140
Education Grant	862,500 and
Nigeria Police Grant	428,290

I wish to comment on one or two of these grants. The Capitation Grant. I am amazed, Sir, roughly speaking, I think this Region, according to 1931

Census can boast of 6,000,000 population strong. It is amazing that out of this great population, only 1,329,416 persons paid tax under Direct Taxation and only 1,750 paid under the Income Tax Ordinance, making a total of 1,331,166 of the population who actually paid tax. This, to my mind, amounts to shirking of responsibility. And that reminds me, Sir, that our tax system in this Region must be completely overhauled if we expect for higher Capitation Grant in the future. Another point, the Tobacco Grant. This also is a grant which actually goes with the implications of social economics because it is derived from the amount of tobacco which we smoke and snuff so that it is entirely in the hands of Honourable Members in this House and our Ministers for that matter, to increase smoking capacity of the people in order to earn more revenue or to decrease it and come to a standstill. Gentlemen, so you can see some of the points and the reason why I say that I look at the Estimates with a certain amount of pessimism.

The work of the Agricultural Department of this country to my mind, has been more than effective. We must speak the truth without fear of criticism. I disagree entirely with those who feel that it is the duty of the Agricultural Department to undertake large-scale farming. Their work definitely is that of demonstration and experimentation. During my student days I remember when I visited the Government Farm at Umudike in Umuahia, to study farm crops and plants because during the war, there was a standstill which was not only in that Department but in every other Department. I am glad to report that on recent visits I have made, I have been impressed with the amount of work that is being done there and I should say that it should be the duty of this House to vote more money towards the Department in order to retain and to maintain the experimental farm at Umudike which is for the Eastern Region.

The budget under Education Head has given us some encouragement in that it has given some kind of increase in the figure over what we had last year but the question is, how much of these heads and items of expenditure under this head could be welcomed by the people? I think that is the thing that matters. We are quite happy with the increase but how much will meet with the wishes of the people? I have a case in point, Sir. It is a rumour—one which I have actually explored—I am satisfied that it is quite true that the Domestic and Home Craft Training Centre which was contemplated for Aba for women, is being gradually removed on the mere pretext that there is no land in Aba. It is most surprising and fantastic to make away with that—that in Aba, there is no land for the establishment of an institution which we all welcome. We have the Government Trade Centre at Enugu which is becoming a project to this Region and we welcome one to be established for our womenfolk. But to hear that in Aba there is no land for that project, it is, Sir, most surprising indeed and the people, the owners of the land, let alone the Crown land, have never been referred to—no consultation—and I still maintain before this House, that we have land in abundance to supply and whatever has been responsible for that obstruction should be removed and the Centre built at Aba. I think the Minister of Education will look into it and have that false idea corrected.

Another important point is under Head 418—Appendix E.T.—Schedule of Works Approved. Under that head there is a vote of £20,000 for Owerri Government School Buildings. The synopsis of this heading which shows the work will be undertaken only when there is sufficient fund and

when there is capacity for the officers in charge to be able to undertake it. This, to my mind, should be reconsidered. I know the time and energy it has taken me in the old House to speak before that House about the desirability of establishing and putting Owerri Government School to a full Secondary School of Class VI. That energy was not wasted because the old Government gave it its blessing. Recently, this year, we have learned and it is true, that many of the younger children, many of the young students of about the age of thirteen, who won the scholarship entrance examination were sent there but have been asked to remain in the township and that their parents should find lodging to cater for these children, some of whom come from very very distant homes.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I rise to a point of order. The Honourable Member is dealing with a point of detail and does not confine himself to economic policy.

The President:

The Standing Order confines the debate to the financial policy of the Government and provides that detailed items in the Estimates may not be debated on the Second Reading. Debate on different items and heads of the Estimates is allowed for in the Committee Stage of the Appropriation Bill; it is for that reason that seven days are allowed in the Committee Stage and three days only in respect of the debate on the Bill, because the debate on the Bill itself in the Second Reading, must be confined according to Standing Orders, to the financial and economic study of the Region, and Honourable Members must abide as far as it is possible by the Standing Orders.

Mr M. W. Ubani (Aba Division):

Thank Your Honour, Sir. However, I wish it be recorded.

A Member has spoken a while ago on the work of the Police in this country. There is a certain amount of improvement in that Department it is true, but I still wish that the work of the Police in this country should be more clearly defined in this wise. We know the Policemen as the Police Officers. We have the C.I.D. men; we have the Traffic Policemen. Already, people of this country, this Region, should begin to realise the work the Traffic Police does. But there exists some doubt in the work of the ordinary Police as compared with the work done by the C.I.D. men. I would say I would put it to this House, Sir, that it is a very essential and a very important aspect of the development of this country and particularly of this Region, where the commission of crimes is rife, that we should have the establishment of C.I.D. and the ordinary Policemen be divested entirely of investigation duties for you can go without any law challenging you in so far as you can provide the money if you commit any crime.

Fire Brigade is also essential for all the important towns of this Region. There are some that have got it already but others are without it—Aba—for example. Last year, it was indeed a great event to see the Policemen at Aba running helter-skelter with buckets of water here and there, to put out a great fire which broke out in one of the corners of the town. I think such places as Aba, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Enugu, Onitsha, should have adequate and well equipped Fire Brigade in order to fight and combat these fires when they break out on the spur of the moment.

There are two bridges in Aba. One is the Owerrinta Bridge and the other is the Aba River Bridge. I am very sorry, Sir, that this Government will not always be contented to wait until some accidents have actually occurred before they could undertake those services which are to the benefit of the people. The Owerrinta Bridge is on the main estuary connecting the Region—Owerri Province, Onitsha Province, *en route* to Lagos, and I cannot see the reason for delaying that work for almost eight months now and already it has taken toll of lives. About eight persons got almost drowned in that stream last month and the amount of circuitous journey we have got to make before we come to Enugu this time is immense. I should think, Sir, that the Department of Public Works should give this matter of Owerrinta Bridge a priority consideration. As for the case of the Aba River Bridge, I beg to say, Sir, that as far back as 1947, during my first maiden speech in this House, this matter was brought up and a promise made that it would be repaired but until this date, nothing has been done to effect any commendable progress in the construction of that bridge. In fact, that bridge has outlived its usefulness and I submit, Sir, that it is a matter that requires urgent treatment.

We have two essential boards for this Region. The Loans Board—according to Your Honour's speech, has a liquid asset of £60,510 to its credit. I feel, Sir, that it is a board that should be replenished and also those who have taken loans and those whose loans are due, should be called upon very strongly, to see to it to honour their promises.

The Regional Production Board—this is an important Board. I disagree entirely with those who feel and say that that Board is intended to deprive the people of their land or of their natural resources. If we ask for development and the industrialisation of this country, we cannot do this unless we employ those measures which will actually give us or earn for us more revenue and give our country a standing with other nations of the world. The oil mill seems to be a point of argument. The policy of that Board as I understand it has nothing whatsoever in it which forces anybody, any person, or community of persons to accept the oil mill. It is entirely within your free will if you know that you want it. The Government of this Region will not say that any person who cannot afford the money to buy and establish an oil mill should be forced to do so. The only one point I wish to make is about the recent publication of Export Regulations. In Aba before I came to this House this Session, there was a move from one corner of the town that the regulation stipulates that if anybody was seen carrying oil or palm kernels which are not of first grade that they would be charged under the regulation and if found guilty would be fined £100 or sentenced to six months imprisonment. But the interpretation of that regulation in the hinterland is what I really attack and feel it should also be brought to this House because my people in Aba Division were under the impression that it meant that nobody was to be seen with any oil at all.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I rise to a point of order. The Member has already exceeded the half hour which is allowed.

Mr L. N. Nbanefo (Onitsha Division):

In view of the interruptions that the gentleman has had in the course of his speech, I move that he be allowed an extension of time.

The President:

The question is that the Member be allowed an extension of 10 minutes.
Question put. The "Ayes" have it.

Mr M. W. Ubani (Aba Division):

I feel, Sir, that the interpretation of the regulation has given a wrong impression on the minds of the people. In conclusion, Your Honour, Your Honour has said in your Address to this House that progress is not won by idleness and indifference but can only be won by initiative and hard work. If I might add, Sir, I should say that this is equally true that it is neither won by falsehood and vicious propaganda nor by hatred and intolerance of another man's point of view but by absolute mutual confidence, love of selfless service towards one another.

With these few remarks, Your Honour, I support the Appropriation Bill.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo Division):

Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill, and in doing so I have a few observations to make on the Estimates before this House.

In the first place my reaction to these Estimates is one of repulsion because this Region could only budget for £3,000,000. This, to my mind, is a very poor showing indeed. £3,000,000 for a population of about six million is not very much money. When one goes further and examines the details of the budget, one finds that a good deal of this £3,000,000 is taken up by personal emoluments. It is remarkable, Your Honour, that as soon as a new Constitution comes into being new offices are created. Why, for instance, should the Deputy Director of Public Works become Director of Public Works. I think, also, the function of the Deputy Director should also be explained to the House, and that at the Committee stage.

I should next like to touch upon the financial policy of this Region in regard to education. One wonders why, when it is realised that education is the real need of the Region at the present moment, only £1,000,000 is voted for it. When one goes further and examines this £1,000,000, one finds that the bulk of the money is eaten up by personal emoluments. We have been pressing for a College of Science and Technology for the past years, but nothing has been done about it, and even up to the present moment it is not known when it is to be started. It is regrettable to notice that the Principal of that college is in being and is drawing emoluments, yet the college itself has not yet been started.

On going through the speech of the Financial Secretary I found that the tonnage of produce from this Region has gone down and I wonder what has brought this about. It might well be that all the avenues available for evacuating produce have not been fully examined by the Department responsible. For example, it may be due to congestion at ports that we are not making what we should of the produce of the country. The Opobo port has been closed down and produce is accumulating in other ports of the country. If Opobo port cannot be re-opened because there is not enough money to do so, then I think it is something of which this Region should be ashamed. In other parts of the world where there are no waterways artificial waterways are created, but here where we have natural waterways we are not taking advantage of them. The Ministers when they come to consider the various aspects of development must look into this question.

I am rather surprised at the remarks made by the other side with regard to agriculture. I should have thought it would have been for the other side to express dissatisfaction with regard to the policy of the Agricultural Department and for this side to support that Department. It seems that the other side has taken upon itself to support Government policy in being now.

For myself, I do not think the average person in this country is satisfied with the present policy of the Agricultural Department. It is true that some experimentation has been carried out here and there, but I do not think these experimental stations were made to be museum pieces. The intention should be to show our own people an improved system of farming so that they would know how to produce first-class produce which could compete with other parts of the world. I do not think the Agricultural Department has come up to expectation. It has not influenced several parts of the country at all. Experimentation should not be confined to special stations; it should be brought to the knowledge and understanding of all the people. The Agricultural Department should take steps to make it known to the people the work on which it is engaged and the results it has achieved from its experiments. The Department has done very little in the way of food production. I do not think it is quite proper to say that it is not the work of the Department to engage itself in helping and assisting in improved methods of cultivation and production of food. If it is thought that the Department should exist solely for export crops, then I say it is not giving to this country the maximum benefit it should. The two things must be combined. We must have export crops and we must also have food produced for consumption by the people. This would be one of the ways by which we could discourage agitation in this country amongst the workers. If they are well fed they will be happy and will take a delight in their work, and there would be no need for any man to agitate from time to time. Those who think that the Agricultural Department should not concern itself with food production are thinking along the wrong lines.

I think at this stage I would like to refer to the policy of the Public Works Department in relation to roads and bridges. One does not feel very happy when one is travelling from, say, Aba, to have to take a round-about route in order to get to Enugu, and this on very bad roads. People using these roads frequently are getting into a position where it is almost necessary for them to buy a new car every three months. It should be our major policy to build first-class roads and all-season roads. There should be special trunk roads which should be tarred throughout so that people can travel in comparative comfort. It is a disgrace to the country that a bridge like the Owerrinta Bridge should be left in a state of disrepair. It is a pity that the Department concerned could not have found out that the bridge was becoming dangerous long before, so that it would not have become necessary to close the bridge altogether. I hope that the present Government will consider it a priority task to see that immediate steps are taken to put this bridge under repair. All roads leading to Enugu should be made first-class roads. It is natural that Members of the House coming from Ogoja Province will not like it if, say, the roads coming from Aba are in a better condition than their own. I certainly think the roads from Ogoja Province should be tarred and I hope Government will give this matter consideration.

This is not the time to deal with the Estimates in detail, but before I close my remarks I would like to express my gratitude to His Honour who has brought this ship of state into existence. It is a matter for regret that it is impossible for him to continue with us until the end when the ship shall have come into port, but we have all appreciated the work that His Honour has done and the efforts he has made to make this Constitution a working Constitution. It is a happy thought that His Honour is leaving this part of the country in a better condition than when he arrived in it.

It has been said that this is not the time to call upon foreign capital for aid in the development of this country. I think this is the time when we should call on foreign capital to develop this Region for us, but the main thing is that it must be done in partnership with the people. We should also try to raise local loans for investment in the various projects being planned for this Region. This is the time when Africans and Europeans should work in partnership as equals, when they should join hands together and work to make this country a happy and prosperous place, and this Region in particular wealthier than the other two.

Mr E. A. Chime (Udi Division):

Your Honour, before supporting the Appropriation Bill I have a few observations to make.

I don't think anyone quarrels with the increase in expenditure on medical services. We have our nurses and our hospitals, but I am afraid they do not give the services they should. If one goes to the General Hospital it is very difficult to get attention unless one has made friends with the nurses, and it is sometimes not very easy for a sick man to make friends. I am of the opinion that a Welfare Board should be attached to every General Hospital in this Region. This Board would be given authority to make recommendations to the Health Department. When a sick man is not treated properly he could apply to the Board for assistance. There are many cases where a man goes to hospital and it is hours and sometimes days before the necessary medicine is administered. I think this question should be thoroughly examined so that our people can get the treatment they need when they are sick.

The Agricultural Department. I do not think we are going far enough in regard to these demonstrations. The farmers every season should be given a loan of £20 so that they could work out the benefits of the demonstrations themselves. As it is, although the farmers see these demonstrations and hear about the value of fertilisers, they have not the money to buy the things they need, and if they had this loan of £20 I think the food problem would very quickly be solved. It would do us a world of good, too, if our young men after passing out from Standard Six should be drafted into Agricultural Department Schools. The question is, where is the money coming from? I do not think the work of Assistant District Officers is very essential. I think the post of Assistant District Officer should be abolished and the money saved used for establishing Agricultural Department Schools. Boys who have passed Standard Six would stay there for three years, and after that would be given a loan or grant to do their own work in farming.

With regard to the Education Department, I wish to bring one point up in Committee Stage. Boys from Government Schools are better educated than boys from Voluntary Agency Schools or Private Schools because in

Government Schools the teachers are more experienced. Therefore I appeal to Government to re-open those Government Schools which have been closed.

When we talk of reserves for this country we lose sight of the fact that there are many posts in the Administration which are not necessary. As I mentioned, there are many districts in the Region where you have both District Officer and Assistant District Officer, just going about the villages and finding out news. All the Assistant District Officer does is to run about for the District Officer fishing out news. There is no need for him to do this work since the District Officer could far better consult the native leaders, so I think we can do without Assistant District Officers.

Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr D. U. Assam (Eket Division):

Your Honour, before I proceed to make my observations on the Estimates, I wish to offer my congratulations to you first of all, for your comprehensive review of the fourteen months period ending on the 31st of October, 1951. Secondly, I should also like to congratulate the Honourable the Financial Secretary, for his comprehensive Estimates and above all, for achieving for us a noble surplus of £92,000 against the next financial year.

Your Honour, it is not hard to spend money, but it is very difficult to get money. This being the case, I will first of all examine the economic and financial state of the Eastern Region. After examining the four principles in Nigeria (Revenue Allocation) Order in Council, 1951, that will yield revenue to the Eastern Region, I am not convinced that the first three can be depended upon for increased revenue. In my opinion, our salvation must come from the Principle of Independent Revenue. In respect of the first principle, namely, the Principle of Derivation, we cannot compel the people of the Eastern Region to import more tobacco, for instance, than the amount for which there is a real need. In respect of the second, namely, the Principle of National Interest, we cannot expect the Region to ask for more money from the Central Government than it deserves. In respect of the third, namely, the Principle of Needs, we cannot expect the population of the Region to rise over-night so that we may get more tax-payers. We must therefore depend on the Principle of Independent Revenue for increased revenue.

We should be able at this time to look to the Agricultural Department for our salvation. Much has already been said about that Department, and I beg to associate myself with those Members who feel that this Department has not done as much for us as we should expect. I know that many experiments have been carried out, but the ordinary farmer is not able to apply them. During the last Great War, when there was shortage of common salt, I was asked by my people, because I had studied Chemistry at school, if I could produce common salt. But I could not, and I was a hopeless failure before my people. Extensive experiments are not of much use to the African farmers. They want to see the results in practice. Unless an appreciable percentage of the farmers population can make use of the results of the experiments, otherwise I shall regard the schemes of the Agricultural Department in this Region as a "South Sea Bubble." If we cannot look to the Agricultural Department for increased revenue at the moment, to what else should we look? That question must be answered. Pending the time that the fertiliser scheme shall become a

reality, we should devote more attention to our worthy bird in hand—our palm produce. We must increase our palm produce, both in quantity and quality. We must increase our cocoa crops and our groundnuts, so that even, as the Financial Secretary has warned us, if there is a fall in future in the prices of our exports in the world's market, we will be able to counteract that fall by increased production which will enable our financial position to maintain equilibrium.

I should add also, Your Honour, that the time is overdue when the ban imposed on the people of Nigeria with regard to export of their products to other countries of the world should be lifted. We are tired of going through Great Britain alone as our middleman. All these, Sir, are means of creating more funds against the time when the revenue of the Region might not be up to expectation.

I note that under the new Constitution there have been changes in the titles of Regional Heads of Departments, and also corresponding changes in emoluments. Under the old Constitution, Regional Deputy Directors of Departments earned as follows:—Deputy Director of Agriculture, £1,350; Deputy Director of Education, £1,350; Deputy Director of Public Works, £900. I regret to note that under the new Constitution, mere changes of title have put more money into their pockets, and the Regional Directors now earn £1,540 each. On examination of the emoluments of the different Secretaries, I find that the Civil Secretary in 1951-52 earned £1,350, and in 1952-53, £1,650. The same thing applies to the Financial Secretary, who in 1951-52 received £1,350, and in 1952-53, £1,540. According to your speech, Sir, you asked us to look for means of creating reserves to act as cushion in time of need. Here are the means, Sir, of creating such reserves.

I would also point out that under the new Constitution, more posts have been created. We never had before a Local Government Secretary.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

On a point of order, Sir, I think the Honourable Member might quote his figures correctly. There was a Local Government Secretary under the last Constitution.

The President:

I think the Member should consult his Standing Order on the subject. He is getting a little bit away from policy and dealing with the question in detail.

Mr D. U. Assam (Eket Division):

Your Honour, continuing with my observations, I have to point out that the total amount spent on expatriation allowances is £95,580. If these allowances were abolished completely, we should have more funds for our reserves. Your Honour, I would also point out the unfairness in the distribution of the revenue of the Eastern Region to rural areas. The greater part of the revenue goes to the townships, whereas most of us here come from the rural areas which actually produce the bulk of the revenue. If this Honourable House is here to develop the townships only and leave the rural areas undeveloped, then I suggest we might as well divide the Chamber into two, one half for township dwellers, and the other half for dwellers in the rural areas.

The Financial Secretary, in the course of his speech warned us against expansion of the services of the Region. I would rather suggest that the warning be replaced by the "Slogan," "Nigerianisation of the Civil Service," and retention for key posts only of expatriate experts. If more Nigerians were in the Senior Service, I am sure that, with the love of their Region at heart, they would be prepared to accept lower salaries so that more funds could be available for development work. I am sure too, that if these were done, Honourable Members would not have cause to ask for increase in their present allowances, knowing that the sacrifice is for their own country.

I will now refer to the different Departments of the Region. Out of the sum allocated to the Education Department, £1,005,500 will go the Voluntary Agencies as Grants-in-Aid. I beg to submit, Sir, that in the same way as the Government of the country prepares Estimates of revenue and expenditure, the Voluntary Agencies should also submit accounts of the money they receive. The money comes directly from the Government, and we should have an idea of how it is spent.

Mr A. Ikoku, O.B.E. (Enyong Division):

I beg to remind the Honourable Member that there is an accounting system in the Education Department at least of which the Voluntary Agencies take full cognisance. Returns are submitted every year.

Mr D. U. Assam (Eket Division):

As I said before, this Honourable House is not aware of that accounting system. These Grants-in-Aid should also be extended to private owned schools. Unless this is done, I would suggest that this mighty sum of £1,000,000 be used in establishing about thirty secondary schools, one in each division. I am sure that many Local Government bodies, and the natives, will be too prepared to undertake the running of these schools, once they have been established and equipped. If this is done, and my division gets a secondary school, then the Eastern Region financial ship shall really be more sea-worthy.

Mr A. Ikoku, O.B.E. (Enyong Division):

On a point of order, Your Honour. The entire vote includes all aspects of education: primary, secondary, teacher-training. The suggestion that all these should stop and only secondary schools should run appears to me a little fantastic.

Mr D. U. Assam (Eket Division):

Your Honour, I will next make a few observations on the Medical Services of the Region. Though there is an increase in the amount that has been allocated to the Medical Department, there is no guarantee, for example, that my division which is in need of dispensaries, maternity hospitals and other amenities, will get any of these things. I advocate for more money to be given to the Medical Department for extension of these services.

I notice under Head 416 of the Estimates that a sum which is £61,430 below 1951-52 Estimates has been allocated to the Public Works Department. I am not happy at all about this, for it seems to me now, that the roads in my area will be neglected completely. I do not know what

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shall happen to such roads, when this sum is taken away. I suggest that the Estimate for the year 1952-53 be increased to the same amount as that for 1951-52.

I should also like to make reference to the Eastern Region General Revenue Balance Account. The Honourable the Financial Secretary in the course of his speech stated that after certain adjustments should have been made the balance would be a little below £200,000; and also that the expected surplus at the end of the current financial year will be £68,840; and that both added together shall give us a balance of £260,000 instead of about £268,840. I am sure this gives the impression that the adjustments to be made will reduce the balance by £8,840. I beg to submit, Sir, that we should not assume that the adjustments will reduce the balance by £8,840, until those adjustments have been made.

In conclusion, Sir, I appeal to the Ministers of our own creation, to fight for our liberty, for we look to them for our salvation now that the Government is in our hands. You Ministers, I charge you in the words of Caleb Colton: that "Liberty will not descend to a people; a people must raise themselves to liberty; it is a blessing that must be earned before it can be enjoyed."

Sir, subject to the observations made, I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr F. N. Ezerioha (Orlu Division):

In rising to talk on the Estimates debated on Saturday, I have to thank the Honourable the Financial Secretary and his party who prepared the Estimates. I have gone through them and found them good. I remember that in Saturday's debate no Member said that the amounts in the Estimates were too much and to what amounts they should be modified. Some Members were of the opinion that the emoluments as they stood in the time of our predecessors were too much, but no one has come forward with practical data of what it costs to discharge the duties of the District Officers and other eminent officers. As far as I can gather there is only talk by bystanders, saying that this or that is too much, without a practical knowledge of the solution to this or that problem.

Further, I have no doubt that the expenditure on Pioneer Oil Mills, Public Works Department, Agricultural Department and the Medical Department are well worth the while; this more especially from the fact that by the degree of development of the Pioneer Oil Mills and the work of the Medical Department, it is now easier to collect taxes from the different villages because of the greater circulation of currency than was the case in the past.

Mr V. A. Nwankwo (Abakaliki Division):

On a point of order, Sir. In section 27, paragraph (1) of the Standing Orders it says that a Member shall not read his speech, although he may read short extracts. I am refreshing his memory on this point.

The President:

I rule that this Member of the House should be given full indulgence.

Mr F. N. Ezerioha (Orlu Division):

Again, Sir, the Estimates have provided for Grants-in-Aid to our schools by which means education is spread all over the villages, wherefore does

the fault lie with the Estimates? I remember, too, that a Member was not satisfied with the pay given to the Police, but as far as I can see the Police are peace officers who see to it that peace is maintained in the Region. This is not an easy job to do and I am at pains to know what faults the Honourable Member has to find with the Estimates on this point.

It is unfortunate that a Member had to bring about some odious comparisons between Nigeria, India and the United States of America. These places have long become used to the modern idea of running their countries, and in fairness to a young country like Nigeria this is untenable, because none of our traditional rights and conditions have been tabled and discussed as is done in those places. I would remind the Honourable Member, Sir, that our constituencies had no idea of those countries when they were voting us into power. I can remember that the greatest ambition of our people was to secure that everybody had an adequate pay for the job he performed, and in this connection, that both Africans and Europeans should have the same pay for equal work. As Your Honour will be aware every lawyer here, and we have quite a lot of them, demands adequate pay for his work when he is hired. So also does every Civil Servant demand adequate pay for the work he does in the interests of his country, so that he may meet his domestic requirements and be free and ready for the service of the country at all times.

In my opinion, Sir, the only job which faces us today is to look forward to the year 1953-54 and consider if the surplus balance of revenue is enough to meet the services now undertaken for this Region or, if not, how we are to meet up our obligations at that time. This, I am sure, would much more usefully occupy our time than listening to high-sounding phrases from our sophisticated overseas graduates, who are seizing this as opportunity for showing their learning instead of trying to find out how our country could best be served.

I think the money allotted from the Estimates to the Public Works Department should be shared amongst the seven provinces and the divisions under them, so that with the share each received they would be able to maintain the roads to all clans and villages. The usual report to District Officers from village meetings is about the state of the roads. Some of the roads belong to the Native Administrations and they cannot do for their roads what the Public Works Department can do. Places like Orlu should have tarred roads between them and Onitsha and another from Orlu to Umuahia.

I support the Estimates and say that they should be approved.

Mr R. O. Ukuta (Nsukka Division):

Your Honour, it is a privilege extended by the new Constitution that made me stand before you. Before I support the Appropriation Bill I have very few observations to make.

Before I go further in my speech I have to thank the Honourable the Financial Secretary who has prepared the Estimates beyond expectation. Beyond expectation does not mean that it is free from the Honourable Members' criticisms. The Estimates are so framed that it is hard to know where to start one's criticisms. Well, I have two observations. First of all I will deal with the Agricultural Department. This Department used most of the money at its disposal in purchasing agricultural implements. I support one of the Honourable Members who spoke last. I think if some of

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the money allotted to the Agricultural Department for cost of the implements had been spent as loans to farmers we could have achieved quite a great deal in the way of production of foodstuffs. Honourable Members had the privilege of going to Abakaliki where they saw some fine planting implements which the Agricultural Officer in charge said cost £450. How many farmers have sufficient money to purchase such implements? It seems that the Agricultural Department is still in the demonstration stage. This year, in the Estimates, the Department has a £11,110 increase, though we still suffer a shortage of food.

My faith in the Medical Department is waning. As a man from Nsukka I don't think I support the increase given to the Medical Department. In the 1949 Regional Estimates, it appeared that a hospital was to be built at Nsukka. I don't know how the Medical Department will explain away the fact that no hospital has been built so far and the amount put forward in the Estimates for the hospital has disappeared. I think the Heads of Departments should think more about the divisions and not concentrate on the townships only. In a place like Nsukka we have palm oil and palm kernels, but no telegraph system, no hospital in this time of aeroplanes. I do not think my people will be happy while those who have, received more, and those who have nothing, receive nothing.

I will now turn to Education. I think our educational policy is faulty because the moral conduct of our children is most unsatisfactory. The policy must be changed if we want to improve this Region. We want more practical education as opposed to theoretical education.

I think the figure for expatriation allowances in the 1952-53 Estimates is alarming, and I think it is time to curtail or cancel them. If an employee is sent to work in Enugu from Onitsha he is automatically maintaining two homes. We would like an assurance that no more expatriate officers will be engaged, and if any are engaged at all it should only be in the last resort, if no local candidate is forthcoming.

Apart from these observations, Your Honour, I support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr A. U. A. Inyang (Ikot Ekpene Division):

Your Honour, I rise to support the second reading of the Appropriation Bill. I have but a few observations to make with regards to Local Government, which has not yet been mentioned by any Member in debate.

Your Honour, I would like to read an extract from page 14 of your address; it is this:

"I feel confident, however, that with sympathetic encouragement, these new Councils, gradually and in the course of time, will develop into efficient and democratic organisations and will engender a new sense of responsibility in the management of local affairs."

The first Local Government came into being at Ikot Ekpene and the Government of this country has given no financial support to that Local Government. The scale of salaries of the employees is just the same as that of the Native Authorities and there is no adjustment whatsoever. The Administrative Officers are still in power to dictate to the members of that Local Government body. Whenever a resolution is made it has to be passed to Your Honour for approval and the members are still in the same position as if they were part of a Native Authority. Now the whole Region

is encouraged to have Local Government. During elections to Local Government Councils and to this House, Administrative Officers went to Ududu Ikpe and Nkalu in Ikot Ekpene Division. It was a red letter day because it was the first time European Officers had been seen in the villages of the area. Majority of the inhabitants of that area are more or less lepers. I am not sure that those Administrative Officers had ever reported that while we are here expecting the moon the people of these areas expect nothing but death. There has since been no indication that these areas will receive assistance. Under such conditions they are asked to pay tax and no amenities have been extended to them by the Government. It is believed that African employees strike because of the high cost of living. That is not so. But one of the reasons is also their justifiable jealousy of employees in the Senior Service, whose conditions of service Government watch carefully. Government denies employees in the Junior Service any consideration and heaps the revenue of this country for allowances of expatriate officers.

I would now like to refer to the Public Relations Department. That Department has had much more criticism from Honourable Members than any other Department in this Region. Sir, I beg to defer. I have seen the officer in charge of that Department all the time so busily employed and I think he is one of the busiest officers in this country. We have made no provision for additional staff, and we cannot expect one man, and one man alone, to visit the villages all over the Region. It would mean working unwilling ass to death. He and his Department deserve more praise than any other Department.

With regard to technical training centres, I gather that the site for the Women's Training Centre at Aba has been found unsatisfactory and that a new site is being sought. If it is not an exclusive privilege for some places to have such Institutions built in their areas, I suggest that a satisfactory site may be had in Ikot-Ekpene for such a project.

My constituency has asked me to extend a request to Your Honour that the Ikot-Ekpene Urban District Council receive consideration for a supply of electricity when the Aba extension is made. I understand that the excuse of the Government is sometimes that the Plant and Power Station cost thousands of pounds. If the Government can afford the money for installation of Electricity Undertakings in other towns I think that an old Government station like Ikot Ekpene should not be neglected. I ask the Government to see about it. There are far too many ex-servicemen in Ikot Ekpene and the only Resettlement Office has been closed down. It is almost impossible for members of that Division to obtain employment elsewhere. I would like to know if Ikot Ekpene is just a place for tax collection for the maintenance of other townships of this Region.

Your Honour, at page 54 of the Draft Estimates of the Eastern Region, 1952-53, there is an allocation of £2,250 for the erection of a new District Office at Ikot Ekpene. Unfortunately, that sum appears in the schedule of works approved to be undertaken as financial and executive capacity permit. The District Office in Ikot Ekpene is awful and I would ask that consideration be given to the erection of the new District Office if any of those allocations should be carried out. All the time we are left behind in any amenity and whenever we apply, the Government say that there is no money. Last year we applied for

a loan to develop the Urban District Council area but there has been no consideration of it whatsoever. Although we are the centre of the oil palm producing area, no member of our Council has been appointed to that Board.

In conclusion, I support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr N. N. Mbile (Kumba Division):

Your Honour, I think this is the first time in the real sense that the voice of the Cameroons has been heard in this House and I therefore request the indulgence of the House to listen to all that we have to say, even though we may speak out of order at one time or another.

There has been a statement very constantly on the lips of Nigerian Government officials and Nigerians as a whole that the Cameroons has been a financial liability to Nigeria. We of the Cameroons have been quite unhappy about this statement, and we have been looking round and asking ourselves how could we be a financial liability to other people. We have wondered how, in view of this statement, we could have spent in excess of £300,000 over our revenue, because when we look round the Cameroons we cannot see on what our revenue has been spent to the extent of over £300,000 a year. We have therefore asked Government through memoranda, through petitions, through publications and through the Press for this question to be brought down to brass tacks. We want to know where we stand in regard to this question of financial liability to others. The Trusteeship Council of the United Nations came to our aid and resolved that we should have some sort of autonomy in so far as financial matters were concerned. The Administration were compelled to draw up some sort of figures to show how far revenue balanced with expenditure. A big surprise was sprung on us in 1949-50 when we were told that for the first time the Cameroons had realised a surplus of £350,000. Also in 1950-51 there was another surplus of £250,000 declared. The question is what magic was at work in the one single year of 1948-49 when we were told that we had a deficit of £52,000 and in 1949-50 a surplus £350,000, and in the following year of 1951-52 a surplus £250,000? What magic had happened that in one year we should jump from a deficit to a surplus. That is the question we asked. The Cameroons is a self-respecting territory and we are not happy to be regarded as a financial liability to other people. That is why we have proved that we are not a financial liability at all. As a matter of fact we are rich and not only balance our internal budget but are producing yearly surpluses.

Paragraph 25 of the Financial Secretary's address is seriously misleading because it would appear that the £350,000 provided for Cameroons roads comes from outside the Cameroons. This actually comes from the accumulated surpluses. This, however, is in keeping with the recommendations of the Revenue Allocation Commission which said that this money must be spent in the Cameroons. Your Honour, I am stressing this point because the Cameroons is not prepared to accept the status of being regarded as a financial liability to other people, and we intend to seal the lips of all those talkers who say that we are a financial liability once and for all. We are not a financial liability to other people, and we not only balance our internal budget but produce surpluses.

If you will refer to page 39 of the Estimates under Public Works Extraordinary you will find that £22,550 allocated to the Cameroons Province goes almost exclusively to Nigerians, expatriate officers and Senior Service employees. What goes to the benefit of the people themselves? Nothing. It is clear that all these deficits have been declared because what should have gone to the benefit of the people has been spent on salaries and emoluments. We shall make it very clear that we are not a financial liability.

Your Honour, I wish to speak on the subject of roads, and in this respect I have to congratulate the Commissioner of the Cameroons for the emphasis and stress that he has laid on road construction in the territory. But I would like to make the point that although it is necessary and accepted as a sound policy to improve existing roads, we of the Cameroons feel that more emphasis should now be laid on the construction of feeder roads. It is all very well constructing beautiful roads for car owners and lorry owners, but it would be much better to construct roads to bring the produce of the peasants in the countryside to the main roads. It is a point I am sure which would receive the support of almost the entire House that the struggling peasant would not know there was a Government at all, except when the District Officer listens to his complaints. All Government does is collect taxes. Even the District Officer is tired of trekking about the country and carrying out inspections on foot. I feel it is very difficult for a District Officer to trek for most of the month going to places where the people have not seen a District Officer for months, and in some places, years. Government is to blame, not the District Officer. I think it is a disgrace to the British Administration in the Cameroons that after thirty-six years they have not been able to construct feeder roads on which the Officers could go round and administer the territory. I feel it is a disgrace to the British Administering Authority that whole tribes, the Bomboko, the Balondo, the Balue, the Mbonge, the Ngolo-Batanga, the Bakundu, the Bakossi, the Bassosi, the Mbo, the Bangwa, the Boki, the Widikum, the Mbembe, the Age, the Fru, the Mondani-Overside (Mamfe) tribes in the Cameroons are completely shut off from civilisation. These are lost tribes. There are no trunk or feeder roads linking them together. What can the Administration know of the feelings of these people who have to trek sixty-eight miles to sell a bag of cocoa. It is a big challenge to the British in the Cameroons to construct roads, first to use them to administer the people and secondly to bring out produce. Your Honour, we can hardly over-emphasise this question of feeder roads. If we are true to ourselves now that we have a Government of our own we should emphasise more development in rural areas. The towns have had more than their fair share and I think we should concentrate on the construction of feeder roads and not on merely improving existing roads.

Your Honour, I should also like to speak on the question of health. We all agree that education comes first, but health is very important. If our people are not well the race will not continue and there will be no one to go to the schools we have set up. Therefore I lay a lot of emphasis on the question of health, because in the Cameroons tribes and villages are shrinking in size and the population is fast dropping. This is not a credit to the Administration because the first consideration of the Administering Power is the health of the people. If the people die you cannot administer

the building of roads; and when land has been reserved and the people want to use it it becomes a tug of war to have it? "Why, if it is that the land was mine and it was reserved for me I cannot have it back when I require it without a struggle?" These are questions bubbling in their minds. I think the reserves should be created only with the consent of the people and that they should have them back as easily as a man gets his saved money.

I think, as the only Trade Unionist in this House, that I will not be completing my duties to this House if I do not say a word on behalf of our struggling workers. There is need for the basic cost of living for one man, his wife and at least one child to be known and on this, to establish the wage rates. I do not think it is right for us to dictate a wage rate without any reference whatsoever to how it would be spent. It is unfair to pay a man 2s 6d a day, when nobody can live on 2s 6d a day. This certainly does not take account of how that money is spent. Therefore, I am stressing that the time is overdue when a scientific review or research into the basic cost of living of the average human being, in fact, of all workers in this country, should be undertaken by Government with a view to establishing a wage rate that will be at par or applicable to the cost of living. I feel that this disparity in wage rates should now end. I do not see why a man living at Enugu should earn more than a man living at Abakaliki when both of them do the same work. You might argue that yams are dearer at Enugu than at Abakaliki but the man at Abakaliki could equally argue that salt is dearer at Abakaliki than at Enugu.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I rise to a point of order. The Member has already exceeded the half hour limit.

Mr M. N. Foju (Mamfe Division):

Your Honour, I move that he be given an extension of fifteen minutes.

The President:

The question is that the Member be permitted to extend his speech for fifteen minutes.

Question put.

The "Ayes" have it.

Mr N. N. Mbile (Kumba Division):

Another point I would like Your Honour and the House to take note of is that we should look at the civil servants and the workers and make sure that we do not only give them benefits when they are at work. We should also prepare for certain benefits for them in their post-service period. There should be a review now of the existing service as well as post-service benefits on behalf of workers. Workers can hardly save any money now because they earn very meagre wages and spend it on food. When they shall have spent their youth and retired without saving, it will be a hard time for them and I think it is high time, therefore, for us to look round and see to it that Government or employers in this country do something for the benefit of the worker while he is young and that when he retires he should have something to depend upon in his declining years. Lastly, on this point, I would say that we appreciate the work of the Trade Union

Department in giving education and extending the Trade Union Movement amongst the labour organisation of this country. I think that this Department needs expansion to save the country from unnecessary agitations.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I must rise again to a point of order. The Member is touching on a subject for which there is no provision in the Estimates.

The President:

I must invite the Member's attention to the Standing Order which lays down that the debate must be confined to the subject under discussion but the Member has, for some time, been going beyond this confine.

Mr N. N. Mbile (Kumba Division):

Your Honour, I have been hearing quite a number of speakers here talk about the Pioneer Oil Mills and a number of other things and it was a bit strange to me what these things are. On further investigation, I discovered that the Eastern Development Board which has been establishing these mills did quite a lot of useful work in the Eastern Region. I do not think that the activities of the Eastern Development Board have been felt in the Cameroons at all. I wish, therefore, to say that that Board should extend its activities in full to that part of the Region. In conclusion, I would like to remind the House that the Cameroons is a Trust Territory and when the United Kingdom Government signed the Agreement in December, 1946, under the United Nations Organisation, thereby placing the Cameroons under the Trusteeship Agreement, the Cameroons were very happy. This gave us a new hope towards our political future. We would like the Administering Power to observe the full spirit of the Agreement. We would not like to mince words whatsoever, when we draw up a comparison between one-third of the Cameroons nation, that is one-third of what was formerly under the Germans and the two-thirds that is under the French. We do not want to mince words but to say that what Britain has done for the one-third appears very poor when compared with what France has done for the two-thirds. For the British Cameroons, shrinking villages, dying population, not a single Government College, only one main trunk road between Victoria and Bamenda and this is intersected by the most dangerous wooden bridge in the Region—see how this compares with the French-teeming populations in their zone, first-class free medical care everywhere, sixteen Government Colleges, eighteen feet wide paved roads, electric trains and railways. Your Honour, you can thus see how we compare with our counterpart in the French zone.

I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo (Ogoni Division):

Your Honour, in supporting the Appropriation Bill, I have to think of what Your Honour said on the opening day of this Session. You said in part, "I will apply a certain amount of propelling force from behind. Even if we do tumble and bruise our knees we can surely rise, have our abrasions treated and continue to press on." This time, we have picked up our responsibility, addressed ourselves to the task; but as I look at the Estimates, two things touch me. One is that we are not, or whoever prepared the Estimates is not, very serious. He does not think of the common man, people who are represented here. The thing that catches my eyes is the large figures for personal emoluments including expatriation pay. There

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is not much here in this Estimates for my people of the Rivers Province, except Port Harcourt, and there is nothing for my people of the Ogoni Division. The first thing I must touch is health because we need the healthy people if we must do healthy things, and Government must help the people. I am pleased to say that there is a hospital already in Ogoni but the question of the scarcity of drugs must engage our attention. There is no dispensary in the division to which you can go and obtain quinine. I wish the situation could receive the attention of the Medical Department.

The second thing under Medical is the question of leprosy control. It is good to hear that in the Bende Clan, leprosy is almost extinct but if you go to the streets of Port Harcourt there are lepers moving about without anybody caring for them. What provision is being made for these lepers? In Ogoni, the few leprosy clinics have no nurses and no sufficient drugs to give them the treatment they require. We must do something and we must do that something everywhere and not confine it to one place only. We must extend it to the rural areas of the Region. Again, I feel that it is better to prevent than to cure a disease, and one of the ways by which we can do this is by providing a good water supply. Wells were dug all over the Rivers Province about three or four years now but only about 45 per cent of these wells serve their purposes; others are dry and have given place to frogs and other vermins to increase and multiply.

The Minister of Public Health (Mr S. J. Una):

I rise to a point of order. I wish to remind the Honourable Member that there is a leper colony at the Rivers Province, at Isoba.

Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo (Ogoni Division):

Isoba, Your Honour, is in the Ahoada Division. There are no sufficient beds for all the people from the Rivers Province. What we want is drugs—sulphone—to cure the patients. We do not mean to bring them into one place and say that we have cured them. Another way of preventing disease is by improved housing condition. What of the tax-payers? We need to plan housing condition and community development. We should have a housing scheme subsidised by the Government either through the Native Administration or directly. If you come to some areas, Your Honour, you will be very sorry to see the condition of the common people who pay the tax with which the townships are improved. On looking into the Estimates I find that nothing has been put aside for the rural areas. However, now that we have our Ministers who will help to prepare the Estimates for the year 1953-54, I hope that there will be provision made for the improvement of the rural areas more than what will be set down for personal emoluments. This brings me to the question of expatriation pay. The amount of £95,890 set out for expatriation allowances is too much and I hope that when the House comes into Committee Stage it will be able to slice out at least 25 per cent of that amount. Your Honour, somebody has said before that we must think about workers. They do all the work and bring progress to the country but how do we care for them? The Miller's Scale of Salary which makes two men of the same grade receive different rates of pay because they work in different localities, is not good. I trust that we shall be able to set things aright very early.

Many Honourable Members who spoke touched upon Agriculture. The Agricultural Department while encouraging the increase in export produce does nothing to help solve the food problem locally. I think the only way

out is to get a scheme whereby farmers will be subsidised and not made to clear large acres of land and turn all the farmers' land to Government reservations and when the food is produced, the prices will be dictated for us to buy. The fertiliser for the improvement of crops should be supplied free. It should not be sold.

I turn now to education. This is where we have the greatest need in Ogoni. I do not know why certain sections of the Region should be neglected. Education is the first thing we must think about. 30 per cent of the expenditure going to education is not enough. We need more schools, especially Government schools. Not all the people in our divisions can afford to pay the high rate of school fees in Voluntary Agency Schools which principally claim over half of the amount of Grants-in-Aid. What should be done is to get at least one Government School in each division so that the people might receive a good and cheap education—I mean education that should not cost all their parents' money for the year. When we talk of education we must remember too, mass education. The work of the mass education scheme of the Department should be extended and people who give voluntary service to this mission in the various divisions should be encouraged. Just now, this is not the case. Then we must not forget teachers when we talk of education. There is still a class of teachers which receives far too poor salary. A teacher receiving thirty-five shillings a month cannot be happy enough to give his best to the children who must be educated. This class of teachers must be considered whenever we make Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies. I observe that there are 510,000 pupils in primary schools in this Region and that they receive about twenty-five shillings per head as grant. That is not sufficient.

1 p.m. Sitting suspended.

3 p.m. Sitting resumed.

Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo (Ogoni Division):

Your Honour, I was still on education. I said before that the vote for education is too small. The fact that it is £1,000,000 does not make it sufficient for the educational development of this Region. I want to mention the fact that it is time we should provide adequate libraries to all our approved primary schools. There is need that our children should read when they come to the primary and senior primary standard, and unless we provide grants—special grants—which would be used exclusively for providing libraries—I do not see how we want our children to know what we want them to know by wide reading.

Another thing which we should think about as we allocate grants to the Department is the question of girls' schools in this Region. To my knowledge, we have only one girls' school in the Rivers Province and that is not up to Class VI yet. I am open to correction. This girls' school needs attention. Not only that we need more girls' schools in this Region, education of our girls must go side by side with the education of the boys and we have to provide the fund to help the Department to open more and more girls' schools. At present, we have not sufficient girls' schools at all. Before I finish with the Department I must mention agricultural education in our primary schools.

To me, the agricultural practices in the primary schools have not yielded any result. When children finish primary education they should be provided with agricultural education—the type we have now by the C.M.S. at Asaba. Leaving education, I want to touch Local Government.

It is what interests us who live in the rural areas most, and we wish that the new system of Local Government which is replacing the Native Administration, should come to all divisions at once so that we would all benefit from whatever it has in substance. It is not good in my opinion, to give priority to one section and leave the other sections behind. This reminds me of the relationship between the Administrative Officers and the Local Governments.

We could do much more in developing our areas if all the powers are not in the hands of the District Officers. There are projects which we can carry out, but we are always discouraged by the utterances and activities of some Administrative Officers. Unless we face this fact and face it properly, we must know that we are not really serious. In the Rivers Province we suffer from lack of building materials. For the past one or two years, we have been facing a scarcity of timber—one piece of wood in Port Harcourt today cannot be got for less than 10s. We want to be protected here. We must be able to preserve the forests, our forest reserves, our timbers, for generations coming after us. Before I end, I must mention one more Department and that is Lands.

I do not think that the Land Department should be so interested in the acquisition of land. Already we are deprived of our lands and we do not know how our lands are used each time it is proposed to acquire them—for example, the land at the Ogoni Government Station. All the people are still in doubt whether they are being encouraged as farmers, when large areas of land can be grabbed from us and perhaps not returned for a long time to come, and no adequate compensation.

And then we talk of shortage of food. Before I finish, I will mention that labour in the Rivers, particularly in the Ogoni area, is very very scarce now because of recruitments to Fernando Po. You cannot get a man to work for you in Ogoni unless you paid him 2s 6d, the same rate as the Government pays to a labourer, because nobody is there. All have gone to Fernando Po and that is due to intensive propaganda. This situation brings about scarcity of food. No farmers and so no food. All go to Fernando Po to work and enrich that territory and we remain poor. Sir, the troubles in the Creeks are still on, and still contributing to our economic retrogression. If the Rivers are not quiet and there is no peace in the Creeks, I wonder how we can go about our normal duties to earn the money to pay our tax. There is no peace, not only in the Kalabari Creeks area but also in the Andoni-Ogoni Creek areas. There is need to maintain peace and for that reason no amount of money voted for the Police Department, to keep a good number of Police in those Creeks will be too much. We want peace in the Creeks. I have said before that I support the Appropriation Bill in principle though certain items are not favourable in my opinion. With these I end.

Mr F. E. Offor (Okigwi Division):

The Chairman, before I say anything about the Appropriation Bill, I have to congratulate Your Honour for the successful way in which this House has come. Moreover, as an Honourable Member has said here before, I have in mind your speech made on the day of the opening of this House and that you said "Previously I have told you that I will use all of my ability and energy to lead you as fast as you can go. I will now go even further than that, and with your consent I will apply a certain amount of propelling force from behind. Even if we tumble and bruise our knees,

we can surely rise, have our abrasions treated, and continue to press on." With that word, Your Honour, I have the confidence that you are ever prepared to lead us as fast as we can go. I have to congratulate also the Honourable the Civil Secretary, Members of the House, and the Clerk of the House for all they have done and for the able way in which today they have brought this House. I have to congratulate also the Honourable the Financial Secretary for the way and manner that these Estimates have been got up. I have been told of his cleverness in his duties and I did not entertain much surprise on the Estimates.

Before I switch over to the Appropriation Bill, Your Honour, I believe that this Government as I have heard several Members speak, is resting in our own hands. The Estimates which are the subject of debate before the House in my humble opinion should not waste much time of the Honourable Members so long as the Estimates were prepared by the old Government, and now that the Government is that of the people by the people and for the people who have accordingly elected their Ministers I think that all I expected from the Honourable Members is to watch the next Estimates which will be prepared by the elected Ministers of the people. It sounds to me as if we were in a send-off function trying to say something of the old master that is going for the new master to take note. The old Government is sinking down. All we have done was to submit all what we want to our Ministers and with your co-operation we shall have all what we want, rather than wasting the time of this House. (Clap!) As we all know, that we have one Government for the people and by the people. If we take it in that way, well I should make some few observations (Laughter!) Well, those observations are:—

Coming to the question of education for instance, I can say since 1939, that we have a certificate "As Amended," we have no education. For instance, men of Standard VI of old are those of the senior or matriculants today. Education is being cut down badly. Most of our Chief Clerks today are those who attended the former schools and passed only the Standard VI but today a boy of Standard VI cannot write English correctly. With this amount which is earmarked for education in my humble opinion, Your Honour, I can say is very low, if we want to make education what it should be in the real sense of it we should not forget that there are so many divisions that have no education at all. If there are any it is only a very low one. Your Honour, in the area that I come from we cannot boast of any Government School how much more a Government College. Not one girls' school and in that respect, I should congratulate the Roman Catholic Mission who first of all kindled the light before other missions followed. Because, apart from them, we should till now be in complete darkness. Now, Your Honour, in our division as I said, we have no secondary school at all either for boys or for girls. Therefore the amount earmarked for education is not enough as I would like priority attention be paid to Okigwi Division, even one secondary school as boys in that division is badly in need of secondary education.

Switching again to Medical, I agree in toto with what a Member spoke here yesterday that it should have been better either to increase the pay of the Medical Officers or to allow them private practice as they had been doing before because with the private practice they can pay more attention to the patient and they can pay more attention to proper drugs. In every dispensary and maternity in the area that I come from, we hardly get dusting powder to treat a new born babe. We hardly get ordinary epsom

salt. Indeed only the pregnant women are going there and they are told "we are sorry we have no drugs." Then they go to the market to look for one but going to market to look for medicine by a pregnant woman, Your Honour, is not safe. I support the man who said that medical practitioners should be allowed private practice or give them more pay to attract them to do their work efficiently.

Switching over to Police, I should say Police Department is one of the important Departments in Nigeria. I wonder why so many Members criticised that Department and said that the amount earmarked for it is much. The estimate for them in my humble opinion, is not enough in consideration to what they do. Although most of those amounts go to expatriates and emoluments and I should say if we curtail those emoluments, we shall have more money. I strongly suggest that the source from which those expatriates are being imported from should be closed and more promotion to Senior Service be made available to deserving Inspectors and more Sergeants and Corporals be promoted to Inspectors. Now, we have got enough men who can man the job. There is nothing a Superintendent of Police in charge of a province can do that an Inspector cannot do. Well, if that is the case, why will not the Inspector-General of Police promote those Inspectors to take charge of those areas where a European Superior Police Officer is needed? Well, the idea for that is to curtail the pay of the expatriates or the imported officer should have. Particularly the white constables. Most of them have not got sufficient training but as soon as they get here they are made Assistant Superintendent of Police, leaving a man who has had eighteen or more years of service and with more experience in Other Rank and File.

Now, as a matter of policy, Your Honour, I have referred again to the area where I come from. The division was divided into two—Northern and Southern—the end of the Southern side, is about thirty miles to the Headquarters and they have to trek these thirty miles to the Headquarters to take their parcel in case they have a parcel in the Post Office, likewise medical attention, they have to trek this long way in case they have a pregnant woman or somebody seriously ill—even if a car was provided, just imagine a sick man in a lorry for thirty miles and Your Honour, I think as I said before, I think it should be a matter for our Ministers to pay proper attention to see that particularly those distant areas have a hospital well-equipped and stock it well with modern medicines. In the Headquarters itself, we have a Post Office built since 1920. Up till now, there is no change at all. I was told that there was an estimate for that Post Office since last year. I do not know whether this estimate is to be returned back or whether the work is handed over to Public Works Department. If it has been handed over to Public Works Department and they failed to do it, why not to a qualified contractor? It should be transferred back to a contractor who should start the work at once. To mention the fact, Orlu Division, which is the youngest division in the province, has got a modern Post Office well built with telephone. There is no modern Post Office at Okigwi and there is no telephone. The people of that area have been complaining bitterly about these two things, the Post Office and the telephone. There were any amount of Okigwi sons and daughters here and there which when they want to send a message home, no means unless telegram and telegram cannot get there unless within three days. A telegram was sent when I was at Port Harcourt, I spent three days and was at Okigwi when the telegram arrived. Whether that

is being maintained by the Posts and Telegraphs Authority, I do not know. The other side of the Northern as well, the ends of the people on that end is over thirty miles. All depend on coming to the Headquarters for either medicine or to transact postal business, and I said before, our Ministers, to take note it is for them to take that up as quickly as possible. That is the ardent desire of my constituency. Another thing, Your Honour, is the question of roads. There is no single good road in the division. Last year, rainfall, particularly, road—mile 1 to $8\frac{1}{2}$ —Okigwi-Owerri road was in a very bad condition. It takes a lorry loaded with eight drums of oil from Okigwi four hours to run $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It takes also a lorry plying Okigwi-Afikpo Road where they have to go and grade the oil and carry them to Port Harcourt, three hours to cross a place not more than half a mile. I remembered of seeing one Honourable Member, one of our Ministers here, as I was travelling with a doctor one morning to Afikpo Road and we saw him just trying to come out from the mud and he stopped and warned us not to go further. He said his car had been there from 3 o'clock in the morning to that 7 o'clock that we met him. If attention were not paid on those roads now before the next rainfall, I doubt whether there will be any lorries plying that route at all. As Your Honour and many Honourable Members here will bear me out that Okigwi Division is one of the most produce centres in the Eastern Region. Most of our oil come from there. This oil has to go to Afikpo Road for grading before going to Port Harcourt and if that road should be in that condition, I doubt whether there will be any oil for export from that area during the rainy season.

I come also to the question of water supply. In most of the areas in that division, they have no water supply at all—no running stream. At one time, there was a batch of men who said that they are well sinkers. They did a lot of work at Aba and Owerri Divisions. Coming to Okigwi Division, they sunk two wells, closed them and went away. Up to the moment they have not come up to complete what they have left undone.

On the question of development, I do not know whether this development is meant only for certain provinces or certain divisions, I cannot tell, and I associated my view with the Second Owerri Member who said that the District Officers should be made Development Officers, rather than District Officers. In that respect, I have to pay more tribute to two energetic District Officers—people like (Mr M. A. Mann), who was at Okigwi at one time and left for Owerri on transfer and the present District Officer, Mr B. G. Smith, who has done a lot to improve the division a bit, and advise the people. I should say that if other District Officers coming there are like these two officers there would have been very little to say about the division in the case of development. These two officers have done a great deal of work in that division that everybody, every child, every woman in the village are singing their names. I think the next thing that I shall have to say is that now our Government is in our hands whatever we want with the co-operation of our Ministers, I think that whatever we want our division to be that, Your Honour will fully support it. I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu Division):

Your Honour, it is really very difficult to begin any talk on the Appropriation Bill after a hearty African dinner but I will try. It is really a pleasure to speak to this House on this Appropriation Bill now before us. This is the first Budget to be introduced in the Eastern Region under the

new Constitution Order in Council of 1951. It will, therefore, not be out of place to make few observations on the present Constitution which has afforded us this unique opportunity to discuss our economic problems and programme in a manner and circumstances yet without parallel in the history of this country. Today, we have in this House, an overwhelming African majority, elected by their own people and given full mandate to speak on their behalf. We have African Ministers. I am proud and happy to see these hopeful Africa's illustrious sons taking their full place in the scheme of work ready and anxious to serve the country of their birth. I am doubly happy that these stalwart Ministers, under the able guidance of Eyo Ita, belong to my party, the N.C.N.C. party—in other words, the party in power.

Your Honour, I should not be understood to mean that everything is well with the Constitution. There are many things in the new Constitution which my democratic mind could not digest or absorb. For instance, at this budget debate, I am mad at the thought that as legislators, we cannot legislate on conditions of employment in the Civil Service. I refer to conditions dealing with salaries, pensions, gratuities and the like. When I come to reflect that nearly one-third of the year's budget goes to personal emoluments of civil servants, my democratic sense revolts and rebels. In essence, we are told, although you know what to do but sit tight and be silent. The foregoing should not be considered that we mean and desire to interfere with the Civil Service. No. That is far from the point. The Civil Service is a part of the function of the executive, but I only felt that a legislature which has the power to vote money for the essential services of the Region must also have the same right to exercise jurisdiction over the expenditure on employment and remuneration that must achieve that objective. Despite that heavy handicap my party has decided to accept the new Constitution and give it a trial. Under these circumstances, we hold on to what we have and we press for more.

I am happy to note that the second Onitsha Member, the Honourable L. N. Mbanefo, in the course of his address, sounded a clarion call for unity in the Central Government. My party, I have to say, stands for a united Nigeria and has it that unity forms the basis of our structure. I would be taking you over from reality if I fail to inform this House that the foundation of Nigerian unity has been dangerously shaken through the misdirection and the misdirected enthusiasm of British imperialism by the old stalwarts who drafted the new Constitution. How can we reconcile the fact that Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, that for decades has formed the focal point of unity in this country, has been merged to the Western Region—contrary to the wishes of Nigerian people—as decided in the Ibadan General Conference that voted against it. The Secretary of State was aware of this but approved of the merging. How could we exist as a nation without a capital? We must find a basis. It is curious, also, that revenue allocation has come into full play at a time when the African participation in their own affair has swept the whole length and breadth of the country? Why not before. Because it would not serve the British interest. I must warn that this regionalised Nigeria which is really intensified in all directions at the expense of a unified Nigeria spells danger to this nation. To repair this damage we require all our energy and statesmanship in all of us. To this end, we have a delicate duty but a very very necessary one.

Turning to the economic aspect of the Region, His Honour, in his illuminating address has, in plain language, informed this House that the total estimated revenue of this Region of £3,949,190 represents 15s per head of the population estimated at 5,500,000 persons. The Financial Secretary further reveals that out of this estimated revenue only 16.6 per cent is derived from this Region. No economic analysis of the Region could be more challenging. In 1936, the national income of India exceeded £7 per head of population; Ashanti of Gold Coast has exceeded £2 per head of population. Today, our economic position reveals that we are merely existing—not living—in a deeper sense. One Honourable Member in the course of his address, told us to leave off thinking of other countries and concentrate our thoughts on Nigeria. I disagree. Without comparison and emulation, competition will not be stimulated, and life would have lost its charm and beauty. It must now be clear that we are economically insecure. His Honour in his address further reveals that “Though the oil palm is the economic mainstay of the Region, attention is also being paid to diversifying the number of trade crops in the Region.” Mention is made of expansion of the following industries—cocoa, rubber, coco-nut, cashew nut scheme, boat building, Santa Coffee Estate, etc. I wish to say that my party welcome both the expansion and the new source of cash crop wholeheartedly. We shall not want them to be mere paper schemes but economic schemes to be carried out immediately. The country and we will want the report of the progress during the next financial year. We wish to lay emphasis on rice production. We welcome this type of food crop and call for its intensification. It should now pass from experimental stage to industrial stage. I must here recommend that special attention be paid to cassava. It will be a step forward if the Government could devise mechanical means of manufacturing garri from cassava. Such a discovery will intensify the cultivation of cassava by African farmers. This Region will not only supply garri to other sections of the country but would also export garri to the Gold Coast, Liberia, Europe and even to the United States. We have thousands of African students in the United Kingdom. They would welcome garri in the United States. Let us send for machines for this enterprise.

Your Honour, turning to the industrial aspect, His Honour puts it, “. . . negotiations are in progress with the object of establishing a company to operate a cement works.” Your Honour will not only approve of this scheme but we ask how soon. When are we going to begin? Also, when is the sack factory to be opened at Onitsha? These things are very essential. We want them right away. We are happy to inherit these suggested projects and we request our Ministers to expedite negotiations and give signal of “go ahead.” We must be notified if there be any impediments. Apart from these two industrial items, I feel we must have a rounded five-year programme. I suggest the following:—

For the first year and second year would be cement and sack factory.

Third year, let us experiment on ceramics industry. We must provide our places with the manufactures that we use. We must also encourage refitting and retrading factory. That I would also suggest near Onitsha if the motor park dispute has been settled.

Fourth year—We must explore the possibility of establishing paper manufacturing factory. Also explore the possibility of manufacturing coal tar as a by-product from our coal industry. Our roads are quite in

an awful state and must be tarred. We could also supply tarring material to the French territory. Also experimental saw-mill should be established to enable us produce timber both for domestic and export uses.

Your, Honour, the fifth year, we can then devote to consolidate and strengthen.

The Honourable the second Onitsha Member, Mr Mbanefo regretted that the Financial Secretary's address left the House in darkness about the future development of the Region. I had hoped that the Honourable Member could give us a lead in that direction but he left the House in a darker position. Either he was timid of his elementary economics or he had no programme to offer. The Financial Secretary was aware that there is a party in power and was waiting for direction. The Ministers are charged with taking the initiative. They must not hesitate going into the open market and buying the brains that know what we want. We must import the "Know How" and pay for it. If there is any impediment as I said before, let us know. The people have given the mandate. We can no longer wait. Schemes must be worked out in detail with expert knowledge and presented to the people. Another way of accelerating the economic pace is to give support and protection and guidance to local enterprise. Local business men must be encouraged to take initiative in opening business. The present corporation tax of 9s in the pound for young companies of small capital kills initiative. There must be progressive initiative in industry, taking into consideration, capital, age and size. Our economic policy must be first and foremost to make the maximum use of all our local investments, that is, tapping to the fullest, our local cash and foreign capital on co-operative basis. If we depend wholly on foreign capital, then we sink. On our commercial front, the picture is not even bright. The Financial Secretary in his address said that Nigerian economic prosperity depended very much on the export of its agricultural products—palm oil and kernel, groundnut and cocoa, etc. Your Honour, a country solely dependent on export for its prosperity is still living on a false economy. I agree that no country is self-sufficient. At the same time, for a country to be secure, it must develop a strong internal economy. At present, Nigeria enjoys unfavourable balance of trade (to employ the language of international trade). This means to say that Nigeria still imports more (in value) than she exports. It follows that in a time of economic crisis

Mr L. N. Mbanefo (Onitsha Division):

Nigeria does not import more than it exports.

Mr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu Division):

That is a matter of statistics and we have no expert statistics. The only statistics we have is the Financial Secretary. I will quote him in a minute. It follows that in times of international crisis, we will lose much because of our extreme dependency on foreign markets. We therefore have a great responsibility to intensify local industries and thereby extend local markets. For instance, the value of our exports from this Region is roughly in the neighbourhood of £7½ to £8 million and the import to this Region based on the imports through the ports of the Eastern Region was £16,853,386, value of goods according to the figures supplied by the Financial Secretary. Our unfavourable balance of trade stands at more than eight million dollars—£8,000. It is bad enough. Turning to

timber exports, His Honour, in his address tells us that in the Rivers Province, very unscrupulous timber export traders have been forced out of the market by an oversea buyers' strike. The timber broker will not for ever endure bad goods. The time comes when he will refuse to deal with any dealer whose product is not above reproach. I speak on this trade from an intimate knowledge. I was at the head of a firm, a large export company in the United States; but I say fairly large when a company could at one and the same time cable 50,000 dollars for import of mahogany logs, apart from several credit accounts opened to several shippers. I want to say that American wood buyers saw fault in all the shipments of these. In 1946, I sent out a European member of the firm to the Gold Coast to advise on the grade of shipment. Apart from those shipped personally by this agent, all other shipments had faults. From experience we have discovered that Africans are anxious to do the right thing but lack of experience, ignorance of value, of specification, have all combined to make him a bad shipper. In other words, he was plunged into a situation for which he was not prepared. The matter could, therefore, not be dismissed lightly. Something must be done. In 1951, we exported 3,543,952 cubic feet of timber, value £943,233. The Government must assist to improve the amount of this trade in this Region. We must train Government Timber Inspectors who could be sent to Europe and America to study first-hand, what the importers want. The foreign market will develop a new confidence with a Government strict inspection and any timber exported from here and which have the Government Inspection Stamp will be the approved timber. In this way, we could save this vital industry. The Financial Secretary also

Dr A. A. N. Orizu (Onitsha Division):

I think his time is about finishing and I am submitting that 30 minutes be given him.

The President:

Member's time is not up until 3 minutes past 4.

Mr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu Division):

The Financial Secretary in the course of his address asked thus ". . . . Will it be possible to increase the Region's Revenue in the future?" The answer is Yes.

1. The short-term method.
2. The long-term method.

Coming to the short-term method, that will be by increased taxation. I want to say that at the present time, my party will not support this without overhauling both the administrative machinery and the general policy of the old Government. The long-term method will be the result of accelerating the economic programme of the Region which I have already discussed. Overhauling the policy of the Government will become more evident as I discuss the budget. In studying the budget, what strikes me is the small margin of surplus. That is where, for the first time, I am in full agreement with my friend on the opposite side of the House. I entirely agree with previous speakers. It is bad enough for a Region without a Reserve.

2. The expenditure under Head 402—

Dealing with the office of Lieutenant-Governor—I must say that I am speaking purely on the office; I must say at once that a Region whose

income works out at 15s per head of the population to spend (£9,760) on the emoluments of the Lieutenant-Governor and his staff is, to my mind, bad economics.

I am one of those who contribute to the principle that people who perform public service must be well paid because the management of human beings is the most difficult any human being can undertake but, in this instance, the expenditure is far out of proportion to the revenue. I support that the Chief Executive, whether he be white or is an African, as we are beginning to have them now, must be well supported. I must admit any ignorance for not understanding what acting allowance of £1,680 means. Since the Lieutenant-Governor is the highest executive in this Region, who will he be acting for? Oh! Somebody, eh? I think that the salaries of executive officers under the new Constitution will bear some semblance to the salaries of the Assembly men and Ministers. There are three parts to the Government chain, that is, the Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature. Members of the Eastern Legislature are paid £300 a year with no transport facilities and the Ministers £1,000. If we include their allowance as Members here it comes to £1,300. I have looked upon the Ministers as next in order of precedence after Your Honour and then follow Heads of Departments. This budget does not reflect this assumption and one wonders the true position of Ministers in the scheme of things. My party believes in a wage policy of equal opportunity for all and equal sacrifice for all. It will be the worst form of mistake to penalise legislators for the comfort of others.

It must be clear that the budget is not that of the party in power. We inherited it. It is a stop-gap measure. The budget is not an isolated case; it reflects the policy of the Government in power. Next financial year's budget should reflect the policy of the new Government.

With the Local Government now coming into force, either the offices of the Residents or District Officers must be abandoned in support of what the second Honourable Member for Owerri Division, Honourable Eronini, has said previously. In fact, what each division desires today is development. We must welcome any officer with specific field of knowledge ready to sell. We do not mind what to pay him. If he is a rice expert, let him come. We will pay him but we will know that he knows rice cultivation. That is the one thing we are looking for. Too many District Officers and Residents with fat pay rob our chiefs what is due to them. Until our chiefs are well graded and well paid, all our talks of Local Government will be mere scheme invention. The chiefs enjoy unique positions in the towns and villages and it will be a shame to pay a chief sums ranging from 10s to £3 a month. Why should chiefs do all the dirty work in the districts and others reap the benefit? Time has come for a serious study of the position of our chiefs to be undertaken. This Local Government must also bring reforms in wage scales to our chiefs. In going through the budget, Your Honour, there is provision for Director and Deputy Director in all the Departments. This, definitely, is an extravagant waste. In the past when there was no provision for Ministers we have Directors and they deputised for Heads of Departments. Now, we have Ministers why should we retain Deputies?

In our present stage in this Region, the Agricultural Department is a "must." The policy of concentrating on research and demonstration must be overhauled immediately. Our agriculture must reflect theory and

practice. For some time to come, it must aim at being a revenue earning Department. It will be an atrocious economics to spend £100,000 on personal emoluments and concentrate all effort on demonstration and experiment. Taking into consideration our present level of rural economy, demonstration should go hand in hand with production. For instance, the production of rice should be intensified. Agriculture should really be made to pay its way. Here, again, I must emphasise that for the experiments and results of the Agricultural Department to be widely disseminated among the vast numbers of people, there must be founded in this Region, an Agricultural College. Time is now opportune to commence building the Regional branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology. Any good education must reflect the people and their environment, and an agricultural country must begin with an Agricultural College.

I welcome the vote of £1,174,800 for Education. I warn, however, that this vote will not achieve our educational objective unless our policy on education is completely changed. We definitely cannot put new wines into old bottles. We must evolve our new Regional Educational Code. The curriculum must be overhauled. There is too much Latin and Greek. We want men to go to farm. The Honourable Member on the other side, when I was a student in the Aggrey Memorial College, can bear me out that we paid great attention to agriculture but since we left that College it seems that the time spent on that subject was time wasted. No Government can indefinitely rely upon missionary bodies to discharge its educational obligations to the nation.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, on a point of order, the Member has now taken thirty minutes.

Dr A. A. N. Orizu (Onitsha Division):

I submitted originally that an extra thirty minutes be extended to him.

Mr J. U. Nwodo (Nsukka Division):

I second him.

The President:

The question is that an extra thirty minutes be extended to the speaker.

Question put. The "Ayes" have it.

Mr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu Division):

The Government must be prepared to play an active roll in the education of the nation. African-owned schools must share in the grants. Conditions for giving grants must be printed and distributed. To discourage African-owned school will kill initiative. I do not share in the belief that quality must be sacrificed for quantity. We must introduce now the policy of self-help among the communities to build schools. To encourage this, Your Honour, I am proposing that something or whatever we may call it but for the present, I am suggesting that an Education Service Board be created. This Board must advise communities as to the building, equipment and administration of schools. This Board must have in its office, maps of various schools. I mean plans of types of schools according to grades should be prepared and made available on request, for example, (a) will cost so much, grade (b) so much, (c) so much, the equipment, administration, will all total to so much and, Your Honour, if any community can come forward to the Board, prepared to meet half the cost and in accordance with regulations and rules, I submit that the

approval of the Executive Council should be given that such a community should be given 50 per cent of the cost of the school, provided that they can produce the other 50 per cent. In this way, communities will not be dependent on the Government to solve every little thing. The existing African-owned schools must be inspected and those qualified for grants must be inspected and included in the next financial year. This Region must also have fifty annual scholarships for study in technical schools overseas. This scholarship should cover all expenses. There should be another category of equal number of fifty scholarships annually, and that is the category where the parents must shoulder half of the total expenses. A country without their own trained personnel is bankrupt in spirit. In this way, we can send a hundred students from these shores to go and study in the field of agriculture, in the field of engineering, in the field of medicine, in the field of health and come back to take employment to serve their country. I am aware that there are other service boards that grant scholarships but we as a Region should do something to that effect.

Our health in this side of the world is so poor that Life Insurance Companies often refuse Africans insurance premiums. Our life expectancy is about the lowest in the world. New hospitals must be built in all divisions of this Region in order of derivation and need. I do not want to regionalise the Region but I am ashamed to report in this House that Orlu, with a population of more than 350,000 people has not a single hospital. This division with its contribution to general tax is entitled to one. Water schemes have not been developed in this Region and other sections but if we adopt the policy that every section, every division must have a hospital, we begin with those that have already had one—those that are due according to need and derivation. This is one policy which I am presenting for the consideration of this House. Then, there is the community self-help in building hospitals. Even if the Government supplied every division with a hospital it will not meet all the needs of the country; so we have to encourage community schemes and community developments. In this way, Your Honour, I would support the bureau-like hospital, and health bureau should be established to encourage hospital building in communities. The bureau should have plans of hospitals in various grades or what Your Honour chooses to call the "country type of hospital." This country-type of hospital we will want to know how it costs for a country hospital of 75 beds, and 100 beds. How much does it cost to staff and run it? In this way, communities could come up to say "We can provide half the cost of the hospital" and with Government providing the other half of the cost, our health services will be extended. It should be made clear to our people that in other parts of the world, the Government does not do everything. People have to do something for themselves, and I have to inform you that our people are willing and even so now. The case in point is that of one town, a small town, which in no more than a year, put up two secondary schools by the effort of about thirty men who produced money and so set the community to work. In this way, we could intensify self-help in this Region without the agency of Government. We should not keep back our money and think that Government should do everything for us. But the Government could give leadership in self-help. We must turn out more doctors.

The Public Works Department by performance, justified the huge sums of money voted for it. The tarring of roads must have priority over all other things. Any country without good roads will fail to intensify any

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internal economic drive. I am ashamed that on a motor road like Owerri-Aba, the Owerinta Bridge could collapse without any knowledge of the Public Works Department and that has paralysed traffic for many months now. If the statistics of occurrences on this bridge were kept, Your Honour, and surely, the Honourable Members too, will be shocked, to notice that a great harm has been done the economic life of the country. It is a shame that during the last year only 52½ miles of roads was tarred. This Department is noted for starting several projects and not completing them. For three years now it has woefully failed to complete the Ikot Ekpene-Aro road. For this financial year, Owerri-Port Harcourt road must be completed among others. It is the economic life of the country that is greatly disturbed. The Owerinta Bridge so vital as a major communication life line of the Region must be completed. The damage this Owerinta has sustained has worked hardship on motor lorry owners. It has also hampered trade. We should like to hear from the Minister of Public Works when this bridge is likely to be completed. It should be on the "must" list. The damage to this bridge reflects negligence of duty on this Department. This country will be willing to support any Government that puts up a programme whether it is just a small programme and carries it through but here, we have a programme on paper. It took many months or even a year to tar Aba-Port Harcourt road and Owerri-Port Harcourt road on the main line, in fact, I do not know if work has been started. I do not believe in impossibilities. Impossibilities can only be found in the dictionary of lazy men. So long as the democracies could beat Germany I never believe in impossibilities. Here in this Region we must take few roads and tar them completely. I am sure our Ministers will note that. It is a shame that during the last year only 52½ miles of road were tarred. Take the Ikot Ekpene-Aro road. The work on this bridge has been outstanding for almost a year as my Honourable friend Mr Ikoku will bear me out.

Mr A. Ikoku, O.B.E. (Enyong Division):

Three years, Your Honour.

Mr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu Division):

Up to the present nothing has been done. The Imo Bridge is another case in point and we hope every attention will be given to it because it is creating great havoc to the transport system.

Water supply is another matter for great concern.

Your Honour, I would also bring to your attention the unsettled nature of the Onitsha Motor Park problem which is giving great anxiety. Here is a great industrial centre just on the bank of the lordly Niger. Motor owners do not know where to go and park in this great commercial centre, and I hope speedy attention will be given to solving this vexed problem.

The Police Department, Your Honour, nearly half a million pounds is voted for them. It is definitely too much; however, I hope it will facilitate in promoting several Africans to superior rank in the Police Force.

I really have a great admiration, Sir, for the Public Relations Department but I cannot support it at this time when we are hard-pressed for money. Let it be an information centre meanwhile releasing news to newspapers and we shall ask the newspapers to co-operate. In the past, under the old Government, it was a necessary Department to correct certain impressions but not today as we stand as representatives of the people and

we can carry the news to them. In this way we could save money. When we have sufficient money there is no reason why this Department should not come back into force.

I have already given my observations on foreign capital. Until our internal economy is settled I will oppose foreign capital. We do not want it until our roads are going properly and we have made adequate preparation. If we accept foreign capital without this adequate preparation, we are lost.

I would like to turn now to the £500,000 for the Onitsha New Market Scheme.

Mr L. N. Mbanefo (Onitsha Division):

Out of order.

Mr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu Division):

Since Your Honour mentioned the Onitsha Scheme in your address and Your Honour forms the future policy of the country, I do not think this is out of order. Really I welcome it but the vote is too much.

Mr L. N. Mbanefo (Onitsha Division):

On point of order, it is not a vote.

Mr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu Division):

Oh! a loan. I would welcome it if the loan could be made to cover the market and the streets of Onitsha. We feel that Onitsha is a central port and we want to see it become a big city so that this loan should cover the streets and general improvement of Onitsha as well as the market. When one crosses the river from the West, Onitsha is the first place to be reached and we want it to be a first-class city.

Your Honour, it has been a great privilege to see the cordiality which has prevailed in this House. I think all of us are prepared for the task ahead and, as you promised us before, when we are walking too slowly you will wake us up. The ship of the Eastern Region is now on the high seas with just sufficient fuel but no reserves. How to build these reserves is our task.

I support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr I. U. Imeh (Abak Division):

I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill, but in doing so, I have some observations to make.

Sir, the new Constitution is a stepping stone towards our self-Government in five years at all cost, but with the watchword of "Non-violence," and this particular Bill is the first Appropriation Bill under this new era.

I congratulate the Honourable the Financial Secretary on his lucid budget speech and the great task taken to draft out the Estimates. But on the other hand, I must say with all the emphasis at my command that this should be the last Estimates prepared without our consultation. Sir, the Government is today ours and we must prepare our Estimates to suit our needs.

A general survey of the Draft Estimates shows, Sir, that many Departments which should not exist in the Region, absorb most of our money, leaving a very small margin as surplus. These Departments do not contribute or sufficiently contribute towards the Region's Revenue.

The Public Relations Department.—Let us examine this Department in this respect. It was created during the war period for information purposes, and as there is no war again, Sir, and neither do we anticipate for war, it should be dissolved without the Region suffering at all, and the amount in Estimates used for development purposes. After all, Sir, We have sufficient newspapers operating in the Region and the country as a whole to give us sufficient and concrete information.

Forestry Department.—This Department, Sir, contributes nothing or very little to the Region's Revenue. Yet it expends about £50,000 with heavy salaries for expatriate officers, some of whom have never one day entered the Forest Reserves to witness the real work done by the Foresters and Forest Guards, the actual men doing the work. I suggest very strongly that some of the expatriate posts in this Department be cut off to build our Reserve.

The Agricultural Department.—For the past years this Department has been very busy with experimental works. I also suggest here that these experiments should be confined at Ibadan University College. It is high time that the Agricultural Department in this Region should concentrate on food production. So that after leaving Ibadan, one starts the real production work in the districts and rural areas.

Medical Department.—The amount in the Draft Estimates for this Department is not at all sufficient for the amount of work ahead of it. The health of the people must be given first priority. Most of the money which should have been expended for medical facilities in rural areas is for Expatriation Pay. The sooner this particular pay is scrapped off our Estimates the better. It was a shock to me when I found on examining the Estimates that no provision has been made for an hospital which was intended for Abak Division. I call it a shock, Sir, because your predecessor made an open promise to the people during his visit to Abak in reply to an address of welcome presented to him by the people and also minuted in white and black that Abak Division must be provided with an hospital under the Ten-Year Development Plan in 1952-53 Estimates. But today the District Officer has instructed the natives that if they want an hospital they must subscribe to build one. This is not an encouraging news at all. I have a petition here just received from my people which I am going to lay before this Honourable House. Am sure this House will support this petition for an hospital. I therefore advocate that medical facilities should be extended to rural areas. For example, Abak, my division has a population of 172,000 people and the nearest Government Hospital is sixteen miles away. You can better imagine any case of emergency. I am not convinced why Government should make a written promise and fail to fulfil it. The need for a Government full-fledged hospital in Abak Division cannot be over-emphasised.

The Public Works Department.—On a close examination of the Draft Estimates, it is noted with grief that allocations are made only for Second Class Townships for building drainages, installation of electricity, tarring of roads and drives in townships, forgetting roads and bridges in rural areas. Sir, I am sure you would permit me to be a little parochial here, if I say that in the Abak Division the only river along the Public Works Department road has remained not bridged since my school days with a hopeless floating pontoon. And yet the people have been agitating for a permanent

bridge. Such a division has been over-neglected in many amenities—educationally, medically and otherwise. The tax-payers there should be encouraged.

The Local Government.—I must not forget, Sir, to make mention of the new Local Government. I very strongly suggest that all the thirty-three divisions in the Eastern Region should be given the chance to start the new Local Government to go side by side with the new Constitution. I cannot understand and be convinced why some divisions have enough fund to train men to start the new Local Government and yet they are not given the chance. Abak is a typical case. Our people believe on concrete things. If we start right now with the new Local Government, to levy rates or increase taxes for big schemes and essential services for their communities would be an easy matter. Starting of Local Government, in all divisions is very very essential in the Region.

Education.—The Honourable the Financial Secretary in his speech said that Education bulks very large in the Estimates of the Region. Considering, Sir, the progress of any nation which depends primarily on education, I say that Education bulks very little in the Estimates of the Region; when most of the sums voted for Education go for Expatriation Pay and salaries of Expatriates. Abak is only lucky to have two Government Schools. One of these Government Schools should be raised to a Secondary status.

General.—Generally speaking, the Region has provided no room for Reserves. I am in agreement that the prices of Nigerian products might fall at any time. We cannot therefore all be dependent on the Nigerian products as the main sources of the Region's Revenue. A surplus of £92,000 only is not an encouraging figure for this Region. I therefore, very strongly recommend, Sir, that we start from now on to build our Reserves from the following sources:—

Firstly, Africans should be promoted to fill the existing posts in all Departments. Only Experts and Professionals should be expatriated. After all when most of the expatriates come into the service it is the Africans who do most of the work.

Secondly, large salaries of expatriated officers should have a general cut.

Thirdly, Expatriation Pay should be entirely scrapped off the Region's Estimates.

Fourthly, Public Relations should be dissolved at an early date.

Fifthly, Transport Allowances should be strictly curtailed.

Under the above items we shall be able to build a sufficient Reserve for the Eastern Region. I have given this as a timely warning, Sir. After all, Sir, the Region's Estimates ought to have been drawn according to the wishes of the people and spent accordingly to their wishes too.

Lastly, Sir, I am glad that in the next twelve months from now, our Ministers shall sit to draft our Estimates according to our wish and it shall save us the time for further criticism. And then, only then, shall we have the Estimates of the people by the people for the people.

Sir, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill only in principle.

Mr J. A. Nsirim (Ahoada Division):

In the first place I have to give honour and place to first things, so I have to thank the eye of the President for catching me.

Before I make my observations on the Appropriation Bill, I must first of all set up an observatory and also set up a standard or yard stick so that I can test the utility of every item on it. Now the yard stick will be found in Your Honour's speech at the opening. You said "The unity of Nigeria, the progress of the Eastern Region and first and foremost, and all the time, the welfare of the people." These are magic words, but we now have to apply them to the various Departments.

The Education Department has a great vote, but the yard stick is "the welfare of the people," all of the people and not just a section of them. We want a college in every division of this Region. Many Honourable Members have spoken on the subject of Grants-in-Aid for various schools. I think there should be a greater vote for Grants-in-Aid to schools—all schools—and then Government would have the moral right to check on the working of the various schools and make corrections. I now come to experiments. There are certain sums of money laid out for experiments and investigations and this is all to the good, but I warn the Minister for Education that if these experiments are of the type that will refuse admittance to a child because he is not of the right height or age and only allows him to attend in the form of adult education, then such experiments are wasting the money of this country.

As one Honourable Member has already said, the curriculum of schools should be drastically changed.

I would remind the Minister for Education about the use of examinations as a source of revenue. Our Education Department should institute an examination which will be accepted overseas and not only in Nigeria. This would yield quite large sums for the revenue of the Region. If we have an examination scheme which will be accepted all over the world, then we will get candidates coming from all parts of the world to take our examinations and should certainly earn a lot of money.

I do not feel that the present system of awarding scholarships is satisfactory. Since the yard stick is "the welfare of the people" I think that scholarships should be made on a divisional basis. If any division failed to produce suitable candidates to receive the benefits of these scholarships, then it would not be the fault of Government, but rather the fault of that particular division. Such a division would realise its failings and there would be incentive to catch up with the other divisions. I am sure we would soon achieve great benefits from this scholarship scheme.

I also advocate that in granting scholarships there should be no discrimination against certain faculties. Hitherto there have been no scholarships for the faculty of Law, and I feel, Sir, that the Honourable the Legal Secretary will bear me out that most of, if not all the important statesmen of self-governing nations, are lawyers or legal students. Eventually research might be carried on into our Native Laws and Customs with the idea of one day producing a masterpiece—*Codex Nigerianensis*—which will take an enviable place of pride among the Roman XI Tables, the Institutes of Gaius and Justinian.

There is another point I must make and that is the more we strive for peace the more the tendency is to move towards war. Before a nation can stand on its own feet that nation must be strong in the military sense, not for aggression, but for purposes of defence. The old Roman adage says "If you want peace, prepare for war." In view of this, I suggest we should start military training for all students in secondary schools.

There is a grave task ahead for the Minister of Education for this Region to formulate a national language for this country, so that eventually it would be incorporated as one of the compulsory subjects in the schools of this Region, and the other two Regions as well.

Many Honourable Members have talked about the Forestry Department and your Honour remarked about the great destruction of trees by timber contractors in the Rivers Province, in particular in the Ahoada Division. I feel that any vote to the Forestry Department is wasted unless that Department is prepared to plant more trees.

The Lands Department has a very curious business to perform, and that business is to negotiate for land under the Lands Acquisition Ordinance. When we use the measuring rod of the welfare of the people, I wonder how the Lands Department is working for the welfare of the people when its chief aim is to alienate land from the people to the Crown. We would like that Department to formulate a specific land tenure system in the Region. The Department could also help by giving aid to specific areas in the Region by redeeming land to them that had been taken away, either in ignorance or through treachery.

The Rivers Province is filled with creeks and there were many ports there in ancient days, so far back as 1900, which have since been closed to traffic. I think if these various ports are opened up now all along the Rivers, that would serve as a means of revenue to the Region.

I have already said that education is of grave importance to the Region, but I feel that the Medical Department should be given first place. We cannot carry out any improvements if all the people are dead because improvements are only for the living. Therefore this Department should be given a large vote and there should be hospitals in all divisions so that the people can be treated. I would like it to be recorded that in the whole of Ahoada Division there is not one single hospital and the dispensaries are mere pretences, and in reality we can say we have none at all. The same thing applies to maternity hospitals.

It has seemed that the policy of Government in regard to the Posts and Telegraphs Department is "To him that hath shall be given and to him that hath not, even that shall be taken away." The townships have most of the amenities and they continue to be given further amenities, while the rural areas are neglected. I think the Financial Secretary should take a note of this.

As many Honourable Members have pointed out, the Public Relations Department has not been doing much work in connection with the welfare of the people. The work of relationship should be to forge a link between Government and the governed, but the majority of the people regard this Department as the spokesman of Government. Most of the pictures and biographies appearing in the *Eastern Outlook and Cameroons Star* are of people who for one reason or another are "Yes men." This is not a good policy and it would be of service to the Region if the Department would refrain from it.

Before I discuss the Administration, I would like for a moment to turn to Catering Rest Houses. It seems to me that most of the Catering Rest Houses in the Region are not suitable and they don't actually do the useful service for which they were intended. It seems to me that they are often

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established in unsuitable areas and some of them should be closed up, but in central headquarters they should be improved so that when people come in for various meetings, such as the Honourable Members attending here in Enugu, they will be properly catered for. It has been very hard for Members during this session trekking on foot, and this would be even more difficult during the rainy season when Members have to return for a second session in the afternoon. I think the Rest House here in Enugu should be enlarged.

And now I will return to the Administration. I believe that the relationship between the Honourable Members of this House and District Officers should be clearly defined. In the past the District Officers have depended for their reports on what they are told by certain favourites who will, many a time, give false reports when it suits their purpose. There should be full co-operation between District Officers and Honourable Members of this House, and District Officers should not depend on hearsay evidence from people with an axe to grind. I am in full agreement with those Honourable Members who say that a District Officer should be more of a Development Officer.

In conclusion, I want to refer to the Honourable the Financial Secretary's speech, paragraph 4. "The Regions will, in consequence, have to take on some additional responsibilities." Paragraph 18: "... the object of the financial policy of the Region must be to provide ways and means of achieving this" and also paragraph 26: "The Region from now on will have to shoulder additional responsibilities, and in view of the present financial state of the Region caution will have to be exercised in expenditure." Who or what constitutes the Region? I think, Sir, that the animals, the plants, the various human beings, dead and living, the air, the land and the water constitute what I call the Region. It means that all of these things mentioned should carry this grave responsibility. The trees have actually been doing it in shedding their leaves and dead human beings which help to enrich the soil. It now remains for the living humans to contribute their own quota, and how are we going to contribute? It will mean sacrifices. Here, Sir, I would ask our expatriate brothers and friends to understand us when we cast our eye on their expatriation pay. We want to find out whether expatriation pay is still useful. I have to submit that in the old days when foreigners first came to this country, it meant coming out possibly to die, and therefore an incentive had to be given. But with Europeans coming out nowadays it is no longer a question of coming out to die but to live more abundantly. When we look round now at the faces of the Europeans and the faces of the Africans, surely we must come to the conclusion that the climate favours the European and not the African. Therefore I do not think it would be asking too much that the incentive of expatriation pay be withdrawn forthwith, because the European no longer comes out here with his life in his hands; he comes out here to live more abundantly.

And so, Sir, I say with all sincerity of purpose and all the willingness to shoulder the additional responsibilities of this Region for the unity of Nigeria, the progress of the Eastern Region and the welfare of the people, the sum of £95,830 expatriation pay can help to build one secondary school, one hospital and one modern Post Office in the so far neglected Ahoada Division.

I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

should not be confined to the University College. If the Agricultural Department is to serve the interests and needs of the people of this Region, there is no reason why its policy should not be one which would try as much as possible to produce foodstuffs in order to meet the needs of the people, and not that of a particular section.

Your Honour, in making mention of the Local Government Councils which have already begun to function in some parts of the Region, I think Honourable Members will agree with me that the only instrument by which rapid development and increased social services could be carried into all areas which lack them at the moment is through the proposed Local Government set up. It is a fact that the people who contribute funds to swell the Treasuries of the different Native Authorities have no confidence in these Authorities because they feel that the District Officer is at the end the arbiter of things. Elected into this House of Assembly are people from the rural areas, who have played their part in the elections and it is for us to interpret the minds of the people of the rural areas now and to press for their needs as much as possible. In Calabar Province, in places like Okoyang, Odot and Creek Town with a population of about 45,000 people there is not one complete primary school, no hospital and no good roads. It is the same in Akpabuyo, the largest area in the Calabar Division with a population of 16,542 people. There is not one full primary school, no hospital and no good roads. The people do not receive sufficient for the taxes they pay. I believe the Honourable the Civil Secretary will bear me out in this, because at one time he served as a District Officer in this particular area.

Switching over now to the Medical Department, I would first like to congratulate the Regional Pharmacist Superintendent, who has been going about checking dispensaries and drug stores all over the Region, but I have to put it to the Minister of Health that in most places in my own division the people have asked me to tell this Honourable House that they need more medical facilities—hospitals and dispensaries. In most cases where a patient dies it is because the distance from where he lives to the nearest hospital is something between 16 to 20 miles. In most of the dispensaries the drugs are not sufficient.

With reference to Grants-in-Aid, I would like to mention that I do not consider that the Hope Waddell Institute is making full use of the money given to it, in as much as that Institution had failed to erect throughout all these years of its existence concrete and permanent buildings for students' dormitories and class rooms. Our greatest duty today to the country is to see that the majority of our people are educated. Unless they are, we shall be confronted with more difficulties in this Region. We saw during the last elections that many of the people did not know what it was all about. I would ask the Minister of Education to see to it that something is done to improve education in this Region.

I believe we are all agreed on expatriation pay and that the money paid out to expatriate officers is enormous. We need this money to help local industries and we need Africans and not Europeans as Administrative Officers, because they know the needs of the people better than the aliens.

I have always considered the development of this Region as something which is written on paper but never practised. Real development should centre itself around those areas which are not up to the standard, but

unfortunately in the Development Plan we find that the greater part of the money is spent on emoluments and we wonder exactly what percentage of this money is spent on actual development. Now that we have entered a new era and have assumed the role of government we have to initiate schemes which will help not only the people in the townships but also those in the rural areas. I believe that when we serve the needs of the people of the rural areas we shall be serving the need of the people of the whole Region in turn.

5.45 p.m.

The President:

Order, Order.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

I appoint tomorrow, Tuesday, for continuation of the debate.

Motions

Mr A. U. A. Inyang (Ikot Ekpene Division):

Your Honour, I rise to move the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper. "That this Honourable House amends the Standing Order No. 66 subsection 3 for the Eastern House of Assembly thus:—*Delete* the full stop after the word 'policy' and *add* the words 'and shall also extend to other matters for the good government of the Region'."

The Acting Legal Secretary:

On a point of order, under Standing Rule No. 57, subsection 2 it automatically stands over to the Standing Orders Committee who, when it has examined the question will report on it to the House.

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The motion is committed to the Standing Orders Committee.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That the House do now adjourn." (No debate arising).

The President:

The question is "That the House do now adjourn." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

Adjournment

The House adjourned accordingly at 6 o'clock until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 19th February, 1952.



Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Tuesday, 19th February, 1952

The House met at ten o'clock.

Prayers

(Mr President in the Chair)

Questions and Written Answers

Mr J. Mpi :

3. To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region :—

When will the age-long proposed Ikwerre-Etche Division be officially inaugurated ?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region :

Representations have from time to time been made that there should be an Ikwerre-Etche Division. The creation of divisions has to rest not only upon the requirements of good order and government but also upon the economic deployment of staff to the best advantage to the Region as a whole. Consequently, these representations have never been formulated into proposals by Government that there should be such a division.

Mr I. U. Imeh :

33. To ask the Development Secretary, Eastern Region :—

(a) Under the Ten Year Development Plan, has the Honourable the Development Secretary been taking census of the Development work done in the Calabar Province ?

(b) Will he be good enough to enumerate the work done in each of the divisions in that province showing the amount spent on each work done ?

(c) What development he planned for the year 1952-53 in the Calabar Province ?

(d) What development work has so far been done in the Abak Division ?

(e) What plan of development work has he for Abak Division in 1952-53 ?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region :

The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Sessional Papers Nos. 24 of 1945 and 6 of 1951 which make it quite clear that the Ten Year Plan of Development and Welfare is a Nigerian Plan. From the commencement it has always been insisted that, while the Region should have, and in fact did have, a major say in regard to priorities,

the Plan would be a Nigerian Plan. It follows, therefore, that the Plan has not been subdivided into Provincial and Divisional Plans and no special records are kept regarding what work, if any, is being done in the various provinces and divisions.

Details of the various schemes proposed by the Regional House of Assembly and approved by Legislative Council can be found in Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1951, and expenditure approved by the Legislative Council (now the House of Representatives) is detailed in the Annual Estimates of the Central Government.

Public Business

Motions

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I rise to move:

- (i) "That in accordance with Standing Order 72 the Standing Order No. 66 (3) be suspended to the effect that a period of two days be added to the period of the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill."
- (ii) "That this period be deducted from the seven days maximum permitted under Standing Order 66 (6)."

Sir, I have to report that I move this motion with the consent of the President of this House.

Considerable latitude has been allowed already in the debate on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill and Honourable Members have to a certain extent anticipated the Committee Stage of that Bill. We feel on the Government side that it is probably the wish of the House that we extend the time permitted for the debate on the second reading and reduce the time in the Committee Stage. This will give Honourable Members, who have not yet spoken, an opportunity to do so at a time when the House is in full session as a House and the proceedings are being reported. In the Committee Stage, as Honourable Members are aware, there is no verbatim reporting.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Local Government (Mr E. I. Oli):

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is (i) "That in accordance with Standing Order 72 the Standing Order No. 66 (3) be suspended to the effect that a period of two days be added to the period of the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill."

(ii) "That this period be deducted from the seven days maximum permitted under Standing Order 66 (6)."

Mr J. A. Wachuku (Aba Division):

Your Honour, if Your Honour permits we have an amendment to make to that motion in connection with section (ii). All Honourable Members wish that section (ii) be deleted and that section (i) of the motion stands as it is, with the effect that the additional two days will not affect the seven days provided in Standing Order 66 (6).

The Acting Legal Secretary:

On a point of order, Sir. Standing Order No. 20 states that notice must be given of any motion or amendment, and no notice of amendment has been given to the Civil Secretary's motion.

The President:

I do not think it is possible for me to permit the amendment in view of the Standing Order and the motion will have to stand as it is.

Mr L. N. Mbanefo (Onitsha Division):

Speaking to the motion, Sir, while we appreciate the reason for the suspension of the Standing Orders in this case, we would like an assurance that this is not going to be made a regular practice. The Standing Orders have been carefully prepared, and if people would speak to the principle of the motion there would be no necessity at all for this extension of the time for debate and we, the Members not of the Government party, feel that it is an attempt to reduce the time to discuss the items in committee in detail. On the second reading of the Appropriation Bill we are limited to talking to the principle of the Bill, and when it goes into committee then is the time we can deal with them in details, and now this time is to be reduced by two days. I feel that this is a principle which should not be encouraged, especially on such a vital matter as the Appropriation Bill.

We are not opposing the motion, because, as I said, we appreciate the reason behind it. Quite a large number of the Members are here for the first time and are gradually feeling their way through the Standing Orders, but in the future we would like it to be recorded that we would strongly oppose any such step.

The President:

The question is (i) "That in accordance with Standing Order 72 the Standing Order No. 66 (3) be suspended to the effect that a period of two days be added to the period of the debate on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill," and (ii) "That this period be deducted from the seven days maximum permitted under Standing Order 66 (6)." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

Order read for resuming the debate in the second reading of the Appropriation Bill.

Mr E. Essien (Calabar Division):

Your Honour, in connection with the development of this Region I have to put it forward, particularly to the Members of the Regional Executive Committee, that it is necessary for us now to create a Ministry for Development. There is no reason why we should allow the Development Secretary to have a free hand in the development of the Region without an African Minister being there to supervise his work.

In supporting other Members in connection with the cutting down of allowances I feel myself qualified to speak on this matter because I was myself a civil servant in the branch which dealt with figures. At the end of each financial year Senior Service Officers would rush in and out to collect the remaining fund which had been allocated for transport allowance. Secondly, giving basic allowance to officers who do not actually have need for the purchase of a car encourages them to buy one. If an officer wants

to buy a car for the efficient discharge of his duty he could be given an advance, but I see no reason why Senior Service Officers should have exclusive right to basic allowance for motor cars purchased with the country's money.

When a Senior Service Officer leaves his station on duty he now gets 10s a night when formerly he had 5s as travelling allowance. There is no need for such an increase and I support all those who have said that these allowances should be cut down immediately.

There are certain conditions in which there can be no difference between Senior and Junior Service staff. There is no reason why we should provide £14,000 for the children of Senior Service staff whereas those in the Junior Service who need more money do not receive this allowance. This allowance has been created to favour particularly expatriate officers. The general understanding is that if European Officers are to come out for employment in the colonies there must be some inducement, but I see no reason why expatriation pay should earn annual increment. We all understand why increases are made on salaries, but I cannot see my way out why there should be an increase on expatriation pay.

As you all know, the Co-operative Department is not a revenue earning Department and its function in this Region does not compare favourably with what is expended to maintain it, and to ask for an increase in Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies is trying to bleed the finance of the Region to a zero point. The Co-operative Department demands a serious looking into in order to be able to determine whether it should continue under such existing conditions, or it should be scrapped or should be completely Nigerianised.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

I rise on a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member is dealing with the details of the Estimates and is actually reading out from them. This is a matter to come up in the Committee Stage and not at the second reading.

The President:

I must hold that the Member must confine himself to the principle and leave details to the Committee Stage.

Mr E. Essien (Calabar Division):

It is not my intention to go into details, but when we make certain observations it is necessary to draw Honourable Members' attention to certain sections of the Estimates in order to show whether a thing is so or not.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

I rise on a point of order. The Chairman has given his ruling on this matter.

The President:

I have given my ruling on this matter. No doubt the Honourable Member will abide by it.

Mr E. Essien (Calabar Division):

I now want to make a point with regard to the Civil Service Entrance Examination. While our University College is looking for an endowment fund our children continue to pay £1 to a foreign university in order to sit

for the Civil Service Entrance Examination which is set by them. If the examination was set in the University College at Ibadan that money would help towards carrying on the work of the University College.

Looking at the Estimates we find that a sum of £1,960 has been granted for local industries. I wonder if the Minister of Natural Resources would be in a position to tell Honourable Members exactly what local industries could be set up with £1,960 when £1,510 is for personal emoluments.

The Printing Department. Honourable Members will observe that under the items of Estimates in the Printing Department we have a Superintendent of Press, a Senior Assistant . . .

The Senior Resident, Cameroons Province:

Sir, on a point of order. The Member is still speaking to items in the detailed Estimates.

The President:

I think the Member must confine himself to the Standing Rules and Orders, which means that his speech must be confined to the financial and economic state of the Region and the Regional Government's financial policy. Detailed items must not be debated at the second reading. That is the Standing Order on the subject.

Mr E. Essien (Calabar Division):

I consider this a new era because the people of the Eastern Region are actually running the government of their own Region for their own people and with this opportunity we shall be working hard to raise the standard of life and the economic and financial position of the Region.

With these few observations, Your Honour, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr I. U. Akpabio (Ikot Ekpene Division):

Your Honour, it is with unmixed spirit of joy and happiness that I have this privilege to express my opinion at the first Budget Session under the new Constitution. Ever since we started in January, I have watched and listened with keen interest to all discussions, debates and speeches and most important of all the speeches delivered by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and that of the Financial Secretary. His Honour, in his speeches has painted and presented the general picture of our future development in such manner that if all conditions were equal and if one would not take time to examine all issues one would be inclined to say like Simeon of the Hebrew Scriptures—Lord, now lettest thine servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.

I have been optimistic that in all the discussions, debates and speeches there has been one general agreement of progress leading within a very short time to Self-Government. It follows then that no progress and Self-Government can be obtained without money. This is why all the Honourable Members have become more enthusiastic in all the deliberations on the Appropriation Bill.

In the Draft Estimate submitted by the Honourable the Financial Secretary, I am glad most of the Honourable Members have seen in the way I have seen that emphasis has been heavily placed on certain items of expenditure that could be avoided or perhaps be suspended for a time, while, at the same time, light emphasis has been placed on those things that are of general benefit or advantage.

It has been observed that a greater part of our revenue has been absorbed by personal emoluments and expatriation allowances. In addition there are in every department redundant posts which should be abolished and money voted for such head used for general development of our country.

Under Head 406—Education, £1,174,800 has been allotted to education. Even though most of the Honourable Members seemed to be satisfied with this figure yet, personally I feel that more money could be voted for education as our real progress is undoubtedly linked together with education. The weak side about education in the first place is that a greater percentage of the total allotment to education only superficially represents that field as most of the targets of expenditure could have been dispensed with without any slight dislocation to our educational progress. There are more than necessary in the field officers termed Education Officers, Inspectors and Directors. Some of them should take actual teaching work in schools to realise that it is sometimes easier to inspect, criticise, write confidentials, than it is to teach.

Another weak point under this head is the distribution of grants to schools. At present the policy of distributing grants to schools has been deliberately discriminative with the slogan that African or private schools are inefficient and that the proprietors open schools for profit motive. This in most cases, is not true. I leave the Honourable Members to think who is making profits—a person who receives enormous grants from the Government, and at the same time receives higher rates of fees from students, sometimes even more than those not assisted by the Government or a person who depends solely on the schools fees.

As for the question of efficiency—the Cambridge School Certificate results from time to time reveal that students from many unaided schools (if not at least better than) can favourably compare with those from approved schools.

A change of idea is essential. After all, the money spent is public money and the children are our children.

Head 414 Public Relations.—Under this head, £15,000 has been allotted. Personally, I would have no objection to expenditure allotted to this Department if this department really deserves the name. In the past, evidence clearly confirmed that there were only certain cases approved for the department to have relations. For instance, I sent an announcement of Entrance Examination for publication and it was refused by this department because my school was not among those approved for relationship and yet it is public money that keeps this department. This department should be demolished if it is not prepared to relate to general public interest according to its name.

Public Works Extraordinary—Calabar Province.—Under this head of expenditure, it is observed that no new work is provided for that province. Who is responsible for the initial stage of the preparation of requirements for each province? Does it mean that the Administrative Officers in Calabar Province proposed no new works for the Districts of this province? Why were the following works not provided for in the Estimates:—

(a) Hospital for Abak. This work was approved in the Ten-Year Plan.

(b) Arochuku-Nkana Bridge: The construction of this bridge is important. The Arochuku-Ikot Ekpene road, when opened is going to become a highway of the greatest importance to all the Eastern

Region, and the completion of the bridge should be the responsibility of the Regional Government. Regional funds are required to complete the bridge. Originally the work was undertaken as a feeder road project to link Ikot Ekpene with Aro. Administration undertook to construct the bridge for £2,100 to be done by local contractor. In the meantime, however, the Aro-Calabar road came into being. Now also a proposal to link that road with Calabar-Mamfe road by a road passing through Oban. The bridge at Nkana therefore now becomes of major significance. County Council would like to spend an extra £1,000 to have the original design improved by the insertion of 2.20 feet spans in the bridge—the sinking of the piles and the laying of the beams and runners to be done under the supervision of a Public Works Department Engineer. Could not the Board find the £1,000 required?

(c) New Hospital for Ikot Ekpene: This work should not have been omitted from the Estimates as it was approved in the Ten-Year Plan.

(d) New Post Office at Ikot Ekpene: It is regrettable that the new Post Office for Ikot Ekpene fails to appear in the Estimates in spite of the fact that the Post Office Authorities have seen the need for a better Post Office at Ikot Ekpene.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

I rise on a point of order. The Honourable Member is not addressing the Chair. This is rather important if he wishes his speech to be recorded. As long as he is turning round it is almost impossible for the stenographer to hear what he is saying. It is to his own advantage that I am rising on this point.

The President:

If the Member wishes his speech to be recorded he must face the chair.

Mr I. U. Akpabio (Ikot Ekpene Division):

Your Honour, I was saying something about taxation. I am not clear about that section because I know there are many ways we can increase the revenue of our Region. When I looked at the Draft Estimates I saw direct tax but nothing about income tax. In Lagos there are two systems of taxation, direct and indirect. As I say I know very little about this and I would like the Minister of Local Government to tell me something about it, because I think there has been discrimination in the system of taxation. If I am not mistaken, people in Lagos pay income tax and this is what happens. If a European is on £600 and an African is on £600, the European pays income tax and the African pays a direct tax. Why don't we adopt the same method for both. As I said before, in the Draft Estimates before us I can see nothing about income tax, and therefore I cannot see what the Region has got from that part of the tax. Surely this tax is a means of increasing our revenue.

I have a few words to say about the Medical Department. Before I left home my people spoke to me about this Department. We have not got as many doctors as we should have and people who are not well trained are going about administering injections. If we could have more doctors trained then we could take care of this problem. Many of us would not like to go to quack doctors. If I have an injection I want it administered

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by expert hands. But there have been many complaints about this, and so, I think an additional grant should be made to this Department so that we have enough doctors. I stress it again, I would not like an inexperienced hand to administer an injection to my children, my relatives or indeed any of my countrymen. The sooner we improve this Department the better.

Members have said that they are not satisfied with the Agricultural Department, but I differ from them in this opinion. We must be like other countries in the world and run experiments.

We have to help the farmers to help themselves. There is a general slogan "Back to the soil," but people need help and it is time, too, that we helped the Department.

I want to comment on the half a million pounds which has been allotted to the Onitsha Market scheme. I am not against it. I think it is quite good, because Onitsha stands in a strategic position. The first place people reach when they come from the West is Onitsha. But I have something to say about the figures that go to make up that loan. About £6,376 comes from the Groundnut Marketing Board and the rest from Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board. Now the main palm producing area of the Eastern Region is in the Calabar and Owerri Provinces. In 1950 Ikot Ekpene asked for a loan from this Board and it was refused. Now I wonder if the feelings of this Board are that a market is more important than drinking water. The Calabar and Owerri Provinces are the main palm areas of the Eastern Region but not much consideration has been given to them.

Now that we are taking part in Government ourselves, however, we will be able to realise these projects. His Excellency made an announcement to the effect that we have entered a new era and in entering this new era we must have a new spirit. I agree with this. Even if we have all the money we want it will not help us unless the spirit is right and we know how to use that money.

I know we have had a lot to say about these Estimates, Your Honour, because they were prepared for us, and I feel that if they were our own Estimates we should not have so much to say. I want to associate myself with the expression that in entering a new era we want a new spirit. We as leaders must be sincere and critically minded if we want to attain our goal.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

The Honourable Member has been speaking now for over half an hour.

Mr E. O. Eyo (Uyo Division):

I beg to move that the Member be granted an extension of time.

The President:

Before putting the question, I hope the Honourable Member will bear in mind that every extension of time given to the speaker beyond the thirty minutes means that it is very possible that another speaker will not have the chance to speak at all.

The question is "that the time of the speaker be extended to another five minutes." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No." The "Ayes" have it.

Mr I. U. Akpabio (Ikot Ekpene Division):

As I have said we must all have a new spirit. We cannot deplore European exploitation if we exploit the peasants ourselves. We must be prepared to share in this battle for freedom and this battle will be indecisive if we do not unite and seal our differences. We must be prepared to work hard and sacrifice ourselves. We shall then be able to launch out successfully into the gigantic schemes that have already been discussed.

Finally I should like to stress once again that we are in a new era and we must approach it with a new spirit of determination and constructive patriotism. If we fail we have none to blame but ourselves and posterity will ask us to render an account of the privileges we have hereby misused. Others have tried and I do not see why we should not succeed too.

Your Honour, I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr C. Paris Jones (Special Member):

Your Honour, it is with diffidence and trepidation that I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill. Diffidence because I feel very much like a new boy in school and trepidation because as one of the three Special Members we sit here in the somewhat rarified atmosphere between Government supporters and the Opposition, and we may get caught in a pincer movement.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary is, I consider, to be congratulated in preparing such detailed Estimates for this the first budget of the new Eastern House. It is apparent from the speeches of some of the Honourable Members who have preceded me that we are all somewhat inexperienced in debating matters of this kind. I am the first to admit that I am. I think we will all be in a better position to criticise this budget and succeeding budgets, if, indeed, such criticism will be necessary, after we have had experience of this, the first Regional Budget. Next year, Your Honour, we might be spared having to listen to a loan which is not in this Appropriation Bill being considered as an item of expenditure. We might also be spared from hearing, as I think one Honourable Member expounded, that new companies should be given preferential tax treatment which, carried to its logical conclusion means that company tax would increase in proportion to the age of the company to the detriment of its employees and its shareholders. Perhaps I mistook the Honourable Member, but that is what it sounded like to me.

I admire the Financial Secretary's courage in budgeting such a large portion of the Estimates to social services. I do not say this in any critical sense because there is a great and growing need for educational facilities and medical services, but during our debate and when the House goes into Committee, let us bear in mind that this Region is now largely self-supporting and the money has to be found from somewhere. It may be that it will have to be found the hard way. I liken this Appropriation Bill to cooks preparing a meal. You have to put something into the pot before you can take a tasty meal out.

Education, Your Honour, is well served in this House because many Honourable Members are practical teachers or educational experts of some kind, and they will no doubt jealously guard this item of the Estimates and it would not do for me on my part to encroach on their preserves. Without

education there can be no progress and it is right that they should jealously guard this part of the Estimates. I should like to remind the House and the Minister responsible that there is great emphasis on scholars leaving school applying for clerical jobs of the routine type and all too few wish to enter into technical posts. The need will not be so much for the office clerk as it will be for the skilled artisan and craftsman and I trust Government will bear this type of training in mind.

It is disappointing that the Estimates only allow £12,000 for Veterinary services. This puny amount, 1.3 per cent of the total Estimates makes me feel that we are ignoring a very valuable source of revenue when this Department is so drastically curtailed, as it must be with only that amount of money. Thousands of pounds are wasted monthly in the Eastern Region through the insistence of consumers in the bush markets to buy their joint of meat with the hide still on. Hides are worth a lot of money on the export market, and there is also an export tax on them which will bring money into the country as well as putting more money into circulation. Perhaps, in the future, we can give more to the Veterinary Department so that with extra assistance they can help towards counteracting this practice, not by enforcing legislation but by education. I consider, also, that an increased Veterinary staff might also help to stamp out the bestial, criminal and primitive practices regarding the sacrifice of animals which, I am told, still persists in the more unenlightened parts of the Region. They are a disgrace to any people calling themselves civilised. I was glad to note from His Honour's speech that a Committee on Animal Welfare has been started. Honourable Members will no doubt wish it every success.

One Honourable Member in the course of an able speech touched on the port of Opobo. I am well aware, Your Honour, that the ports and the railway system do not come within the jurisdiction of this House, but I would ask the Honourable Members and the Ministers who have access to the Centre to bear our needs in mind in this respect. The port of Opobo was a great and busy place long before Port Harcourt was even thought of and by means of its natural position with some of the main waterways of the Region flowing into it, it served its purpose. I think we should encourage development in that direction. We all know that the railway is heavily overburdened with traffic, and so far as we can see there is not much chance of any improvement in that state of affairs in the immediate future. I would therefore ask the Minister concerned to consider trying to divert as much export tonnage away from the railway, provided the cash value of that export tonnage is not diminished.

In conclusion, Your Honour, I turn to our old friend, the Public Works Department. I would like to say that I heartily support all the Honourable Members who have preceded me in their remarks about the state of the roads in the Eastern Region. Good roads are important arteries through which the life blood of the Region flows, but, unlike the medical profession, we wish to see our arteries hardened. The present toll on vehicles using the roads is heavy indeed and I must warn the House that the import of cars of all descriptions is likely to be severely curtailed within the next year or so. Therefore it is doubly important that we should try to protect what we have. I am sure Your Honour would not think it compatible with the dignity of the House if we had eventually to arrive here by ox cart, hand truck or even on camels.

Your Honour, I support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr A. Ikoku, O.B.E. (Enyong Division):

Your Honour, I can have no better preface than to offer to Your Honour the warmest congratulations of this wing of the House on your recent decoration by His late lamented Majesty, King George 6th. It is a decoration which has shed on the Eastern Region a lustre of honour which perhaps I might humbly say has been long overdue. It should have fallen to the lot of Sir Francis to offer these congratulations, but he is unavoidably absent and therefore I hope you will pardon me for congratulating a British Knight.

I want to place on record my personal tribute to Your Honour's wisdom and courage from your assumption of the office of Chief Commissioner, now Lieutenant-Governor, Eastern Provinces, and I hope we shall have an opportunity of saying more on this subject, whoever speaks within the next few weeks. I want to pay my respect to Your Honour's worthy consort whose devotion and guidance has made it possible for you to successfully man and pilot this turbulent ship of state. I well remember the first night I met Your Honour at a Government House dinner in Lagos, and in all humility I am happy to say that the friendship has developed in the years from a mere acquaintance to what I might call, with all due deference, personal and mutual respect.

I want to congratulate our new Ministers on the singular honour of being the foundation boys of this new school. The complexion of our present executive has been long the dream of the old brigade, to whose patience and sagacity we owe so much.

We have now arrived at another stage in our march forward, the stage of participation, not only in discussion of our affairs as in the Richards Constitution, but in the formulation of our policy and the carrying out thereof. I do hope our British colleagues, true to the British tradition, will appreciate the value of working with the African rather than for him. I hope most earnestly that our Ministers will settle down soberly to their job with a sense of their responsibility and their obligation to their office. It will require hard thinking, not idle day-dreaming. It will require that we plant our feet firmly on the earth while taking occasional glances at the stars for inspiration. We have got to realise that a philosophy of hate, call it by whatever name you like, can lead nowhere. It is righteousness alone that exalts a nation. After national politics we have international relations to budget for, and we shall need all the good-will and comradeship of all freedom and justice-loving nations in the next march forward.

I want to congratulate also, if I may, the Honourable the Special Members. I belong to the school of thought that believes at this stage of our development we need the benefits of their knowledge and experience to advise us. I know there is a school of thought violently opposed to this but I make no apology to anyone. Already the Honourable Member who spoke before me has given us an earnest of that hope and I pray that our confidence in them will be amply justified. None of us of the old House can afford to forget the unique services of the Honourable P. J. Rogers. We can only speak from our experience and not in empty generalisations. I welcome most heartily at this stage of Nigeria's development the presence of the Honourable the Special Members.

If I may, Your Honour, hazard what might be hooted down as expensive and unpopular, I respectfully throw it out for the Financial Secretary's consideration that bound copies of the Hanzard of the old House should be

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made available to Members' libraries, *i.e.*, free copies of the old Hansard, because I have been listening to speeches for two or three days and it strikes me that a study of what has been said in the last five years in the old House would bear very rich fruit, both financially and educationally. A good many doctrines which have been put out to us as first rate gospel sound so much commonplace that we feel a good deal of the time of this House has been wasted through sheer lack of study of what has preceded this House.

I wish to reply to points raised by previous speakers, so far as those points touch on my own school of thought and my own views. First of all I know that it is up to the Government bench to answer budgetary aspects of these points. We love to call ourselves Your Honour's Opposition bench, and I think it only fair that we state our stand. First of all the position of chiefs. We believe that our indigenous rulers have a place to fill and a part to play in the new Nigeria of our dreams. To this end we will pledge ourselves to support all constitutional chiefs who are willing to rule with the assistance and advice of democratically elected councils. This is envisaged in the Local Government Ordinance. We felt that there was need for a little pageantry in the East and so it has been decided that if there is a three-quarters majority in the Local Government Council who wish to make provision for their chiefs and support his office, that Council should be allowed to do so.

Secondly, Local Government. It is most gratifying to note the complete swing over of the N.C.N.C. on this vital point. The old House was called all sorts of names for advocating reforms, but now all is conveniently forgotten, thank God. We believe that Local Government is at once a training school for National Government and a buttress against tyranny and despotism from the Centre. In the field of social services and community development it is sheer madness to ignore Local Government and its possibilities.

Industrialisation. The Honourable the First Member for the Orlu Division frankly admitted that his party inherited much of his suggested programme for industrial development from the old House. The food production drive, the manufacture of cement and coal tar, ceramics, paper and tiles were only a few of the projects that were repeated *ad nauseum* by the old House of Assembly. Nor did we forget, which I am sorry to say he did, to emphasise the need for abundant electric power as a condition precedent to any worth-while scale of industrialisation. The incessant cry for a College of Arts, Science and Technology is a related point.

We have been treated, Your Honour, to a good deal of talk on whether or not Africans should participate in the education of their own country. It is an axiom on my side of the House that no nation can depend on foreigners in perpetual tutelage for the education of her children. The African's right to educate his own kith and kin has never been questioned by my school of thought, and those who are interested to pursue this point are referred to my contribution to the African Conference held in London in 1948. May I respectfully ask the Financial Secretary to make a copy available in the House library. The sad thing is not whether Africans should participate in education, but that some African proprietors, believe it or not, are tempted to exploit the hunger for education for personal gain. Honourable Members have been speaking from the background of their

honest experience, but they must remember that all men are not like themselves. We cannot close our eyes to the fact and we cannot wish it away. It is up to us to create a healthy public opinion in this matter for legislation is not enough. The indiscriminate sharing out of Grants-in-Aid is politics, not education, and bad politics at that. We are all for an educational crusade against ignorance and the powers of darkness, but those who lead the crusade must be knights.

It has been suggested that the Public Relations Office should be closed down. This we view, Your Honour, as an atrocious threat to democracy. The Honourable the First Member for Orlu suggested that all we have to do is to push out information to newspapers from this House—presumably his own side of the House—and that is all, and then we can close down the Public Relations Office. We can all see which way we are bound, and this is only one aspect of the doctrine of extirpation coming from the N.C.N.C. lovers of this country. We can only reply, God save Nigeria.

The budget proper, Sir. I should say right at the outset that I support the Bill in principle. I should like to congratulate the Honourable the Financial Secretary for planning what in my view is a difficult budget, because it is the first budget under the new financial arrangements and it carries the burden of complete regionalisation with its many transfers of staff previously looked after in the Nigerian Estimates. But I don't like the small surplus of £92,000 and a big drive for increased revenue is the first desideratum. I agree with the Honourable the First Member for Orlu when he says that the first thing in this drive must be economic development. But I cannot disagree with him too strongly when he says his party is against increased taxation. I hope most sincerely that the leader of this party will dissociate himself from this statement. Revenue can be increased in a number of minor ways. For example, the speeding up of Trunk Roads "B" projects which form tributaries for the flow of produce down to the coast. The entire produce of the Aro hinterland has been bogged down on account of the state of the roads from Aro to Itu or to Ikot Ekpene, and last year we called the attention of Your Honour and His Excellency to this difficulty. There is the speeding up of the establishment of oil mills in all areas that want them. For four years we have been asking for one in the Aro District. The extension of the telephone service. It is a bad policy to instal public boxes and ignore requests for private extensions which are revenue yielding. Here again Aro and Aba are cases in point.

I come next to the question of expatriation pay. I must say that this side of the House has never been happy about expatriation pay, nor with the general high cost of administration. But we must face facts. We cannot eat our cake and have it. It is a general law operating in all fields and if we want efficiency we must pay for it. It is the law of supply and demand and is not peculiar to Nigeria. As a matter of fact some of our experts are grossly underpaid—the Central Financial Secretary and the Statistician for instance. We should compare the figures with those ruling in the technical and commercial worlds. Trained engineers from the big Engineering University in Dunedin, New Zealand, are nearly all taken up by Australia, and it is a common saying that one of the principal exports of New Zealand is brains. We must face the fact that there is a world competition in this market. But nevertheless, I can find no justification for making expatriation pay pensionable. It is an allowance for expatriation and it cannot continue to be part of the pensionable emoluments when

expatriation ceases. The one real answer to this question is large-scale training of our boys and girls in all possible branches of knowledge and skill. I have always criticised the Nigerianisation and Scholarships Schemes as short-sighted and narrow in scope, and I would respectfully suggest to Your Honour that a select committee should be appointed early in the life of this House to look into this vital question of training and report to the House.

I am convinced in my own heart that there is something wrong in a wage structure which allows thousands of men and women to live in a low stratum of life while others live in what to these underpaid people is paradisaical luxury, and here I refer to the Senior Service, black or white. The disparity between the initial points of the Junior and Senior Services is indefensible. No economic philosophy which accepts the dignity of the human personality will tolerate it. By what stretch of the imagination is it possible for the Certificated Teacher who earns less than 5s a day (or in the case of the Elementary Certificated Teacher less than 4s a day) to live anything like a civilised life at the present-day value of the 1s? The same is true of the lower grades of the Junior Service. Uncertificated Teachers and unskilled workers compare even less favourably. Little wonder that strikes, like the poor who engender them, are always with us. The non-payment of Temporary Addition to Rates of pay to Voluntary Agency teachers in the Cameroons has created a special problem, which has been worsened by the free education scheme of the C.D.C. at Bota. The dilatory attitude of Government over negotiating machinery for teachers salaries, a dodge which has lasted for over twenty-four months, is a blot on the historic page of Sir John's Administration. It is so out of tune with what we know of the gallant Knight and his Eastern Lieutenant that we must assume it is due to bad advice from some quarters. Let us have education but not by the shameless enforcement of sweated labour.

I will now turn to one or two Departments. First of all Head 404 of Expenditure—Agriculture. I am disappointed, Your Honour, at the silence on the subject of suitable mechanisation schemes, which is the only way to popularise agriculture with our young school leavers. To make them go back to hack with blade and hoe in the sultry sun is impossible. I know that the Agricultural Department are very worried about mechanisation in the East and talk about the suitability and unsuitability of our soil. We can never get our educated youth back to the land until there is mechanisation. In England the secondary schoolboy rides his tractor and enjoys it. Give us something like that in the Agricultural Department.

Police, Head 412 of Expenditure. I agree with the Honourable the first Member for Orlu Division that the omission of fire-fighting equipment is to be deprecated. Each of our townships should be provided for. Then, again, we should have Police Posts in out of the way places. If the ordinary man and woman cannot rely on the protection of the police in every part of the Region, what is the law and Government for? Protection under the law is the right of every citizen and is the reason of being of Government. I refer, Your Honour, by way of example to the vendetta that has been going on for several years in the Asaga area just behind Arochuku. We have called upon Government for a Police Post here and to seize this opportunity to stress the need.

Regional Legislature, Head 420 of Expenditure. I see here that the Vice-President is supposed to have an allowance of £450. In this

particular case the Vice President is a Civil Servant, but I think we can save this £450 because I do not think a Vice-President, when he is a Civil Servant, should draw this allowance of £450, in addition to his substantive salary.

Under this Head, Your Honour, I think it is taken for granted that those members of the Executive Council who are Civil Servants will draw no pay and allowances as Members of the House of Assembly. It follows as a corollary that Ministers who draw salaries as Ministers should not draw allowances as Members of the House of Assembly. If we want the truth we must follow wherever it leads us. If my contention is accepted, Your Honour, we shall be able to save £3,150 under that Head alone.

Educational Estimates, Head 406. The estimated revenue for the Region is £3,949,190. From the Centre we get by way of capitation, education and police grants the sum of £2,031,250. This leaves us with a net revenue for the Region of £1,917,940. The estimated expenditure under Education is £1,174,800. From this we must subtract £862,500 coming as a grant from the Centre, which leaves us with £312,300. My arithmetic reveals that £312,300 out of the net regional revenue of £1,917,940 works out at 16.3 per cent for education, not 30.5 per cent. It is misleading to say that education will cost us 30.5 per cent of the revenue, it is 16.3 per cent.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

On a point of order, the Honourable Member has been speaking for half an hour.

Mr L. N. Mbanefo (Onitsha Division):

I rise to propose that the Honourable Member be allowed another fifteen minutes.

The President:

The question is "That the Member be allowed an extension of fifteen minutes." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No." The "Ayes" have it.

Mr A. Ikoku, O.B.E. (Enyong Division):

Continuing, Your Honour, with the Education Estimates. In 1951-52 the present Financial Secretary told us that we spent £1 5s 7d *per capita* of 510,000 school children. This works out at less than 10s per head of children of school age and approximately 2s 6d per head of the population as against over £6 in other parts of the world. I quote these figures, not to disprove the fact that we are spending what for us is a fat sum on education but to stress the point that education always is an expensive, if vital, item in the budget of all progressive countries. I am satisfied for the moment with the ratio of expenditure between Junior Primary and Senior Primary Schools, but I am not happy about the expenditure of £7,500 under Grants Regulation 13(2). This is a Grants Regulation which allows the Director of Education discretion to give grants in respect of expatriate women teachers in primary schools. I do not want to go into detail on this, Your Honour, as the principle has already been discussed in this House two years ago. I believe that

the headship of primary schools is the province of senior African women and the money should be used for sending them overseas for training. The expatriate women teachers should be employed in Secondary and Teacher Training Institutions.

I should like to make a few remarks on the quality of our education. I raised the point some three or four years ago. It is not enough to provide education, we must see that it is of the right quality. I disagree that any education is better than none. Reading and writing may be the birthright of all, but we must be sure of the quality of the education we give beyond that. It would be possible to leave the country worse off than we found it by applying the wrong kind of education. It is clear that we are most heavily indebted to the Christian Missions and shall remain so for some time yet while the values they stand for penetrate through our indigenous organisations and local councils, who will eventually take over.

The hunger for education is great, but I am afraid the paucity of our secondary schools makes it impossible for us to provide this kind of training for many of our young men who are eager to enter secondary schools. Some four years ago, I carried a motion at the Regional Board of Education that a survey should be made province by province of our secondary education with a view to planned expansion. It is common knowledge that the available secondary education facilities in the Region are inadequate and stereotyped for the numbers and aptitude of the children desiring post primary education. The crux of the question is staff. There can be no doubt that some unaided secondary schools are making a serious and genuine effort to supply part of the general need. Their staff problem however, is just as bad as that of aided schools. Yet there is an Education Ordinance which requires them to come up to a level of efficiency for assistance, and it appears to me that we are going round in a vicious circle. I suggested elsewhere that *ex gratia* grants should be made under Regulation 31 to such unaided secondary schools as give evidence of genuine endeavour and public spirit, for the training of staff. I cannot think of a more positive way of helping them reach that level of efficiency that is demanded of them when qualifying for Grants-in-Aid.

Thank you, Your Honour.

Mr A. O. Chikwendu (Bende Division):

It is appreciated, Your Honour, that the Honourable the Financial Secretary has risen to the occasion by preparing a balanced budget for this House. As a young country the Eastern Region has to be faced with some financial problems and a surplus of £92,000 is inadequate, but this fact should not dishearten anyone.

I endorse the opinion of those Honourable Members who feel that the system of taxation in the Region should be overhauled and the method of assessment and collection improved. By tapping the mineral potentialities of the Region enormous reserves of funds could be created. I fully agree with those who advocate for the attraction of foreign capital and skill. No country has really been truly independent.

It is gratifying to note the efforts which are being expended for the introduction of Local Government, upon which rural development so much depends. But I foresee one problem which is likely to hamper progress.

Trained staff is woefully lacking. There is a strong need in the Region for engineers, architects, bridge constructors and craftsmen. The Region should hurry forward schemes whereby staff can be trained, otherwise the march towards self-government will be retarded.

Let us examine the schemes and projects already marked out. There is the Technical Training Centre at Awgu in the Onitsha Province, the Technical Training Centre at Victoria in the Cameroons Province, the Training Centre for Instructresses at Uyo in the Calabar Province, a boat building industry in Calabar Province, the coco-nut industry at Bonny in the Rivers Province, coffee plantations in the Bamenda Province, cement works in the Ogoja Province, a cattle ranch in the Ogoja Province, the cashew nut industry in the Onitsha Province and the market reconstruction at Onitsha. It is strange that not one of these schemes operates or is intended to operate in the Owerri Province, the largest province in the Eastern Region. The areas affected are likely to benefit directly from these establishments.

This curious oversight on the part of Government is regretted and I hope it will serve as a pointer for the future.

There is no provision in the Estimates for the supply of water to the Umuahia-Ibeku township and water is the dire need of the people. The Public Works Department runs a lorry from Government College, Umudike, to supply water to the Government reservation. Applications from members of the public were turned down. There is only one private hospital in the township and the Provincial Engineer refused its application for the supply of water. Most public officers lack a sympathetic approach to members of the public and they fail to realise that there should be reciprocity in co-operation. The site of the Government Hospital at Umuahia is a thorough disgrace. Promises for the erection of a new hospital are on paper only. The temporary structures have become squalid and outdated. Besides the Native Administration and the Mission Hospitals there are some maternity units and dispensaries established by private persons, and I think that the Minister of Health should ensure that such health centres are subsidised from public funds by means of grants-in-aid. People who voluntarily engage in such humanitarian service should receive some encouragement.

The only concrete evidence of development in Umuahia is the erection of the Provincial departmental offices and quarters for both senior and junior staffs.

The railway line cuts the township in two halves, and up to the moment the Development Officer has not thought it desirable to construct a level crossing to join the two parts. All this gives a bad impression. Umuahia-Ibeku is a very important centre for the cattle trade and the Local Authority has not yet thought it fit to provide a cattle kraal. I am surprised that such a revenue-yielding concern should be treated with nonchalance.

The question of roads in Bende Division is a very difficult one. Public Works Department maintains twelve miles of road and the Native Authority maintains a network of roads. Two of these roads are closed for six months of the year during the rainy season.

I would like now to turn to the Police Department. The arduous nature of the work of the Police demands that there should be more promotions within the rank and file. They should be adequately rewarded for the risks which their work involves.

It is interesting to note from the Financial Secretary's speech that the bulk of Nigerian revenue comes from the Customs and Excise Department, and it is therefore very sad to reflect upon the hardships to which petty traders are subjected in the Customs sheds. Packages and parcels belonging to petty traders are jumbled together in heaps and they have to sort through these enormous heaps before they can find their own loads. The same treatment is not meted out to commercial firms, whose goods are packed neatly for easy clearance. These petty traders contribute to revenue and they should be treated with some respect.

It is the duty of the Education Department to provide more schools and mass adult education, and the attitude of this Department towards privately-owned schools should be changed.

With these few remarks I beg leave to support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr J. E. Ubom (Abak Division):

Mr President, I have to refer to His Honour's interesting Budget Address and the speech of the Honourable Financial Secretary.

I am convinced that a great achievement, during the period under review, has been made.

I have to thank the British Government for the timely constitutional changes granted to us and the opportunity given to each division to be represented in the Legislative Houses. The N.C.N.C., too, is to be highly congratulated for advocating these changes. By forming majority of the House, the N.C.N.C. has seized the Government of the day in the East. The Members are all picked and selected men from each division. I am happy that the Legislature is composed of such personalities; there is therefore hope for success.

It is now our business to progress faster or retrograde gradually.

The Budget Balance is very disappointing; I endorse wholeheartedly the views of other Honourable Members that much expenditure has been spent on salaries to Senior Officials.

I observe that the new changes have resulted in a total net increase of £832,540 over the current year's expenditure. Certainly, £500,000 cannot be spent for only a reconstruction of a market while other divisions are crying for developments.

Now is the time to check up things.

The grant of Expatriation Allowance should be reviewed, but for the moment a levy should be introduced on salaries to raise money for other essential services from which the common people will derive benefits.

A hard time has come, and we all must make sacrifices. Workers ask for increases in wages and salaries because of alarming increases in prices and rates. The common people are crying and looking up to Government for blessings.

I rather feel that we must concentrate on real and true developments—assisting the people financially to carry on trade and industries themselves.

Paragraph 9 of the Financial Secretary's Report. The decrease in tonnages and the increase in the value of produce (palm oil and kernels) sold and exported, I think, have been due to the fact that there have been no storing up of produce waiting for better prices as in previous years.

The extra money earned by the farmers are mainly spent on imported goods not luxuries though, and left them without real cash after the produce season.

The mass of the people are very poor; and if one goes into the villages to witness what dinner a family of three or five members take, one will obviously discover that the people are truly not wealthy at all.

Let us all co-operate and achieve real success.

I do not wish to attack each individual Department of the Government, but Departments as Agriculture, the Public "Wastes" Department, you call P.W.D., and the Forestry will be wise to learn lessons from all the wild attacks and criticisms poured on them by many of the Honourable Members of this House.

I shall submit as yet a few of the urgent needs of my division:—

- (i) Loans to farmers, societies engaged in industries and trade.
- (ii) Building Permanent Bridges over the QUA IBOE RIVER at IBAGWA and IKOT OKORO—very important and quicker trade routes to IBEKWE (OPOBO)—a seaport for the IBIBIO country.
- (iii) Establishing secondary school for girls in Abak as no other similar schools can absorb the many girls leaving primary schools every year.
- (iv) Building fully staffed and equipped hospital in Abak in view of the fact that population of both white and black is increasing and no other nearby hospital.
- (v) Liberal award of local and oversea scholarships to deserving youths selected and recommended from Abak. And
- (vi) Immediate introduction of Local Government into Abak as to reform the Native Authority Courts and Councils which are so corrupted and primitive that no civilised litigants can obtain justice therefrom.

If this is done as early as 1952, a great relief will be brought to the mass of the oppressed and suffering litigants.

I support the Appropriation Bill in principle, while holding that expenditures must be equally distributed to all the divisions of the Region.

Mr J. Mpi (Ahoada Division):

Your Honour, before supporting the Bill I would like first of all to thank the Honourable the Financial Secretary for bringing it to what it is today.

First of all I would like to talk on the Administration. The word "Administration" brings to mind Administrative Officers, and if it were the order of the day that Administrative Officers in this Region should go, I would say "No" for my District Officer. The man we have in my district is doing a great deal of good work and men, women and children would wish him to remain. He truly is a Development Officer. Other officers may be sleeping, but he is not and I do not believe that he is the only one.

Sir, we have petitioned Your Honour several times, sometimes through the District Officer and sometimes through the Resident. The Honourable Chief Buowari Brown also has asked that the Ikwere-Eche Clan in Ahoada Division could form a district. This clan raises from £30,000 to £40,000 in tax paid. Now that you are leaving us in May, Sir, my people would

be very happy if you would grant this petition before you leave us and form this great clan into a district. It is no crime, I believe to aim for higher things.

I have a few words to say about the Public Works Department. I agree entirely with those who criticise this Department. The Port Harcourt-Owerri road is a terrible road for those who own cars. Even the Press has clamoured about the state of this road, but so far nothing has been done. It is high time the Department did something to improve this very important road. Nor has the Public Works Department done anything about feeder roads. As Your Honour is aware, there is no other road in my area save the one going to Ahoada. There is a road under construction from Ahoada Division to Ogoni, and one from Joinkarama to Brass. I think urgent attention should be given to this.

I am afraid to criticise the Health Department, because if one does so without sufficient knowledge one is apt to be placing one's own people's lives in danger. At least I can say, Sir, that this Department should do more for the people than it has done in the past.

I do not agree with those people who have criticised the Public Relations Department and advocated that it should be abolished. If we are going to be in the real sense a Region there is no reason why we should not have what is known as the Public Relations Office. It is already doing a lot of good work in the Region. I do think that there should be some deduction from the allocation made to it and that the Public Relations Officer should travel more and contact the people in all the divisions, make friends with them and know their problems.

I must confess, Sir, I was greatly surprised to learn that the Forestry Department was still in existence. In the Rivers Province we hear nothing about this Department, especially since the death warrant was served on all trees in our division by timber exporters. If for the sake of the name we want to retain the Department, then let us allocate to it either £10,000 or £15,000 instead of £49,000.

I think the Police Department is doing very well, though there is still room for improvement.

If we want to get results from the Agricultural Department and get them to do all we want them to do, then in my opinion we must allocate more to that Department. I do not think the £100,000 allocated is sufficient.

I have nothing to add to what other speakers have said about the Education Department, except to say that there are some schools that have not been visited for three years. The Department should look into this.

Our main need, it seems, is to raise funds. As a new man here I do not expect to make suggestions of the kind I am going to offer, but nevertheless, Sir, why could we not introduce horse racing here? I saw this done when I visited the Gold Coast, and it is also done in Lagos. I do not think that introducing it would be out of place.

Another thing I would like to mention, although I have already spoken about Public Works Department, is that I would have wished Your Honour to have visited Etche to see what is happening there. We have a major road there leading to Aba, Owerri and Okpuala Ngwa. There is also a strong river, and there is no way of crossing that river except by an ordinary canoe. There are always accidents occurring.

In conclusion, I support the Honourable Member, Dr Udoma, when he said in his speech yesterday, "Well done" to you. As you are soon going, we may not all meet together as we are now, and so I too seize this chance of saying "Well done," not only to you but to your able wife who has helped you. I thank you very much for all you have done in this Region, and I hope that wherever you are you will always remember us in prayer so that the seed you sowed may always grow.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Chief A. N. Onyiuke (Awka):

Your Honour, while I support the Appropriation Bill in principle, I want the Chair and the Honourable Members to understand that as the Owelle of Nimo and first Member of the Awka Division I have no personal opinion in matters of public interest. My opinion is the opinion of the people I represent.

I was Chairman of the Njikoka Finance Committee since its inauguration and I know what task it is to prepare estimates of revenue and expenditure for my district. It is infinitely more difficult to prepare that for the different Departments of this Region and I therefore have to congratulate the Honourable the Financial Secretary for balancing the budget with a surplus of £92,000. It is indeed gratifying, because I did not expect a surplus in the first year of this Constitution, in view of the fact that new different heads and items are inevitably created.

Your Honour, we feel very sad indeed that you should be leaving us on the 13th May of this year on retirement. We really do not want to miss you from this Region, particularly now that we have achieved a step forward towards self-government with your hard work and fatherly advice. We shall not forget Your Honour and your able partner, Lady Pyke-Nott. May God guide and preserve your life long to live to enjoy your merited pension.

Your Honour, returning to the Estimates, I find no provision for Awka Division. I will not criticise the Estimates for I regard them as a ladder up which we must climb so that we ourselves next year may be criticised. But I would like to recall Your Honour's last visit to Awka Division when the people told you they had been asking for fifteen years, from the time of Lieutenant-Governor Hunt, Chief Commissioner Shute and others, to raise Awka Government School to Class VI Secondary, to build a Cottage Hospital for Awka Division, to instal a trunk telephone service to assist the Native Administration ambulance car in its work of transporting thousands of patients to the nearest hospital at Onitsha, and the Mission hospitals of Iyenu and Adazi, to rebuild the Awka Post Office as it is too old and small, to build a bridge over the Ezu River along Mgbakwu Ebenebe road and to instal a pipe borne water supply system from the Agulu Lake to serve those areas without streams. Why are these things not provided for in the Estimates? Is it because no one has represented Awka Division in this House? When Your Honour visited us we pointed out that we could see no reason why Owerri Government School should be raised and the older Government School at Awka left behind. Your Honour's reply was that the Owerri Government School would be reduced to Primary when the Roman Catholics had finished their College at Emekuku. But we do not want that to be done. Rather we wish that our request could be met. Awka is the best division in the Eastern Provinces, administratively speaking, and no one can deny it. Why, therefor, should it be so neglected?

Your Honour, if I were to go into details you would suspend all other items of expenditure and use your "Veto" power and order immediate action. Awka Division, as I made it clear to Your Honour, is prepared to bear their share of the cost of these works. Your Honour promised half the cost of the bridge and Awka Division is ready with its share. It was revealed later on that the bridge would be a pontoon bridge, but the people do not want that, even though the District Officer said the fare of the Ferry would be free. I am sure that if all the divisions of the Region could have their needs met they would be prepared and glad to pay whatever rate was levied on them. I should also like the Minister of Education to note in block letters that my area do not want this new orthography, it is a reduction of education.

With regard to the height and age limit of boys entering secondary schools, my area agrees with the age limit but not with the height. Men of thirty are often not higher than a boy from a gigantic family of fifteen years of age. We want to see more results from what we spend in education, but we do not want basket making and needlework, because our boys and girls when they leave school do not earn their living by these things. We tried at one time to establish mass education in Awka Division, but since no one was in charge of that Department and no allowance was made to those who could teach in their spare time, the idea did not prosper. I think we should make provision for two masters in each division, but unless this is done and they are given an allowance the project will fail.

Your Honour, under this new Constitution, I find no provision defending native laws and customs and preserving native rights. Before Government came we had rulers in Nigeria. At that time, might was right, but since then their rights and powers have been reduced and they have worked without any consideration. There is a saying in the Ibo language, "Government does not know those working for them." If there are people to be considered and people to be paid, they are the Native Authorities. They work next to the District Officer, and in fact, if there were no Native Authorities the District Officers and the Police would have no business to do. No policeman will enter any town or division as a stranger if he fails to contact the Native Authority in charge of that area. The Native Authority's house investigators feed and assist them. The chiefs are looked down upon by Government and receive no allowance. It is almost shameful to mention that a Native Authority receives 2s 6d a month for being a member of a Native Authority. I received that for many years, and 7s 6d for being an Appellate Court Judge which we institute to help the Administrative Officers, because if they are left to the judicial business the development of the area will suffer. I think in our division we have been able to reduce the amount of cases going before the District Officer for review, and I hope other divisions will follow suit. I think the position of chiefs in the Eastern Region should be defined, and I refer to hereditary chiefs, not those who are chiefs because they were educated and able to express themselves better than the hereditary chiefs.

I have nothing to add to what has already been said by Honourable Members on the different items of the budget as that would be sheer waste of time, but I would associate myself with any sensible comments that have been made.

I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr J. N. Foncha (Bamenda Division):

Before I say anything in support of the Appropriation Bill I would first of all like to express the appreciation of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons for the good work of the late King George VI. On behalf of the Trust Territory, I would crave the indulgence of this House to observe one minute's silence as a tribute to that great monarch.

The President:

I would remind the Member that this is one House and that this House has already paid respect to the memory of His Majesty the late King by standing for two minutes in silence.

Mr J. N. Foncha (Bamenda Division):

Before making any remarks on the Appropriation Bill, I should like to thank the Honourable the Financial Secretary for balancing our budget and producing a surplus for this first meeting.

Turning to education, I would say that the foundation of a people's self-government is education. Certain citizens of the Eastern Region became aware of this fact about ten years ago and private schools sprang up. This practice would have extended to the other provinces had Government not stepped in and stopped them. It is my belief that far from stopping private schools, Government should encourage them by making Grants-in-Aid to them in the same way as they do for other schools in the Region. The expansion of education should be the concern of everyone and it should not be left to Government alone to shoulder the responsibility. Now that Government is finding it difficult to maintain its own schools it should encourage individuals to open schools. All we want from these schools is that they should be of a high standard of morality as well as academically, and Government would do well to provide strict supervision. The best brains refuse to go into the teaching profession because it is not sufficiently lucrative. Every year the top-most boys in Standards V and VI are examined and admitted into the secondary schools; the dull ones become Probationary Teachers. At the completion of the secondary school course, they refuse to take to teaching because they are paid less than their friends in the Clerical Service. Considering that the teaching profession is a work of sacrifice, it should be made more remunerative as an inducement to getting these boys into it. I pray that the allocation for the Education Department should be increased so that adequate provision could be made for retaining and training the best brains for the teaching profession. Training as well as experience is needed in the running of a school, and where a private school is efficiently controlled it should receive the same Grants-in-Aid as any other such school.

In a short time an education rate will be imposed, and there might be no school fees. This will set the children free to go to school, and unless expansion is forcibly planned there would be no schools to admit them. I think that when this House next meets to debate the budget it will provide as much as £2,000,000 for education. I must crave the indulgence of the House for a vote of thanks to those who, through all sorts of difficulties, have made it possible to establish schools in this Region. The Voluntary Agencies have taken the foremost part in this work and they should be given a vote of thanks and encouragement to continue.

Mr A. G. Umoh (Enyong Division):

think that Voluntary Agency schools should be closed down or given no further grants. On the contrary, I would appeal to Government to give Mission schools every assistance, both financial and moral.

I have a few observations to make on the Medical Department. I am afraid I must be personal because I come from an area where there is not as much as one hospital, except the Leper Colony run by the C.M.S. Imagine what it is like for a sick man when he has to be run thirty-three miles from Umon to Ikot Ekpene. It is very sad for the tax-payers, and it is hard to persuade the people of the rural areas to pay tax when on looking round they can see nothing for their money.

I should like to associate myself with the previous speakers who have said that development should not be confined to townships. So far development has been limited to places like Enugu, Port Harcourt, Onitsha, Calabar and so on. I will go further than the previous speakers and say, even at the risk of being unpopular, that development work in townships should be withheld until the people in the rural areas have had a chance. Where is the justification for installing electric light and radios in every house in Enugu when, in a village of more than 100 people there is no good water supply. It is our duty to be sympathetic towards the people of the rural areas, and under the new Constitution this year more attention must be paid to development in these parts. I would like a radio myself, but first things must come first.

In Enyong Division there is not one good market or road. The villages are still connected by the same bush roads which were used by the early explorers. We need at least two good markets and a well-planned town in each clan and enough good roads to connect the villages with these markets and towns. The road (from Uyo to Ikot Ekpene via Itu) is the only public road we have in the division and every year it caused a lot of inconvenience to travellers during the rainy season. I would suggest that this road at least should be tarred so that it will be possible for people to travel along it at all seasons. I would also point out that the bridge at Itu has long been an impediment. If a lorry comes to that bridge it has to unload before it can cross. I am appealing that this bridge be given immediate attention. And the road from Itu to Arochuku is bad. There are many bridges there that need repair and travellers have many difficulties to face on that road.

The District Offices at Itu, the headquarters of the division are a disgrace. Apart from the District Officer's house, every building is of a most primitive type.

The postal system at Itu is also very bad. It takes about three weeks for a letter to go to a place like Ikot Ambang, Ibiono, nineteen miles away. I myself have been compelled to get a postal box in Uyo, another division four miles away from my home for this reason. We do not want to make a noise in Enyong Division, but if we are convinced as we are getting to be, that this is the best way of getting things, it won't be our fault if we adopt it. I am sure that if Your Honour could make a rushed visit to Enyong Division before your final departure from this country you would be compelled by sympathy to make a parting will of your expatriation pay to be used in its development.

I should like to thank Honourable Members for giving me such a patient hearing, and while I support the Appropriation Bill in principle, I appeal to the Ministers to put their heads together and help to close this open hole in the Eastern Region ship.

Mr R. O. Iwuagwu (Okigwi Division):

First of all, I have to thank Your Honour for your eyes catching me, and then the Honourable the Financial Secretary for the Bill put before us. But there is one deplorable thing in the draft. I thought the employers would draft the Bill and the workers would either accept or refuse, but in this case it is for the worker to present and pass to the employer to accept. I think in future years the employer should do the draft and not the worker.

It is definitely true that the feelings and views of the Members of this Honourable House are one in everything. We find that it is the finance that controls the Government, it is this (finance) that has brought us together and it is finance that we have come here to criticise.

I will now go through the items put down in the Estimates. First of all, His Honour's acting allowance. I do not think this sum of £1,680 should be there at all. It is a waste of the Region's revenue since the actor draws his personal emolument ever before he becomes the acting officer.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, on a point of order, details in the estimates should be raised in the Committee of Supply and not in a debate on the second reading.

The President:

I am obliged to rule that the Member is out of order.

Mr R. O. Iwuagwu (Okigwi Division):

With regard to expatriation officers, I have no ill feeling against them provided that they come into this country to help us carry out the things we want to do. One of the things they could teach us is how to extract medicine from our trees. Nature has been very kind to us and we live in a tropical country where these most useful trees grow. If we can extract the medicines here, there will be no need for us to import these medicines from other countries. I see no reason why we should be sent abroad to study medicine. It would be much better to study medicine in this country. And we want that the expatriates who come here to help us should be technicians so that they can help us to help ourselves.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary said in his budget speech at page 7 that the economic prosperity of this country depends upon the export of its agricultural products. I support this in toto. But there are other things to be done such as the drastic curtailment of expatriate allowances, motor vehicle allowances and other things that go to this end. We have 117 expatriates earning over £91,000 as against 226 First Class senior clerks only earning £41,000. These figures compare very badly. Motor allowances alone come to over £9,000.

I would also suggest drastic curtailment of the personal emoluments of Senior Service Officers from the beginning to the end of it.

Education. We need more secondary schools in the country and I strongly suggest that money should be voted to the Education Department so that more girls' schools can be built, run and maintained by Government. It is extremely difficult for our girls to enter secondary schools anywhere at the moment. There are two in the West but in the East there is nothing like that.

I would like the Minister of Education to make a specific note that the Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies and private schools is not sufficient. More money should be voted to them. And I strongly agree with the Honourable Member who said that our education must be efficient.

The costly materials bought by the Agricultural Department must be considered very gravely. The amount set aside for it is over £100,000, but when we come to examine the revenue it brings to the country we find it is less than £4,000. We are not interested in experimentation. We have not seen anyone who has left the existing Agricultural Centres at Abakaliki and Umuahia who has gone home to do agriculture. We want to learn things that will be useful to the people, but practically nothing has been done, and I therefore suggest drastic curtailment of the amount set aside for Agriculture.

There was a control of trees, but now Iroko trees are being cut down and soon it will be almost impossible to find building materials. I therefore advocate that more Iroko trees be planted, replaced and controlled.

Development work. Messrs Mann and Smith, District Officers in the Okigwi area do a great deal of development work, and therefore praise must be given where praise is due. District Officers should be encouraged to do development work in their areas and those who are fit to do development work should automatically become Development Officers. But at the moment the development work done in the rural areas amounts to nothing at all. The roads in the Okigwi area are very bad indeed and are water logged and swampy. I beg that more care be taken of local roads in rural areas so that the people may have free communication with the townships. The roads in Enugu are tarred and water is freely supplied, although I would mention that there is a shortage of water in some places as some Honourable Members did not have enough to drink before coming to this Honourable House. This, however, is not a report. New roads should be considered and old ones tarred in the rural areas.

I would draw attention, too, to the Post Office in Okigwi. This is very bad and has not been expanded, improved or developed since 1920. Also there is only this one Post Office for the whole of the area, and we need at least two or three, one to serve Isuochi-Isukwato and the other Mbano-Etiti clans. These should be connected up with the trunk telephone system.

The hospital needs attention indeed. And I would, in agreement with other Honourable Members, urge that the pay of doctors be increased so that they will do their duty properly. They should be allowed to have private practice. While they are deprived of private practice I do not think we will be able to get them to come and help.

With regard to the water supply in the Okigwi area, we were told that a company was going round boring holes for water and we invited them to come to Okigwi. We were prepared to pay, but they dug holes in one or two places, worked for a week or two, and then work ceased. It was my thought that they were expecting to find minerals and when they did not do so they lost interest. I still implore that this company continue their work in the Okigwi area because the need of the people is very great.

I see there is an item down under Public Works Department, for Public Works Extraordinary. I say that some extraordinary work must be done by this Department or the money voted for it should be taken away.

I agree with those Honourable Members who have said that we must attract foreign capital. We must do something to attract money into the country for we cannot depend on just taxing the people.

I support the Bill in principle.

Rev. M. N. Ibe (Owerri Division):

I rise to associate myself with the Honourable Members of the House who have spoken in support of the Appropriation Bill. I have also few observations to make on some of the Departments.

Education Department.—I am happy to see that the sum of £1,174,800 has been voted for the education in the Eastern Region. This indeed, is a very good sum to start with. I should like to make a request that those who are responsible for the allocation of this money to various aspects of educational work in the Region, should give priority consideration to Owerri Government Secondary School. This school is not worthy of its name as far as buildings and equipment are concerned. The people of Owerri Division will be pleased to see this school placed on an equal footing with other Government Secondary Schools in the Region.

Teachers' Salaries and Temporary Addition to Rates of Pay.—I feel also that the salaries of teachers be increased and the Temporary Addition to Rates of Pay be merged into the salaries of teachers.

Public Works Department.—Much has been said of this Department in connection with expansion of its services to the rural areas and I quite agree with the previous speakers on this point. It is the duty of the Public Works Department to see that roads, bridges, good and adequate water supply are provided for the people in rural areas. Many towns and villages in Owerri Division need these amenities and they ought to be given to the people who pay their taxes and contribute to the revenue of the Region. The people of Mbaize have been asking that a bridge be constructed for them at Udo Ezinihite Imo River but this request has not been considered.

Medical Services.—If there is any possibility of increasing the Estimates of the Medical Department, I must support the increase wholeheartedly. We need more hospitals in this Region. For instance, a place like Owerri Division will need at least six hospitals, one for each of the six clans that make up the division.

Local Government.—In Owerri Division, men have already been trained in United Kingdom for Local Government work. The people of Owerri Division should like to see not only the preliminary organisation and introduction of the Local Government but also the actual Local Government in operation as soon as possible.

With these few remarks I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr M. T. Mbu (Ogoja Division):

I offer my congratulations to the previous speakers in this House, and more particularly for the persuasive language that has been used. Many of us are here for the first time and it is a very busy session.

In supporting the Appropriation Bill I have some few comments to make. Much mention has been made on so many heads in the Estimates, but I feel that under Head 404, Agricultural Department, there has been a bad omission since the Cocoa Survey Officer Scale B has been left out.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

I think the Member is quoting from the Estimates.

The President:

The Member is quite clearly out of order.

Mr M. T. Mbu (Ogoja Division):

Leaving that point I would like to refer to Pioneer Oil Mills. We would like Government to explain the installation of these mills to those divisions that have not got them. I don't think in Ogoja Province there are two districts that could boast of having Pioneer Oil Mills. We have been trying to get oil of good quality, Grades I and II, and if we could have Pioneer Oil Mills we should be able to turn out Special Grade Oil and bring more money into the Region.

Much has been spoken about the fear of famine in this Region. I do not think we need fear famine in this country if we could have feeder roads which are the only obstacles that stop our poor farmers from bringing in their produce to the townships. Some of the soil is very rich for agricultural crops, and lack of transport and road communications are making it impossible for us to realise the value of these crops.

Now I must speak about the Public Works Department, and I think it deserves all that has been said of it in this House. Roads and bridges are in deplorable state, and I think cement bridges should be provided. It is all right to cross a pontoon bridge now, but in the rainy season it is appalling. Sometimes the pontoon drifts away by the flood and the public crossing such ferry have to wait about for an indefinite time; and eventually you are warned that if you cross, it is at your own responsibility. On many occasions lorries have been sunk, and people using the road to Mamfe and Bamenda must always have good brakes, for during the rainy season you drive at the risk of your life.

I was very pleased to note what His Honour said about education in his speech, but nevertheless there are certain parts of this Region that cannot boast of having a Government School. I hope that, with the assistance of this House, the Financial Secretary will look deep into this and see that some improvement is made in the position of those divisions which are now without the benefit of a Government institution. We crave the indulgence of Government to get us this benefit, and also the benefit of private schools into those divisions which are really lacking from the educational facilities. I feel that there are many proprietors of private schools who deserve Grants-in-Aid. And despite all the good work done by Voluntary Agencies, we must not lose sight of the fact that some of them have become despotic because of their religion. Technical schools of which we talk so much should in fairness be given to those divisions which are the least lucky educationally speaking.

I think the Medical Department should see that provision is made for Medical staff to be allotted to the Region so that every division has its own Medical Officer and every village in the division is visited by that officer once or twice a month.

I should like something to be done about scholarships in the financial year to come to meet up with the needs of the people. In my division, I cannot remember anyone having a scholarship to either a Secondary or Government Higher School.

Sir, with these few comments I support the Appropriation Bill.

Mr V. A. Nwankwo (Abakaliki Division):

I rise to support the Appropriation Bill in principle and to thank the Honourable the Financial Secretary for preparing the Estimates. To prepare an Estimate of a nation is an art but it is not beyond criticism. The Estimate is one sided, I must be frank to say. If the Estimate was drafted by our own Minister it would have been turned down. I beg to make some of the following observations:—

Much revenue has been earmarked for a waste and I found that votes for Expatriation Pay were £95,830, Entertainment Allowance £1,680 and Acting Allowance £7,540 making a total of £105,050. This sum if cut off from the Estimates and sharing its 50 per cent to Education, Medical, Agricultural and Works Departments, then adding up the 50 per cent balance to the £92,000 budget balance it will nicely balance a real surplus of £144,525 to serve as a cushion for the future of this Region. The words "Deputy" and "Acting" that are always attached to Officers are in my mind redundant and synonymous. Acting posts are posts that should not be paid for as it paves way to a recommendation for a promotion to one who is made to hold an office in acting capacity.

Education.—The sum of £1,174,800 voted for Education was purely inadequate and I expected that 50 per cent of the whole Estimates should be set aside for education. I believe that without education there shall be no progress in this Region. Abakaliki is a progressive district and I ask that the Government should provide a Government School for the division. The people have only few Native Administration Schools and Missionary Schools. Missionaries have been overtaxing the people for building of these schools and for maintaining them. There was a case where one section of the division was made to pay £500 for a grass roofed school building. The levy was made notwithstanding the tax paid by the people. The poor people are suffering on both ends.

Adult Education with a fair vote of £4,900 should be wisely distributed to reach the people of my division—Abakaliki. Our chiefs and councillors should be taught to read and write so that they can discharge their duties fairly well rather than being persuaded or forced to put their right thumb impressions on a blank paper. They represent sections of communities and should know contents of every instrument, record or document that they sign. Adult peasant farmers should be taught too to read and write in order to keep record of their proceeds and achievements. Record keeping shall propel their anxiety for production of more foodstuffs. Same applies to traders. I cannot say where previous votes on this important project was expended in the previous years.

Moral Culture.—The future of this Region hangs mainly on the youths of today. Pupils and students must be morally educated and be compelled to practise it. Schools and colleges of every type must be provided with practical religion; that is, Native Administration Schools and Voluntary Agency Schools should be directed to provide Catechists or Pastors to keep sermons for the pupils or students, failing which our educated youths of no moral culture shall be the most dreadful burglars and robbers. Burglary and robbery committed by educated, disciplined persons are more dangerous and far reaching in effect than those done by illiterates.

Agricultural Department.—I support this Department in principle and well endorse the vote allotted to it, but I will be against my conscience if

I fail to say that they waste woefully on experiment and demonstration. I condemn the use of tractors on our land because firstly, it is costly to have one and must be bought by collective farmers and secondly, if use of tractors is encouraged and put into operation, the whole Region will be barren and unfertile as tractors root off all economic trees of every type and these trees that could bear fruits and shed leaves for manure to the soil will no more exist. If land is so badly stripped the whole land must need fertiliser before people could dream of crops and then the estimate on fertiliser shall be alarming and would probably go to fetch over £2,000,000.

I condemn also the extravagancy of this Department on Extensional Demonstration. I could see that there was a certain case where yams were bought say £200 and planted in the rural area at a cost of £100 in farming, maintenance and transportation and the amount realised from sale of the yams amounted to £50 giving a woeful loss of £250. I am calling the attention of the Government to make good for such a folly and to see that any factor responsible for such should never be allowed to recur.

Agriculture in Schools and Colleges.—Pupils and students should be made under the Education Code Syllabus to take Agriculture as a priority. Mere garden work is not satisfactory. Considerable acres of land should be acquired to be apportioned individually to each pupil or student so that each pupil or student should have his or her portion maintained and be examined on practical agriculture in that respect.

Local Industry.—£1,960 voted under this project is discouraging. I do not welcome pottery, fishing or the like as the real sense of industry to a nation. I was of the opinion that factories for manufacture of bicycles and other foreign commodities that the Region spend heavily upon to import be established abundantly. I must point out that Technical Training School, Enugu, was unsatisfactory in that boys are to serve five years in tuition in that factory. They are taught only to rewire motor armatures, petty carpentry, vanishing and making of iron gates from old scrap iron sheets for Public Works Department and on completion of their course of training will have to be pushed away to find appointment somewhere. The machines there in the workshop are costly ones and no workshop has similar ones. The discharged boys could have no tools and are bound to meet the local petty mechanics for their daily bread.

Police.—I welcome the vote under this heading and condemn the idea that any drastic measure be taken against this Department. I cannot for mere reason that one was mishandled by one policeman or an Inspector dream to impute the principle of this peace-making Department. I quite agree that there have been many happenings disappointing to the public as a result of one or two of the policemen's behaviour, but that could not be interpreted to say that one bad apple spoils the whole barrel. I remembered in Ogoja Province a year ago the Police there were corruptly bad and when the detachment was taken over by the Acting Senior Superintendent of Police in the person of Mr J. T. Ogbolu, about six constables were either dismissed or imprisoned and since then I am quite safe to say that the Police of Ogoja Province are people of good behaviour and efficient in their duties. I cannot help drawing attention of the Government to Motor Traffic Unit whose duty is primarily on motor vehicles and road accidents. If they discharge their duties sincerely and honestly without fear or favour the rates of road accidents will automatically be decreased and then the overwhelming loss of souls in this aspect will be

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saved. I warn that the public should not tempt them. On the whole strict discipline or even last resort should be applied to any who misbehaved either in the Regular of Traffic Unit of the Police Department.

Examination of Vehicles.—Conclusively, I am to direct to the notice of the Government what I call a bad policy. I beg to say that as soon as a Vehicle Testing Officer satisfies himself that a vehicle could not make long way journeys safely with passengers, such vehicle should be condemned entirely and not to be passed out for township works of carrying bricks, stones, sand or building materials, notwithstanding that townships are more populous than highways.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

On a point of order, Your Honour, the Member has been speaking for half an hour.

Mr A. Nwachuku (Afikpo Division):

I beg to move that he be given a further ten minutes.

The President:

The question is "That the Member's time be extended by another ten minutes." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

I think the "Noes" have it.

Mr D. C. Ugwu (Nsukka Division):

In supporting the Appropriation Bill I request Your Honour's permission to make a few observations. First of all I have to congratulate Your Honour for having arranged things so well that this House has been able to start with great success. It is true that Your Honour is leaving this country on retirement, but I hope that it will still be possible for you to apply a certain amount of propelling force. We don't necessarily depend on the British Officers who are in this country alone, but also on those who have left Nigeria and gone back to Great Britain; so we hope, as those privileged to take part in this Budget Session, that you who have known the aspirations of the people will apply that propelling force which you have promised us.

I have also to congratulate the Clerk of the House of Assembly. We could not possibly find anyone so sympathetic and helpful as he has been and we hope he will continue in his work here with us.

I have also to congratulate the Financial Secretary. It is always very difficult to prepare estimates single-handed. I have helped to prepare estimates and I know what it means. People who do not take part in preparing estimates can always find something to say about them. The fact that there are no estimates, unless we make money just as God makes man, that can provide for all our requirements supports the fact that no estimates will satisfy all of the people.

Your Honour, many people think that the new Constitution has given us a great deal of power, but I do not think we are very far from our old position. We have Ministers who have been elected by us, but it seems to me that they are a sort of dignified civil servants. We look on Government to convince us that they are not civil servants.

Now I will turn to the Estimates. In my opinion the estimated surplus on the 31st March, 1953, of £92,000 is not very much, and it does not seem to me that the financial ship is seaworthy. Out of this estimated

surplus we must submit Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure, and probably at the end of the year we shall find ourselves with probably not so much as £1,000 surplus.

With regard to the Agricultural Department, I imagine that out of the total of £100,790, about one-third goes straight to the pockets of the so-called experts. I do not underestimate the achievements or the importance of the Agricultural Department, but I should have been happier if, say, a half of that amount had been used in purchasing tractors and fertilisers. One Honourable Member has said here that he does not support that we should have tractors, but I say that we should. They could be loaned to Native Authorities, Councils or big farmers. I say that we have a great need for tractors and fertilisers in this country. We don't want that human beings should stay in the fields from early morning until late at night. None of us wants to be a beast of burden. People want mechanised farming so that we would have enough food to export and enough to supply the people as well. It is no use saying "Back to the land" to the people who are leaving colleges and schools today. We shall not be able to convince them, and I am sure none of us will be happy until we have tractors. So I think the Agricultural Department should spend a great deal of the money voted to it in fertilisers and tractors, and then employ a few experts to direct the farmers, instead of having so many experts taking about one-third of the money and producing nothing.

Sir, many Honourable Members have spoken about the Public Relations Department. Some say that the Department is really necessary and that we should leave it, but it seems to me Government has the *Gazette* and many other means of making its decrees known to the people. When I heard of the Public Relations Department I thought it was taken over by Government for profit making, but it seems it is just another Department where someone is employed to do unproductive work. About £15,000 is spent from our revenue to maintain it and in return it brings something like £2,500, about one-sixth of the total expenditure. I do not see the need for this Department. Of course in a true democracy Government itself must have means of expressing itself, but there is no reason why it should not send its publications to the Press. It would cost much less. I don't say that the money voted for the Department should be curtailed, I say that the Department should be scrapped.

Your Honour, I am lodging a protest that at a time when we are expecting Local Government in the East, there should be an increase in Administrative Officers. When the local councils and county councils are formed, then the majority of the work now being done by District Officers will go to the councils, and I can see no reason why therefore the number of Administrative Officers should be increased from ninety-four to 124. If this is accepted by this House it means that each division will get about three of these officers, still leaving twenty-five for the Secretariat. I do not see the need for them, be they expatriates or Africans. What we want now are Development Officers to help the District Councils carry out development works.

I am amazed that at this age we should still have Interpreters. There are fifty-five of them and they will cost £12,090 from our revenue. What is their work? Interpreters do more harm now than good. All the time we are hearing that Administrative Officers are taking Language examinations which they pass. If they pass, why don't they speak the language? In any case there are so many men who speak English now that there is

surely no need for Interpreters. The interested parties in cases could always find someone to interpret. I can see no reason why we should keep these men as Interpreters. If we scrap the items, then we have another £12,000 for other projects. I do not mean exactly that they should be dismissed. They are our employees. They should go on retirement. Those of them who are clever should be promoted to something else, say, Administrative Officers, and this would save us more money because they would not need expatriation allowance.

Your Honour, I have seen that no speech here is complete without reference to expatriation allowance. Now, we in this country have to face the fact that we need experts. No one is born an expert, they have to be trained, and if it costs £2,000 to train an expert then I suggest the £110,000 we spend on expatriation allowance, children's allowances, etc., should be spent to get us fifty-five experts in different fields of work. Had we done that over the last four years we should now have had about fifty-five specialists, some in education, some in veterinary and so on. But is there any reason why we should not start now? Anyone looking at the salaries of expatriate officers will be convinced that they are inducive enough, so why not use these allowances to send people overseas to Great Britain and America to receive training. It is certain that the high salaries of high officials, both African and Expatriate is a drain on our revenue. The Junior Service man gets about £42 per annum as his initial salary, while the Senior Service man gets something like £510. The gap is too great when one considers that they all buy on the common market, and yet one wonders why the people go on strike all the time. If £300 is considered good enough for an Honourable Member of this House to live on for a year, I do not see why we should not start to cut down the salaries of senior officials.

As I see it, it is very encouraging that 30.5 per cent of the total expenditure of the Region goes on Education. I do not advocate any increase. There are other things we want as well. If we establish schools in every village, but produce no food, well, I do not think we can eat books. But with regard to the spending of this money, I wonder why it is that only Mission's schools qualify for Grants-in-Aid. I know that any Mission before it starts a school can be assured of a grant, and yet an African proprietor is not considered fit for a grant. Now that we are taking part in Government let us see that those schools run by African proprietors which deserve a grant get it in just the same way as the Mission schools do.

Your Honour, I do not think that the amount voted for Police is too big, it is just good enough. But I hope that soon some of our non-commissioned police will be promoted to senior posts in the Department so that we may save money thereby. But the police of this Region must be made to understand that they are peacemakers. We want freedom, not to commit crimes but freedom to live in security and walk peacefully along the roads, etc. I should also like to say here that it is time the Police Training Centre was brought back. It was removed from here to Lagos and since then people in the East have found it difficult to get the job, but if we had the Police Training School back it would be very easy.

I would now like to come to the position of Local Government and Native Administration workers. When it is a matter of disciplinary action against these workers then Government steps in, but when it comes to looking after the interests of the workers, Government then says that the

Native Administrations are the employers. Local Government bodies are the foundation stone of our self-government and the workers for these bodies must not be allowed to suffer. I am asking the Minister of Local Government to take note of this. I can see no reason why two people leaving school with the same certificate should get different treatments, just because one goes to the Native Administration and the other to Government.

I would now like to mention my division. I know the whole thing is getting very monotonous because everyone stands up and says that his division wants a hospital and so forth, but nevertheless I still have something to say. It has been said before and I am going to say it again. There was a hospital in Nsukka in 1924, the year of my birth, and it was taken away because the Prisons Department was taken away from Nsukka. The nearest hospital for us is at Enugu, despite the fact that Nsukka is the largest or second largest division in the Region. We have no Government Dispensaries and no Government Maternity Homes. The strange thing is that about two years ago we were told that the only thing holding up the building of a hospital in Nsukka was land.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I think the Member has been speaking for half an hour.

Mr D. A. Nnaji (Udi Division):

I move that the Member be allowed another five minutes.

The President:

The question is "That the Member's time be extended by five minutes." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

I think the "Ayes" have it.

Mr D. C. Ugwu (Nsukka Division):

Now I convinced my people that we should find the land and the land was cleared ready, but no longer had we done so than we heard that Government had handed over this hospital to the Mission. When we approached the Mission we found that it was not so and no one was building a hospital. When I examined the Estimates I found no mention of a hospital for Nsukka Division. It seems that it has been forgotten. We are loyal tax-payers, and human endurance has a limit. A point has been reached when, I think, the people should start agitating.

I now come to Public Works Department. The Honourable the Civil Secretary will bear me out in this because when he was Resident, Onitsha, he came to consult Nsukka Division about certain towns in Onitsha Province that had been neglected by the Onitsha Native Authorities and by Government. There are no roads connecting these towns, and when I worked for the Native Administration and was told to go to one of these towns on promotion I refused, because it was like throwing me into the ocean. These towns are part of Nsukka Division now, and when we, as tax-payers, know of the money voted under Works Extraordinary, we cannot understand why these parts of Nsukka Division should be left as a desert and not benefit from the taxes paid by the people. Nsukka Division is expecting something to be done now.

Your Honour, with these comments I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr D. O. Enang (Obubra Division):

Your Honour, in supporting the Appropriation Bill, I have a few remarks to make.

I agree that forest reserve means any parcel of land acquired by the Forestry Department for the purpose of preserving the trees, but I do not agree that it should include preserving of birds, animals and snails. Certain people in areas where there are forest reserves are not allowed to go into the forest and collect snails or go to the ponds and fish. I think this is wrong and that the rights of these people should be preserved. I should also like it if the Department would examine the *bona fide* of any area before attempting to acquire the land. Where this is not done it is a challenge to the people. The people then agitate because the Department has acquired more land than it should have done because it does not give them any agricultural expansion. The Forestry Department should always concentrate on the development of such forest reserves.

Turning to Education, if a division like Obubra has been able to turn out two Members for the Eastern House of Assembly one of which is a Minister at the Centre without even having a single secondary school for the whole division how much more then if a secondary school will be considered for this division. In view of this fact I appeal most ardently to the Minister of Education for a secondary school for this division. We should make provision to train men to become civil servants to take over some of the high administrative and technical posts now being filled by expatriate officers. This will not take so much money out of our revenue as Africans do not need expatriation pay.

Your Honour, I would like to invite your attention to the Medical Department. In Obubra, illicit injections are still practised, although we have police constables. There is also an illicit trade in the sale and manufacture of M. and B. and Mist Alba. I appeal to the Minister of Health to see that a good medical service is established to reduce the number of deaths due to these illicit practices. We need larger quantities of drugs so that all the dispensaries can be stocked with them. It is very important that the rural areas should be given medical attention. If the Obubra Division would be considered for an ambulance car it will undoubtedly help to reduce these illicit practices of bogus injections.

Your Honour, if you were to visit the people of Obubra Division during the rainy season you would really sympathise with them. There are no good roads, and it seems that Public Works Department has forgotten that we are a part of Nigeria, although we pay our taxes. There is no doubt, Your Honour, that one bad apple spoils the rest. It has not been possible for His Honour to visit this part of the province owing to the deplorable conditions of the roads most especially during the rainy season. If the Obubra-Abakaliki road is to be constructed only when financial and executive capacity permits I am shocked by what possible means the people of this division can get to other parts of the province. Is the Government of Nigeria only prepared to listen to complaints from the people who can always hire lawyers and politicians to speak or make horrible noise for them or what, and is it because my division will not succeed in doing this that it has not been said anything about for immediate development?

Sir, I think it is time that the Railway Police learn that they must not reserve respect for certain people and refuse to respect others. A Member of this House was insulted by a Railway Police Constable, and as soon as

strong people; and they will be useful to us. The next thing in Medical is the pitiable condition of people in the rural districts. I feel, Your Honour, that more Sanitary Inspectors should be employed, or if it is not possible, the existing ones should be asked to extend their work to the rural districts. Many villages are dirty and are in unhealthy condition with the result that mosquitoes abound and are carrying diseases from one place to another. If the health services were sound, I think many of these things would have been avoided and the spread of some epidemic diseases would have been averted too.

I come now to Education. Much has been said about education and the importance of education cannot be over-emphasised. I feel that if more money were voted for education, it will not do any harm. In my humble opinion, Your Honour, I would suggest that several schools that are well run under certain education regulations should be assisted. It is very unfair to see Voluntary Agencies and private colleges not being paid attention to. If the Government is not prepared to assist these voluntary schools and colleges, then Government should undertake to build colleges for us because there is need for education. There is the alternative. There are many Voluntary Agencies' schools and colleges, and more Grants-in-Aid should be given to them.

The next thing I would like to suggest is development, or rural development.

Many rural districts have been forgotten. Many Honourable Members have made mention about wells. In some places the wells sunk had been left unused because they were badly made. This is a waste of money. Whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well. When a well has been sunk in any particular area, it is the duty of the officer in charge to see that the well is cared for and not left carelessly and thereby wasting money.

The next thing is agriculture. At present, I am not very much satisfied with the work of the Agricultural Department in my province. When we visited Abakaliki, I had a talk with the officer in charge there. He told me that it was possible to know what quantity of fertilisers were suitable for the Onitsha and Owerri Provinces. He also said the Agricultural Department has not known the measures suitable for places in Ogoja. It will not be useful to all, I am afraid, Sir, that the Agricultural Officer has not satisfied Ogoja people by failing to know the quantity of fertilisers suitable for the different places in Ogoja. If the Department is working for Ogoja, it should be able to know what amount of fertilisers will be suitable for different areas ever since it began its experiment. I think, Sir, that it is high time now that the Department turns its experiment and researches to practical utility. The earlier the Department does that the better for the province as a whole; and the Department will have the wholehearted support of the people. But if it does not do that, people will still be very doubtful whether the officers are up there for the help of the people or to create a place for expatriate officers.

Another thing I would want to make mention of is Posts and Telegraphs Department. I feel, Your Honour, that the Minister assigned for this Department should remember that for the past years, this Department has not done any extensive work. I do not know why. There should be more appointments in the Department. The Posts and Telegraphs should extend its work not only to Ogoja town itself, but to other divisions throughout the

province so that it will be possible to send telegrams from one district to another. As at present, if a telegram is sent to a man at Ikom he has to go to Bansara to get it, and if a telegram is sent from Ikom to a man at Mamfe, the telegram will go round about to Calabar before the Mamfe man gets it. There is no telegraph from Obudu to Gboko nor from Ogoja to Obudu. If the Post Office were erected at Obudu, it will be shorter for any message to be sent to Ogoja and even to Enugu.

Another thing, Your Honour, I should like to talk about is this Public Relations Office. I do not very much like the idea that the Public Relations Office should stop but I would suggest that all Public Relations Offices should have their headquarters, say, in Lagos, and collect all news from all over Nigeria. This would leave more money for the development of the Regions. The Nigerian Review should then be made larger and should embrace all views from the Cameroons and other smaller Regions in Nigeria.

A few words for the Police. I will associate myself with the views expressed about the Traffic Branch of the Police Department. I wish, Your Honour, to say what I experienced one day with this section of the Police. I joined a car bound for Enugu at 9 o'clock in the morning from Ogoja and it never arrived at Enugu until 9 o'clock in the night. The car was travelling at the rate of ten miles an hour. This means that the motor was not fit to ply. It, however, travelled and came across some Traffic Police on the road but it was allowed to pass. I wish that the attention of the Police Department be drawn to such dangers so that they would be more serious over their duties.

The position of chiefs is another matter for consideration. They help the District Officers very much to get their promotions. The District Officer cannot do his work more efficiently if he did not have the chiefs working or helping him, and, Sir, it should not be out of place to suggest here that our chiefs, those deserving ones, should be well paid because they are the ancient rulers and the foundation on which District Officers do their work. It is with the co-operation of the chiefs that District Officers do their work very efficiently.

With these few words, Your Honour, I support the Appropriation Bill in principle.

Mr G. I. Oko (Awgu Division):

Your Honour, before supporting the Appropriation Bill, I wish to make the following observations. First of all, I have to say that my people have sent me to represent their interest in this House. I feel it is a pleasure on my part to have been given this opportunity to have entered into this Honourable House. In the name of this House and the people of Awgu Division, my constituency, this division (Awgu), Your Honour, has been badly neglected in all aspects of life.

Taking Administration, Your Honour, I would first of all mention that in the year 1928, a part of Awgu Division was cut away (Umuchieze Clan) and was made to join Okigwi Division—this separation has reduced the population and progress of Awgu Division. The second plight, is, the unsteadiness of administrative policy in this division. For seven years of ardent experience as a councillor in Awgu Division, I bore eye-witness to the changes that took place among the Administrative Officers. For one year, about five changes would take place—transferring of District Officers

in and out of the division, and this cripples any amount of progress that could have been achieved in the division. With this, I am afraid that no project whatsoever, for development of the division, was achieved.

Turning to the Public Works Department, there is no single effort that is being made to improve any of the roads constructed in Awgu Division. We have been passing petitions from year to year and from time to time, about the Public Works Department taking over Awgu-Enugu road, that is, Awgu road via Udi-Enugu. I could remember so many times petitions had been passed through Honourable Onyema, during his time as a Member of the Eastern House of Assembly, but no reply was ever made to the effect. This road, Your Honour, is one of the major roads that receives heavy traffic in this Region. Through this road, traffic from Enugu Ngwo, travellers, yam traders and so on, travel to Uburu Market—one of the important markets in the Eastern Provinces.

5.45 p.m.

The President:

Order, Order.

The Acting Financial Secretary:

Sir, I appoint tomorrow, 20th February, for the continuation of the debate.

The Acting Civil Secretary:

Sir, I rise to move that the House do now adjourn.

The Minister of Public Health (Mr S. J. Una):

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is "That the House do now adjourn until tomorrow." (No debate arising).

The President:

The question is "That the House do now adjourn until tomorrow." Will those in favour say "Aye" and those to the contrary "No."

The "Ayes" have it.

Adjournment

The House adjourned at 5.48 p.m. until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 20th February, 1952.