



NIGERIA

**Eastern House of Assembly
Debates**

SECOND SESSION

5th and 6th May, 1953



Eastern House of Assembly

(President: The Lieutenant-Governor, Eastern Region,
His Honour C. J. Pleass, C.M.G.)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- The Lieutenant-Governor,
His Honour C. J. Pleass, C.M.G.
- The Civil Secretary,
Honourable J. G. Mackenzie.
- The Legal Secretary,
Honourable G. G. Briggs.
- The Financial Secretary,
Honourable A. E. Cook.
- The Development Secretary,
Honourable C. A. L. Guise, M.B.E.
- The Commissioner of the Cameroons,
Honourable E. J. Gibbons, C.B.E.
- The Minister of Natural Resources,
Honourable Eyo Ita.
- The Minister of Local Government,
Honourable E. I. Oli.
- The Minister of Public Health,
Honourable S. J. Una.
- The Minister of Education,
Honourable R. I. Uzoma.
- The Minister of Lands and Survey,
Honourable S. W. Ubani-Ukoma.
- The Minister of Works,
(vacant).
- The Minister Without Portfolio,
Honourable R. J. E. Koripamo.
- The Minister Without Portfolio,
(vacant).
- The Minister Without Portfolio,
(vacant).

OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

- The Civil Secretary,
Mr J. G. Mackenzie.
- The Legal Secretary,
Mr G. G. Briggs.
- The Financial Secretary,
Mr A. E. Cook.
- The Development Secretary,
Mr C. A. L. Guise, M.B.E.
- The Resident, Bamenda Province,
Mr J. Brayne-Baker.

OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

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



Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Tuesday, 5th May, 1953

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

Prayers

(Mr President in the Chair)

Oath of Allegiance of New Members

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

Mr C. A. L. Guise, Acting Development Secretary.

Mr J. Brayne-Baker, Acting Resident, Bamenda Province.

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor

The Civil Secretary:

Sir, I am the bearer of the following message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the House which reads:—

“I am minded to propose to the House the name of Honourable S. T. Muna for appointment as Regional Minister.”

The Civil Secretary:

In accordance with paragraph (4), Standing Order 9, I ask that this message be considered forthwith.

Question proposed “That the Lieutenant-Governor’s proposal of Mr S. T. Muna for appointment as Regional Minister be approved.”

Mr K. O. Mbadiwe:

Mr President, I rise to say that we oppose the nomination of any person or persons to fill the existing vacancies in the Executive Council which we have on many occasions advocated is not properly constituted.

The President:

I should remind the honourable Member of the rule of relevancy. The debate arises on the proposal to appoint the honourable Muna as Regional Minister. It must be confined to the fitness or otherwise of the honourable Member to be a Member of the Regional Executive Council.

Mr K. O. Mbadiwe:

Calling your attention to Standing Order 10, approval of Ministers, it says that debate may arise but it does not indicate the form that the debate should take. I read my Standing Orders properly before coming here.

The President:

I must rule that the debate be confined to the fitness of the individual honourable Member to be a Member of the Regional Executive.

Mr K. O. Mbadiwe:

Mr President, what I have to say on this question is very short, we on this side of the House are opposed to any nomination to fill the existing vacancy because we do not consider there is any vacancy until the present Executive Council is dissolved; that is the mandate given to us by the representatives of 300 unions and Native Authorities to seek nothing other than a complete dissolution.

The President:

I must remind the honourable Member of the rule of relevancy.

Mr K. O. Mbadiwe:

I have nothing more to state. I have made my piece. We oppose.

Mr S. A. George:

Mr President, Sir, I would like to disabuse the minds of Members of this House on the only one point which forms the basis of the opposition from the other side of the House. I would like to say, Sir, that it is the wish of the people of the Cameroons as reflected at a meeting of the Kamerouns United National Congress that took place at Kumba on the 28th and 29th April—it is our wish, I mean, the Cameroons Assemblymen, whose wishes, according to resolution No. 9 of the Trusteeship Council of July, 1951, that must be respected and taken into consideration in appointing Ministers into the Executive. It is the wishes of these representatives and the wishes of the whole of the Cameroons taken jointly at properly constituted meeting of Cameroonians that Mr Muna should return to the Executive Council. Mr President, I make this statement without prejudice to whatever stand Cameroonians may take as regards to any other aspect of the Constitution of this House.

The President:

If no other Member wishes to speak, I shall put the question.

Question put; the House went into secret ballot.

The Civil Secretary:

On a point of order, people in the Press Gallery are leaning over and watching the counting of the votes.

The President:

I must ask the people not to lean over the Gallery.

The President:

The result of the secret ballot is: Noes, 45; Ayes, 32. The "Noes" have it.

Papers

The Minister of Public Health:

Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the following Central Bills:

- (i) The Medical Auxiliaries Registration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953.
- (ii) The Yellow Fever and Infectious Diseases (Immunisation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953.

The President:

The Bills to lie on the Table.

The following printed Reports which were circulated to Members during the adjournment were taken as laid upon the Table:—

- (i) The Third Annual Report of the Eastern Regional Production Development Board, 1951-52, Part II.
- (ii) Proceedings of a Conference called to consider the Report of the Nigerian Livestock Mission held in Lagos on the 9th to 12th of September, 1952.

Motion

The Minister of Natural Resources:

Mr President, I rise to move the motion standing in my name, "That this House present a united front with other Regions to attain complete self-government for this country by 1956, and appoint a committee to set up machinery for discussion and consultation with the leaders and masses of the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions for the achievement of this objective in a united Nigeria."

Today, as never before, it is clear that all hearts in Nigeria are set on the achievement of self-government for our country. It is on every lip, it is becoming the household word. "With longing as intense as train" our people are pining for independence. We have considered this issue to be of such a unique and important nature that we have brought it up as a Government motion. We have asked the Official Members to keep out of this matter, as it appears to us that it does not concern them directly. The Civil Secretary will make a statement later to show what the Official stand is in the matter. It is the task of Government and of the House both to express and to respond properly to the wishes of the people. Self-government is today the most important desire of our people for they realise

(Interruption).

The President:

Please stand up. I think it was the honourable Mr Motomby-Woleta. If there are any further interruptions you will be ordered to leave the House at once.

Chief A. N. Onyiuke:

On point of order, Mr President. The noise was from the Gallery and not from honourable Mr Motomby-Woleta at all.

The President:

I am sorry, I apologise. The gallery will be cleared. Please clear the gallery. I shall suspend the sitting whilst the gallery is cleared.

Sitting suspended at 10.35 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 10.45 a.m.

The President:

I should like to express my apologies to the honourable Mr Motomby-Woleta, for the error which I made.

The Minister of Natural Resources:

Mr President, I was interrupted at the point at which I was saying that self-government is today the most important desire of the people of our country. They have realised that freedom, like righteousness, must be sought first, not only for its own sake, but because, once we get it, we know all other good things will be added unto us.

Someone may ask why is it that we bring up this motion in the Regional House, knowing the fate of a self-government motion brought up at the Central House. My answer is simple. It was started at a wrong place, and under very unfortunate circumstances. The victory of a right cause is not inevitable. Always the means is as important as the end. If we

use the right means we are sure to get the right end. The Regional Houses, I hold, are the right places to start with an issue of this nature. We must consult properly with our own people and make quite sure that we have their full consent. After all, it is a democratic self-government that we want, that is, Government by consent; and in order to have willing consent we must have discussion, we must have adequate consultation with all concerned. This, I hold, is the right place for us to make sure of the wishes of the people of the Eastern Region.

In the second place, if we want to achieve self-government for an undivided Nigeria, we must consult, we must discuss with the people of the three Regions, and we must do so in an atmosphere of mutual respect and confidence, otherwise it is impossible for us to achieve this end as one country.

This motion makes it quite clear that it is for a united Nigeria that we seek democratic self-government. According to the first part of the motion, we seek to present a united front with other Regions for this great venture. It would be tragic to adopt a method which alienates the other Regions. Regional individualism in our quest for political autonomy is sure to lead to worse tragedies than that which befell Pakistanised India, for let it never be forgotten that Nigeria is a name for a territory inhabited by peoples of several diverse cultures, tribes and religions not yet integrate into one national community. A Pakistanised Nigeria will result not in two countries, but many petty ones. Before those tribesmen who have emigrated from their groups to other tribal communities can find their way back to their own groups in the event of Pakistanisation we shall have lost not only vast properties but many lives. It is therefore most important that we should weld all the diverse tribal elements into one national community, and we must do everything in our power to keep them so if we must have a great Nigeria.

The second part of the motion seeks to provide for the necessary discussion and consultation among the three Regions, and asks the House to appoint a special committee to set up a machinery for that purpose. This in itself not only assumes that there is one Nigeria, but also does what would naturally cement the diverse elements into one integrated whole. The Eastern Region is then not like John Bunyan's Christian seeking salvation for itself and leaving the rest to perish behind. The Eastern Region is seeking self-government for the whole country. Nor is it imposing its desire upon other unwilling Regions. If the other Regions do the same as I believe they will, then we shall have one united Nigeria moving into the promised land of independence. It is in the process of discussion and consultation in an atmosphere of mutual respect, frankness and sincerity, that we come to discover a common purpose, problems and difficulties that lie in the way, and how we may solve them.

There, too, we see ourselves as one people and move forward together as one people. Discussion around a table provides us an opportunity to think and plan together and prepare a constitution that will meet our common aspirations and safeguard the interests of all concerned. The crisis which we are passing through must bring home to us one supreme lesson, namely, that no section of this country will be prepared to accept impositions, however good, forced upon it by people of any other section.

That if we are to have self-government it must be a democratic self-government. The crisis in other words, is purifying us for our forthcoming independence, and it will purify that independence when it comes to us. That is, it will come to us not as a mixture of slavery and freedom, not as substitute of indigenous imperialism for an alien one, but a true and complete freedom. Moreover, it will come to meet us as a people capable of achieving it and keeping it. We are, in other words, using a moral weapon to win a moral end, and what we win thus by the right means, we can always keep. Even if we should lose it, we can always by the same means regain it. Discussion in itself is a fundamental democratic process. Those with whom we consult naturally try to think for themselves, and make their choice according to the dictates of their conscience. ♦

I have had an opportunity to discuss the problems raised in this motion with the leaders of the North and find them agreeable. Though they would not now commit themselves to its details they have appreciated it as a whole, and liked our method of approach. The idea of a machinery of discussion and consultation among the three Regions for the achievement of self-government for a united Nigeria is very much welcomed by them. We must appreciate their problems, and we must respect their views. For they are very sincere and practical people. Men will always be reasonable if we discuss problems of common interest with them in an atmosphere of mutual respect and confidence, and if our sincerity is sparkling clear. The Western Region have shown their interest in the matter. About a fortnight ago, I had an opportunity to discuss with some of them the general issue and our method of approach. They asked me to try and wished me success. I think, God helping me, I shall succeed.

The problem is not an easy one and we must not expect easy victory, but we must try, and most important of all, we must use the right approach. The right means, I repeat, will always secure for us the right end.

The value of timing cannot be gainsaid. A scientific approach to even a political problem can enable us to achieve our purpose at an approximate time. Moreover, time matters to a very great extent, when a need crying out for satisfaction is accompanied by strong emotion and feelings of hope and expectation. The edge of hunger grows blunt when there is a strong hope that it will be satisfied at a time not too distant. Independence in or about 1956 has now become a kind of messianic hope for the people of Nigeria. By pronouncing an approximate date in this way we shall calm the fears and mitigate the conflicts which have caused a lot of bitterness and dissatisfaction. We can hasten the tempo of progress by getting everyone to work at the maximum strength towards the desired end.

I have already shown the danger of seeking independence for a Pakistanised Nigeria. There is no doubt that if independence should arrive to meet a Pakistanised Nigeria, there will be disaster. It is for this reason that I am inclined to agree with those who warn us against fixture of exact and definite dates; for if such dates should arrive and still find us divided and at each other's throats, it will certainly be disastrous. If it should arrive and find us not really prepared, even though we remain one country, there will be disappointment. Let me at once say here, that I am one of those who believe that independence is the birthright of all, and therefore talks of unripeness and unpreparedness are quite irrelevant,

But this is a different thing from saying that we need no preparation for democratic self-government. Of course we need preparation for democratic self-government, and we cannot begin too early to prepare. Part of this preparation is the machinery of consultation which this motion emphasises so much. But we need other very serious forms of preparation. We have to make the experience of Local Government a living reality and, not a make-believe. The people must be educated so that they can always elect representatives to the legislatures, who will be bold and wise enough to speak out their own convictions and seek fearlessly the good of their constituencies and of the country as a whole.

We must be able to discern between honest and dishonest leaders, true and false saviours, wise and foolish builders of the nation. Adequate provision must be made to democratise our institutions and to safeguard the interests of all concerned. We must also lay the foundation for economic democracy as well as political democracy. We must guarantee equal, social and educational opportunities for all. Surely, all these must take some time. For that reason, I think we must regard the date of 1956 as a target. If we can prepare ourselves sufficiently before that date we shall be indeed happy to get our freedom before then, if we can do so by 1956 we shall take it.

Mr J. T. Ndze:

Point of order—Standing Order 27 (1). The honourable Member is reading his notes.

The President:

The honourable Member is, I think, only consulting his notes.

The Minister of Natural Resources:

If by 1956 we just find that we are not sufficiently prepared for complete self-government, we shall have only ourselves to blame and nobody else, for I am convinced that what is preventing us from getting our independence today will prevent us from getting it in 1956, unless we do something now to remove that obstacle. It is the disunity caused by unwise and sometimes irresponsible actions of some of our men.

This matter of preparation and time brings the British into the picture. It is certain that they have a strong interest in the matter. In the first place, we have British citizens who live here and do business among us. The British themselves have assured us that it is their avowed aim to prepare us for our independence. We would prefer to have the preparation on their part to take a more serious turn. From now on, there should be a gradual handing over of the sovereign power so that by 1956 the handing over should be complete. Evidence of this is already seen in the creation of full ministries. More discussions and consultations should lead to more transfer of power. There is need for more intensive training of our people in the art of administration so that the civil service can be manned more fully by Nigerians. Our scholarship schemes are to a certain extent providing for that, but we need more serious and direct preparation in this respect.

This leads me to the fact that the transfer of sovereignty does not mean that all the British in Nigeria must quit. We need them now as experts to advise us, and we shall continue to need them as friends and advisers long after we have got our independence. They will continue also as

traders and businessmen and missionaries. We shall need not only their expert knowledge and skill, but also what capital they can invest in economic projects for mutual benefits. No doubt they will require conditions of security to encourage them to make such investments. On our part we shall seek terms that do not take us back into slavery.

Educational and social planning would also be directed towards the end of a democratic self-governing Nigeria. All these require discussions and consultations among ourselves, and between us and the British, in an atmosphere of mutual confidence and sincerity. It all takes a lot of work and time and patience. But if we start now we shall not be far from our goal by 1956.

I have already shown that independence is our birth-right, and it ought to be sought as such. From the point of view of the British, it ought to be regarded as a gain rather than as a loss. What we are really asking Britain to do is to lose Nigeria as a slave, and to gain it back as a friend and a brother. Free America and Canada, free India and Burma, are far greater blessings to Britain than America and Canada, India and Burma, as exploited slaves. So will a free Nigeria serve in her relationship to Britain.

Moreover, the achievement of self-government for Nigeria will add another free nation to the world's stock of free nations. It will increase the world's stock of freedom, while it decreases the world's stock of hatred, fear and war. It is an admitted fact that colonialism has been one of the greatest factors responsible for world wars and tragedies.

Finally, we must accept the principle that our freedom will strengthen the freedom of free nations. It will decrease the chance of any people getting enslaved. In other words, it will give greater assurance for the freedom of free nations, for always the best guarantee for the freedom of the free is the freedom of the slave.

I cannot close without re-emphasising the fact that co-operation and unity between our three Regions are most essential if we are to achieve democratic self-government for a united Nigeria and it is to achieve this purpose that a Committee of this House should be appointed to enter into discussions and consultations with representatives of the Northern and Western Regions. It must be clear to us all that Nigeria as a free, great and united nation is the hope of our West African people, and in fact, I would say the hope of all Africa, I would go further to say that it is the hope of the world, and we should accept no substitute for it.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Education:

Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr E. O. Eyo:

Mr President, Sir, I rise to move "That the debate be now adjourned."

In doing so, Sir, I want to say that the N.C.N.C. Party does not accept or agree with the wording of this motion. One would have expected, Sir, that the mover of this motion would have first of all sought to have a House

that would accept this motion because the main basis of the motion is in the wording of this motion "that this House present a united front." Mr President, Sir, I do not understand how this House under the present circumstances can present a united front at this stage. I want to say, Sir, that the basic conception on which this motion is based and on which the mover of this motion has based his argument is entirely opposed to the declared policies of the N.C.N.C. I would like to draw your attention, Sir, to the exact wording—"... appoint a Committee to set up machinery for discussion and consultation with the leaders and masses of the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions for the achievement of this objective in a united Nigeria." Sir, we have heard the mover of this motion, he has expounded his own philosophy which I must say, Sir, is not acceptable to the N.C.N.C. Sir, the N.C.N.C. being the most powerful, militant and dynamic political party in Nigeria today, as far back as 1951, Sir, did declare to the whole country and to the whole world that its political objective was to achieve self-government for Nigeria and the Cameroons in 1956. That was a declaration in 1951. Now, Sir, that is in the constitution of the N.C.N.C. It does not require a motion to be passed by the Eastern House of Assembly. It does not require it. The political party had declared this objective. Now, Sir, we are called upon to set up a committee and machinery to discuss with the leaders and the masses of the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions. I want to say, Sir, that we of the N.C.N.C. believe that we are in a position to achieve self-government in Nigeria and the Cameroons independent of any other political party. We want to say that since we believe that we have the masses of this country behind us, this one political party, we believe, Sir, that it is our duty to press on and attain the declared objective without going to consult anybody in the North or elsewhere. I want to say, Sir, that we have the N.C.N.C. in the Northern Region. That party, Sir, has committed itself to self-government in 1956. That party in the North has the support of the masses of the North. Now, Sir, in the Eastern Region, the N.C.N.C. has the backing of the majority of the Eastern Region. In the West, the N.C.N.C. has the backing of the majority of the people of the Western Region. Now, Sir, what is the necessity of coming to set up a committee of this House? Are those the people who will work out the details of self-government for the whole of Nigeria and the Cameroons? I must say, Sir, that the mover of this motion is the leader of a political party. It is left for him to go and consult as he said he has done; he has told us he has consulted the North; well, let him go and consult the North. He also is in a position to consult the East and the West. Let him work out his philosophy. We of the N.C.N.C. will never support him over the philosophy that he has expounded. We have a clear-cut path and we are going to follow that path and achieve self-government by this party in 1956. We will not solicit any support. Mr President, Sir, we have been reading a lot of publications in the papers since the issue of self-government for this country came up in the Central House. The members of the party saw the mover of this motion's performance; he made it abundantly clear to the country that all that mattered to them was that there should be no show-down with the North. One would have expected that the mover would place before us, before this House, a joint statement signed by the mover of this motion and the Sardauna of Sokoto—that they have reached that agreement and it is clear-cut. The Sardauna of Sokoto and all the Emirs of the North

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have accepted the philosophy that he has expounded to us. He has flown to the North, he tells us, and met the Sardauna; and what has the Sardauna of Sokoto got for us? What has he got for us? Now, the mover of this motion believes in coaxing the people in the North, particularly the Sardauna group . . . to this question of self-government. I want to say that when this motion came up in the Central House the whole country knew what happened, and for the mover of this motion to come this morning and table this motion is simply adding insult to injury. I want to say, Sir, that we have been told by the mover of this motion that he believes in sincerity and truth. I wonder whether he is sincere about this motion. He made a statement which I want to challenge—that this motion came up in the Central House which was the wrong place under wrong circumstances. And he believes that the place to discuss a motion for self-government for the whole of this country is here in the Eastern House of Assembly. Mr President, how on earth can we rely on the philosophy of this great philosopher—he tries to convince us that the proper place to discuss a motion for self-government for the whole country is the Eastern House of Assembly?—Not in the Central Legislature where you have the North, the West and the East. Mr President, we were told that the reason why the members of the N.I.P. remained neutral on the question of self-government was because it was ill-timed. I just want to know the difference between 31st March, 1953, and the 5th May, 1953. I want to say, Sir, that if the motion on self-government on the 31st of March, 1953, was ill-timed, then the motion on self-government on 5th May, 1953, is equally ill-timed. We of the N.C.N.C. do not need to discuss any motion before we achieve self-government in this country. It is part of what we promised the people of this country. As far back as 1951, when there was no other political party in this country we told the whole world, “Look, by 1956, this country will be self-governing.” We did not promise we are going to consult any leaders in the North, the West and the East. We said that the N.C.N.C. as a political party was in a position to get the masses of the country to strike for self-government in 1956. At that time, Sir, the mover of this motion was a member of the N.C.N.C. He accepted that. He was the next in command to the National President of the N.C.N.C. He endorsed that and wrote a lot of stuff in the papers. Now, Sir, he has fallen from grace and formed a party. He has got to revise all his old views and put forward new ones which unfortunately will not be accepted by the N.C.N.C. I would advise the mover of this motion, Sir, to seek the first thing first—which is to control this House. When he succeeds, Sir, then he can put on this motion and his own House will present the united front which he seeks, but at the moment he does not control this House and I do not see how he can get a House he does not control to present a united front. Mr President, Sir, the mover of this motion said that the Eastern Region will not impose its will on the other Regions. He has just stated a philosophy in which he believes and he wants to set up a committee to go into details and present a united front, to the other two Regions. Assuming that he succeeds in doing that and when he calls the other two Regions to join him, the other two Regions disagree with the philosophy and principle in which he believes, may I ask, will he have to abandon them? I suppose that he will not have the guts to press on, and that is just what we cannot have, Sir. If the mover of this motion believes in a philosophy, if he has a clear cut scheme by which he hopes that the whole of this country, by following that scheme and by following

his own philosophy, will achieve self-government in 1956, I am saying, Sir, that he will be a coward to have to abandon that scheme, his own principle and the philosophy in which he so dearly believes, because the masses of the North, the sons and daughters of the Emirs in the North frown. It is that type of philosophy that the people of the N.C.N.C. do not accept. We believe that if a man believes in a thing and he believes he is on the proper track he should stick by it. Sir, he says that the best we can do is to try. Well, I do not know by what measure he is going to measure the word "try." I hope, Sir, that since the beginning of this year, he has been trying and I do not know whether he has tried his best on this, by having the courage to present this motion to this House. That is why we feel that the debate on this motion should be adjourned to give the mover of this motion an opportunity to form a House which he will control. We want him to try again, Sir, if he can get a House which he can control to the extent that the House will present a united front with the other Regions and set up a committee that he so desires. This side of the House, Sir, composed of the N.C.N.C., do not agree with the wordings of this motion. We say that as a political party, we had declared as our political objective to the whole country as far back as 1951, that in 1956, the N.C.N.C. would achieve self-government for this country. And that is just our point of view. It does not require any motion in the Eastern House of Assembly. It was interesting, Sir, to note that in the Central House, it was left to the N.C.N.C. and the Action Group of the West, to defend this motion of self-government in 1956. The main charge against the Action Group—was that they brought the motion to the House for fear that the N.C.N.C. might bring it on. That was all I think, and it required—a series of publications just to make that single point and that, Sir, was made by Members who all along have known the policy of the N.C.N.C. We had to support the motion because the motion as it was worded simply said that that House accepted as a political objective the attainment of self-government for Nigeria in 1956. That was just a part of our Constitution. It is worded so in our Constitution. Now, Sir, I want to say that we have not come this time, Sir, to waste our time as we did last time. We were told, Sir, from what we read in the newspapers that a new Government would be formed this morning and we were just coming to support that Government in order to proceed with Government business. Now, Sir, in the absence of that, I am saying that it is a waste of our time to come here to debate a motion, a motion which does not make sense as far as we are concerned. The mover of this motion, all he did was to write out pages of articles which he brought to this House and read them. I do not think any member of the party understood what he was reading. That would be alright for a newspaper publication. I am saying, Sir, that we have wasted the one and a half hours to hear a man reading an article which is intended for a newspaper. I am saying, Sir, that it is adding insult to injury because before we adjourned last March, we made it clear that we were not going to have any Government business in this House until there was a proper Government. If the mover of the motion is satisfied that he has a proper Government now, that he has a House which he will get to present the united front that he desires, well, let him press on with this motion. Since the motion is so dear to his heart, the debate should be adjourned to let him try once again to form a House which will pass this motion for him. I am saying, Sir, that no time should be allowed for Members to try our feelings as it was done in the last sitting of this

House. I thought we had made our point clear that we would not go on with any Government business until a proper Government has been formed; by that is meant the party that is able to control a majority in this House. When that is done, all we have to do is to abide by the laid-down principles of democratic self-government. The mover of the motion did say that what he wanted was democratic self-government. He actually said so, Sir. Yet he was moving this motion. May I ask him whether under the present circumstances he has got a proper Government in this House? If he has not, how then does he insist on getting a motion which aims at getting a united front when he knows that he has not got a proper Government? He will never get that united front under the present circumstances.

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr D. A. Nnaji:

Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

The question is that the debate be now adjourned.

Dr E. M. L. Endeley:

I take this opportunity to say a few words. It was not my desire to speak to the motion though some Members appear jittery and make a lot of noise to disturb me. I think it would not be fair to the House and those Members of this House who have been my friends whilst I have been here if I should go out without giving them an idea of what is in my mind. As far as I am concerned, and as far as the Cameroons people I have consulted within the last few weeks are concerned, this is an occasion for loyal members from the Cameroons to declare their resolute stand. I remember quite well, earlier this year on the 3rd January, we, the Cameroons Members passed a resolution as a group and handed it to the National Secretary of the N.C.N.C. in the belief that if the N.C.N.C. was not really willing to give the Constitution further trial . . .

Mr D. A. Nnaji:

The honourable Member is not relevant—Standing Order 30.

Dr E. M. L. Endeley:

I am speaking on the adjournment.

Mr D. A. Nnaji:

He is talking on the adjournment of the debate.

The President:

The honourable Member is speaking on the adjournment of the debate.

Dr E. M. L. Endeley:

At that time we handed a resolution to the National Secretary of the N.C.N.C. and we made it clear to him that if his party was not willing to give the Constitution further trial, the Cameroonians would back him. We waited and nothing happened. This day gives us our opportunity to show that we meant what we said then. Throughout our stay in this House, we have had only one aspiration. Before we went into the polls, we were warned by those who voted for us that when we got to the Eastern House of Assembly, we must not lose sight of the fact that the Cameroons wanted one thing and one thing only, and that was Regional Status for the

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Cameroons. We have had a lot of gallant promises made to us by your leaders in spite of which we have to put our foot down to say we have a duty to our country ourselves and it is our place to perform this duty. During the past few weeks when we had to go to our people we have learned the urgency of their wishes and, I have no doubt that those of you who have followed the newspapers will undoubtedly know the wishes of the people of the Cameroons. We shall be betraying those people if we are afraid to express our views. Sir, what has happened to us today leaves us to no doubt about the shape of things to come as far as minorities are concerned in the Eastern House of Assembly.

The President:

Order! Order!

Dr E. M. L. Endeley:

We have no doubt whatsoever about the future and know that as Members representing the Cameroons, we shall never again have an opportunity of expressing the wishes of the people who have sent us here. We have no doubt whatsoever that there will always be this dominating group and our fate under it is the fate of every other minority in the Eastern Region that will refuse to bow to their iron will. Sir, I am speaking from experience. I know that those who are now trying to stifle and muzzle all of us here also have their quislings and agents in the Cameroons. Those agents are now working hard in our country so that they can be assured of a permanent majority, whose will shall always be a law, but we are quite satisfied that whatever may happen to the Eastern House of Assembly, our hands are quite clean. And I say now as I have always said, and say it without bitterness to anybody; I like to see the man who disagrees with me come to me and tell me why he disagrees with me and I will not cry him down. If we Cameroonians are going to be liquidated because of our steadfastness and patriotism, most of us would like to be liquidated in the Cameroons, then those who want to rule over Eastern Nigeria by terror and suppression may come and rule over us. To those Members of the House of Assembly who shall come here after the dissolution, my wish is "good luck to you."

Mr P. N. Motomby-Woleta:

Mr President, Sir, the motion for self-government in 1956 means nothing to the Cameroons without having first attained regional status. More so when it comes from the leader of the party who hitherto has not vindicated any real interest in Cameroons affairs. Mr President, if we must have self-government tomorrow, the Cameroons must have regional autonomy today.

Mr B. C. Okwu:

Mr President, I did not originally intend to speak on this subject, but what the last but one honourable Member has said in the course of his speech, has made me stand up to say a word about some statements he made in the course of his speech in this House. I must say that I respect a man who is consistent and a man who has respect for the feelings of other people. He said here that he fears the future of the Cameroonians under the Eastern Region. He is the sort of man we have in the House of Assembly who wants to continue in office forever, but I have to say, with due deference to his personal opinion, that if the honourable Gentleman meant to be taken seriously, I would first of all ask him to resign his seat

in the Central Ministry. If he resigns his seat in the Central Ministry, I will then take him as an honest man. Mr President, Sir, at one time, I am sure, you must have been a witness—for you were presiding in this House, he stood up during the fight over the constitutional crisis, and was vehement in attacking with us and he spoke out frankly, and participated with us in all our struggles. Unexpectedly in the Central House, he most treacherously got up without consulting his colleagues of the bloc and made a statement that made me fear and made me doubt the sincerity of human beings. Mr President, on that occasion he declared that he and the section of the Cameroons he claimed to represent would steer clear of Nigerian politics and that they would be completely neutral. Was he giving us an idea of the sort of neutrality he wanted to maintain by going to accept the portfolio of one of the resigned Action Group Ministers? Mr President, let him go to the people of the Cameroons and explain to them the working of his neutrality in practice.

Mr E. O. Eyo:
Point of order.

Mr B. C. Okwu:

Mr President, I would like the honourable Dr Endeley to go to the people of the Cameroons and tell them that his idea of neutrality was to take someone's office when that person for patriotic reason vacated it. He said it was the intention of himself and his group not to interfere in Nigerian domestic affairs. Surely, this is a typical example of a Nigerian domestic affair. The Action Group Ministers, as true nationalists and because they were not allowed to play their full role as nationalists in the Council of Ministers, resigned their seats. That was a purely Nigerian affair. He, as a Cameroonian, did not do likewise. We concede to him the right to do as he did. But what happened later on? No sooner had the Action Group Ministers left for their homes than he took one of their places. That was a betrayal, that was no neutrality. Mr President, I have to say that there are people who like himself, under false pretences, want to have the Cameroons all to themselves so that they will have an opportunity of lord-ing it over their underlings. After all, that sounds to me, most parochial. How can an African—a West African at that—advocate that the whole of West Africa should be split up into tribes and divisions with none of the neighbours interfering in the affairs of the others? By their fruits, Mr President, you shall know them. Those who speak in terms of Region—those who are parochial—those who do not want someone else to compete with them on an equal basis—theirs is not true nationalism. True nationalists are not necessarily those who have been to Crete, or those who have been to Moscow, or those who have been to Manchuria but those who spring from the masses of this country and are prepared to sacrifice even their own lives for the country. They are the sort of nationalists that can free this country from foreign yoke. We know that in the Cameroons, there are honest and sincere people—Cameroonian Assemblymen have always impressed me as gentlemen but some of them were later led astray. Immediately after the crisis in the Centre had occurred, some men ran home and said all sorts of foolish things, they began to tell lies and to impute motives. The masses mistook them for serious men and genuine leaders and accepted in good faith the diet of falsehood and lying propaganda on which they were fed. But I am sure, Sir, that if they were to hear the other side of the story, they would crucify these men. Mr

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President, Sir, I leave the Cameroons question alone and turn to the mover of this motion. We of the N.C.N.C. from now and for evermore will never be deceived as to who, this complex personage, honourable Mr Eyo Ita was, is and ever will be.

The President:

I would remind the honourable Member we are debating the question that the debate be adjourned.

Mr B. C. Okwu:

I am saying, Sir, that we wish the debate on this subject to be adjourned because the mover cannot be taken seriously. All the time I was one of the worshipers of this fallen angel. At that time I knew him only by his newspaper articles; but, Sir, ever since I came into this House and had the honour of seeing for myself—that cherished Ganhdi—that cherished Saviour—in action, I have since changed my mind completely. I would rather, Sir, wish the British to continue to stay here for ever than to have the sort of democracy as envisaged by N.I.P. Mr President, in the Central House, the nationalists spoke with one voice on the issue but the N.I.P. and company nipped the self-government motion in the bud. If they want to make good now the mistake they made in the Central House, let the Central Ministers show us an example of positive action by resigning.

The President:

Order! Order!

Mr B. C. Okwu:

It is alright for the Nippers to say now "We are committed to self-government in 1956," but in the Central House, do you know that it was the honourable E. Njoku who spoke on behalf of the Government—were you not there, Mr President?

Mr E. Njoku:

That is not true.

The President:

Ored! Order! The honourable Member is straying a long way from the motion.

Mr B. C. Okwu:

I would be very grateful if you could tell me the line that I should take. But I feel that I am on the right lines as far as the motion for the postponement is concerned. I was saying that also amongst their floor members, the honourable Jaja Wachuku, the Secretary of the N.I.P., denounced us as irresponsibles. There is to be, looking at the words of this famous motion "...a machinery, a committee for discussion and consultation with the leaders and masses of the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions, for the achievement of this objective in a united Nigeria." It means that any other place is wrong and that this place is the right place to lay the foundation for freedom in 1956. We were wrong when we supported this motion in the Central House. Honourable Ita said that this is the right place and that he wishes to appoint a committee of his own choice to start working out a scheme for self-government not for the Eastern Region, but for the whole country. How funny, Mr President! You set up a committee but at the same time you are seeking the co-operation of

the leaders and the masses of the North, the leaders and the masses of the West and the same thing with the Eastern Region, yet in this very House, the people of the Eastern Region must set up the committee and machinery for discussion and consultation. So, honourable Ita wants to dictate to the Northern and Western Regions! That is why after reading this bogus motion, I said to myself that the mover was not serious with himself, in the first instance, and with what he had to say in support of this motion. We cannot take him seriously. I say that our Members have come here to hear the announcement of the dissolution of the House (*Hear! Hear!*) Or that the Ministers who have been touring for two months to buy supporters have this morning assembled here to reap the reward of their mid-night plans but what was the decision this morning? You ought to know and you have known! Either they step down unconditionally now or dissolve the House.

The President:

Order! Order!

Mr B. C. Okwu:

Mr President, if you dissolve this House, and of these men—who are bold men—25 per cent of them come back here, we shall transfer to them the remainder to form the Government.

The President:

I have already reminded the honourable Member that he has strayed a long way from the motion.

Mr B. C. Okwu:

Mr President, there is no need for anyone to go out of the House. I want to make it abundantly clear that we of the N.C.N.C. are consistent. We know who is who as far as Nigerian freedom is concerned. We want freedom for the masses; the toiling and hungry masses of this country. We want freedom under the banner of sincere nationalism. We do not want freedom according to the plan of well-known quislings and fake nationalists; we do not want freedom under a Nigerian Conservative Party. We abhor that sort of freedom—the kind of plan which the honourable the mover of the motion tabled before this House in the form and detail which the British like, so that they will always be in our midst. This country, with one voice says “No.” We want real freedom so that we and the British will be friends on an equal basis. It is not the kind of freedom where the voice will be the voice of Jacob but the hand the hand of Isau. No, we have outgrown that sort of foolery. We have no alternative for complete freedom in 1956.

Mr D. A. Nnaji:

Mr President, it is unfortunate that the mover of the motion appears to be absent now, but that will not stop me from saying what I wish to say about the motion, that is, on the adjournment of the motion. Mr President, I have to describe the honourable Eyo Ita, the mover of the motion as the most inconsistent and capricious man in this House. I say he is the most inconsistent man because he has all the while been preaching democracy, but now he is preaching autocracy. He knows that he has no Government and yet he presents a motion which he says was brought up by his Government. What Government? A Government in

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which the people are not properly represented! A Government which has no confidence of the people? A Government which is denounced as the most undemocratic Government in the world! To put the House through, I wish to read what he, Eyo Ita, stated at Ibadan, during the review of the Richards Constitution, about democracy. I will not quote him to the end but I want to read the particular section, with your permission, Mr President. The honourable Eyo Ita said:—

On Wednesday, 11th January, 1950, at 9 a.m. at Ibadan.—"It will be most undemocratic to call upon any people to obey laws made by a body in which they are not properly represented, or to pay tax to a Government, Local or Central, that does not represent them, and that is not readily responsive to their basic needs expressed in their desires, discussions, resolutions and demands."

Look at the man who knows that the people of the Eastern Region are not properly represented in what he calls his Government. Look at the man who will now impose Education Rate and Taxes on the people of the Eastern Region by himself alone. Look at the man who knows quite well that the people of this Region have lost confidence in him and his colleagues. Further, Sir, I wish to point out again where the honourable Eyo Ita appended his signature as to the manner in which the termination of appointment of Ministers in a Regional or Central House, should be conducted. With your permission, Sir, I wish to read "Termination of Appointment" from the record of the General Conference at Ibadan held in 1950, in which he took the chief part:

Termination of Appointments.—"The appointment of any non-official member of the Council should be terminated in the Northern and Western Regions in the event of a vote of no confidence being passed in him by a majority of two-thirds of the members present at a joint meeting of the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly, and in the Eastern Region, in the event of a vote of no confidence being passed in him by a majority of two-thirds of the members present in the House of Assembly."

The President:

Order! Order!

Mr D. A. Nnaji:

I say, Sir, that the honourable Eyo Ita is a most inconsistent man. He signed this document. That is the document. He signed it.

We passed a vote of no confidence in him but he still remains in office as a Minister. Sir, I wonder what kind of philosophers we have in the Eastern Region. The time has come, Mr President, when we should disregard anybody with M.A., M.Sc., or B.A. and B.Sc., such as the honourable Eyo Ita or any of the sit-tight Ministers has. All the Ministers' degrees are bunkum and should be disregarded.

The President:

I cannot help feeling the honourable Member is straying from the motion.

Mr D. A. Nnaji:

Now this honourable Member who is the leader of the National Independence Party and his colleagues in the Council of Ministers were

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those who opposed the self-government motion for Nigeria in 1956, and is now talking about the unity of the country. Where shall we have the unity of the country, in the Eastern Region or where the whole people of Nigeria are gathered together?

The most proper place that a motion for self-government should be brought up for debate is in the House of Representatives. He was there when that motion was tabled and never said anything. His colleagues in the Council of Ministers were there but never said a word. They were only scrambling to get more posts and more portfolios, adding to the work they were doing before. Everybody here knows what that means when you are doing the work of two people. Now, Mr President, let us not come here to waste our time again. If these honourable gentlemen who describe themselves as Ministers would but go back and reason properly and surrender to the wishes of the majority, the crisis in this House will come to an end. If Your Honour looks round outside this House, Your Honour will see the chiefs and natural rulers of the Eastern Region, men and women, who have come to witness what will be the fate of this House. I would like to quote again what the honourable Jaja Wachuku, one of the leaders of the N.I.P., said in this House about the Eastern Region. I refer you to volume II of the Eastern House of Assembly Debates, First Session:—

“A mighty revolution has occurred and it is possible that there are some of us who do not fully realise the significance of that revolution. Whether the Eastern Region lives or perishes is now in our hands.”

Yes, the N.C.N.C. is revolutionising the Eastern Region and honourable Wachuku does not realise that even the whole country is being revolutionised by the N.C.N.C. and I say “shame” unto a few people who wish the Eastern Region to perish in their hands. The honourable Wachuku is one of those people.

“Whether the Eastern Region lives or perishes is now in our hands” has a big significance. The honourable Wachuku who said it, is a second member for Aba Division. I do not know how many votes of confidence he has received since the crisis.

Let us not come here to waste our time as we did at other times. I wish Your Honour to dissolve the House as you have been empowered. I have just received a *Gazette* where it is published that Her Majesty the Queen has empowered that the Constitution should be amended and His Excellency the Governor, has accordingly amended the Constitution. And you, as the Lieutenant-Governor, and as the President of this House, have been empowered to dissolve the House.

If after the dissolution I fail to come back, I know that I shall not refuse to play my part in my division. I had been playing my part long before I came to this House.

When the Ministers came round to my division, thus throwing a challenge to me after my speech here, they know what I did. I refused them audience and drove them back. One of them asked me the reason why I refused to introduce them as Members, much less Ministers of the Eastern House of Assembly. This showed that many things happened since the last Session here.

Sir, I wish to read a portion of the address I presented to the Right Honourable Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, Mr Henry Hopkinson, on behalf of the N.C.N.C. regarding the dissolution of this House, and before doing so, I wish to tell you that when I toured in Udi Division with him, a chief surprised him, and this was Chief Ozo Ejike of Aguobuowa, by saying:

"I was very young when the British people first came here. I grew up and became a chief. Look at my grey hairs. Do you like me to enjoy self-government in the grave?"

Now, Sir, regarding the dissolution, I said in this connection:

"I wish to assure you that the dissolution of the Eastern House of Assembly will not solve the political problem facing the British Government in Nigeria today. What will solve the problem is the change of the present Constitution which is already a farce."

I made this clear to Mr Hopkinson in the Memorandum presented before you by him in the so-called Eastern Regional Executive Council. He told me he was going to discuss the whole issue with you as the Lieutenant-Governor of the Region and President of this House. I warned him and asked him to advise you as the Lieutenant-Governor and President of the House—a queer position. In the West, somebody other than the Lieutenant-Governor is the President of the House and in the North, the same thing. In the Central House, it is not the Governor himself that is the President.

You have been embarrassed and placed in a very bad position, acting as Lieutenant-Governor and at the same time acting as President of this House.

I told the Right Honourable Hopkinson that in the Eastern Region, the crisis was likely to continue this week when the Eastern House of Assembly met, unless the six Ministers vacated their seats.

Now, Sir, what I said to him in conclusion was that it was a disgrace that the Eastern Region which has an area of 46,053 square miles and a population of over six million people should be governed by six rejected Ministers, backed up by a handful of white officials in the Eastern House of Assembly.

The white officials back up these Ministers, the Legal Secretary particularly, who interprets the law to suit his purpose. I am not imputing motives, Mr President, I am just saying something real.

So now, we of the N.C.N.C. camp have accepted the challenge. Let us return to our constituencies and then you can continue to govern with reserved powers as provided in the Constitution, on the condition that, as soon as we come back here these people have to vacate their seats and return to their different kinds of work. Some of the Ministers are Barristers who cannot express themselves in the English Language.

Mr President, it may surprise you if I am appointed the Minister of Local Government when we come back because I am versed in Local Administration and I am also versed in Public Administration. The Nkanu Native Administration honoured me by sending me to the Ibadan University College for qualification. The Ministers have been talking about University education; they never knew that I also have it.

Some people here will say, I, Jaja, say that I am going to control this House. I do not know why the President did not propose the names of two other Ministers for such people to approve in order to be able to control the House.

I warned the inconsistent and capricious leader of the N.I.P. that he and his colleagues will soon be nipped in the bud.

Thank you Mr President.

The Minister of Education:

Mr President, Sir, I oppose the motion for the adjournment of the debate. I want to make it clear that as far as I know, judging from the debates of the Central House, members of my party the N.I.P., in the Central House were not against self-government in 1956. In fact, we have declared for self-government in 1956. The members of our party did in the Central House what the members of the party in the majority in this House are doing just now. Members of my party in the Central House supported a motion for the adjournment of the debate on the motion for self-government in 1956, and it is supporting a motion for the adjournment of the debate that honourable Members are doing this morning. It would be wrong, therefore, for me to suggest that since the other party asks for the adjournment of the debate, they are against self-government in 1956.

I do think that this motion is very important—important because I feel that it is the absolute right of every group of people and every country to choose their own governors; and I believe that it is the right of every group of people and every country to frame their constitution; the constitution by which they will be governed. I maintain, Sir, that it is against the law of God and against the law of nature that one set of people should for ever lord it over another. Freedom, whether for an individual or for a nation, is limited by one condition; and that condition is, that the freedom of the individual or nation does not impinge on the freedom of another. As far as Nigeria is concerned, the freedom of Great Britain has for long impinged on the freedom of this country—on the freedom of Nigeria for well over 100 years. This country is determined to work unitedly and constitutionally to remove completely the already crumbling yoke by 1956.

Sir, everybody in this country knows that the major political parties of the country have declared to the world that the country is determined to have self-government by 1956. The National Independence Party, the N.C.N.C., the U.N.P., the Action Group and several parties in the Northern Region have made this declaration. I believe that the parties are sincere in their declaration. I maintain that the time between now and 1956 is a time for the parties to remove all obstacles in the way—all obstacles in the way to unity, not only within their rank but also between one party and another and between one Region and another. That's why, Sir, the part of the motion is important which deals with setting up machinery for discussion and consultation. That part, I consider is very important. Our difficulties, our squabbles here in this House, and our squabbles in this Region, are domestic. They are not such as cannot be settled easily and constitutionally among ourselves, if, bearing in mind our declared goal of self-government, all of us are prepared to be reasonable.

In the same way, Sir, the difficulties and disagreements between the Regions are not fundamental. They are not such as cannot be thrashed out over a round table in an atmosphere of good-will and co-operation. All three Regions have one goal. I am convinced that all the three Regions are prepared to give and take so that the achievement of this common goal may be easy.

Sir, for a long time, at one time or another, the Church in this country has shown that we are capable of ruling ourselves. Many years ago, Bishop Crowther of blessed memory was a full Diocesan Bishop taking no orders from anybody. Today, several African Bishops and Clerics belonging to various denominations are in charge of Dioceses and other Church organisations taking orders from nobody.

In Great Britain, it was the Church that led the way to unity and self-government. So it should be in this country. We have demonstrated that we are capable of ruling ourselves in our various Church organisations and groups. I am convinced, therefore, that we are capable of ruling ourselves in this state. The two parties in this honourable House—the (Members—three; three) two parties in this House are agreed that it is essential that Nigeria should arrive at self-government—as one undivided country. I do not think there is anybody here who wants self-government for the country by instalments. I am one of those who would choose to belong to a strong, large, powerful and democratic country like the United States of America rather than to a puny, little country like Luxembourg unable to defend itself in this atomic age. If Nigeria is united, it will stand all physical and economic aggression. If it is divided, it will succumb easily. What a country it will be in a country diversified by the rich semi-oriental culture of the North, the predominantly rural democratic life of the East and the urban life of the Western Region bedecked with its noble Obas. From now, let the leaders of the country come together. Let them begin to educate the masses. Let them educate the masses rightly. Let them inspire the people to work hard. Let them remove corruption and bribery in various places.

(Hear! Hear!).

Freedom in any country has never been won by begging. Freedom is always won by hard work.

Sir, I beg to oppose the motion for the adjournment.

Mr J. A. Nsirim:

Mr President, Sir, in speaking to the Motion of Adjournment of this debate, I have to point out that really our sit-tight Ministers, together with the leader of the sit-tighters, who have actually put up this motion, have learned diplomacy during these few days. Now, they are trying to put what they learned into full test and practice and I am perfectly sure they are going to fail. The purpose of this motion as I really see it—and it is truly demonstrated before the whole House, is a sort of pre-election speech to get their ground outside after this House is dissolved. Actually, they arranged for the calling of this House so as to put up this motion in order to make their pre-election speech in this House. Even the smallest child in the remotest village in the Eastern Region of Nigeria would no more listen to these inconsistent pre-election speeches. Now, let us begin to

consider what we ought to try to see in this motion, at all. The mover of this motion, according to the wording, pre-supposes that the masses of the people should be consulted. Now if the masses of the people were to be consulted and then the masses tried to decide on any particular thing, is he going to go against the decision of the masses or to follow the decision of the masses? If he is going to go against the decision or desire of the masses then there will be no need for him to put up this motion. If he is to follow the decision of the masses, the first thing for him to do is to obey the masses who say that they are remaining there though no longer wanted. He should resign. Then again, he is talking of a united Nigeria. Well then, all the time, all along, we have been talking of a united Nigeria and the Cameroons, that is Nigeria *and* the Cameroons. It means that he had actually pretended to be on the side of the Cameroons for some time but now he has actually shown his true colour showing no interest for the Cameroons and as such his motion will not receive the blessing of this House. Again, he goes on to say "Attain complete self-government for this country by 1956" and then "to appoint a committee to set up machinery." Now, to attain self-government, as has been pointed out by other speakers, for 1956, actually was debated in the Central House of Representatives, but unfortunately, the mover of this motion never said anything in favour of it. Thus he was on the side of his master, the Sardauna of Sokoto, that this motion should not see the light of day at all because he only wanted to take away "1956" and substitute "as soon as practicable" which means nothing. I really feel that this is not the time to consider this motion. As I have said before, they had tried to learn diplomacy, now they want to put that diplomacy into practice and they have woefully failed and now the only thing to do is to remove them or to advise the Lieutenant-Governor to dissolve the House so that the people can go away to their various homes to make their pre-election speeches. It will not be here because all of us have known certain things about what they are going to say from the other side. Let them go out to their villages and make their pre-election speeches there. Now, they should go out to tell the people if they are very sincere in saying that it is not God's plan that one nation should lord it over any other nation indefinitely. We cannot take them seriously here. They are not going to get us into their pockets any more. If their own true stand is for true self-government in Nigeria in 1956, they should go to their constituencies and report this to the ordinary people outside. I have to warn them that if they do not obey the masses they should not desire obedience from the masses. In trying to talk about various parties in this House, the last speaker forgot the one party which I respect in this House, that is the U.N.P. Though that party may be against my own party, I admire that party for being consistent. We should make up our minds before we ever accept any particular thing, so when we say N.C.N.C. is the party in this House, the other party in this House is the U.N.P. If actually anybody is talking of N.I.P. as a party, it is no party because it is only a small organisation in this House, and outside it is nothing at all. The U.N.P. is throughout the whole of the Eastern Region.

The President:

The honourable Member is straying very far from the motion.

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Mr J. A. Nsirim:

So, I really feel this motion actually means practically nothing. The motion has no sense in it. The motion is not speaking for the people of this Region or of Nigeria because the mover of the motion is not consistent in his attitude. People will no more listen to him. Now, this motion is only a pre-election speech and we do not want it actually to come to be done in this House; it should be stated outside. We do not come here to waste our time and to waste the time of the Region. Let us call a spade a spade. Actually, we have only three alternatives:

1. We come this morning fully prepared according to various publications by the so-called N.I.P. men, that they have actually got a majority in this House. As they have already failed to get the majority, they must therefore step down. That is number one thing for them.
2. The second alternative is once they step down and feel that they cannot control the majority of this House—as long as Eastern Nigeria remains, they cannot control the majority of this House—they must surrender and ask the N.C.N.C. to form the Government at once.
3. Then the third and last alternative is dissolution.

When the so-called Minister of Natural Resources moved the motion, I thought that he was trying to recommend that the House should be dissolved because if we are not yet in order internally, how can we talk about calling a committee of the whole country to consider self-government? It is impossible. Therefore, the only thing to do is simply to ask for the dissolution of this House now, so that we can all go back and talk of other things. The purpose of this motion is to bring back your lost prestige which you can never get back. It is impossible. Mention has been made that God is helping. I have to make it clear that God was never on your side, is not, and will never be. Amen. The voice of the people is the voice of God. I am speaking with authority. I am speaking with the "Ofo" of Ikwerre and Ahoada in my hand. What I say must surely come to pass. We want you to sit-tight there. We do not want you to go out. We want this House to dissolve on your heads—inconsistent traitors.

Mr I. U. Imeh:

Mr President, Sir, we did not come here to do a lot of talking again because of what is being said in this House. This is farming season, Sir, and many of us are farmers. I think it is high time we get to an end and then go back to carry on with our farming. I move that the question be now put.

Mr J. A. Wachuku:

I beg to oppose.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjournment

The Minister of Education:

Sir, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Minister of Local Government:

Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at seven minutes to one o'clock p.m. until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 6th May, 1953.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Tuesday, 5th May, 1953

Question—

20. Mr D. A. Nnaji:

To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region :—

(a) How was the Eastern Region first occupied by the British Government, i.e.—

- (i) Was it by conquest ? or
- (ii) Was it by cession ? or
- (iii) Through treaty obligations ?

If the answer to (a) (i) is in the affirmative, what part or parts of the Eastern Region were occupied by conquest ? If the answer to (a) (ii) is also yes, will the Civil Secretary explain the part or parts of the Region that were ceded to the Government and by whom ? And if the reply to (a) (iii) is in the affirmative, will the Civil Secretary tell the part or parts of the Region that were occupied through treaty obligations and the dates of those treaties ?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:

(a) and (b) This is too wide a subject to come within the compass of question and answer. Furthermore, the past history of Nigeria cannot reasonably be held to come within the Portfolio of any Member of Executive Council. The honourable Member is referred to the published histories of Nigeria.

Question—

21. Mr D. A. Nnaji:

To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region :—

(a) Are there any chiefs in the Eastern Region ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative,

- (i) How many of them are there in the Region ?
- (ii) In what places are they ?
- (iii) What is their status, politically ?
- (iv) Who appointed them, the Government or their people ?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:

(a) Yes.

(b) (i) and (ii) I regret I am unable to say. As will be seen from the answer to (iii) below, they are very numerous.

(iii) A chief is defined in the Interpretation Ordinance as a person whose authority and control is recognised by a Local Community.

(iv) Their people.

Question—

38. Mr E. P. Okoya:

To ask the Minister of Public Health, Eastern Region :—

What steps does Government propose to take to improve the inadequate water supply in the Brass Division ?

Answer—

The Minister of Public Health, Eastern Region:

It is much regretted that as the Rural Water Supply Development Loan is rapidly approaching exhaustion it is impossible to carry out any extensive programme of water supply improvement. Out of 162 wells estimated as required in Brass Division, a programme of sixty-two wells has been selected, i.e., 40 per cent, which is the Regional average of work possible against funds available.

Of these sixty-two wells, thirty-four were completed during 1951-52. It is hoped to complete the remaining twenty-eight during 1953-54 provided Rural Water Supply funds are available.

Question—

59. Mr J. E. Ubom:

To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region :—

(a) What progress has been made at the Oshogbo Clerical Training School established some years ago in this country ?

(b) What are the educational qualifications for admission into the school ?

(c) How many clerks have been trained and passed out since the establishment of the school ?

(d) Into what grades and on what scales of salary are clerks trained at the school admitted in the Civil Service ?

(e) To what offices in the Eastern Region have these clerks been posted as they passed out of the training ?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:

(a) to (d) The honourable Member will be aware that the Government Clerical Training School, Oshogbo, is a central matter and that therefore these questions are not answerable by me.

(e) Notwithstanding the answer to (a) to (d), it is understood that clerks trained in the school have been posted to the following departments in the Eastern Region:—

Accountant-General, Administration, Agriculture, Commerce and Industries, Customs and Excise, Education, Medical, Posts and Telegraphs, Public Relations and Public Works.

Question—

62. Mr J. E. Ubom:

To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region :—

Why does the Government feel reluctant to grant loans of money from the regional funds in accordance with section 91 (a) Third Schedule, item 27 of the new Constitution Order-in-Council, 1951, to some Members of this House to purchase cars when the Fourth Schedule to the Nigeria Constitution Order-in-Council, 1951, lays it down that a Regional Legislature may make provision for lending of money to Members ?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:

I am advised that it will not be within the terms of the Third and Fourth Schedules to the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1951, to grant loans to members of the House of Assembly other than Ministers to purchase motor cars.

Question—

92. Mr R. O. Ukuta:

To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region :—

(a) How many police constables have been sent to Scotland Yard from the Eastern Region for training ?

(b) If the answer is in the negative, is it not time that this was done to enable local constables cope adequately with the detection of crimes ?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:

(a) and (b) I regret that I am unable to answer these questions. The Nigeria Police is not a regionalised Department and arrangements for training of the police are made by the Inspector-General.

Question—

106. Mr J. A. Nsirim:

To ask the Minister for Local Government, Eastern Region:—

(a) What education rates are paid in Onitsha Division ?

(b) Is it true that the following education rates are imposed in Ahoada Division:—

Ahoada	...	...	...	...	12s per taxable adult.
Etche	...	...	...	...	9s per taxable adult.
Ikwerre	...	...	...	...	25s per taxable adult.

(c) Is the aim of education rating—

(i) to subsidise existing schools ? or

(ii) to ensure free primary education ?

If it is (ii) is it equitable to charge unequal rates as stated in (b) above ?

Answer—

The Minister for Local Government, Eastern Region:

(a) Niger County Council has made a precept on District Councils equivalent to 10s per tax-payer for educational purposes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The purpose varies from area to area, and the amount of the rate varies with the purpose to be achieved. In some cases the purpose is only to meet the increased cost of existing schools caused by increments for teachers and improvements in the standard of the staff, and by the revision of teachers' salaries. The rate is then small. In some areas the purpose is to meet the increased cost and to reduce fees; the rate is then higher. In some areas the aim is to abolish fees and

meet all expenses of primary education which are not met by the Government grant; the rate is then high, and according to the number of schools in the area may reach 25s or 30s per tax-payer. In Ahoada Division the Western Ahoada and Ikwerre rates include 5s contribution towards the cost of a secondary school.

The hope of Government, in accordance with Sessional Paper No. 9 of 1953, is that Native Authorities and Local Government Councils will so develop their rating to assist education that universal primary education without payment of fees will become possible.

As different areas progress at different speeds towards this goal, in accordance with their wishes and financial capacity, it is inevitable that the amount of the rate should vary from area to area.

Question—

119. Mr R. U. Umo-Inyang:

To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:—

(a) Has the Brooke Commission on Native Courts reform published its report?

(b) If the answer to (a) is yes, when will the report be laid on the table of the Eastern House of Assembly.

(c) If the answer to (a) is no, when will the report be made available to the public?

(d) Is Government now in a position to declare its policy on Native Courts reform in the Eastern Region?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:

(a) to (c) The honourable Member is reminded that Commissions of Inquiry report to His Excellency the Governor in whose discretion it is to decide whether or not the report shall be publicly released.

(d) No.

Question—

126. Mr R. U. Umo-Inyang:

To ask the Minister of Public Health, Eastern Region:—

(a) Whether the Government is aware of the insufficient accommodation in Ikot Ekpene General Hospital?

(b) Is it a fact that a number of patients have had to lie outside on the verandahs?

(c) Is it also a fact that some patients have no beds and have to lie on mattresses spread on the floor?

(d) If the answer to (b) and (c) is in the affirmative what does the Minister propose to do to remedy this state of affairs?

Answer—

The Minister of Public Health, Eastern Region:

(a) Yes, recently and at certain seasons of the year only. Average bed occupancy in 1951-52 was 52 and in 1952-53, 68. The total number of beds is 85.

(b) Yes. On occasions when the number of patients exceeds the number of beds suitable patients may be screened off in beds on the verandah.

(c) Yes, when there is a sudden influx of patients.

(d) The congestion is being relieved by transferring suitable female patients to the Maternity section of the hospital which is seldom full at any time of the year.

Question—

128. Mr R. O. Ukuta:

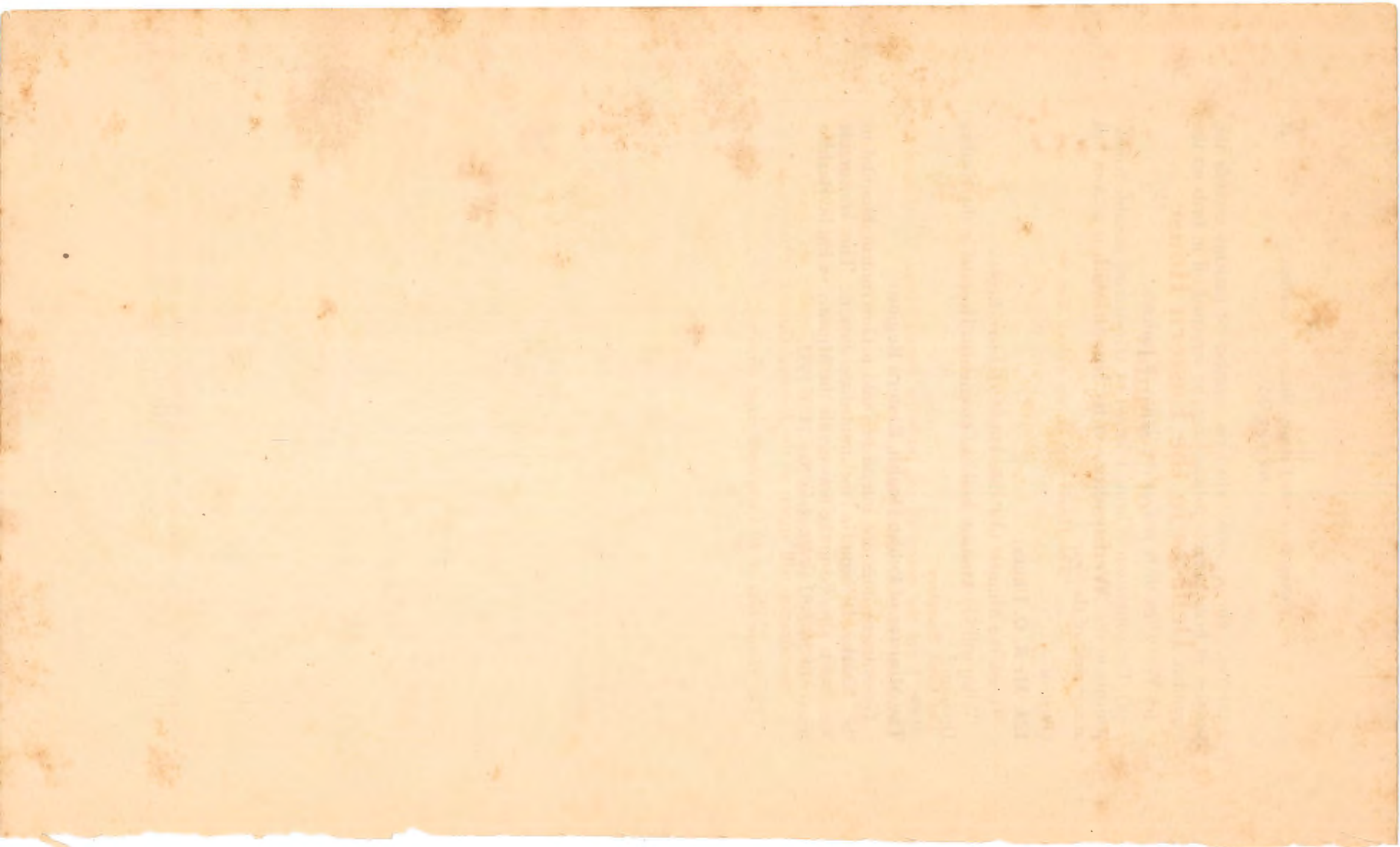
To ask the Minister of Public Health, Eastern Region:—

When will Government build a Government Hospital in the Nsukka Division?

Answer—

The Minister of Public Health, Eastern Region:

Government does not intend to build a Government Hospital in the Nsukka Division in the immediate future. The honourable Member is referred to the honourable the Minister of Public Health's answer of 26-2-52 to question No. 18 of 1952.



Debates in the Eastern House of Assembly

Wednesday, 6th May, 1953

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

Prayers

(Mr President in the Chair)

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor

The Civil Secretary:

Sir, I am the bearer of the following message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which reads:—

“After consultation with, and on the advice of the Executive Council, I have today signed a Proclamation dissolving the House of Assembly under the Powers given to me under the Nigeria Constitution (Amendment) Order in Council, 1953. (*Clapping and cheers*). The Proclamation will appear in the *Regional Gazette* of today's date.”

The House rose at 10.5 a.m. and stood dissolved.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Wednesday, 6th May, 1953

Question—

7. Mr B. C. Okwu:

To ask the Minister of Local Government, Eastern Region:—

(a) On what basis does the Government make grants for Community Development schemes to the divisions?

(b) Why is it left at the discretion of District Officers to determine whom and what to give from the fund in their divisions?

(c) To whom do the District Officers account for the way they spend the money?

(d) Where a District Officer refuses to assist a Community without justification what remedy has that Community?

Answer—

The Minister of Local Government, Eastern Region:

(a) Originally the allocations were made to provinces roughly in proportion to their respective populations. Subsequent allocations were modified. Thus where a province was unable to spend its quota in accordance with the accepted principles its allocation was reduced, and the allocations of other provinces were correspondingly increased. After allocations to provinces the further allocations to divisions were made by Residents in accordance with their knowledge of local requirements.

(b) There are two kinds of funds, i.e. (1) those provided in the Local Government or Native Authority Estimates. These are spent by the Local Government or Native Authority, and the District Officer has no control over these funds and, (2) those provided as part of the Ten-Year Plan based on funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, and allocated to District Officers. It is presumed that it is the latter funds to which the question refers. The answer is:

Because it has been found in practice that on the whole this system of decentralisation as far as is practicable gives the best results. In the average division the District Officer is in the best position both to assess quickly the relative merits and claims for assistance, and to stimulate initiative the moment it appears. Any other system might involve delays, and delays are fatal to projects that depend on spontaneous enthusiasm (which is one of the driving forces in Community Development).

(c) The Resident.

(d) No "right" in respect of the relatively small funds (small considering the size of the Eastern Region) have been laid down. It is therefore difficult to talk of remedies since remedies imply sighting wrongs; nevertheless if any village considers that it has a moral claim to more assistance than it is getting, it may refer this matter to the Resident.

Question—

58. Mr R. O. Iwuagwu:

To ask the Minister of Natural Resources, Eastern Region:—

(a) Why are the Hides and Skins Instructors with Middle VI Certificates placed on the Sub-scale of £96-124-132 while their contemporaries in other Government Departments are on £124-132-140?

(b) Is it a fact that these Instructors have several times petitioned the Government through the Inspector-General of Animal Health Services to right the existing disparity?

(c) What steps have been taken since then to remedy the grievances of Instructors?

Answer—

The Minister of Natural Resources, Eastern Region:

(a) There are in fact no Hides and Skins Instructors with Middle VI Certificates employed in the Eastern Region.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Question—

82. Mr A. O. Chikwendu:

To ask the Minister of Works, Eastern Region:—

(a) What are the respective functions of the following officers of the Public Works Department in a large building project:

- (i) Architect,
- (ii) Architectural Assistant,
- (iii) Executive Engineer,
- (iv) Engineer,
- (v) Engineering Assistant,
- (vi) Inspector,
- (vii) Assistant Inspector,
- (viii) Technical Assistant?

(b) Is the Minister aware of the fact that there is gross overlapping of officers and functions with the consequent wastage of revenue resulting in the ultimate retardation of the development of the Region?

Answer—

Mr R. J. E. Koripamo, Minister Without Portfolio (in absence of the Minister of Works):

- (a) (i) *Architect* designs the building and prepares final plans and specifications.
- (ii) *Architectural Assistant* helps the Architect by doing the routine tasks, tracing, copying and etc.
- (iii) *Executive Engineer* would control this job amongst others, he would be the person responsible for siting, setting out of roads, water, sanitation and other services. He would control funds and provide estimates of completion date and see the overall administration of the work was carried out smoothly.
- (iv) *Engineer* would not be concerned.
- (v) *Engineering Assistant* would do preliminary surveying, setting out and contouring for drainage work.
- (vi) *Inspector* would carry out day to day supervision as planned by the Executive Engineer.
- (vii) *Assistant Inspector* would not be there if an Inspector was working on the project.
- (viii) *Technical Assistant* would not be concerned. He is simply concerned in the more simple tracing and survey jobs.

(b) No. The only possible overlapping that could be pointed to is the case of the post of Engineer (iv). This post is half way between an Executive Engineer and an Engineering Assistant and is gradually being abolished. Of the three Engineers paid from Regional funds, one is doing a Draughtsman's job, one is posted to Rivers Province, and one is doing Road Research work. There is no intention of filling vacancies,

Question—

83. Mr A. O. Chikwendu:

To ask the Minister of Works, Eastern Region:—

(a) Is the Minister aware of the fact that office administration engages almost the full time of Executive Engineers to the exclusion of the supervisory and directive work for which they are employed?

(b) If so, will the Minister ensure that African Administrative Assistants are recruited to handle most of the office correspondence in the Department and to manage labour as is done in the Western Region so as to allow the Executive Engineers time for field work?

Answer—

Mr R. J. E. Koripamo, Minister Without Portfolio (in absence of the Minister of Works):

(a) No. Office administration does not involve Executive Engineers in a considerable amount of work.

(b) The possibilities will be explored.

Question—

84. Mr S. A. George:

To ask the Minister of Lands and Survey, Eastern Region:—

(a) What is the total area of land acquired by the United Africa Company in Mamfe?

(b) When was the land acquired and from whom?

(c) What is the amount of rent being paid annually for the land and to whom is the rent being paid?

(d) Is the Minister aware that the natives of Egbekaw in Mamfe have for some time been petitioning for redress in respect of this land?

(e) If the Minister is aware, will he investigate the matter with a view to redressing the grievances of the people concerned?

Answer—

The Minister of Lands and Survey, Eastern Region:

(a) The total area of land occupied by the United Africa Company at Mamfe is 32.897 acres.

(b) Part of the land was originally purchased outright by the German North-West Cameroon Company from the chiefs and elders of Mamfe, in 1909. The remainder was purchased outright by the same company from the chief and people of Ewuko (Egbekaw) in 1911. On the outbreak of the first World War the property was vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property, who sold the buildings and leased the land to the African and Eastern Trade Corporation. When this lease expired, the Governor of Nigeria, in whom the reversionary rights were vested, leased the land to Nigerian Properties Company, Limited.

(c) Under the terms of the present lease an annual rental of £60 is paid to the Government of Nigeria.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) I will cause enquiries to be made.

Question—

85. Mr S. A. George:

To ask the Minister of Lands and Survey, Eastern Region:—

(a) Whether he is aware that no rents are being paid by the Government for the Aerodrome land in Besong Abang in Mamfe Division?

(b) If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative, what are the reasons for Government occupying or holding the land without paying rent?

Answer—

The Minister of Lands and Survey, Eastern Region:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By virtue of the Land and Native Rights Ordinance all native lands and all rights over the same are under the control of the Governor. It is lawful for the Governor to revoke the customary rights of any occupier, with the occupier's consent, if land is required for any public purpose. When customary rights are thus revoked, compensation is payable to the former occupier for his buildings, crops and other improvements, and for disturbance, but no compensation or rent is payable for the land itself, since this is already vested in the Governor.

When two parcels of land at Besongabang were set aside by the Governor for the establishment of an aerodrome, sums totalling £610 were paid as compensation to the former occupiers whose customary rights of occupancy had been revoked.

Question—

86. Mr S. A. George:

To ask the Development Secretary, Eastern Region:—

(a) Whether it is a fact that a Government loan of about £9,000 has been granted to a Mr R. I. Eyo for timber industry in Mamfe Division?

(b) If so, whether it is a fact that for the purpose of this industry a Forest Area of 1½ miles square has been allotted to the grantee from the Kembong Forest Reserve?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, whether the consent of the indigenous natives was obtained through the Kembong Native Authority before the Forest Reserve concession was made to Mr Eyo?

(d) In view of the policy of the Administering Authority with regard to the exploitation of the wealth of the Trust Territory by which benefit to the populace is ensured from profits derivable from such exploitation, whether the Eastern Regional Government has ensured that the natives of Mamfe Division are partners with Mr Eyo in this proposition and/or whether a reasonable percentage of profits to be derived from this business is ensured to the Native Authority concerned in the area involved? If not, why?

Answer—

The Development Secretary, Eastern Region:

(a) No. The sum of £8,300 was lent to Mr Eyo by the Eastern Regional Development Board to erect a saw-mill.

(b) An agreement is being negotiated with Mr Eyo whereby he will be granted exclusive rights to fell trees within a prescribed area of 9 square miles in the Kembong Reserve.

(c) The Kembong Native Authority has approved the draft agreement.

(d) Mr Eyo will pay full fees and royalties to the Kembong Native Authority, who, it is estimated, will benefit to the extent of some £1,000 per annum.

Question—

87. Mr E. A. Chime:

To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:—

(a) How many Africans are in the Senior Service in the Government Press, Enugu?

(b) Is the Government aware that there is a general discontent amongst the Junior Staff of that Department, as their production has no bearing to their status?

(c) How many years does a Technical Assistant in the Printing Department spend on his grade before being converted to the standard grade of Junior Technical Staff?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:

The honourable Member will appreciate that the Printing Department is not fully regionalised and that this question should therefore have been asked in the House of Representatives. I understand, however, that:—

(a) There are at present no Nigerians in the Senior Service in the Government Press at Enugu;

(b) no information has been received of discontent on the grounds stated;

(c) a Technical Assistant is not normally eligible to enter the graded staff owing to his limited general education. On one occasion in the Eastern Region, a man was promoted when it was considered that his limited education was compensated for by exceptional technical ability, length of service and likelihood of being able to proceed to the higher grades of the Junior Technical Staff.

Question—

88. Mr E. A. Chime:

To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:—

Is the Government Press, Enugu, responsible for the printing of the *Eastern Outlook and Cameroons Star*?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:

Yes.

Question—

90. Mr I. U. Imeh:

To ask the Minister of Education, Eastern Region:—

(a) What are the obstacles in the establishment of Extra-Mural Courses in the divisions in the Eastern Region which the Director of Studies from Ibadan visited last year?

(b) Who finances such courses, the Regional or Central Government, if the former, how much has been spent?

Answer—

The Minister of Education, Eastern Region:

(a) The obstacle is lack of part-time tutors with adequate qualifications.

The Director of Extra-Mural Studies has just succeeded in appointing the three tutors to organise courses in the Region. A Regional tutor at Uyo, two staff-tutors, one at Onitsha and the other at Aba.

(b) The Regional Government, £3,250.

Question—

91. Mr I. U. Imeh:

To ask the Minister of Local Government, Eastern Region:—

(a) Is the Government aware that the Annangs in Abak Division are ready to group only with Annangs in Opobo and Aba Divisions to form a County Council?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is yes, will the Government consider introducing Local Government in Abak Division by April, 1953?

(c) If the reply to (a) above is no, will Government nevertheless consider introducing Local Government in Abak by April, 1953?

Answer—

The Minister of Local Government, Eastern Region:

(a) I am aware that certain views have been expressed at certain meetings. The Ordinance, however, requires that before Councils are established the inhabitants of the area should be consulted. An officer has now been posted to the Abak and Uyo Divisions to consult the wishes of the inhabitants. His report is expected about the end of next month.

(b) Before the system of Local Government provided for in the Ordinance is introduced there must be Instruments establishing the Councils and elections. It is therefore impossible to introduce the system by 1st April, 1953.

(c) It is hoped that, if all goes well, it will be possible to introduce the system by 1st October, 1953.

Question—

98. Mr D. O. Enang:

To ask the Development Secretary, Eastern Region:—

(a) How many Development Officers are there in the Eastern Region?

(b) How many of these are Africans?

Answer—

The Development Secretary, Eastern Region:

The honourable Member is aware that Development Officers are not regionalised, and therefore that questions relating to them are not strictly answerable by me. The facts for which he has asked are however:—

(a) The Regional establishment of Development Officers is twenty and there are at present nineteen in the Region.

(b) Of these two are Africans.

Question—

107. Mr S. C. Ndi:

To ask the Minister of Works, Eastern Region:—

When will the construction of the Mfum Bridge across the Cross River start?

Answer—

Mr R. J. E. Koripamo, Minister Without Portfolio (in absence of the Minister of Works):

Construction at site will commence when specialist staff of the contractors arrive; it is hoped this will be towards the end of June, 1953.

Question—

108. Mr S. C. Ndi:

To ask the Minister of Works, Eastern Region:—

Is it true that the three uncompleted bridges along the Enugu-Cameroons road are responsible for the slow communication between Nigeria and the Cameroons?

Answer—

Mr R. J. E. Koripamo, Minister Without Portfolio (in absence of the Minister of Works):

If the honourable Member means that traffic has been slowed down because of the construction of the bridges the answer is in the negative. If the honourable Member means that communications will be speeded up when the bridges are completed the answer is in the affirmative.

Question—

109. Mr S. C. Ndi:

To ask the Minister of Works, Eastern Region:—

(a) Is the Minister aware that the ferry service at Mfum is inefficient and that there is discrimination in favour of Europeans resulting in great inconvenience to African users of the road?

(b) If the answer to (a) is yes, what does the Minister propose to do to remove the discrimination and to improve the service at Mfum ferry?

Answer—

Mr R. J. E. Koripamo, Minister Without Portfolio (in absence of the Minister of Works):

(a) The ferry service is slow but not inefficient having consideration for the volume of traffic which passes over the river at this point. There is no discrimination in favour of Europeans. Vehicles are taken over in order of priority as follows:—

1. Ministers, Senior Government Officers of Regional rank and above, Medical Officers and others on urgent business.
2. Engineers and Inspectors engaged upon work on the Bansara-Mamfe road.
3. Mail lorries.
4. P.W.D. lorries and lorries carrying stores.
5. Government Officers on duty.
6. Other cars and kit cars not requiring off loading.
7. Other vehicles.

(b) Does not arise.

Question—

110. Mr S. C. Ndi:

To ask the Minister of Works, Eastern Region:—

What roads in the Eastern Region are inter-territorially controlled and maintained and how?

Answer—

Mr R. J. E. Koripamo, Minister Without Portfolio (in absence of the Minister of Works):

It is presumed that the honourable Member means jointly controlled. There are no roads maintained jointly by Nigeria and Afrique Equatoriale Francaise.

Question—

111. Mr S. C. Ndi:

To ask the Minister of Works, Eastern Region:—

- (a) How many bridges are there on roads inter-territorially maintained?
- (b) Who is responsible for the maintenance of the bridges?

Answer—

Mr R. J. E. Koripamo, Minister Without Portfolio (in absence of the Minister of Works):

- (a) and (b) See answer to Question No. 110.

Question—

112. Mr S. C. Ndi:

To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:—

What action is Government taking to implement the resolution passed by the House in 1952 on preferential sales and treatment in commercial houses?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:

None. Preferential sales are a common trade practice and to be found all over the world and in every market. Their prevalence in times of shortages of certain commodities is well known to all. There are at present few, if any, shortages of such goods in Nigeria and, as far as can be ascertained, the practice is not as widespread as it was.

Question—

113. Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo:

To ask the Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:—

- (a) How many expatriates immigrated into Nigeria to take up Government appointments, for the first time (i) in 1942, (ii) in 1952?
- (b) How many of these expatriates were posted to the Eastern Region in each year?
- (c) By what *per centum* did the number either drop or rise during the intervening ten years?
- (d) How does this drop or rise reflect the policy of Nigerianisation in the Eastern Region?

Answer—

The Civil Secretary, Eastern Region:

(a) The honourable Member will be aware that particulars of expatriates who enter Nigeria to take up Government appointments are a central subject. He is therefore advised to cause a question to be asked in the House of Representatives.

(b) and (c) In view of the reply to (a), I am unable to say.

(d) This part of the question is disallowed under Standing Order No. 14 (3).

Question—

114. Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo:

To ask the Minister of Local Government, Eastern Region:—

(a) How many Co-operative Societies in the Eastern Region were liquidated in 1951 and 1952?

(b) What were the causes of such liquidation in each case?

(c) How many Co-operative Societies are still in existence?

Answer—

The Minister of Local Government, Eastern Region:

(a) Eighteen liquidated in 1951, thirteen in 1952 (five so far in 1953).

(b) Five voluntary, twenty-six compulsory. Causes may be summarised as follows:—

(i) Insolvency—two (Ikot Ekpene Raffia, Udi Co-operative Shop).

(ii) Corrupt management—two (Creek Town Co-credit, Victoria P.W.D. Co-thrift).

(iii) Lack of active Management Committee, and lack of interest on the part of members—thirteen (Salary-earners' Thrift Societies).

(iv) Bad management, failure to recover overdue loans—six (Co-credits).

(v) Inadequate tonnage, disloyalty of members—three (Cocoa Marketing Societies).

(c) 689 (645 at 31-12-52).





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