



EASTERN NIGERIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTH HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
OF EASTERN NIGERIA

SESSION (1962-63)

SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH MEETINGS

11th July; 13th November; 10th to 12th December, 1962

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EASTERN NIGERIA GOVERNMENT

(Formed by Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, November, 1961)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

PREMIER	...	...	...	...	...	Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara.
MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS	...	...	...	...	...	Hon. I. U. Akpabio.
MINISTER OF EDUCATION	...	...	...	...	...	Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke.
MINISTER OF FINANCE	...	...	...	...	...	Hon. E. Emole.
MINISTER OF WORKS	...	...	...	...	...	Hon. P. O. Ururuka.
MINISTER OF HEALTH	...	...	...	...	...	Chief the hon. B. C. Okwu.
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT	...	...	...	...	...	Chief the hon. J. U. Nwodo.
MINISTER OF TOWN PLANNING	...	...	...	...	...	Hon. P. O. Nwoga.
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING	...	...	...	...	...	Hon. G. E. Okeke.
MINISTER OF INFORMATION	...	...	...	...	...	Chief the hon. E. P. Okoya.
MINISTER OF CUSTOMARY COURTS AND CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS	...	...	...	...	...	Hon. O. U. Affiah.
ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE	...	...	...	...	...	Hon. M. O. Ajegbo, q.c.
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE	...	...	...	...	...	Hon. P. N. Okeke.
MINISTER OF COMMERCE	...	...	...	...	...	Dr the hon. A. N. Obonna.
MINISTER OF STATE, PREMIER'S OFFICE	...	...	...	...	...	Chief the hon. D. Jaja, the Amanyanabo of Opobo.
MINISTER OF STATE, PREMIER'S OFFICE	...	...	...	...	...	Chief the hon. A. N. Onyiuke.
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF WORKS	...	...	...	...	...	Chief the hon. J. H. E. Nwuke.
MINISTER OF STATE, PREMIER'S OFFICE	...	...	...	...	...	Hon. H. U. Akpabio.
MINISTER OF STATE, PREMIER'S OFFICE	...	...	...	...	...	Chief the hon. S. E. Onukogu.
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION	...	...	...	...	...	Hon. D. S. A. Agim.
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	...	...	...	...	...	Dr the hon. N. Otue.
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF FINANCE	...	...	...	...	...	Hon. J. M. Echeruo.

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS

Hon. R. O. Iwuagwu	...	...	...	...	...	Umuahia Province.
Hon. E. A. Chime	...	...	...	...	...	Abakaliki and Enugu Provinces.
Hon. M. E. Ogon	...	...	...	...	...	Port Harcourt Province.
Hon. P. A. Onwe	...	...	...	...	...	Annang Province.
Hon. N. L. P. Apreala	...	...	...	...	...	Degema Province.
Chief the hon. A. O. Chikwendu	...	...	...	...	...	Owerri Province.
Hon. S. O. Masi	...	...	...	...	...	Onitsha Province.
Hon. P. G. Warmate	...	...	...	...	...	Yenagoa Province.
Hon. D. J. Edoho	...	...	...	...	...	Uyo Province.
Hon. E. D. Sigalo	...	...	...	...	...	Ogoja Province.
Hon. A. E. Bassey	...	...	...	...	...	Calabar Province.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER AND MINISTRIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

Premier's Office:—

Premier: Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara;
Ministers of State: Chief the hon. D. Jaja, the Amanyanabo of Opobo;
Chief the hon. A. N. Onyiuke; Hon. H. U. Akpabio; Chief the hon. S. E. Onukogu.
Parliamentary Secretaries: Hon. J. O. Umolu;
Chief the hon. D. O. Aligwekwe;
Hon. I. Igajah;
Hon. E. Chuku.

Ministry of Internal Affairs:—

Minister: Hon. I. U. Akpabio.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. J. A. Jumbo.

Ministry of Education:—

Minister: Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke.
Minister of State: Hon. D. S. A. Agim.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. K. I. Etuk.

Ministry of Finance:—

Minister: Hon. E. Emole.
Minister of State: Hon. J. M. Echeruo.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. R. O. Anoke.

Ministry of Works:—

Minister: Hon. P. O. Ururuka.
Minister of State: Chief the hon. J. H. E. Nwuke.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. D. A. Nnaji.

Ministry of Health:—

Minister: Chief the hon. B. C. Okwu.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. K. J. N. Okpokam.

Ministry of Local Government:—

Minister: Chief the hon. J. U. Nwodo.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. D. O. Nnamani.

Ministry of Town Planning:—

Minister: Hon. P. O. Nwoga.
Parliamentary Secretary: Chief the hon. R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.

Ministry of Economic Planning:—

Minister: Hon. G. E. Okeke.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. J. N. Odonu.

Ministry of Information:—

Minister: Chief the hon. E. P. Okoya.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. O. Egbe.

Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs:—

Minister: Hon. O. U. Affiah.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. M. U. Obayi.

Ministry of Justice:—

Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: Hon. M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. S. E. K. Iwueke.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER AND MINISTRIES OF THE GOVERNMENT—*continued*

Ministry of Agriculture:—

Minister: Hon. P. N. Okeke.
Minister of State: Dr the hon. N. Otue.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. J. E. Eyo.

Ministry of Commerce:—

Minister: Dr the hon. A. N. Obonna.
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. R. O. Ikwueke.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

The Speaker: Hon. D. E. Okereke, c.M.G.
Leader of the House: Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke, *Minister of Education*.
Leader of the Opposition: Hon. S. G. Ikoku.
Government Chief Whip: Hon. G. C. Okeya.
Deputy Speaker: Hon. I. U. Imeh.
Deputy Government Chief Whip: Hon. M. N. Onwuma.
Government Whips: Hon. E. Aguma; Hon. S. O. Nwachuku.
Clerk of the Legislature: Mr C. E. Ekpe.
First Clerk-Assistant: Mr L. O. Okoro.
Second Clerks-Assistant: Mr R. C. Oyedu; Mr V. C. Anigekwu.
Editor, Official Report (*Hansard*): Mr S. B. C. Melifonwu.
Official Reporter, Grade I: Mr K. A. N. Ekwos.
Assistant Editor, Official Report (*Hansard*): Mr J. A. Okoh.
Executive Officers (General Duties): Mr S. C. Val-Mudge; Mr W. N. Okafor.
Executive Officer (Accounts): Mr J. C. Nwadike.
Serjeant-at-Arms: Mr B. O. Ajumogobia.



Eastern House of Assembly Debates

1 [Death of Member; Papers]

11 JULY 1962

[Papers; Oral Answers]

2

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 11th July, 1962

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

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker *in the Chair*)

DEATH OF MEMBER

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I regret to inform the House of the death of hon. J. O. Okeh, Member for Ikwerre North, and I desire, on behalf of this House to express our deep sense of the loss we have sustained and our sympathy to the relatives of the late hon. Member.

On 18th June, 1962, a telegram was despatched to the District Officer, Ahoada, in the following terms:—

“GRATEFUL YOU CONVEY TO THE FAMILY OF LATE J. O. OKEH THE CONDOLENCES OF PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS HOUSE OF CHIEFS SPEAKER AND MEMBERS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND STAFF OF THE LEGISLATURE ON THE IRREPARABLE LOSS BY DEATH OF THEIR DEAR HUSBAND AND FATHER. MEMBERS EASTERN LEGISLATURE SHARE THEIR GRIEF AT THIS EARLY LOSS AND WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIS INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE WORK IN THIS REGION.

EAST CLERK”

Mr G. C. Okeya (Owerri Oguta): I rise to pay a humble tribute to the late hon. Okeh who by all standards of this Legislature was a man in a thousand. As a teacher he was worth his salt and as a politician he was popular, faithful, responsible and a good debater. As a matter of fact he was one of those who held the Standing Orders as commandments and during our debates he never tried to go against Standing Orders deliberately. Mr Okeh has laid down the mantle at the hey day of national independence and social and economic reconstruction in the Region. May his faithful soul repose in peace and on behalf of all the Members, I say, may he rest in peace!

PAPERS

Presented:

The Eastern Nigeria Information Service Corporation Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March, 1959. (*The Minister of Information*).

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

Distributed:

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, during the adjournment of the House a number of Papers were distributed to Members. These Papers are deemed to have been laid upon the Table and will be entered in the Votes and Proceedings of Today. They are:—

- (1) Approved Estimates of Eastern Nigeria, 1962-63.
- (2) Annual Report, 1960-61, Ministry of Commerce (Official Document No. 11 of 1962).
- (3) Annual Report, 1959, Ministry of Health (Official Document, No. 12 of 1962).
- (4) Report on Investigation of Vocational Education in Eastern Nigeria, prepared by Michael Goldway (Official Document No. 13 of 1962).
- (5) Annual Report, Leprosy Research Unit, Uzuakoli, 1961 (Official Document No. 14 of 1962).
- (6) Report on Eastern Nigeria General Election, November, 1961 (Official Document No. 15 of 1962).
- (7) Public Service Commission Annual Report, 1961.
- (8) Administrative Staff List—Revised to 1st April, 1962.
- (9) Development—E.N.D.C. Quarterly Magazine, January-March, 1962.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ex-Interpreters

61. **Mr P. A. Oji** asked the Premier what is the status of ex-Interpreters who are still in the Public Service of Eastern Nigeria since the abolition of the post of Interpreters; whether he is aware that some of these ex-Interpreters are more experienced than many graduates in carrying out administrative duties in the Divisions.

The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Mr H. U. Akpabio): I do not know what the hon. Member really has in mind when he speaks of “ex-Interpreters”. If he means

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officers in the Public Service who were once Interpreters, the position is that they have been assimilated into the other branches of the administration and the hon. Member will be delighted to hear that some of these officers have risen therein to the very high ranks of Provincial Secretaries, Senior District Officers and District Officers. A good number of them have been absorbed into the executive class as Executive Officers, Higher Executive Officers, Senior Executive Officers. The hon. Member may wish to know that the salaries of Senior Executive Officers are higher than those of Assistant District Officers.

While the Interpreter service as such has not been completely abolished, further recruitment into it has been discontinued. The reason is that the Administrative service is now almost completely Nigerianised and there is no more need for a cadre of Interpreters; where it is however necessary for some interpretation work to be undertaken, any clerk, as was in fact the practice some years ago, can be called upon to undertake such a duty.

The position of the Interpreters still in the service is constantly kept under review in order to see whether they can be absorbed into the other branches of the Administration consistent with their experience and qualifications.

I am aware that a few of these ex-Interpreters may be experienced in Divisional duties but the qualities required of an Administrative Officer is far more than experience in Divisional work. Of greater importance are intelligence, a trained and disciplined mind, initiative, and integrity. The hon. Member will agree with me that most of these qualities are easily obtainable from candidates with formal University education. In considering promotions the Public Service Commission takes into account every possible merit, including official qualifications, experience, character and ability to discharge the duties and responsibilities of the post.

Mr P. A. Oji: I would like to know from the hon. Premier how many of these ex-Interpreters have been promoted to these higher posts since the abolition of the post of Interpreters.

Mr H. U. Akpabio: This involves a lot of figures and it will take time to prepare them.

Water Supply

193. **Mr G. O. G. Ume-Ezeoke** asked the Minister of Works, how soon will Onitsha get a regular water supply from the new bore-hole.

The Minister of Works: Bore-hole No. 1 which supplements the Nkissi supply of over a million gallons per day is already in use and produces half a million gallons daily. The next thing is to distribute the extra water available as the existing town mains and storage are inadequate. A new one million gallons Reservoir is now under construction and pipes have been ordered for the renewal of truck mains in the town to distribute water from the reservoir, and a further bore-hole is to be sunk. It is anticipated that an improved supply should be available from these works by next dry season. In all, Government proposes to spend in the next six years £220,000 on improving and extending the Onitsha Urban Water Supply.

Odida Anyanwu County Council

Question No. 326 reads as follows:—

Dr J. O. J. Okezie: To ask the Minister of Local Government, who is the President of the Odida Anyanwu County Council; if none, why, and when will one be appointed.

Dr J. O. J. Okezie: I am reliably informed that the Question contained here is now a matter that is involving legal action in the Court of Law. Consequently, I beg to withdraw the Question.

Question by leave withdrawn.

Orlu County Councils

332. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Local Government, when will he visit the four newly created County Councils in Orlu Division with a view to acquainting himself with their difficulties and making suggestions that will help them to avoid the circumstances which led to the dissolution of the Orlu County Council.

The Minister of Local Government: It is my desire to visit all Local Government

Councils in the Region as frequently as possible, in order to establish personal contact with the Councils, learn their problems and offer on the spot my advice to these problems.

Since my assuming Office as the Minister of Local Government late last year, I have already visited a number of Councils. I hope to visit the rest including those in Orlu Division as and when it is convenient. In fact I have already visited the Orlu North-east County Council.

Ekpeye-Engenni County Council

334. **Mr C. A. Okpara** asked the Minister of Local Government, if he is aware that the electors of the Ekpeye-Engenni County Council area have repeatedly asked by petitions, delegations and demonstrations for the dissolution of the Council; if so, how soon will he order the dissolution.

The Minister of Local Government: I am aware that there are series of allegations and counter allegations from persons in the Ekpeye-Engenni County Council area about the County Council. I have carefully studied the various petitions received in my Ministry and as there is no substantial evidence to support the charge of maladministration, corruption, victimisation and misappropriation of funds against the Council, I am not prepared to institute any inquiry into the administration of the Ekpeye-Engenni County Council.

I do not therefore propose to dissolve the Council and I have asked the Divisional Officer, Ahoada Division, to inform all the petitioners of this decision.

Payment of Tax

343. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is aware that during tax drives, tax defaulters after paying their tax are asked to pay an extra £1 each before they are released; if so, what is the levy for, and to what Head of Revenue is it credited.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Finance (Mr R. O. Anoke): No, Sir; I am not aware of any such additional levy, nor is it of course permitted by the Finance Law. I would suggest that the hon. Member reports any instances of these illegal collections

to his Tax Assessment Authority, producing full details and, wherever possible, witnesses.

MESSAGE FROM THE EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

A Message on the following Bills brought up from the Eastern House of Chiefs and read by the Clerk as follows:

That the Eastern House of Chiefs has agreed to the following Bills without amendment:—

1. Bill entitled: The 1960-61 Eastern Nigeria Excess Votes Appropriation Law, 1962.
2. Bill entitled: The Eastern Nigeria Local Government (Amendment) Law, 1962.
3. Bill entitled: The Building Lines (Amendment) Law, 1962.
4. Bill entitled: The Legislative Houses (Amendment) Law, 1962.
5. Bill entitled: The Public Holidays Ordinance (Amendment) Law, 1962.
6. Bill entitled: The Electoral Commission of Eastern Nigeria Law, 1962.
7. Bill entitled: The Federal Supreme Court (Miscellaneous Provisions) Law, 1962.
8. Bill entitled: The Torts Law, 1962.
9. Bill entitled: The 1961-62 Eastern Nigeria Supplementary Appropriation Law, 1962.
10. Bill entitled: The Finance Law, 1962.
11. Bill entitled: The 1962-63 Eastern Nigeria Appropriation Law, 1962.
12. Bill entitled: The Defamation Law, 1962.
13. Bill entitled: The Eastern Nigeria Housing Corporation (Amendment) Law, 1962.
14. Bill entitled: The Pool Betting Control (Enabling) Law, 1962.

BILLS PRESENTED

(i) Produce

Bill for a Law to make provision for the Inspection and Grading of Commodities intended for Export, for the Enforcement of Grades and Standards of Quality of such commodities, for the control of Pests in such commodities and for matters incidental to the execution of the powers conferred by this Law, presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr P. N. Okeke; read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

(ii) Sheriffs

Bill for a Law to make provision for the Appointment of Sheriffs and to amend the Sheriffs and Civil Process Ordinance in its Application to Eastern Nigeria, presented by the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Mr M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.; read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(i) Sittings of the House

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole): I beg to move, That pursuant to Standing Order 82—Suspension of Standing Orders—paragraph (2) of Standing Order 6—Sittings of the House—be suspended to enable this House to sit this day beyond 2.30 p.m. until the completion of the business of the House.

The Minister of Town Planning (Mr P. O. Nwoga): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

(ii) Adjournment sine die

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole): I beg to move, That this House at its rising Today do adjourn *sine die*.

The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): I beg to second.

Dr Chike Obi (Onitsha Urban North-east): I do not think it will be possible to finish the business of the House today.

Several hon. Members: How does the hon. Member know?

Mr Speaker: It means the House can continue to sit even till mid-night until the whole business is finished.

Question put and agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Amendments to Standing Orders

The following Motion stood on the Order Paper:—

“That the Standing Orders of the Eastern House of Assembly be amended on the lines proposed in the draft amendments embodied in the document entitled ‘Suggested Amendments to the Standing Orders of the Eastern House of Assembly and the Eastern House of Chiefs.’”

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole): Mr Speaker, I do not move.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

(ii) Standing Order No. 77

The following Motion stood on the Order Paper:—

“That Standing Order 77 (3) and (6) of the Eastern House of Assembly be amended as follows:—

- (a) At line nine of Order 77 (3), the word ‘Three’ be *deleted*, and the word ‘Five’ be *inserted* therefor.
- (b) At line one of Order 77 (6) the word ‘Seven’ be *deleted*, and the word ‘Eight’ be *inserted* therefor.”

Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo (Ogoni South-east): Mr Speaker, I do not move.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

MID-WESTERN REGION ACT, 1962

The Premier (Dr M. I. Okpara): I rise to move:

That this House consents to the Mid-Western Region Act, 1962, having effect.

Parliament has passed the Mid-Western Region Act, 1962 (No. 6 of 1962), and His Excellency the Governor-General gave his assent on the 12th day of May, 1962. The Act was made in pursuance of a proposal to establish a Fourth Region within the Federation of Nigeria, consisting territorially of Benin Province in Western Nigeria, including Akoko Edo in Afenmai District, and Delta Province in Western Nigeria, including Warri Division and Warri Urban Township area. That proposal, as hon. Members are aware, was approved by an overwhelming majority in this House on the 4th of April, and by a unanimous vote of the House of Chiefs on the 6th of April.

The proposal to create a fourth Region is a major alteration to our Constitution, and the Constitution itself is full of safeguards to ensure that such an amendment is not made either without due deliberation or without the consent of those who will be concerned by it. There are two further stages to be gone through before the Governor-General can appoint a day for the coming into force of the Act. Subsection (5) of section 4 of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria provides that an Act of Parliament establishing a new Region shall not come into operation unless:—

- (a) a resolution has been passed by each Legislative House of at least two Regions signifying consent to its having effect; and

(b) a referendum upon the question whether the Act should have effect has been held in pursuance of provision made in that behalf by Parliament in every part of Nigeria that would be comprised in a new Region or transferred from one territory to another, as the case may be, at which the persons entitled to vote were the persons who at the date of the referendum entitled to vote in any constituency in that part of Nigeria established under section 46 of this Constitution and at which at least three-fifths of all the persons who were entitled to vote at the referendum voted in favour of the Act."

The scaling of the present hurdle in the way of the creation of the Mid-West Region does not of course create the Region. Only the Mid-Westerners can do that in a Plebiscite. Then it will be up to themselves, their leaders and their Destiny. But our path of duty is clear: to assist them as much as lies in our power in removing all obstacles on their journey to their promised land. The discharge of this onerous duty does not admit of partisan politics. Indeed our assistance to the growth of the Mid-West ferment, which has burgeoned into an irreversible process is with charity for ALL Mid-Westerners and malice towards none.

It is my privilege to urge this House to give its unanimous consent to the Mid-Western Region Act, 1962 having effect.

The Minister of Economic Planning (Mr G. E. Okeke): I beg to second.

Dr Chike Obi (Onitsha Urban North-east): I beg to support. My reasons for supporting the Motion are the reasons which every true lover of united Nigeria would support. Very many years ago many of us have been speaking that we want a strong central Government and weak Regional Governments so that the unity of Nigeria could remain in tact. Many of us also preached that in order to achieve this end there should not be a single Region which is big enough to hold the rest of the country to ransom. At the moment there is a Region in the country which is holding the rest of the country to ransom and many of us do not like this state of affairs.

The creation of a Mid-Western Region, in spite of the fact that there are some strong

forces which do not want the creation of other Regions in the country, will be the first step in series of chain reactions which will bring about the creation of many more Regions and disintegrate the monster Region which holds the rest of the country in ransom. Hon. Members will all remember that when the United States of America became free it taught the British to give freedom to many other dominions and hon. Members will also remember when one colonial West African unit became free, almost like an avalanche, most African territories became free. So the unanimous support for the creation of Mid-Western Region will, at least, teach right thinking people that it is possible to create such Region and will encourage them in their just fight for self-determination.

Dr I. J. Fiberesima (Degema East): I feel happy that the Premier has himself moved the Motion. Also I agree very much with Dr Chike Obi's assertion that when other Regions are to be divided no political move should stop them. After all, we have the North as being the largest Region in the Federation and I hope that this formation of a new Region will be a starting point to form many other Regions. We all know that in the past there has been a move to form a Rivers Region. Well, it must be realised that this move is not yet dead—it is still living—and when the time comes when the people of this Region will agitate for it I hope our Members on the other side of this House will not put politics into it. Thank you.

Mr A. G. Umoh (Enyong Central): Those of us who have been in this House for a long time now have on several occasions expressed the desire to see this country split into separate states. Every right thinking person in this country realises that the creation of more states in Nigeria is fundamental to the enjoyment of our independence. When the Motion for the creation of a Mid-West State was brought to this House last year we supported it even though at that time Mr Speaker ruled out of order our Amendment calling for the creation of a separate state for Calabar, Ogoja and Rivers Provinces.

From the proceedings in the House of Representatives, this year we heard that the Prime Minister is opposed to the creation of more states in Nigeria. We very much regret this myopia of the Prime Minister which is also supported by the Leaders of the

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N.C.N.C. We believe that all sections of this country are entitled to self-determination and that is why we feel that it should be our duty to help the Mid-Westerners in the hope that they will help other minority elements to attain their own self-determination. When we agitate for a separate state for the Calabar minority people in this House we are misunderstood by people who think that our agitation is based on tribal feelings. We want to make it quite clear that our feelings are not against anybody. As a people, we feel we are entitled to self-determination just as any other people. We take note that when this country became independent by the grace of God and the good sense of the British people there was no bloodshed and it is our appeal, ardent appeal, to the leaders that be, that they help the minority elements in this country to attain their independence without bloodshed. If this country could create states for minorities without bloodshed it would stand to its credit. I am appealing therefore to all lovers of freedom that what is good for the Mid-Westerners should be found good for the people of the Calabar Minority Area and the people of the Middle Belt Area. It would look not sensible to oppose the creation of the first of the three states that we agitate for and it is in the light of this that I feel we should not oppose the creation of the Mid-West State.

Mr P. U. Nnamani (Udi North-west): I rise to support this Motion and to say that the unanimous support that every side of the House has given to it should be an indication of the fact that Nigeria is prepared to support the liberation of every group of people put under some restraint in order to be free from the shackles of domination of any type. I wish to say that for the welfare of the Mid-Westerners every hon. Member of this House should support this Motion and also take into consideration the fact that ethnic principle should be the yardstick for the creation of more States. This means that where a group of people, even in the existing Regions, feel that they are fighting with their backs to the wall they are at liberty to ask to be associated with another Region in Nigeria if such a Region could be more liberally disposed to their interests.

Everyone of us here knows what is wrong with the position of the Mid-Westerners in the present Western Nigeria. As this is the case I think it will be a pointer to us all to cherish

those principles that govern now our common resolution to fight for their liberation.

Mr F. I. E. Ukattah (Bende South): I speak in support of the Motion, and in view of what some Members from the other side have said, I wish to point out that for a demand for a separate state within a Federal Constitution to be looked at seriously it must have three elements. Firstly, it must be consistent; secondly, it must be persistent; and, thirdly, it must have an amount of support from the areas that make the demand.

Mr S. O. Nwachukwu (Owerri South): Point of Order, Standing Order 86. There is a stranger in this House.

Mr Speaker: May I know to whom the hon. Member is referring.

Mr S. O. Nwachukwu: I mean Mr V. A. Nwankwo.

Mr Speaker: For the information of hon. Members, hon. Nwankwo is here within his constitutional rights and according to law.

Mr Ukattah: Hon. Members will agree with me that the first two elements have been satisfied. The people of the Mid-West have consistently demanded the creation of the Mid-West State. Consistency means that the demand must be for the same thing at all times. It is unlike what we have had in the East where there was a demand for a Calabar-Ogoja-Rivers State at one time and at another time there was a demand for a Calabar State, Rivers State, and Ogoja State. The demand for the Mid-West State has also been persistent. By persistence here I mean that it has been continuous since the people in the past ten years have been persistently demanding the creation of a state of their own.

The next step is to find out whether the third element will be satisfied, and that is that a demand must have an overwhelming support. It is for the people of the Mid-West to agree or not to agree to the creation of the Mid-West State in a plebiscite. It is the result of the plebiscite that will determine whether the third element has been satisfied or not.

Mr B. O. Nyah (Enyong South-west): In supporting this Motion I am not doing so as a coward and I refuse to be a hypocrite in that while asking for a separate state here in Eastern Nigeria I would turn to oppose the

creation of a state somewhere else. I am the happiest of all men today because I see that even the hon. Premier who has never supported the creation of states anywhere in Nigeria has risen to move a Motion for the creation of a new State as an incentive to the progress of the people of the area concerned. I think as the Premier and some other hon. Members on the other side of the House are Christians they will always try to do to others as they wish to be done to. I hope, therefore, that during the time those of us in the minority here in the East will be agitating for the creation of our own state . . .

Government Bench: What is the name of the State ?

Mr Nyah: Call it whatever you like; it may be C.O.R. State, Calabar State or what other name the people would like to give it. As I was saying it is our hope that when the time comes for our own state or states to be created (now that it is inevitable for states to be created in Nigeria) my hon. Friends opposite will give our aspirations their support.

An hon. Member: What right has he to speak for Calabar Province? Is he from Calabar ?

Mr Nyah: Yes, I am from old Calabar Province and I was referring to that Province when I mentioned Calabar. Now, there is a pointer to something which is happening here which makes the speaker to be sad.

An hon. Member: Are you the Speaker now ?

Mr Nyah: Our Constitution recommended that minority councils be created in this country. In Western Nigeria it was so recommended and it has been created. Here in the East I think we have one area that has been so created although it has been alleged that the headquarters is sited somewhere, many miles from the area where the council is to serve. We are actually praying that if the Government of Eastern Nigeria, controlled by the almighty N.C.N.C., is interested in the liberty of man they should try to help the people of the old Calabar Province by creating a minority council for them which will be a stepping-stone to the security of the people. (*Interruptions*).

Mr G. C. Okeya: I beg to move that the Question be now put.

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Chief Whip is right but it may be good to give hon. Members further chance of airing their views.

Mr W. E. Ufot (Opobo Central): In supporting the Motion on Mid-Western Region Act, I have a few points to make. The creation of more states within the Federation of Nigeria is inevitable. I am happy to say that the Mid-West State is going to be created. I am not scared by it and I hope that hon. Members are not scared by the attitude of the North. So far, that has always been their way of life that whenever the East and the West have finished with any new proposal they come back to take the lion share. Take the case of self-government, the struggle for which started in the East and the West and then the North came last. I hope that they will come back on the question of the creation of States. But I would say that the question of name, call it whatever you like, either C.O.R. or Calabar State, should not bother us even we can concede the right of giving it the name of the Premier if he desires that, but the question is that there should be further states in Eastern Nigeria for the minority elements. I feel that we should continue the creation of more states in the Federation and I know that the North will come last. The point is that the Government should stick to the principle as far as the Northern and Eastern Regions are concerned.

Dr J. O. J. Okezie (Bende South-west): I say quite categorically that I am completely in support of any move directly channelled to split this country into more states in order to give the citizens a fair chance in the government of the nation, but I would like to point out, as the hon. Premier has said, that we cannot make politics with this issue. It would appear to me that we are now playing politics with it at the moment. I wish to refer to the very section of our Constitution where it was pointed out by the Mover of the Motion that before this Motion could have effect a referendum has to be held.

Constitution 5 (b):

“A referendum upon the question whether the Act should have effect has been held in

[DR OKEZIE]

pursuance of provision made in that behalf by Parliament in every part of Nigeria that would be comprised in a new Region or transferred from one territory to another, as the case may be, at which the persons entitled to vote were the persons who at the date of the referendum were entitled to vote in any constituency in that part of Nigeria established under section 46 of this Constitution and at which at least three-fifths of all the persons who were entitled to vote at the referendum voted in favour of the Act."

One could have thought that we would have the moral justification to stand in this House and vote unanimously if the referendum had been held and the people gave their mandate by popular vote and public opinion that they support the creation of the Mid-West State, otherwise what we are doing is to play politics with this, to force the motion on them and then turn round and say "we do not want to play politics with it". I am definitely of the opinion that if this referendum had been held with the results staring us in the face, with 50 per cent. to 60 per cent. in favour of the creation of the Mid-West State, we all should have immediately given it our whole support. Suppose now we pass this motion and the referendum fails us, what are we going to do? We would have wasted our time here; we would have called upon the people to accept what they do not want. What we would have done was to wait for the referendum and then we would have the moral and ethical justification to come to this House and pass this Motion.

I wish also to remind hon. Members that there are other factors connected with the creation of the Mid-West State. Section 37 (a) of the Constitution states that 12 Senators shall represent each Region and shall be selected by the Joint Sitting of the House of Assembly of that Region. What is going to happen if the Mid-West State is created? It would mean either at the moment that the whole of the Western Region would have 12 Senators in the Senate; or the number of Senators which they have at the moment is reduced. But I wish again to call your attention to . . . (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: If I may help the hon. Member, the referendum comes last and the question of representation in the Senate comes after the Region has been created.

Dr Okezie: What I was trying to say is that we must anticipate the consequences of our action because if we do anything now and have to regret it eventually, then we will not have any justification for our action, especially now that we have been warned. It is true that the referendum will come last. It is stated in subsection 7 of section 5 of the Federal Constitution: "An Act of Parliament altering section 37 of this Constitution in relation to any Region in such a manner that the Region would be represented in the Senate by less than the appropriate proportion of Senators . . ." (*Interruptions*).

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.): Point of Order, Standing Order 33 (1):

"Debate upon any Motion, Bill or Amendment shall be relevant to such Motion, Bill or Amendment, and in the case of a substantive Motion for the adjournment of the House the Debate shall be relevant to the subject matter raised on the adjournment."

What the hon. Member is saying is completely irrelevant. We have the course of action in this matter charted for us in sections 4, 5 (a) and (b) of the Constitution. Section 5 (a) prescribes that we should consent to an Act of Parliament and then follows the referendum. What happens in the Senate is no concern of ours. All we are here to do is to consent to an Act of Parliament. That is all. We are not yet concerned with Senate or anything of that nature. When the time comes we shall tackle that.

Mr Speaker: I think I quite agree with the hon. Attorney-General and that the Member is a little irrelevant.

Dr Okezie: Surely we can . . . (*Interruption—An hon. Member: The Speaker has ruled*).

All I was trying to say is that we must anticipate the effect of our action because if we refuse to pass an Act of Parliament now, what happens? Can it have the effect? What I was trying to say is this, if there is provision, if you are going to reduce the number of Senators, that Region might have to give consent . . . (*Interruptions*).

The Provincial Commissioner, Degema (Mr N. L. P. Apreala): I rise to support this Motion. I would like to make certain observations. The Ijaws in Western Nigeria were really suffering from the suspended Action Group Government of the West. Since they took over the realm of Government of the West from the Imperialists there has not been a single road made for the inhabitants of the Western Ijaw. From Patani to Warri is only twenty miles but that Government refused to build a road there. In the East we have got our roads. Then another one is that there are no hospitals built for people in Ijaw area. The only one at Forcados is not as good as a modern Dispensary. It is the natives that have started to contribute £1 per head to build their own hospitals. The same thing with Secondary Schools. They have not got any and since the Minorities Commission the Eastern Nigeria Government has been able to allay the fears of the minority people in this Region. Even the very particular Niger Delta Development Board, which was agreed, their leaders denied that right to the people of the Ijaw area and therefore I think that this Act is timely and I am supporting it.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members will kindly sit in their places while we take a count of the House.

By the direction of Mr Speaker a count of the House was taken with the following results:—

Ayes	125
Noes	Nil
Abstentions	Nil

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I think it will be of interest for you to know that a total of 125 Members have signified consent to this resolution—not a single dissentient voice.

Resolved: That this House consents to the Mid-Western Region Act, 1962, having effect.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(1) The Eastern Nigeria Produce (Enforcement of Export Standards) Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr P. N. Okeke): I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

This is not a controversial Bill. Due to political and administrative changes that have taken place in Nigeria since 1954 the Produce Inspection Ordinance, 1950, which provided for the inspection of produce intended for export from Nigeria and for the enforcement of prescribed grades and standards of such produce, was repealed in relation to Lagos and the ports of shipment by the Produce (Enforcement of Export Standards) Ordinance, 1959 (No. 21 of 1959). The purpose of this Bill, therefore, is to repeal the Produce Inspection Ordinance, 1950, in relation to Eastern Nigeria and to provide for the inspection in Eastern Nigeria of produce intended for export from Nigeria and for enforcement of grades and standards prescribed under the Export of Nigerian Produce Ordinance, 1958 (No. 36 of 1958).

Let me give briefly the background of this Bill. In 1954 when the four Nigeria Marketing Boards (Cocoa, Groundnuts, Oil Palm Produce and Cotton) were wound up, each Region in Nigeria and Southern Cameroons inaugurated its Marketing Board to handle the buying, inspection, etc., of produce intended for export within the Region concerned. This situation gave birth to our Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board which has come to stay as far as economic and general development of this Region is concerned. The Federal Government constituted the Central Marketing Board in 1955 but made new provisions for export of Nigerian Produce known as Export of Nigerian Produce Ordinance, 1958. As the responsibility of inspection and grading of produce intended for export rested with the Regions of production it was the duty of this Region to provide for the inspection in Eastern Nigeria of Produce intended for export from Nigeria and for the enforcement of grades and standards prescribed under the Export of Nigeria Produce Ordinance, 1958 (No. 36 of 1958).

This Bill applies to all produce intended for export as set out in the First Schedule, i.e., Bennisseed, Capsicums, Cocoa, Copra, Groundnuts, Palm Kernels, Palm Oil, Rubber and Soya Beans. Part I of the Bill shows primarily the technical definitions of certain words, names and terms that are used in the Bill. Part II gives direction in the establishment of Eastern

[MR P. N. OKEKE]

Nigeria Produce Inspection Board, its constitution and functions whilst the Second Schedule to this Bill deals with proceedings of the Board. Part III gives the power to make regulations prescribing and providing for all sorts and conditions required in the art of Produce Inspection. Parts IV and V deal with powers in relation to Inspection and grading of produce and offences connected with infringement of such powers. They also enumerate necessary procedure for dealing with malpractices, from all quarters concerned, which may adversely affect the quality of produce intended for export.

The Governments of Northern and Western Nigeria have each enacted a similar Bill for operation in their Regions.

As soon as this Bill comes into operation I will establish our Eastern Nigeria Produce Inspection Board in accordance with Part II, section 4 of this Law in place of the Produce Inspection Board established under section 5 of the Produce Inspection Ordinance, 1950 which shall cease to exist in so far as Eastern Nigeria is concerned.

As this hon. House is aware, the Eastern Nigeria export produce commands respect in the competitive world market. If I am allowed to go further I may mention that the quality of our export produce is second to none in the whole Federation. It is therefore the desire of my Ministry to ensure that the standard of quality already attained, in this respect, is not lowered but enhanced and improved upon. Measures that have been laid down in this Bill are for this purpose.

This Bill does not alter the present system of inspection and grading of commodities intended for export in Eastern Nigeria but makes adequate provisions which are applicable to this Region. The Produce Inspection Ordinance, 1950, which is now being repealed has been overtaken by the constitutional and administrative developments of Nigeria; it is therefore necessary for Eastern Nigeria to enact the Eastern Nigeria Produce (Enforcement of Export Standards) Law, 1962.

The Minister of Works (Mr P. O. Ururuka): I beg to second.

Rev. M. D. Opara (Owerri Mbaitoli): I wish to remind the Minister concerned that Owerri Division has good quality oil every year and we have all the time made representations to Government to extend inspection services to Owerri, or at least, establish a centre there. Our oil go to Port Harcourt, Oguta, Umuahia and so on for inspection. If we have any place for inspection at Owerri, I think our people will have a good facility of evacuating their oil.

Mr P. U. Nnamani (Udi North-west): I beg to refer the Minister to section 16—"Forfeiture of Produce upon complaint". We all know that a good many of the articles seized in a case of contraband goods used to be destroyed to no value for the owner and at a great loss to the revenue of the Government. So let him take care that every aspect of this clause makes the necessary safeguards for nobody to get rich at the expense of our Government when any articles are declared as forfeited. I think it is better for the Minister to refer to the Law Officers to help in trying to save us from sustaining losses due to lack of vigilance in controlling the activities of people who go beyond us after the condemned goods.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-22 agreed to.

Clause 23.

Mr R. A. Iwe (Okigwi North): I think clause 23 is a bit harsh and very severe. The penalty for the offence is £200 and imprisonment for one year. There is no alternative and I therefore think it is too severe.

The Minister of Agriculture: I beg to move to leave out in line 2 of clause 23 the word "and" and insert therefor the word "or".

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 23 as amended agreed to.

Clauses 24-30 agreed to.

First and Second Schedules agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported with an Amendment; as amended read the Third time and passed.

Bill to be sent to the House of Chiefs with the appropriate Message.

(2) Sheriffs and Civil Process Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Mr M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.): I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

The execution of sentences of death, execution of Writ and the service of Process were hitherto carried out by the Police, acting as Sheriffs under *Cap. 189* of the Laws of Nigeria. The Federal Government sought to alter this by passing the Sheriffs and Civil Process Act of 1961.

This Act came into effect on the first of June, 1961, and sought to transfer to the Chief Registrar of the High Court the work of the Sheriffs and to the Registrar of Magistrate Court the work of Deputy Sheriffs. But the execution of sentences of death and the execution of writs and service of process are residual matters over which the Government of Eastern Nigeria have competence and the Federal Government were acting in excess of their powers in enacting the law. Realising this, Parliament amended the Act to apply to the Federal territory only. It therefore becomes necessary for us to introduce the Bill for the appointment of Sheriffs and the Deputy Sheriffs in Eastern Nigeria. The Bill is non-contentious.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr I. U. Akpabio): I beg to second.

Mr M. N. Onwuma (Aba West): The Minister of Justice said the Bill is non-contentious but I do not know why the Bill has not taken effect since; it is over one year now, and we are just being asked to give our consent.

Mr A. K. Uche (Bende East): Mr Speaker, as the hon. Minister of Justice has said, the Bill is non-contentious. It only helps to remove what has been causing hardship. When this matter was in the hands of the Police there used to be a lot of delay and confusion in the court as to who has the ultimate responsibility. It is good for the court that hears a case to take the responsibility for its enforcement. It is my opinion that this Bill will circumvent any future delay and confusion.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: I wish to point out that it took Parliament some time to amend the Bill which they passed into law. They passed the first Law in 1961 and surely it must have taken them some time to see the mistake and amend their law. It was after they amended their law that we are able to bring this Bill. I hope this explanation is satisfactory.

Mr V. A. Nwankwo (Izi North-east): I would like very strict warning to be given to the Sheriffs. Also efficient and honest Sheriffs should be employed. I have seen a case where a Sheriff was asked to execute a Civil Summons on a Commissioner and for more than a year he has been reporting "Commissioner not found". In this case it is very ridiculous that the Provincial Commissioner of a Province cannot be found for over one year. I am asking that we make some sort of overhaul in the cadre of Sheriffs. The old ones who have got a lot of plots and money should go away and make room for the small, young but honest ones.

Mr G. E. N. Onyekwuluje (Anambra South): The Bill is non-controversial. It is intended to remove anomaly which has been noticed and the Bill is very much desired by all who practise in our courts. It is not only desirable but necessary that a person who initiates or gives an order should see to its proper execution: this is just what this Bill seeks.

Therefore, I support the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

23 [Sheriffs and Civil Process Bill— 11 JULY 1962 [C.P.A. Meeting; Youth Fellowship 24
Com. and 3R] Entertainment]

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

Sitting suspended 11.25 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.05 p.m.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-4 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.

Bill to be sent to the House of Chiefs with the appropriate Message.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole):
I beg to move that this House do now adjourn
sine die.

**The Minister of State, Premier's Office
(Chief A. N. Onyiuke):** I beg to second.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to announce that we shall have a meeting of the C.P.A. (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) immediately after adjournment. Hon. Members will kindly try to remain and will please persuade those who are outside to come in.

There will be—perhaps you have found some leaflets in your pigeon holes—an entertainment by the Youth Fellowship of St. Peter's Church, Ogbete, Enugu. They will entertain hon. Members at the lawn of the Eastern House of Assembly at 7.00 p.m. today. The Chairman is the hon. Premier. Their songs are very delightful, and you will get real entertainment. They are one of the best groups of singers in the whole of Nigeria. Members will try to come. I suppose you must have seen the leaflets and read for yourselves what is written there.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned, accordingly, at ten minutes past twelve o'clock noon pursuant to the Resolution of this House this day.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th November, 1962

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

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

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

The hon. Jerome Chukwuma Ngwu (Nsukka East).

PAPERS

Presented:

- (1) Audit Report, 1961-62. (*The Minister of Finance*).
- (2) Eastern Region Library Board—Balance Sheet, 1959. (*The Minister of Information*).

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

Distributed:

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, during the adjournment of the House a number of Papers were distributed to Members. These Papers are deemed to have been laid upon the Table and will be entered in the Votes and Proceedings of Today. They are:—

1. Nigeria Trade Journal, Volume 10, No. 2, April-June, 1962.
2. Ministry of Internal Affairs, Eastern Nigeria, Annual Report, 1960-61 (Official Document, No. 17 of 1962).
3. Annual Report, 1958-59, Ministry of Town Planning, Eastern Nigeria (Official Document No. 18 of 1962).
4. Report on the Review of the Educational System in Eastern Nigeria (Official Document No. 19 of 1962).
5. Community Development in Eastern Nigeria (Official Document No. 20 of 1962).

6. Agriculture Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Annual Report, 1960-61 (Official Document No. 21 of 1962).
7. Produce Inspection Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Annual Report, 1960-61 (Official Document No. 22 of 1962).
8. Nigeria Trade Journal, Vol. 10, No. 3, July-September, 1962.
9. Development — E.N.D.C. Quarterly Magazine, April-June, 1962.
10. Investment Opportunities in Eastern Nigeria.
11. Statistics of Co-operative Societies in Eastern Nigeria.
12. Parliamentary Debates, Eastern House of Assembly, Official Report—First Session (1961-62), First Meeting—1st to 8th December, 1961.
13. Forest Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Annual Report, 1961-62 (Official Document No. 24 of 1962).

REPORT FROM A SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Joint Public Accounts Committee (Mr N. O. Onwudiwe): The Joint Public Accounts Committee has agreed upon a Report (No. 2 of 1962) which I now lay upon the Table of this House.

Report to lie upon the Table.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Economic Surveys

314. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Economic Planning, whether any economic survey of Orlu has been made and, if so, what are the findings.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Economic Planning (Mr J. N. Odonu): No economic survey of Orlu has been undertaken.

It is not the purpose of the Development Plan that surveys of geographical areas as such should be undertaken. *Ad hoc* surveys may be conducted to establish the viability of projects within the Plan. Thus, any agricultural, industrial or educational projects may require a survey of the local facilities available; but will not justify a general all-purpose survey

[MR ODOÑO]
of an area defined by political boundaries, such as County Council areas or Constituency areas.

315. **Mr R. E. Etong** asked the Minister of Economic Planning, whether statistics of natural resources of Okobo-Oron County Council area has been obtained; if so, with what result; if not, will a survey be undertaken.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Economic Planning (Mr J. N. Odoño): No statistics of the natural resources of the Okobo-Oron County Council area have been collected.

I refer the questioner to the reply I have just given to the hon. Member for Orlu North.

Development Plan for Eket

316. **Mr R. E. Etong** asked the Minister of Economic Planning, what development undertakings have been earmarked for Eket; if any, what are they and how soon will they be established.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Economic Planning (Mr J. N. Odoño): As the Development Plan was not prepared on Divisional basis I find it difficult to indicate precisely development undertakings earmarked for any particular Division or any specific area for that matter. The preparation of the Plan was guided by the main objective of increasing the productive capacity and the economic welfare of the people of this Region as a whole. Various projects were then formulated to meet this objective. These projects are well described in the Development Plan, debated and approved by this House during its last Budget Session. The hon. Member, I believe, received a copy of the Plan and can acquaint himself with it.

Most of the projects in the Plan, especially in the Agricultural sector, are designed to benefit the rural population of this Region irrespective of their Division, for example, the various tree crop planting schemes—palm grove rehabilitation, rubber and cocoa planting

schemes; also the poultry and livestock production schemes. In planning the social amenities projects, efforts were made to achieve as fair a distribution as possible.

The implementation of these projects is the responsibility of the various Executive Ministries concerned. I have no doubt that they will carry out the projects with due despatch.

Mr I. U. Imeh: What development plans have been earmarked for Abak?

Mr Odoño: The hon. Member should give notice of his question.

Ekpeye-Engenni County Council: Interdiction of U.P.E. Teachers

335. **Mr C. A. Okpara** asked the Minister of Local Government, if he is aware that the Ekpeye-Engenni County Council has by various ways victimised the U.P.E. Schools in the areas where voting was heaviest against the Chairman of the Council at the last Regional Election, and that since the current school year some of the U.P.E. Schools have no headmasters and some classes no teachers; if so, will he take necessary steps to reinstate the affected teachers.

The Minister of Local Government: I am aware that in January this year, twenty-five U.P.E. teachers, one dispensary attendant and one motor-lorry driver were interdicted on the grounds that they campaigned against the Chairman of the Council at the last Regional Election. The Council, after investigating the charges, decided to discipline five of these members of the staff, and then recommended that they be dismissed. The matter was placed before the Local Government Service Board last October, and I have approved the Board's recommendation that five of the U.P.E. teachers involved should be severely warned and reinstated. All the other U.P.E. teachers originally affected had been reinstated.

It was possible that when the interdiction was on, the schools were short of headmasters and teachers.

Mr A. G. Umoh: Is the Minister aware of the number of road labourers in Enyong Division who have been stood off as a result of alleged participation in political campaigns during the last Eastern Regional elections?

The Minister of Local Government: I am not aware of it.

Market Stalls

376. **Mr D. J. K. Kumbe** asked the Minister of Local Government, whether he is aware that the Khana County Council has only one instalment of the loan granted to it for the construction of stalls at the Bori market to retire, is he equally aware that work on the construction of the stalls has not yet been started even though contract for it has long been awarded; if so, how soon will work on the construction of the stalls commence.

The Minister of Local Government: Yes, Sir, I am aware that Khana County Council has only one more instalment to retire of its loan for the construction of stalls at Bori market. I am not aware that the contract for this work has been awarded for a long time. The facts of the matter are: That my predecessor refused to approve the award of the contract for this work in February, 1959 as the only suitable tenderers for the job tendered at prices more than the Council was able to afford even with the assistance of the loan of £2,000. There the matter rested until the Council made further representations, and in April of this year I instructed the Council to call for fresh tenders. As a result of this, in September, I approved the award of three contracts for the completion of the work to

Mr J. M. Opara,
Mr P. Ezeocha and
Mr G. G. Badom

at a total sum of £1,928 14s 2d. And in October approval was given to the Council to bring the £2,000 loan from deposit into Revenue. I have no reason to believe that the work has not started but I am making inquiries.

Courses of Study

377. **Mr M. A. Idoko** asked the Minister of Local Government, what is the policy governing the selection of candidates for courses of study leading to a Diploma in Public Administration within and outside Nigeria; how many senior local government officers are at present undergoing such a course of study; are such officers paid full or part salary; if the latter, what percentage is paid.

The Minister of Local Government: Candidates who desire to pursue a course of study leading to the Diploma in Public Administration on the recommendation and sponsorship of the Ministry will normally be required to pass a competitive selection examination organised by the Ministry. Other candidates who pursue the study on the ticket of their Councils will normally be required to make the necessary arrangement with the Institution of learning where they propose to study.

2. At present there is only one senior local government officer studying for the course in the United Kingdom under the sponsorship of his Council. Being an employee of a Local Government Council he receives his full salary during the period of the course.

Mr S. O. Mgbada: May I know whether the hon. Minister made provision for candidates who are serving under the Local Government Councils to undertake this training if they fail to gain either Government or Council sponsorship?

The Minister of Local Government: Well, we have no policy which stops any of the Local Government employees wanting to pursue a course on Diploma in Public Administration of his own. I have not hitherto had an application for such a course.

Splitting of Oratta County Council

380. **Mr M. A. Obodoh** asked the Minister of Local Government, whether he will consider splitting the Oratta County Council in view of the large population of the area which makes it impossible for efficient administration.

The Minister of Local Government: The Government policy as contained in His Excellency's Speech from the Throne during the last Budget Session is against further fragmentation of County Councils save in exceptional cases. I am not aware that the administration of Oratta County Council is inefficient because of the large population of the area. No request for a split has been received in my Ministry, and I am therefore not considering the matter.

**MESSAGE FROM THE EASTERN
HOUSE OF CHIEFS**

A Message on the following Bills brought up from the Eastern House of Chiefs and read by the Clerk as follows:—

That the Eastern House of Chiefs has agreed to the following Bills without amendment:—

1. Bill entitled: The Eastern Nigeria Produce (Enforcement of Export Standards) Law, 1962.
2. The Sheriffs and Civil Process Law, 1962.

BILLS PRESENTED

(1) Loans:

Bill for a Law to amend the Loans (Development Programmes) Law, 1959, presented by the Minister of Finance, Mr E. Emole; read the First time, to be read a Second time Today.

(2) Motor Traffic:

Bill for a Law to further amend the Motor Traffic Ordinance; presented by the Minister of Finance, Mr E. Emole; read the First time, to be read a Second time Today.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(i) Sittings of the House

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): I beg to move, That pursuant to Standing Order 82—Suspension of Standing Orders—paragraph (2) of Standing Order 6—Sittings of the House—be suspended to enable this House sit this day beyond 2.30 p.m. until the completion of the business of the House.

The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

(ii) Adjournment sine die

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): I beg to move, That this House at its rising Today do adjourn *sine die*.

The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

**THE NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION
SECOND AMENDMENT ACT, 1962**

The Premier (Dr M. I. Okpara): I rise to move, pursuant to subsection (1) of section 4 of the Constitution of the Federation:

“That this House consents to the Nigerian Constitution Second Amendment Act, 1962, having effect.”

At the last meeting of Parliament, the Federal Government presented a Bill for an Act to make certain powers of the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Federation exercisable subject to the directions of the Attorney-General of the Federation. The Bill was passed by both Houses with the necessary two-thirds majority, and was assented to by His Excellency the Governor-General on the 13th day of September. Since the Act seeks to amend section 97 of the Constitution of the Federation, it cannot, in accordance with the proviso to section 4 (1) of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria, come into operation until each Legislative House of at least two Regions has passed a resolution signifying consent to it having effect.

This is a purely Federal Act and copies of it have already been circulated to hon. Members. Its main purpose is to ensure that the powers conferred upon the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Federation by section 97 of the Constitution shall henceforth be exercised only in accordance with such specific and general directions as the Attorney-General of the Federation shall give, as in the United Kingdom where these powers are exercised by the Attorney-General.

The proposed amendment does not in any way affect the Regional Constitutions. All we are being asked to do is to give formal consent as required by the Constitution to the coming into effect of this Federal Act. The Northern House of Assembly has given its formal consent and I am asking this hon. House to do the same.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.): I beg to second.

Mr A. G. Umoh (Enyong Central): It is becoming the custom of this House to rush in Bills the very morning they are being discussed. It was not even possible for us to read through this Bill as critically as we would have liked to. The first thing I would point out is that what the Premier has just told us does not seem to be correct as he had put it, because he has told us that this Act is only applicable to the Federal Territory, whereas it is stated in clause 2 of the Bill here that this Act may be cited as the Nigerian Constitution Second Amendment Bill, 1962 and shall apply throughout the Federation.

Well, that by itself does not matter very much; but what does matter is that this Bill seeks to put a very deadly weapon into the hands of the Attorney-General. If we succeeded in getting a Christian to be an Attorney-General of all the Houses in this country, I suppose we would be less worried about the use of this weapon. But what happens in actual fact is that most of us politicians cannot help being influenced by the prejudices of politics, and I feel that if we took from the hands of the Director of Public Prosecutions this duty of being an impartial arbiter and put it into the hands of a politician, it would be giving him a chance of unduly prosecuting those who disagree with the views of the Government which appointed him. I feel that the passing of this Bill should be noted as a very sad event in the history of this country.

Mr Speaker: I hope the hon. Member does not mean that the Attorney-General will go out of his way to do anything wrong.

Mr A. G. Umoh: I am not in any way suggesting that he would go out of his way, but I am only holding that he Attorney-General is a human being and subject to the prejudices of human beings.

In the light of these observations, I feel that it is unfair to allow this Bill to be passed, because by removing the administration of justice from the hands of the Director of Public Prosecutions to the Attorney-General, who is a politician, we are tempting him to use these powers recklessly.

I beg to oppose.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba East): I want to contribute to this debate by saying that the post of the Director of Public Prosecutions is a very important one. It compares favourably with the post of a judge, and also such important post as the Electoral Commission as well as that of the Commission in charge of the Civil Service. And so I would mention that in that respect, the Constitution of Nigeria has made a very good provision to see that these posts are jealously guarded against any intervention by political parties and people who are representing them. It is on this score that the Nigerian Constitution has provided under subsection 6 of section 97 of Nigerian Constitution that no authority or no power shall be exercised and no other person outside the purview of the Director of Public Prosecutions should exercise his power and control the exercise of the power of this man.

Now, this amendment seeks to contravene the bulwark of our security. It seeks to suggest that the Director of Public Prosecutions has got to sell his conscience and discretion to that of the Attorney-General, and if he was such a responsible person who was given that opportunity to exercise his discretion, the hon. Premier of Eastern Nigeria has not given sufficient reason why this House should support this type of amendment. We cannot take everything that the Federal Parliament has suggested. We must be in a position to suggest and to make some amendment. Afterwards it is not the position to call this man a supervisor of Public Prosecutions; he is a director and once this power has been taken away from him, he is no more a director; he is a supervisor, and so I am asking that this House today should reject this amendment. The House has the right to do so, and ask the Federal Government to give the amendment further consideration.

I know that the Government of this Region is in partnership with the N.P.C., which is the senior member of the Federal Government. That does not mean that whatever they say should always be taken as right. Therefore, I am asking that this House should reject this amendment. It is very dangerous, and it may not be in our own time, it may be the time of our children that the evil of this amendment shall be felt. It is an engine of suppression and oppression, and I am asking that this House should reject it.

Mr A. K. Uche (Bende East): I think the Bill on which this Motion arises seems to me as a sort of integration by legislation, and if the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions is to be brought under the Ministry of Justice on the principle of the Bill, that is all right. There is really nothing to quarrel about it. But there is something striking me; every now and then there is a revision of the Constitution one way or the other since Independence. Have we not acquired sufficient self-assurance as to revise the Constitution as a whole and bring about the sort of structure of Government we want for this country? I am saying that the Constitution of a country is a fundamental law; if we go on revising it as we revise any legislative enactment, we defeat the object of the Constitution. The time is ripe that our leaders should get on to the task.

Mr F. I. E. Ukattah (Bende South): In supporting this Motion, I have to remark that the Attorney-General of the Federation is no less a reputable lawyer than the Director of Public Prosecutions and he is no more infallible than the Director of Public Prosecutions. But I have to observe that the present Director of Public Prosecutions took up appointment on the fact of section 79 of the Constitution. Should he now not wish to continue in office in view of this amendment, I am appealing that an alternative fitting judicial appointment be given to him.

The next point is the word "Director". It is simple in every way and cannot have two meanings. Now that the Director acts under orders from somebody else, there should be a change in the name of the holder of the office, because the appellation "Public Prosecutions" is no more appropriate.

Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba (Orlu East): I speak in support of this Motion. It is very easy for this House to give assent to this Bill, but I would like to point out some of the dangers arising out of it. If this House approves of this Bill, it means that the whole power will go to the Attorney-General. We know that this Ministry has got a lot to do. Suppose a criminal case comes, say, from Ogoja or Calabar and it is referred to this Ministry and this Ministry has no time to solve the problem and shifts it back to the Director of Public Prosecutions for prosecution, it means that the person or persons involved must be in prison

for many months before final approval is given for the Director of Public Prosecutions to pursue the case. What I mean is that approval will be channelled through the Council of Ministers before the Director of Public Prosecutions takes up the case. This is a point about which this Government should ensure that people do not suffer long detention in the prison before their cases are heard.

Another point is clause 1 of this Bill where it says: "...and to discontinue any proceedings before judgment is given)..." It is necessary to know that in criminal cases the Attorney-General has the power to ask the Director of Public Prosecutions to withdraw any case from the Court. We know that before any case is taken to Court, the Department of Public Prosecutions will have fully studied it. Suppose the Director of Public Prosecutions started prosecuting a case and just in the middle of it the Attorney-General asked him to withdraw, would it not paralyse the Department of Public Prosecutions? I do not see the reason why this clause should be inserted in the Bill, since we know that this Ministry will approve of any case going to Court. There lies the danger. Another thing is that we cannot guarantee the attitude of the Ministry towards future cases, and that it will not influence the personnel of the Department of Public Prosecutions in the administration of justice. There are some criminal cases in this Region which have not been disposed of, how much more our going to take more and more of them. That is the point I want to make.

Mr G. E. N. Onyekwuluje (Anambra South): I am supposing that whatever we say in this House the Bill is going to be passed. However, I wish to point out the dangers inherent in this Bill. We know that the Director of Public Prosecutions is a human being.

Mr Speaker: I think hon. Members are misunderstanding that this is a Motion and not a Bill.

Mr Onyekwuluje: It is also true that the Attorney-General is a human being. That both of them are human beings is of interest. One of them holds a political appointment and must always refer back to those who gave him the appointment. It is not sufficient that

justice should be done; it must also appear to be done. And how does it appear to be done? When you know that the man in charge of this Department that is prosecuting is fully insulated, that the Judiciary is fully insulated, then you have the feeling that there is no political influence being brought up against anybody. Then it appears that justice is being done. But it does not appear to be done when one is aware that there is some one who has some political leaning and is directing the withdrawal of the prosecution; I must say that this is a dangerous weapon. The more these top posts are insulated the better and the happier we shall be. The Department of Public Prosecutions is one such Department which ought to be fully insulated from politics, and until we give it the opportunity to be able to initiate prosecutions, rather than being manned by someone from behind and being directed by that man, the danger is obvious.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Mr M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.): I think it is necessary to answer to one or two points made by hon. Members. It is a Bill which has been passed by the Federal Government, and all we have to do is to support the action. In answer to the point made by Mr Umoh, section 2 of the Bill does not apply to the

Regions. All it means, as you know, is that the Federal Government has cases in the Regions, something like the Customa cases.

If there is any such case in this Region, this will enable the Federal Attorney-General, if he considers it necessary, to instruct or direct prosecution. In fact, it is a Federal matter and does not apply to us at all. But I would like to dispel one illusion, which I know is among the statements made by hon. Members. It is only in Nigeria that we get the Director of Public Prosecutions working at large. You cannot get it anywhere else, not in Malaya, not in the United Kingdom or in any Commonwealth country.

I agree with Members who say that we should take on a wholesale revision of the Constitution instead of doing it bit by bit. I think that is a very good suggestion. It will be done in the course of time, but I would advise Members to wait. Maybe that sometime we may think of bringing such a Bill, and then they can talk as they like, but meanwhile all we are doing is to support a Law which has been enacted by the Federal Parliament. I do not think it concerns us; it does not apply to us here. I would advise them to hold over their ammunition until the time comes. If we do have the Bill—as I hope we shall in due course—then they can have the time to argue.

Question put: *House divided.*

Ayes 111, Noes 21.

Division No. 1

10.45 a.m.

Ayes

Aboh, Mr J. C.
 Adi, Mr C. U. O. O.
 Adiele, Mr J. E.
 Affiah, Mr O. U.
 Agams, Mr A.
 Agim, Mr D. S. A.
 Aguma, Mr E.
 Ahamba, Mr S. M.
 Akpabio, Mr H. U.
 Aleke, Mr G. I.
 Armechi, Mr J. N.
 Anoke, Mr R. O.
 Apreala, Mr N. L. P.
 Awassam, Mr D. A.
 Basse, Mr A. E.
 Basse, Mr E. A.
 Chime, Mr E. A.
 Chukwu, Mr E. U.

Chukwura, Mr P. E.
 Dike, Mr J. O.
 Dike, Chief M.
 Echeruo, Mr J. M.
 Edoho, Mr D. J.
 Egbe, Mr O.
 Egu, Mr L. E.
 Ekpo, Mrs M. U.
 Ekpo, Mr M. R.
 Ekwem, Mr T. C.
 Emole, Mr E.
 Eno, Mr J. J.
 Enyi, Mr U.
 Etim, Mr E. J.
 Etong, Mr R. E.
 Etuk, Mr K. I.
 Eyo, Mr J. E.
 Ezeaka, Mr O. O.

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

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[*Nigerian Constitution*

13 NOVEMBER 1962

Second Amendment Act, 1962]

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Ezenwa, Mr P. C.
 Idoko, Mr M. A.
 Igajah, Mr I.
 Igwesi, Mr J. E.
 Ihekwoaba, Mr J. O.
 Ikwueke, Mr R. O.
 Iloka, Mr E. O.
 Imeh, Mr I. U.
 Imoke, Dr S. E.
 Iwe, Mr R. A.
 Iwuagwu, Mr R. O.
 Iwueke, Mr S. E. K.
 Jumbo, Mr J. A.
 Kalu, Mr N.
 Kalu, Mr S. A.
 Kumbe, Mr D. J. K.
 Masi, Mr S. O.
 Mgbada, Mr S. O.
 Mokelu, Mrs J. N.
 Morphy, Chief I. I.
 Ndigwe, Mr P. E.
 Ngwu, Mr J. C.
 Nnaji, Mr D. A.
 Nnamani, Mr D. O.
 Nnamani, Mr P. U.
 Ntekpere, Mr E. A. U.
 Nwagbara, Mr G. U. M.
 Nwachukwu, Mr S. O.
 Nwankwo, Mr J. N.
 Nwaroh, Mr S. A. N.
 Nwauche, Mr I. O.
 Nweke, Mr S.
 Nwodo, Chief J. U.
 Nwoga, Mr P. O.
 Nwokoro, Mr F. O.
 Obayi, Mr M. U.
 Obi, Chief B. E.
 Obonna, Dr A. N.

Odey, Mr T. O.
 Odono, Mr J. N.
 Ogbonda, Mr G.
 Ogon, Mr M. E.
 Okeke, Mr P. N.
 Okeya, Mr G. C.
 Okolie, Mr B. A.
 Okoya, Mr E. P.
 Okpara, Mr C. A.
 Okpara, Dr M. I.
 Okpokam, Mr K. J. N.
 Okwu, Mr B. C.
 Onwe, Mr P. A.
 Onwudiwe, Mr N. O.
 Onyeishi, Mr P. U.
 Onyekwelu, Mr E. N. A.
 Onyiuke, Chief A. N.
 Opara, Rev. M. D.
 Orijji, Mr E. J. A.
 Osuagwu, Mr E. O.
 Otue, Dr N.
 Saronwiyo, Mr F. M. A.
 Sigalo, Mr E. D.
 Uche, Mr A. K.
 Udom, Mr J. U.
 Ugbut, Mr M. O.
 Ugwuoke, Mr D. U.
 Ukachukwu, Mr A. E.
 Ukaegbu, Mr E. E.
 Ukatta, Mr F. I. E.
 Ukuta, Chief R. O., M.B.E.
 Ume-Ezeoke, Mr G. O. G.
 Umoh, Mr E. S.
 Ururuka, Mr P. O.
 Warmate, Mr P. G.

Tellers for the Ayes

Onwuma, Mr M. N.
 Onyewuchi, Mr A. O.

Noes

Bassey, Mr A.
 Eboh, Mr H. O.
 Egemole, Mr T. O.
 Ekpenyong, Mr B. E.
 Etim, Mr A. O.
 Igbudu, Mr S. O.
 Njaka, Mr E. N.
 Nwankwo, Mr V. A.
 Nwosu, Mr J. N.
 Nyah, Mr B. O.
 Obodo, Mr M. A.

Oke, Mr R.
 Okezie, Dr J. O. J.
 Onyekwuluje, Mr G. E. N.
 Otop, Mr U. A.
 Ubani-Ukoma, Mr S. W.
 Udo, Mr P. N. J.
 Ufot, Mr W. E.
 Umoh, Mr A. G.

Tellers for the Noes

Etim, Mr A. O.
 Arungwa, Mr A. O.

Resolved: That this House consents to the Nigeria Constitution Second Amendment Act, 1962, having effect.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(1) Loans (Development Programmes) (Amendment) Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole): I beg to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

Some hon. Members will recall that my predecessor, Dr Imoke, made a speech in this House over three years ago supporting a Bill for the Loans (Development Programmes) Law No. 12 of 1959, which was duly passed into Law. In the course of his speech he pointed out that this Bill was designed and drafted for the specific purpose of raising loans from or through the Federal Government. For this reason, he said, it would not supersede the existing Loans Legislation, namely, the Eastern Region Loans Law, 1954, and the Eastern Region Local Loans (Registered Stock) Law, 1954, which were both enacted to provide for the raising of local loans, not exceeding a total of £3 million, in order to finance local development projects.

The raising of loans from the Federal Government, or from overseas through the Federal Government, is a different matter from raising local loans directed from the general public within Nigeria, and it was never intended that the legislation of 1959 should have the effect of restricting in any way the power to raise local loans under the Laws of 1954.

However, doubts have now been expressed as to the validity of parts of the 1954 legislation, owing to the wording of section 3 (2) of the Loans (Development Programmes) Law, 1959. This subsection provides that "such loan or loans shall be raised by borrowing money from or through the Government of the Federation of Nigeria but in no other manner", and this can be interpreted as having removed the power to raise purely local loans directly from the general public.

It is to remove these doubts that the present Bill is before the House. The effect of this Amendment Law will be that local loans, in addition to loans from or through the Federal Government, may be raised by the Government of Eastern Nigeria as and when necessary. In other words, it seeks to preserve Government's power to raise loans in the manner and in the spirit of the 1954 legislation. No changes of policy or procedure are involved; the matter is non-controversial, and the Bill should be welcome to hon. Members who will no doubt agree that there is no necessity for debate.

The Minister of Works (Mr P. O. Ururuka): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

Bill to be sent to the House of Chiefs with the appropriate Message.

(2) Motor Traffic Ordinance (Amendment) Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole): I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

Hon. Members will be aware, as car owners themselves, that the present system of car licensing requires licences to run either from 1st January to 31st December, or quarterly from the first day of April, July or October to the last day of the quarter concerned. Certain provisions exist, of course, for reducing

[MR EMOLE]

the licence fee when it can be proved that the vehicle was off the road for part of the year or quarter that would normally have been covered by the licence issued.

This system has proved cumbersome and inflexible in the past and in consequence has made the work of our Motor Licensing Offices highly seasonal. There are peak periods of very heavy pressure early in January, as also in April, July and October. Hon. Members are by experience well aware of the constant complaints of delays arising from the congestion in these peak periods, and it is now proposed to enact legislation which will amend the Road Traffic Ordinance, in its application to this Region, in such a way as to enable the necessary changes to be made. Similar legislation is being introduced by the other Governments of the Federation, with whom we have worked in concert, for their own areas of jurisdiction.

The proposal embodied in the Bill is simply that motor vehicle licences should be issued at any time, with a validity covering twelve or three months, as the case may be, from the date of issue. Newly licensed vehicles will thus no longer have to be provided with licences expiring on the last day of a quarter, and in due course, as older vehicles progressively go off the road, the congestion that prevails in Motor Licensing Offices early in January and at the beginning of the other quarters of each year will diminish and disappear.

Hon. Members will no doubt agree that this reform, which is designed to simplify the licensing process and assist the motoring public, is eminently desirable and therefore admits of no controversy.

The Minister of Town Planning (Mr P. O. Nwoga): I beg to second.

Rev. M. D. Opara (Owerri Mbaitoli): I rise to thank the Government for bringing up this amendment Bill. A good many of us have suffered for many years because if, for example, you bought your car in May and had your licence for that year, in January the next year you would be asked again to get

another licence. Now the position is different, and if somebody got a car in January, even if it was on 16th January for example, and he had a licence for the car on that date, he would only be required to get another licence on 15th January in the subsequent year. So I have to thank the Government.

But there is one thing again. Our Minister was saying that there will be an amendment again about people whose cars or other vehicles are always out of the road, that is, "off road", who even if those vehicles were not back on the road for, say, six months, often have to be asked by the Motor Vehicle Licensing Officers to pay the licence money. I would like the amendment to be made as soon as possible.

Now that we are talking about these licences, I urge the Government to inform the Federal Government, whose duty it is to issue these licences, to look at the matter properly because a good many of our people who hold these licences do not know what they mean. Think of the number of people who die on the roads because of reckless driving. Some motor vehicles, e.g., lorries, have a speed limit not exceeding thirty-five miles per hour, but often you find that if you are using a car at a speed of forty miles per hour, a big lorry, heavily loaded, will just drive past you. Another difficulty of course is that they just will not give chance on the road. They do not even know the road signs. Where there is a bend, they do not care but just push on right and left as they please. The trouble is that the people who examine them are not honest enough to see that people are not given licences until they know how to drive. Driving is not an easy thing. When somebody has to move a vehicle which has many human souls in it, he must be careful, but some of these chaps do not care. Once a person is dead, who will come to give evidence as to who was right and who was wrong? It would be an improvement of the road traffic system in this Region, if steps were taken to advise the Licensing Officers to allow only good drivers to drive. This will save us a lot of lives. Another step is to ensure that any driver who commits any traffic offence thereby causing an accident, should be given proper punishment, instead of being allowed to bring in a lawyer who will plead "My client has no case to answer" and finally succeeds in getting them discharged

and acquitted. Their licences ought to be withdrawn, so that they stay off the road for a specific period before getting another one.

Mr C. A. Okpara (Ahoada South-west):
Point of Order, Standing 30 (2)—

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

Rev. Opara: I am trying to say that if there is a temporary school for drivers where a good many of them should be tested some period after they have had their licences, it will make them a bit more careful. The Police who are watchmen on the roads have to be told to be on the lookout for those drivers who do seventy to eighty miles per hour with motor vehicles having a speed limit of only thirty-five miles per hour, and the Ministry of Information or whoever is responsible should ask the Federal Government to look into this matter.

I beg to support.

Mr J. M. Nwosu (Anedo Atani): I am very happy about this Bill because it will facilitate road transport in the Region. I would like to mention one thing that causes accidents in Nigeria today.

If you are a driver driving a six-volt battery car another driver of the twelve-volt battery car will not dip his lights for you and this causes accidents in the night. Many accidents result because of this. I think Government will take a serious view of this.

Mr E. A. Bassey (Izi North and West): I welcome this Bill and would like the Minister to see that this Bill is brought into effect on the 1st of January, 1963. The officers who issue licences may not know that the Bill is on and even when they do know they do not have the instrument to work on. So, as soon as this Bill is passed through this House I would like the Minister to instruct the officers in the out-stations to get hold of the law very quickly and collect the requisite materials for the law.

And secondly, too, there is one snag about the officers who issue these licences. If you go there at 8 o'clock with the hope that you will pay and get your licence and then go on

your business they will tell you to come back at 2 o'clock whereas there is someone there in the main office who is to sign licences; and even when you go back at 2 o'clock the licence may not be ready and you are asked to come back the following day. So I would ask the Minister to instruct the offices to be up and doing. There should be no question of wasting people's time when they go to pay for their licences.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr N. Kalu (Aba Urban South): I rise to support this amendment because it is going to help transport owners. In the past, due to lack of this type of facility it has been difficult for the licensing offices to collect money; they had to wait for seasonal renewal of licences. It had also been difficult for people who own commercial vehicles to wait for a week or so in order to renew licences and at this period of renewal the vehicles remained idle and could not do any work. In simple term, the owner is the loser. I would pray now that since this Bill is being brought to help vehicle owners and the public, the extra charge made for quarterly renewal of licences over and above those for the year if paid once, be erased so that those who are able to secure an amount for three months can have it at the same cost as the amount for the year divided into four.

Mr A. G. Umoh (Enyong Central): This Bill is not controversial and I am just standing up to say that it is a pleasure to find that there is one matter on which the Government and the Opposition agree. This Bill here has come just in time to save us all the inconveniences that all of us have suffered in the past. This question of waiting to get our licences quarterly has always caused congestion and in many cases has encouraged corruption in the offices. I am satisfied that this Bill is in the interest of the general public of Eastern Nigeria and, on behalf of the Opposition, I support it.

Mrs M. U. Ekpo (Aba Urban North): There is one small thing I would like the Minister of Finance to do. Here in this Region we are looking for money. But it is astonishing that if you have not got your vehicle licence and you run down to the Licensing Office on a Saturday, probably

[MRS EKPO]

because you intend to travel out immediately, the Authorities will tell you that they do not issue licences on Saturdays; but you can drive to Lagos or Ibadan and license your car there and that money has gone somewhere out of the Region. It is only this snag that I want the Minister to look into.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

Bill to be sent to the House of Chiefs with the appropriate Message.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): I beg to move that this House do now adjourn *sine die*.

The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): I beg to second.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATES

(1) The 1962 Census

Chief I. I. Morphy (Ogoja East): Mr Speaker, I wish to report to this House that counting is still going on in Northern Nigeria. Now, on about the third week of October, Mallam Saudu, District Officer in charge of Benue Province was placed in charge of Benue Province and counting started within that week, and in Gboko alone they enumerated 20,000 people. Now this is in relation to the census which has been reported some time. I queried this action of the N.P.C. leaders in that area, why they were counting again when hon. Waziri Ibrahim did broadcast to the nation some time about the result of the census. Their answer was that they could not understand why we found a village which was

about 200,000 people and also they could not understand why our population has gone up so high. But I reminded some of them that many people from Eastern Nigeria who were working in Northern Nigeria were sacked because of Northernisation Policy. Secondly, the people who were in the Southern Cameroons were all sent back to Eastern Nigeria and as such the population of Eastern Nigeria was bound to rise. (*Hon. Members: Good boy; good Lawyer!*)

Now, I would want to refresh your mind about what the hon. Waziri Ibrahim did say. When he broadcast to the nation he said that Northern Nigeria was about twenty-one million people, Eastern Nigeria twelve million people, Western Nigeria about ten million people, and Lagos about one million people. But he did add that Northern Nigeria could be thirty million people and I think that by this recounting they are looking for nine million people.

Now, there has been much talk about unity in this country. How can we really keep one Nigeria when after the result of the census has been announced by a Federal Minister and counting is authorised to go on in Northern Nigeria. I won't say that it was announced but the Minister did give us some figures when he was broadcasting to the nation, and I think when the Minister did that that will end it. But right now if you investigate, you will find that in Northern Nigeria they are counting.

I would like to add that we have got Independence. This Independence is got by all of us, and the leader who suffered, Dr the hon. Nnamdi-Azikiwe, Governor-General of Nigeria, made a lot of sacrifice by accepting the post he holds now, and he made a lot of sacrifice for the unity of this country. But I think that most of our Northern leaders are only paying lip service to the unity of this country. If they are not, I do not think they will authorise census again in Northern Nigeria. I wish the Northern Government would have to tell us why they are authorising another count. But they may say that it is a Federal subject and they have no hands; then I wish that our Federal Minister and the Prime Minister will have to tell us why there is second counting in Northern Nigeria when it has been announced that the North has twenty-one million people,

Eastern Nigeria twelve million people, Western Nigeria ten million people as broadcast by Mallam Waziri Ibrahim.

(2) An Appeal to the Premier not to go to Israel

Mr P. A. Oji (Afikpo South-west): Mr Speaker, I am appealing to the hon. Premier of Eastern Nigeria and National President of the National Convention of Nigeria Citizens

not to go to Israel, because according to a radio broadcast, he said he is almost an Israelite. (*Laughter*). I am appealing to the Premier not to go because his place will be difficult to fill—never mind his mistakes.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned sine die at ten minutes to twelve o'clock noon pursuant to the Resolution of this House this day.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 10th December, 1962.

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

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Audit Report, 1961-62—Withdrawal

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole): I beg to withdraw the Audit Report, 1961-62 to which is attached the Abstract Account of Receipts and Payments during the year ending 31st March, 1962, dated 19th of July, 1962, by the Accountant-General, laid on the Table of this House on the 13th of November, 1962, as there was an error in date on the Abstract Account.

Paper withdrawn.

Presented:

- (1) Audit Report, 1961-62—Abstract Account of Receipts and Payments, etc., attached thereto dated 30th June, 1962—(*The Minister of Finance*).
- (2) Draft Supplementary Estimates, December, 1962—(*The Minister of Finance*).
- (3) Report of the Accountant-General with Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 1962, Official Document No. 27 of 1962—(*The Minister of Finance*).

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

Distributed:

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, during the adjournment of the House a number of Papers were distributed to Members. These Papers are deemed to have been laid upon the Table and will be entered in the Votes and Proceedings of Today. They are:—

- (1) Parliamentary Debates, Eastern House of Chiefs—Official Report, First Session (1961-62) First Meeting 12th-14th December, 1961.

- (2) Memorandum on Local Government Estimates 1962-63.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Land Acquisition

337. **Mr J. N. Amechi** asked the Minister of Town Planning, whether he is aware that expatriates obtain ownership of plots of land through strangers in Eastern Nigeria.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Town Planning (Chief R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.): It is not clear to whom the hon. Member referred as "strangers". If he is referring to those Nigerians who are not of Eastern Nigeria origin, then it must be pointed out that every national of this country, irrespective of his native Region, is not regarded as a stranger in any of the Regions of the Federation, within the framework of the Constitution.

I am aware that some corporate bodies or companies having expatriates on their Directorate Boards do acquire lands both through the citizens of this country and, at times, direct from Government. In such cases, my Ministry first makes sure that such a corporate body or company is a Nigerian company, before it gives approval to such an acquisition. In other words, before I exercise the power conferred on me by section 4 (1) of the Acquisition of Land by Aliens Law, I first make sure that the company concerned has satisfied the terms of that Law, which, in turn, ensure that the company may not transfer the land to another body without the approval of my Ministry.

338. **Chief M. Dike** asked the Minister of Town Planning, the conditions under which the Shell-BP occupies land in Ogoni Division; is he aware that compensation paid to the landowners is inadequate; if so, what steps will he take to obtain adequate compensation and rent for the landowners.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Town Planning (Chief R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.): The hon. Member's question does not appear quite clear because land in Ogoni may have been occupied by the

Company for various purposes ranging from oil prospecting, a way-leave for the oil pipeline, a drainage channel, to a project like the Oil Refinery itself. Compensation paid therefore varies.

It is true that Shell-BP acquires land from the landowners, but the amount of compensation has always been the result of a peaceful negotiation with the landowners. However, to make sure that any compensation rates are fair to either side, my Ministry has advised the company and the landowners through the Administrative Officer-in-charge of the Division, who is the Governor-General's delegate under the Ordinance, to ensure that all negotiations are free and fair.

Disposal of Cases

342. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice whether he is aware that some cases started in 1959 and 1960 are still pending in the High Courts; if so, what action is he taking to remedy the situation.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: Yes, Sir. I have to say that the strength of the Judges before the end of October, 1962, was inadequate to cope with the cases in the High Courts. Before then there were only seven Judges in the High Courts of Eastern Nigeria. Early in November, 1962, however, two more Judges were appointed making a total of nine and it is hoped arrears of cases will now be speedily dealt with.

Roads

356. **Mr G. I. Aleke** asked the Minister of Works, when tarring of Abakaliki-Obubra road will start in view of its bad condition that makes it a danger to traffic.

The Minister of Works: As far as I am aware, the Abakaliki-Obubra road is in good condition. From Abakaliki to Oferekpe Ferry, permanent bridges have been constructed and the road surface is compact with laterite which makes it an all-season road. The question of sealing with bitumen or what you call tarring is under active consideration.

358. **Mr W. E. Ufot** asked the Minister of Works, how many Trunk roads "B" are being considered for conversion to Trunk "A" roads

during the current financial year; in which Provinces are these roads.

The Minister of Works: Roads in this Region which are maintained by the Federal Government are classified as Trunk roads "A". Those roads which are maintained by the Eastern Nigeria Government are classified as Trunk roads "B". I should like to explain to the hon. Member that a road by being classified Trunk "A" becomes a road of inter-Regional or international importance. Trunk "A" road is not necessarily of a superior standard to a Trunk "B" road. The distinction between the two types of roads is purely one of who is responsible for maintenance—the Federal or the Regional Government. This explanation will suggest that a Trunk "B" road cannot be converted into Trunk "A" road unilaterally by a Region. Conversion can be achieved only with the agreement of the Federal Government since the effect of such a conversion is to make the Federal Government responsible for the maintenance of the road. The Eastern Government has been in communication with the Federal Government on this subject but has so far not yet had any definite assurance as to which roads will be converted to Trunk roads "A".

Tarring of Road

390. **Mr I. O. Nwauche** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware of the misery and sufferings of the Afam Community because of the deplorable condition of the Obigbo-Umuagbai Afam road; if so, what is the cause of the delay in tarring it.

The Minister of Works: This road which is in the priority list has been surveyed and preparation of drawings, specifications, etc., is in progress. It is proposed that work should start next financial year, subject of course to the availability of funds.

MESSAGE FROM THE EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

A Message on the following Bills brought up from the Eastern House of Chiefs and read by the Clerk as follows:—

That the Eastern House of Chiefs has agreed to the following Bills without amendment—

1. Bill entitled: The Loans (Development Programmes) (Amendment) Law, 1962.

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

55 [Bills presented; Exemption from Stamp Duties]

10 DECEMBER 1962

[Supplementary Appropriation Bill—2R]

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2. The Motor Traffic Ordinance (Amendment) Law, 1962.

Question put and agreed to.

BILLS PRESENTED

(1) Supplementary Appropriation:

Bill for a Law to make Supplementary Provision for the Service of Eastern Nigeria for the year ending on the 31st day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-three, presented by the Minister of Finance, Mr E. Emole; read the First time, to be read a Second time Today.

(2) Finance:

Bill for a Law to amend the Finance Law, 1962, presented by the Minister of Finance, Mr E. Emole; read the First time, to be read a Second time Today.

EXEMPTION FROM STAMP DUTIES

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole): I rise to move, that pursuant to section 114 of the Stamp Duties Act, the exemption at present accorded the British Red Cross Society in respect of receipts for money given or subscribed be deleted and replaced by a similar exemption in favour of the Eastern Nigeria Branch of the Nigerian Red Cross Society.

Hon. Members will recall that the Nigerian Red Cross Society is a direct descendant of the British Red Cross Society and that, prior to this country's independence, the privilege which we now seek for the Eastern Nigeria branch of the Nigerian Red Cross Society was being enjoyed by the British Red Cross Society. I would mention that, although this exemption is purely a matter for the Regional Legislature as far as Eastern Nigeria is concerned, all the other Governments of the Federation are taking similar steps to exempt the branches of the Society in the areas of their authority.

I do not consider it necessary to explain at any length the desirability of this exemption. The Nigerian Red Cross Society is a most praiseworthy institution, the loss to revenue to be sustained by this exemption is extremely trivial, and the issue is non-controversial.

The Minister of Works (Mr P. O. Ururuka): I beg to second.

Resolved: That pursuant to section 114 of the Stamp Duties Act, the exemption at present accorded the British Red Cross Society in respect of receipts for money given or subscribed be deleted and replaced by a similar exemption in favour of the Eastern Nigeria Branch of the Nigerian Red Cross Society.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(1) Supplementary Appropriation Bill (1962-63)

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole): I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

The Bill seeks to appropriate the sum of £42,360 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the recurrent supplementary expenditure. The whole of this amount is in respect of advances which were made during the current financial year from the Contingencies Fund: these must always be recovered in the first possible Supplementary Appropriation. The items composing this total are comparatively small and represent the usual unforeseen requirements that most Ministries are faced with as the financial year progresses.

However, the bulk of this year's proposed Supplementary Appropriation is a charge on the Capital Development Fund. Again the amount of £31,400 is required to recover capital advances from the Contingencies Fund; £20,300 to cover a revote for Ministry of Health buildings approved earlier this year, and the remaining £501,710 is for the use of the Ministry of Town Planning under Head 805, Development General. Less than half of this last amount is for development and provision of services in several layouts, mainly in Enugu, and the rest is in respect of compensation and acquisition costs, mainly at Port Harcourt.

When I presented this year's Budget to the House, I said that I intended, in the interests of economy, to avoid the usual December Supplementary Estimates altogether this year; but development continues to take place at

such a rate that more and more obligations to landowners and debts to contractors for development costs are constantly being incurred, and provision must be made for them.

I wish to make it clear that all the projects for which the Ministry of Town Planning now requires additional provision come under the Development Plan, which takes full account of these acquisition and development costs for the new industrial and residential layouts. It is therefore merely a matter of calling forward some more money this year instead of leaving it till next year or later; and, as the necessary funds are available, there can be no objection to the procedure.

In spite of this additional provision, I do not believe that the year's out-turn on capital account will, in the end, show any wide divergence from the Estimates. This is because there is always considerable under-expenditure on capital projects at the end of the year, and it is quite possible that the existing Estimate of £10,319,630 for the current year's capital expenditure, cut to the bone as it has already been, may still be an over-estimate of £800,000 or more. It is not possible, however, even as late as December, to state with any certainty under which sub-heads of the Capital Estimates the under-expenditure will occur, and it is therefore impracticable to seek to offset the Town Planning requirements by savings on other projects. And even if it were already known where the savings would occur, no transfer from one Head of Estimates to another is possible without the sanction of the Legislature: so that increase or decrease between Heads of Estimates must only be by means of a Supplementary Appropriation Law.

Hon. Members will note that, in the interest of economy and the furtherance of our Development Plan, practically no provision has been made for any Ministry other than Town Planning. I am sure that hon. Members will agree that this is an earnest of Government's determination to adhere to the strictest economy.

The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): I beg to second.

Question proposed and under Standing Order 78—Supplementary Appropriation Bill—the Debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed on Tuesday, 11th December, 1962.

(2) Finance (Amendment) Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole): I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

Hon. Members will recall that I presented a Bill in April this year for a completely revised Finance Law, which repealed the Finance Law, 1956. The 1956 Law had been much amended, and the new Law was necessary to assemble all the previous confusing amendments in clear and concise form. It also provided for imposition of tax on communal income; recovery of tax by distraint against movable property; protection of tax officials in respect of damage suffered in the lawful execution of their duties; and a system whereby taxpayers make simple objections against assessment without having to go through the more elaborate appeal procedure. The Bill was duly passed into law by the Legislature.

A few minor defects, mostly of a drafting nature, have since come to light in this Law, and it is the purpose of the present Bill to correct these. A conflict between section 4 of the Law and section 60 of the Constitution will be removed, and some other minor discrepancies will be corrected.

There are only two amendments worth remarking upon at any length. The first of these is the proposed amendment, by clause 4 of the present Bill, to subsection 1 of section 20 of the principal Law, which will enable Assessment Authorities to collect tax on demand from defaulters discovered during tax drives. This power will, of course, be used only where it is clear that taxpayers have wilfully evaded their obligations, and where payment on the spot, without the issue of any further formal demand notice, will save the time and trouble of all concerned. I hasten to add that this procedure, so far from being any infringement upon personal liberties, is merely a means of facilitating tax payment and has nothing to do with any

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question of enforcement. The normal methods of enforcement by court action remain unchanged.

The second amendment of interest is the proposal, in clause 8 of the Bill, to insert a new subsection under section 40 of the principal Law, which will give the courts the power to make orders, in criminal cases, for the payment of compensation to Revenue officials for personal injury or damage to property suffered in the execution of their legitimate duties. Hon. Members will agree that Revenue officials are entitled to enjoy reasonable protection in the course of their arduous, and sometimes even dangerous, duties. Failure to provide such protection will merely result, in the end, in a loss of revenue.

The Minister of Local Government (Chief J. U. Nwodo): I beg to second.

Mrs M. U. Ekpo (Aba Urban North): I beg to remind the hon. Minister of Finance that during the last Budget Session there was an obnoxious section of the Finance Law where married women with children are made to pay as if they were single—that is, they have no rebate. My colleague and I had received a lot of protests on this and we had to see the hon. Minister for the nullification of this section of the Finance Law. In fact, I was all the time waiting to hear an amendment of this section when the Minister was introducing the Bill. I am really disappointed, and every married woman should, that no action has so far been taken on this matter. On behalf of the married women of this Region, I am appealing to the Minister to see to it that that section of the Law is amended. After all, the husband and the wife suffer to get the children and even the suffering is more on the part of the wife. Why then should the husband have rebate in his tax and the wife is left out. I am making it clear that this section of the Law works hardship on us taxable women and the Minister should see to it that during the coming Budget Session an amendment is brought before the House.

Chief I. I. Morphy (Ogoja East): I wish to appeal to the Minister that he should also amend the section of the Law which deals with lumping together of two incomes for purposes of taxation. Take for instance a Member of this House who earns £800 per annum. If he

has a private business which brings him another income, both sums are lumped together and the tax is very high. The Minister should amend that section of the Law so that in a case like the one I have just mentioned both should be taxed separately.

Mr A. O. Etim (Enyong South-east): I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member for Aba Urban North. In doing so I wish to point out that if the Government insists that married women should pay tax just as if they were single it in effect means that the Government is encouraging our girls to remain unmarried. I hold that our married women should be given some sort of encouragement for helping to build and increase the population of our nation by granting them tax rebate. If the Government leaves this section of the Law unamended most of our womenfolk would think that there is, after all, no need getting married. I am therefore asking the Minister to consider reducing the tax burden on women who are married.

Mr R. Oke (Opobo South): In supporting the Bill I appeal to the Minister of Finance to consider the question of assessment in the rural areas. Most of the Assessment Committees are not responsible enough. In fact the Assessment Authority in my constituency, Andoni, is most irresponsible and assesses our young men indiscriminately. The result is that those of them who are unable to pay flat rate are made to pay income tax. Those of them who live in the fishing ports melt away and this has been causing loss of income to the Government. I am appealing to the Minister to speak to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue on this subject so that the attitude of Assessment Authorities in the rural areas may be looked into.

Mr N. Kalu (Aba Urban South): While supporting the Bill I wish to ask the Minister of Finance to consider a way of enhancing the earning capacity of the people of this Region, especially the businessmen. The most effective way of doing this is to make it a policy to grant loans to prosperous businessmen so that their businesses may stand on firmer footing. I feel that if loans are given to deserving businessmen the productive sector of our economy will be considerably enhanced and this Government will realise more from taxing such people. Government cannot hope to get any

money if it depends on the £1 or £1 10s which a majority of the people pay. If about 1,000 or 500 businessmen in this Region are helped to develop their business the Government will certainly be able to get more money from them by way of tax than 100,000 people who pay £1 each. Moreover the difficulty which the Government has in collecting tax will be considerably reduced.

Another advantage of what I am suggesting is that if businessmen are helped to expand their business they will be able to employ more hands and thereby reduce the number of unemployed in this Region which is causing the Government so much headache.

There has been a lot of uncertainty about the fate of our businessmen and they have been complaining of this ceaselessly. I who appear to be very close to them know of these complaints and any of you who happens to be associated with our businessmen in one way or the other must have been aware of this too. We do not know what is becoming of us in the future: whether there will be much money or there will be none at all. But whichever way things go, much will be dependent on the attitude of the Government towards the business community in this Region. I therefore pray that the Minister should think seriously about what he is doing to aid us and let the public know of it.

Mr J. Amechi (Port Harcourt South): Before supporting the Bill I have a few observations to make. One of them is that I support the hon. Member who said that taxpayers are somehow cheated. Take for instance the case of somebody who earns £400 for being a Member of this House. If he has a private business which earns him £600, the Assessment Authorities will lump the two sums together and he is made to pay tax on £1,000. This means that he will be made to pay much higher than if the right thing were done—£400 being taxed separately and £600 also taxed separately. Government must realise that the taxpayers are being cheated and it would appear as if Government condones cheating if it gives deaf ears to this complaint.

As a result, after they have been merged and subtracted from what is being assessed

separately, it will be seen that the rate is greater than when one is assessed separately. That is why I say there is mathematical error in the assessment. Again, I think the Minister will be doing good to the public by issuing a sort of circular to the authority concerned as it appears true that there is still a cheat in tax assessment. There are certainly some people who are arbitrarily assessed, and who, on appeal to the Board of the Commissioner of Income Tax, that is, the Assessment Committee, for reduction of their tax, are issued with another bill for another assessment higher than what they were assessed before, and against which they appealed. And so, I am asking the Minister to use his good offices and go into all these things so as to remove that feeling of being cheated by the public. That is the only one aspect that I really want to add.

Mr S. Ahamba (Mbaise South): There is one difficulty in the term "Income". If a man borrows £1,000 to purchase a lorry, and then he pays the rate on what is known as hire-purchase, during the first week that this lorry comes on the road, a record of it is made for purposes of tax. The man has not paid the other peoples' £1,000, and he has not finished with the firm. The few shillings coming in during the first week are not his income. In the real sense the man collects the money for the real owners. In the meantime he is still a labourer and he has got to pay tax on the money which he is going to give to the owners. It seems to me that that is unfair. The people who go into the villages to assess tax, I am sure, are not doing justice to the taxpayers.

A small boy opens a shop. He borrows the money from his friends; he hardly can be said to have any income and he is not the owner of the money. He borrows it from other people. During the first week he is taxed on proceeds of sales which of course really do not belong to him.

About tax rebate for married women, I think that the person who raised this matter ought to be congratulated. When the Law was first made, it was well known that every child had two parents, and on that basis the relief was given to both parents. After all, both parents have the children, and each of them has to care for them. I think, Mr

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Speaker, that the matter should be reviewed by the Minister of Finance. When two sets of income are added together, then the overall tax concerned is higher than when the two sets are taxed separately. The worst of it is that they charge on one separately, and then on another, and then a new paper for the excess. I think that if one person combines two jobs, he is an asset rather than a liability. If one person does the job of two individuals he makes double contribution of amenities in the country. Instead he should be given a rebate for combining the two. Mr Speaker, I beg to stop.

Mr A. G. Umoh (Enyong Central): I think this Bill on the whole is not controversial, but there are two points which I would like the Minister of Finance to look into. The first one is what I choose to call assessment on party basis. It is openly known in rural areas that Tax Assessment Committees assess taxpayers, not merely on their incomes, but on their party affiliations. I have an example to illustrate this point. A certain Action Group Member was assessed to pay £70 income tax. He protested to the assessment clerks, who hinted him that if he would support the Government Party his tax would be reduced. Although this man is still an Action Group supporter at heart, he actually took the Government Party's membership card and his tax was reduced to £6.

Chief I. I. Morphy (Ogoja East): Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (2):

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

Mr A. G. Umoh: I think it is very unfair to assess people on party affiliations. Everyone's assessment, in my opinion, should be based on the income of the individual concerned.

The second point I want to make, is about the amendment to the Finance Law, which was passed during the Budget Session this year. The amendment, in effect, authorised tax collectors to use force to collect tax from defaulters. In opposing that amendment at that time, we pointed out that too much power was being put into the hands of tax

collectors. In spite of our opposition, the amendment was passed. What is happening today is that tax collectors are beating up poor tax defaulters mercilessly.

A tax defaulter may borrow a bicycle from a friend to visit another friend. If, unfortunately, he falls into the hands of the tax collectors, he is beaten up by these collectors and the bicycle which he borrowed from a friend is seized and sold to make up his tax. This exposes the poor man to the danger of litigation as he cannot now return the bicycle which he borrowed.

I think that the Assessment Committee should exercise more mercy towards the tax defaulters, and that the selling of property should be done after a court order has been made to that effect.

Mrs Ekpo: Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (2):

"A Member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion . . ."

Mr A. G. Umoh: The last speaker did not understand me. I was not referring to a woman; I was referring to a man who borrowed a bicycle from a friend. To beat people mercilessly and arrest them indiscriminately may serve the Government Party's purpose in collecting tax, but it is a very poor picture of what we expect to see after independence. We did not see this sort of thing during the colonial days; so I would like the Minister of Finance to try and check these malpractices by tax collectors.

Mr B. O. Nyah (Enyong South-west): This amendment is a very nice one but I think it calls for carefulness on the side of the Government, because when Bills of this nature are brought up and we on this side try to point out some of the flaws Members on the other side shout, but after a few weeks we are summoned to come here and amend the Bill which they said was infallible some few weeks ago. But if they could give us the chance to criticise certain things that are brought up in this House, I think there would not have been any need for the amendment today.

Coming to the payment of taxes and beating up of tax defaulters, I think Government is

trying to justify the action of these tax collectors. I am sorry that that should be the case. Some of the tax defaulters are beaten up innocently, because they pay their taxes to the tax agents in the villages. Some of these agents are unscrupulous rogues appointed on account of party leanings and after . . . (*Interruption*).

Mrs Ekpo: Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (7) says:—

“No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Member.”

Mr Nyah: In reality, I was not trying to impute improper motives because I am talking from experience. I know of two tax agents who actually collected money, up to £400, and embezzled this money. I know of a certain Chief in Enyong Division who did the same thing and I went to the District Officer at Itu and acquainted him with this information, but nothing was done. Sometimes people would pay their taxes but would not be issued with tickets. It is bad if they will not be allowed to go to market or anywhere else on account of tax. When they are seen on the road they are beaten up. That is double punishment to the taxpayers; that is too bad.

Coming to the payment of tax by women, I think it would not be fair if the Government says “you are married women, you should pay as single women pay”. (*Interruptions: “What new points has he made?”*) This would make certain people say “o.k., since married women are paying as single women, we had better stay away from marriage, do as we like and forget all about marriage”. The new point is that when you discourage people from marrying, you should not be surprised to find the N.P.C.’s Northern Nigeria population soaring because they do not tax their women; yet their women marry and produce so many children. And you will continue fighting them.

I beg to support the Bill.

Mr G. U. M. Nwagbara (Owerri Ikeduru): I beg to disagree with the last speaker from the Opposition. Law is a social subject. Society changes. Law changes with it and therefore is subject to growth. Even English Law which started to develop a long time ago

continues to change. Nigerian institutions are in process of growth and evolution. We may make a law today and if there is any hardship arising out of it tomorrow, it is the duty of this Parliament to remove that hardship. If there is any need for a change, it is our duty here to make the change possible. Since our institutions are yet in process of evolution our Law is subject to change at any time.

Dr J. O. J. Okezie (Bende South-west): Point of Order !

Several Members: But the hon. Member has finished !

Mr Speaker: I think I might put the question. No, I should ask the Minister of Finance to reply to the points.

The Minister of Finance: I thank all hon. Members who have spoken on this Bill and I must say that everybody who ought to understand must have understood the importance of presenting this sort of Bill. Some of the points made have no bearing on this Bill but they are very important to us. There are two points I would like to refute, and one is the allegation made by the hon. Member for Enyong Central, Mr A. G. Umoh. He suggested that tax assessments are made on political party basis. I want to say quite categorically that such allegation is false and false to the knowledge of the hon. Member who made it. We have come to a stage when we should amend the Standing Orders in order to deal with hon. Members who come here merely to . . . (*Interruption*).

Dr Okezie: Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (5):

“It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House.”

Mr Speaker: I think that word was used in its lighter meaning.

The Minister of Finance: It is not good for hon. Members to come here and merely make allegations with a view to scoring newspaper headlines. Tomorrow this allegation will appear as a headline in the newspapers. When hon. Members make allegations, they should try to substantiate them. If the hon. Member meant what he was saying, he should

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have mentioned names. He did not do that; rather, he has run out of the Chamber. It is of course clear that he cooked up the story.

For the benefit of hon. Members, I want to mention that the criteria for appointing Tax Agents are honesty, capability and local knowledge. We do not consider their party affiliations. Once they possess local knowledge and are honest and capable, we appoint them. I think I would say that the fact that we have had no political uprising in this Region with regard to tax assessment goes to underline the good quality of our system.

I come now to a more serious point made by the very respectable Member for Aba.

Dr Okezie: Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (5):

“It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House.”

Mr Speaker: I hope the hon. Member does not suggest that Members here are not respectable. The Minister referred to them as respectable and they are respectable.

The Minister of Finance: On this question of tax relief, it is true that the hon. Member who spoke first, and the other hon. Member of the opposite sex met me after the passing of the Law during the Budget Session and I promised that I would look into the matter and see whether it would be possible to grant their request. I have actually studied this matter very carefully and I am in a very great difficulty. The principle underlining tax relief is that the family is considered as a unit. “What God has joined together, let no man put asunder.” The family is regarded as one unit and we cannot divide it for the purpose of tax assessment. I hope therefore that hon. Members would not press that I should grant double relief to a family where there is a pool of earnings. Justice cannot be done that way.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-7 agreed to.

Clause 8.

Dr J. O. J. Okezie (Bende South-west): Clause 8 tends to give the impression of supporting assault on persons, and making provision for compensation to be paid to persons who have assaulted. On the other hand, quite a number of hon. Members here have mentioned the fact that a large number of Nigerian citizens are often subjected to very degrading treatment by members of the Internal Revenue Department. I am not sure that this sort of thing is not in conflict with section 18 of the Constitution of the Federation which says that “No person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading punishment or other treatment”.

Some hon. Members: Quote our own Constitution.

Dr Okezie: This is the Constitution of the Federation which embodies our Fundamental Human Rights, and section 18 states that no person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or very degrading treatment. We are within the Federation of Nigeria. Is it lawful now to assault people? I am positive that we are encouraging this by the provisions of this Law.

Mr Chairman: Are you reluctant to quote subsection (2) of the Constitution?

Dr Okezie:

“Nothing in this section shall invalidate any law by reason only that it authorises the infliction in any part of Nigeria of any punishment that was lawful and customary in that part on the first day of November, 1959”.

You mean to tell me that it is lawful and customary in this part of the Federation to subject people to degrading treatment? I do not think that is the spirit behind the Constitution.

Mr E. A. Bassey (Izi North and West): I observe in the last Law that the tax collectors were given lots of privileges. During the execution of their duties, if they assaulted somebody they could not be taken to Court. Anything could happen and they would not be prosecuted. It is the duty of this Government to collect as much tax as possible for the economic progress of this Region. But we feel

some sort of simplicity should be applied in the method of collection. Protection has been given to the tax collectors; but very little protection has been given to taxpayers. I know that the Common Law is there. For instance, take the case of somebody going to look for work. He is stopped on the way and subjected to severe punishment in spite of his pleadings. The Tax Authorities should apply some sense of good judgment to the issue by listening to the yearnings of taxpayers. The tax collectors have been given some protection while the taxpayers have little or no protection whatsoever. I feel that the tax collectors themselves should be humane enough in their approach to matters. Force notwithstanding, a bit of pleading or persuasion should be used. It will help both the Government and the taxpayers if a bit of human touch is applied.

The Minister of Finance: I think I had better enlighten those hon. Members who have not understood this point. They are all laymen. First of all, the hon. Member who raised the point read the clause upside down. Clause 8 does not make any provision to torture anybody. It merely makes provision for compensation of the tax gatherers. Now the point made by the hon. Member for Izi is the one that is important. There is law protecting every citizen. There is what is called the Law of Tort and that law protects anybody whose liberty is violated. So those

people who are protected here can only enjoy this protection so long as they are acting within their competence according to this law. If they act outside it, they are not protected. It applies to you and to me. If for instance you see somebody on the road and maltreat him, the Courts are there. Tax officials cannot take the law into their own hands merely because we employ them to do this sort of work. There is general law protecting everybody and this is included in our Constitution. The taxpayers are the citizens of this Region and there is general law protecting them.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.

Bill to be sent to the House of Chiefs with the appropriate Message.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.
(*Dr S. E. Imoke, Minister of Education.*)

Adjourned accordingly at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock a.m.

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 11th December, 1962

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

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Water Supply

253. **Mr M. Dike** asked the Minister of Works, when will he cause an improvement on all the dry water bore-holes in Ogoni Division especially at Okwali, Luebe, Lori, Lueku, Bangha, Beeri and Sogho realising the people are suffering from water shortage.

The Minister of Works: I suppose the hon. Member means wells and not bore-holes.

Three maintenance crews, each of five men, have recently been working at Okwali and one crew at Luebe, while a fifth crew was posted to Ogoni Division on the 16th November.

The last rainy season was so heavy that maintenance of the Ogoni water points almost came to a standstill because of impassable roads. Now that the rains are ceasing work will be resumed in greater earnest. I should add that as the number of water points involved is comparatively large, it may be sometime before the task is completed. The hon. Member can, nevertheless, be assured that as far as the exigencies of staff and finance permit, the most determined effort will be made to complete the work and to bring water to the people with little or no further delay.

Roads

350. **Mr T. C. Ekwem** asked the Minister of Works, if he will consider tarring the road from 12th mile Nsude, Umuna, Obeleagu-Umughu, Umuna-Obunofia-Umunba-Ebenebe, Awka-Onitsha road.

The Minister of Works: I am not certain which road or roads the hon. Member is referring to. The Awka-Onitsha road on which Nsude is situated is, of course, already tarred. As the hon. Member must have known, the other roads mentioned in the Question are

not listed in the Development Plan. If the hon. Member will be so good as to furnish me with a location map of the roads mentioned in the question it will be possible for me to give his request detailed study and to be able to consider what can possibly be done to meet the request in due course.

353. **Mr P. E. Chukwurah** asked the Minister of Works, how soon will he take over from the Onitsha Northern County Council as a Trunk "B" road, the road from Oye-Agu at mile 14 Onitsha-Enugu road through Eziowelle-Abatete-Uke-Umuoji to mile 10 at Ojoto on Onitsha-Owerri road.

The Minister of Works: It is my desire that as many roads as possible be taken over by my Ministry. But in doing this the efforts of my Ministry are confined at the moment to the roads already listed in the current Eastern Nigeria Development Plan. And none of the roads mentioned in the hon. Member's question above is yet included in the Development Plan. Consideration will, however, be given to hon. Member's roads as soon as we are through with those already in the Estimate approved by the Legislature.

Medical Scout Unit

387. **Mr A. B. Nwele** asked the Minister of Health, whether in view of the fact that the staff of the Medical Scout Unit are graded as daily paid workers, and taking into consideration the strenuous field work they undertake, he will not consider upgrading them to Scale 2A, designating them as Health Orderlies and attaching them to Health Centres.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health (Mr K. J. N. Okpokam): The Yaws Scouts are recruited for the follow-up surveys of the Yaws Campaign still being conducted by the Ministry's Medical Field Units. They are usually engaged as daily paid workers in the first instance in the proportion of 1 to 10,000 of the population. County Councils with approval of the Ministry of Local Government are encouraged to retain the services of these workers even after the survey work has been completed, since they form a valuable addition to the Local Government Health staff in the carrying out of smallpox vaccination, assisting in the Rural School services and in environmental sanitation generally. The proportion

to be retained for these duties is normally 1 to 15,000 or 20,000 and County Councils are recommended to change the designation then or before to Health Orderlies and to place them in Local Government Scale 2A. Where a County Council employing such workers has Health Centres the direction is that they should be attached to Health Centres under the immediate charge of the Health Overseer. County Councils moreover are encouraged to select trainee Dispensary Attendants and Health Overseers from the establishment of Health Orderlies.

Voluntary Agency Hospital

388. **Mr R. E. Etong** asked the Minister of Health, what assistance is given to Voluntary Agencies to equip and improve their hospitals; will he consider making a special grant to the Iquita Methodist Hospital, Oron, which is inadequately equipped for purchase of more equipment.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health (Mr K. J. N. Okpokam): Capital Grants are given from time to time to Voluntary Agencies in order to help them extend and improve their hospitals. It is regretted however that no funds whatever were available for distribution in 1962-63.

The Methodist Mission was paid a Capital Grant of £500 for Iquita Oron Hospital on 15th August, 1959, but no capital grants were given to this hospital in 1960-61 or 1961-62. This Hospital, like other Mission Hospitals in the Region, also receives bed-occupancy grants and grants towards the payment of nurses' and midwives' salaries; It also receives grants for training Grade II Midwives.

BILL PRESENTED

High Court

Bill for a Law to amend the High Court Law, 1955; presented by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Mr M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.; read the First time, to be read a Second time Today.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(1) Supplementary Appropriation Bill (1962-63)

(FIRST AND ONLY ALLOTTED DAY)

Order read for resuming adjourned Debate on Question (10th December): That the Bill be now read a Second time.

Question again proposed.

Rev. M. D. Opara (Owerri Mbaitoli): Starting with the Premier's Office, I have to welcome warmly the Premier, Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, on his return to this country after a very successful economic tour of America. While on the tour, he made many contacts and advertised our country, particularly Eastern Nigeria, very well indeed. It was a splendid thing that his activities in the United States were all the time being relayed to us over the wireless, and I kept continually impressed with them all. I hope hon. Members will join me in wishing him God's guidance in order that he may carry on the good work he has been doing.

On the Ministry of Customary Courts, I have to say that I find that when court members have died, no efforts have been made to replace them. To my mind, such a state of affair is not satisfactory.

Coming to the Ministry of Health, I have to say that I do not share the view that we have doctors enough to make us stop private practice. There are very few doctors in this country and they are really overworked. What we need do is to try and get more doctors, so that the people of this country can reasonably hope for good and adequate medical care.

Another point I want to speak about is the difficulty we have with regard to stamp duties. Whenever someone has something to register, he has to travel a long distance in order to be able to do that. I suggest that in every Provincial Headquarter there should be somebody in charge of stamp duties.

With regard to Voluntary Agency schools, as well as the Local Government schools, I suggest that wherever necessary Government

[REV. OPARA]

should assist in financing the management of these schools, rather than leaving the whole financial burden to be borne with the Assumed Local Contribution. It is a known fact that some of these schools do not have children up to the required number, and thus the management can do no more than labour under great hardship. And there is also the hardship of the parents who have to pay the Assumed Local Contribution and the rates and taxes.

Another point is about the provision of science teachers in schools. I think that the effort in this direction must be accelerated. I know that some teachers have been trained, but they are not enough. And, again, as the Ministry of Education is trying to revise the status of primary schools, I suggest that consideration be given to the teaching of a subject like French in these schools.

There is another matter which keeps puzzling me, and that is that whenever there is something for Owerri we find that we have to share it with Okigwi. I do not know why this is so.

It appears that every drug and equipment meant for Owerri Hospital must be routed through Okigwi or Ogoja. If something is to be given to Owerri Hospital, it must be specifically put down that this is for Owerri and not for Okigwi or so.

Mr C. U. O. O. Adi (Awka Central): I am supporting the Supplementary Appropriation Bill with the following observations: Personally, while I was coming to this House I thought or expected that we are being called upon to approve some amount ranging to millions of pounds; but the smallness of the sum shows that there is every sign of economy. There is really austerity measure in the real sense of the term.

Regarding the Premier's Office, I have only one observation to make. Recently there was news of somebody loitering about in the Premier's Lodge and we have not been told yet of the true position. This is what I have to say: I am not anticipating what the doctors have to say but I think that very serious view has got to be taken of this matter. Doctors must be very careful to make sure that mere pretence does not overcrowd their judgement. I think I am perfectly correct in saying that the Premier should make it a point of duty to express the

view of this House that something has got to be done to close up the Ghana High Commission in Nigeria. As a matter of fact, that country is going too far as far as Nigeria's security is concerned.

There are other two points I want to make. Quite recently there has been a row between doctors and Government over private practice. I would not say that the doctors are entirely wrong and I would not say that the Government is entirely wrong. As a matter of fact, doctors should be given adequate salary. (*Some hon. Members: How much?*) They should be given £2,000 initial salary. Secondly, it is not the responsibility of this House to come here and say who should be offered employment in the Ministries. But I think it is wrong for the Ministry of Health to offer somebody from the Federal Public Service a post which an officer in this Public Service could fill.

Then I come to development. I am happy to hear from the Minister of Finance that the tempo of development is on the upsurge. I have three local industries to recommend for financial assistance. I am referring to the Industrial Service Agency situated at Ogidi which makes uniforms for all Secondary, Teacher Training and other Institutions in Eastern Nigeria. It will interest hon. Members to note that Awka Carvers Union, Awka Blacksmiths Union—in fact, these three industries—are offering presently not less than 400 boys employment. A sum of at least £5,000 or more should be given to these people for the development of their industries. They do wood carving, iron industry and weaving, etc. I feel it is time these people were encouraged financially and I am happy that the hon. Minister of Commerce is coming to Awka this month.

Referring to the Minister of Finance, yesterday we gave him mandate, as we have been doing, to facilitate the collection of tax. Some Members rightly felt we were giving a blank cheque to tax collectors.

As I said during the last meeting, one of the troubles is this—somebody might have paid his tax, but unfortunately for him pick-pockets snatched his receipt from his pocket, since he had to carry his receipt about, and there was no available duplicate receipt to be issued to him. You should consider this

matter very seriously and see that a duplicate receipt is provided, because it is needless for somebody who has paid his tax to be asked to pay another tax merely because he has lost his tax receipt.

Mr A. Aguma (Port Harcourt North): I wish to support with a few observations on the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. Firstly, the Ministry of Education.

The ultimate aim of Education is to supply a community of capable men and women who have formed the habit of thinking and have acquired through education, a capacity to wrestle with and overcome difficulties. In other words, education should aim at producing intellectually disciplined minds from which the Region can draw, among other things, its manpower needs.

What is the picture of our educational system today? It is quite naturally in the form of a pyramid: broad at the base and narrow at the top. This is true of many developing countries such as Nigeria. The point is that our own base in Eastern Nigeria is growing increasingly weak, in fact too weak to supply the limited numbers who ascend to the peak. In less technical terms, what I am saying is this, (1), our primary schools have become weak, so weak that it is clear that the whole educational system stand the risk of being ruined. Two years ago, the Ashby Commission had this to say—Mr Speaker, I beg to quote.

“most of the 80,000 teachers in the Primary Schools are pitifully unprepared for the task. Nearly three-quarters of them are uncertificated, and among those who are certificated, two-thirds have had no more than a Primary School Education themselves. In brief, nine-tenths of the teachers in the schools are not prepared for the job. In Secondary Schools, the story is similar... These facts are sufficient to indicate the weakness of the foundation on which the Higher Education rests.”

This was the picture two years ago when the going was good. Today, with the austerity measures, the picture in the future will be worse.

(a) Now the grants have been out. No money to equip primary schools.

(b) The lot of teachers has not improved. The scale of salaries for non-graduate teachers is still very poor. The result is that the intelligent ones abhor the job, the mediocres make it a spring-board. Only the remnants, those who have nothing else to do, take to teaching.

(c) The third point is that many schools are now closing down as the Assumed Local Contribution plus the grants-in-aid cannot pay the salary of teachers.

In such circumstances, what society are we building? This is an embarrassing question if it must be honestly answered. The standard of education is bound to fall and it is falling because the educational policy needs drastic overhaul. It must be realised that no educational system can be stronger than its teachers. We can only expect a weak system if we have teachers who are drawn from the third rate and fourth rate classes of intellectuals—worse still, as there is no provision for them to make teaching effective.

I am therefore surprised that we have allowed our austerity measures to affect our provisions for education so adversely. After all, the sure foundation of an effective democratic government is sound education.

I would therefore like to propose as follows:

- (1) Adequate grants should be given to Primary Schools to ensure that teachers are paid regularly.
- (2) The service condition of teachers should be revised and improved, to attract the more intelligent elements from schools and colleges.
- (3) Funds should be provided to equip schools. The noise about teaching of science in schools is meaningless where there is no money for equipment and no qualified teachers.
- (4) Advanced Teacher Training Colleges should be opened to encourage those teachers who are good but are unable to get to the graduate level.

In saying so much, I do not wish to give the impression that the Region is not doing well.

[MR AGUMA]

I see that the Premier himself is applauding my speech; that can mean much. So I have to emphasise that we have always set the pace in this Federation and it will be good to continue doing so.

In view of what I have said, I support a substantial increase in the vote under this Head to make enough provisions for a firm, progressive and fruitful educational system. All I mean is that having put our hands on the plough, a going back is impossible. If we think of an Eastern Nigeria that is an essential part of a Nigeria which is gradually getting intimately associated with all peoples of the world, a country that has its own traditions to transmit, its own literature to give to the world, its own contribution to make in the world of science and technology, no sacrifice will be deemed too great to make in order to build up today a generation that will take up the challenge of the envisaged greater tomorrow.

The other Ministry is the Ministry of Health. And in this respect I wish to limit myself to the needs of Port Harcourt.

Promises of a new hospital have been made. It has been proposed to extend the existing hospital. Now a teaching wing is budgeted for. We would like to see these proposals translated into action.

The population of Port Harcourt has doubled or trebled since the industries came in. There is therefore an increased demand for medical care.

Mr S. W. Ubani-Ukoma (Aba East): I rise to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the able, concise and straightforward manner the Bill was presented. But it lacks one important aspect. The Minister should not come here only to ask for expenditure. He should be able to inform this House what are the prospects of our fulfilling the Estimates which we approved early this year. The idea is that the current year's estimate of revenue was £19,219,380 and the budgeted estimate was £19,188,780. That left us with the estimated surplus of £104,050. Now I would agree with somebody who talked earlier that to get this amount from the Consolidated

Revenue Fund will not take too much from us as not to reach our estimated revenue. But I must say that in a Supplementary Appropriation Bill of this nature, the Minister should have been able to give us what is called a "revenue-abstract" or "expenditure-abstract"—that is to say, he would have been able to look into the amount of collections from 1st April, 1962, up to the present time, or at least, up to November, so that we might be able to know how things stand and what we are granting by this Bill. It does not show what projects are being made. Now if you look at this, there is nothing that shows anything about the revision of revenue, so that we would know what is happening in the Region. The financial policy does not reflect the economic life of this Region. Everybody will agree that there is lack of money in the Region and in Nigeria as a whole. Business is dull. Many people who are trying to attract money by their labours are finding it difficult to make ends meet, and I think that in a legislation of this nature, we should be able to know what are the remedies and plans Government is having in hand so that we might feel rest assured that something is being done.

Now I turn to the question of the proposal to reduce primary school life from eight years to six. It is not necessary for a House of this nature only to depend on rumours. This House is entitled to have a full-time debate on this question of reduction of primary school life from eight to six years and unless Government will state categorically that the standards attained in the past will still be maintained with this proposed six-year period, the education of this Region will be in jeopardy. I could remember that while the children of peasant farmers are not going to enjoy the usual eight-year period in primary schools, there is a section of the community whose children start schooling at the age of three.

Mrs M. U. Ekpo (Aba Urban North): Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (10):

"A Member desiring to speak shall rise in his place and if called upon shall address his observations to Mr Speaker or the Chairman."

Mr Ubani-Ukoma: What I am saying is that there is a section of the community whose children start schooling at the age of three.

They continue till they attain the age of twenty-five. These people are Nigerians, and why should the children of peasant farmers start school at the age of six and complete at the age of twelve? This type of thing is going to bring a lot of trouble. Equality of opportunities demands that everyone be given equal chances. There should be absolute control to bring everybody to enjoy whatever provision Government brings to everybody. Some people have sufficient funds to send their children overseas, yet the children of peasant farmers are not even allowed to enjoy the eight-year period.

The next thing I would like to say is about the Customary Courts. The institution of Customary Courts is a very nice one, but I think that the idea of having cases transferred from Customary Courts to Magistrate Courts has received much abuse. I would call upon the Minister in charge of this to look into it. The question is that when somebody has a little matter which would assist him to get his money in a Customary Court, the defendant applies for transfer. When this transfer gets to the person in charge, maybe a Crown Counsel or any other person, it will not be transferred in time. He will sit on it and it will not be transferred until the plaintiff gets tired of it. After it is transferred, the defendant/applicant may not be able to pay the fee for transfer: the result is that the plaintiff continues to expect and expect until it takes about six months. This type of thing could discourage many people in litigation and I am asking that the Ministry in charge should be able to employ many more hands, many more Crown Counsel. One Crown Counsel as appears in the Supplementary Estimates is not enough. That will go a long way to help in the administration of justice.

There is another thing concerning these Customary Courts. These Customary Courts should be able to assist in the administration of justice. The people that are there should really have extra supervision from the Crown Counsel. They lack that supervision and some of them do not know exactly what they should do and instead of them to act in a way that will be very beneficial to the people, they try to look after their own affairs—which is not what we expect of them.

Now, the last thing I would say is about the Premier's tour. We all want our Premier to tour, but the advice I would give is that he should not mix his economic tours with holidaying. And when he goes to fight for the attraction of any industry in this Region, he should go to countries that should be able to afford us the opportunity—places like Canada, Russia and the United States. He should try to see the financiers, the millionaires—those people who would be able to give us the patronage in building of industries in this country. He should not go to school boys; he should not go to labourers; he should go to the millionaires. One millionaire in America alone could give us much of the money we need in order to realise our Six-Year Development Plan.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak West): I humbly rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill which seeks for a further appropriation of £42,360 for the services of the Government of this Region. In supporting this Bill I find it necessary to express my heartfelt thanks to the Government for its success during the previous years. I consider that the present Government has done greater development in the Region than ever before. At this juncture I wish to register my special congratulations to our hon. Premier, Dr M. I. Okpara, for the success of his economic tour of the United Kingdom for the purpose of industrialisation of this Region. I feel that this Region, under the leadership of Dr Okpara, will be the richest and most prosperous component of the Federation of Nigeria.

I want to refer to certain Heads on the Supplementary Estimates and to make a few and passing observations. I do not intend to be too detailed. I want to refer to the Ministry of Works Head. To start with, I think it is the duty of those of us who are supporters of the Party forming the Government in this House to co-operate with the Government in explaining Government's policies and intentions to the electorate. But when certain things are done by some Ministers in such a way that we find it difficult to explain to our constituencies we are always placed in an embarrassing position. I am referring particularly to a road in Abak Division—Abak-Utu-Etim Ekpo-Ikwek road. During the last Budget Session of this House I asked a question, the reply to which from the Minister

[MR UDOM]

of Works raised the hopes of my people that something was going to be done. But surprisingly another letter from the Permanent Secretary of that Ministry on the same subject to the Northern Annang County Council was completely the opposite of the undertaking which his Minister gave us on the floor of this House. With your permission I beg to read the question and the Minister's reply.

Mr P. A. Oji (Afikpo South-west): Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (1). "A Member shall not read his speech..." The hon. Member has been reading his speech all this time.

Mr Udom: That question was No. 29 and it reads as follows:—

"Question 29. Mr J. U. Udom: To ask the Minister of Works when he will consider taking over and tarring Ikwek-Utu Etim Ekpo-Azumini road and Utu Etim Ekpo-Aba Opobo road in view of the importance of these roads to the economic life of the people of the area as measured by the volume of traffic passing through them."

Now the Minister's reply was . . .

Mr Oji: Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (2):

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

Mr Speaker, he is reading a private letter which has nothing to do with the Supplementary Appropriation Bill that we are now considering.

Mr Udom: This is the letter which the Permanent Secretary to the Minister sent to the Northern Annang County Council:

"I am directed to refer to the Address of Welcome presented by your Council to the hon. Minister of Local Government on 22nd June, 1962 in . . .

Mr Oji: Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (4).

"It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive motion for rescission."

This is a matter upon which a decision has been taken and if he wishes to bring it up again it should be by a substantive motion.

Mr Speaker: Yes, I think the hon. Member was going astray a bit. Hon. Members, in view of the fact that this is a one-day debate and so many of you would like to say something you may agree that the time limit for each Member's speech be five minutes.

Mr G. E. N. Onyekwuluje (Anambra South): I rise to support this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so I want to make very brief observations.

The first observation is in respect of the Ministry of Education. We can never say too much about this Ministry because it is so vital to our development. In the first place I want this House to realise and appreciate the fact that whenever the burden of education is taken away from the Government, it is inevitably thrown back on the community. There is no getting out of it. If, for instance, Government cuts off grants in the Primary School system, invariably we find that the local community will put their heads together and reinstate, either officially or unofficially, that grant which has been cut off, with the result that the burden, which has been taken away from the Government, is simply shifted onto the members of the community.

There are rumours afloat that one other class may be cut out. Before I go to that I must say that Members of this House ought to be put in the full know of whatever is happening. It does not help anybody at all to hear these rumours and when you are contacted you will then say "I am not aware of it". Members of this House ought to know.

Mr Speaker: If I may help the hon. Member, there is an adjournment motion coming shortly, and then you will have the reply of the Minister.

Mr Onyekwuluje: What I was saying is that before any change is made in the education system, either by the reduction of rates or by reduction of the number of classes, this House ought to think of the consequences of such a reduction. For instance, think of the teachers who are going to be thrown out of work, and think of the social standard or the social

situation which will be created by the un-employment of so many teachers. These are things which ought to be taken into consideration. Any such major policy which will affect the number of classes in the school or the number of school teachers, and so on, ought to be given the widest publicity so that people will know exactly what is happening. The Ministry of Information ought to be used more than it is being used at the moment.

My next observation is in connection with the Ministry of Health. Hitherto we had been told that the policy of this Ministry is to have at least two Rural Health Centres in a Division. Recently, I have heard that the policy is changing so that if care is not taken there will be only one Rural Health Centre in a Division or in a County Council area. How I wish it would not come true. I want to emphasise that these Rural Health Centres, which are provided on the basis of fifty-fifty—the community providing half the money and the Government providing the other half—should not be cut down at all. Every encouragement ought to be given to every community to provide these Rural Health Centres because there are not enough hospitals and doctors to go round. When any community makes an effort to build a Rural Health Centre, which is a miniature hospital, to cater for the medical needs of the people, the Government should not frustrate the efforts of these communities. Every encouragement should be given to them so that there will be two at least in every County Council area. The number ought to be increased. There is a rumour now that that policy is going to be cancelled, and that there will be only one in each County Council area. That is a step backwards and not a step forwards; and I would like the Minister of Health to look into that.

Mr E. J. Etim (Ikot Ekpene Central): I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I want to say a word or two in support of what my hon. Friend here had earlier on mentioned about education. The thing that is really uppermost in our minds, the announcement that the Primary School course has been reduced from seven to six years, is bound to raise a number of difficulties in our way. One of them is that

at least one teacher from every school shall be laid off next year. What plans has the Minister of Education made in respect of these teachers who will be laid off? That is a question I would like him to answer when he comes to these points raised. The next is, have we got the syllabus for the six-year course drawn up so that what was originally done in seven years shall be done in six years? This creates a lot of problems when teachers do not really know what to teach in each class. With the announcement also that science will be introduced into Primary School Education, it makes it all the more important that the question of syllabus must be settled very soon.

The other general issue is the general position of the teachers as a whole in our schools. Much has been said about their plight at the moment; many County Councils have laid off their teachers; many have not paid them for about four months now, including many Voluntary Agencies. Now, I wonder how these people with the best goodwill in the world can be expected to do or give of their best to the children under their charge. A hungry man cannot do any good work.

The next question I would like to mention is on foreign affairs, though they are not directly under our charge as foreign affairs are outside our charge. But I would like this House to do something to tell the Federal Government that we could learn something from the situation in India today, between China and India. A lot has happened recently to mar our good relations with Ghana, and we do not want to take things for granted all the time. Our Prime Minister, we are told, is a moderate man; he does not want war and he does not want any trouble. But we are not, I think, expending enough on our defence. I do not know whether we have even got one bomb; I do not think we have even got one anti-aircraft gun.

An hon. Member: It is a secret; he would not know.

Mr E. J. Etim: It is a secret, we won't know. But then that is what India had been saying all the time and they were humiliated badly. We do not want something like that to

[MR E. J. ETIM]

happen, and I think I should take this opportunity to urge that the Premier should represent our views to the Federal Government, that we should learn something from the lesson of India and China.

The next question is on the census crisis that has blown up recently in Lagos. We have been told by the Prime Minister that as soon as possible he will make a statement on the issue after consultations with the different Governments of the Federation. It is a pity the Premier is not here, but I know he will be told.

An hon. Member: He will read it!

Mr E. J. Etim: He will also read it. Thank you. We should take a very firm stand in this matter. We do not want to prejudge the issue or make the issue worse by saying so many bad things about it, but I think it is a mark of a lot of parochial interest by the Minister in charge of the census when he announced that nothing at all was wrong with the census in the North. Knowing what we are educationally, I think we are by far better equipped to carry out these things than our brothers of the North. But it was surprising that it was the East that had the worst record. I think the Premier and the Minister in charge of the census in Eastern Nigeria will take a very firm stand in making them to understand our feelings in the matter; and we do not want the Federation to be broken up just because one section of the country wants to rule us perpetually.

Dr J. O. J. Okezie (Bende South-west): I am quite amazed to note that we are being called upon towards the end of this year to support another Supplementary Estimates. The hon. Minister of Finance gave us the impression during the Budget Session this year that he would try as much as possible to avoid the usual December Supplementary Estimates. One thought, therefore, that in this year when we had accepted as part of our financial policy, austerity measures, that every effort was going to be made to cut our expenses in order to avoid Supplementary Estimates.

I want to call the attention of hon. Members to certain sections of the speech of the hon.

Minister of Finance in presenting this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. The Minister said that the reason for the Supplementary Estimates is that "development continues to take place at such a rate that more and more obligations to land-owners and debts to contractors for development costs are constantly being incurred, and provision must be made for them". That is the impression that we are not adhering strictly to our policy of austerity. Yet, if you go further, you will note what he has said here. He believes that in order to meet this extra expenditure there would be under-expenditure in certain aspects of our development plan. Further, in that speech he said: "... there is always considerable under-expenditure on capital projects at the end of the year, and it is quite possible that the existing Estimate of £10,319,630 for the current year's capital expenditure, cut to the bone as it has already been, may still be an over-estimate of £800,000 or more". But on going further, he admits that there is not one single item where this under-expenditure is going to occur and he says categorically that "It is not possible, however, even as late as December, to state with any certainty under which sub-heads of the Capital Estimates the under-expenditure will occur".

The Minister of Local Government (Chief J. U. Nwodo): Is he a lawyer? What is all this reading of extracts.

Dr Okezie: If the hon. Minister does not understand me he should say so. What the Minister of Finance is telling us is that he is anticipating under-expenditure and yet he does not know where that under-expenditure is going to come from. I do not agree with this impressive financial policy. Secondly, you will notice that he said here that £20,300 of these Supplementary Estimates is to cover a revote for the Ministry of Health. I want hon. Members to take this very, very seriously because there will be a lot of hue and cry from members of the public about treatments in hospitals and so on. It is this House that has to approve the money to run the Ministry of Health and if you do not have that money, you cannot cry down the doctors if you do not get the treatment you want. Now, you will notice that this amount is exactly the amount that was voted for the 1962-63 Estimates and not a penny of it has yet been spent. It is just a matter of revote. This shows that nothing practically

has been done to develop the Ministry of Health.

You will notice that on Head 807, the revised Estimates for 1962-63, it was Nurses Training School, Aba, £580—additional sum required just now which is a token vote. Port Harcourt Training Hospital—£1,950. In the Estimates for 1962-63 we are being asked for a token vote still of £1,950, exactly the same all through. You will now see that there is not a penny being spent in the Ministry of Health and this is where all the troubles in that Ministry begin. And if you want to correct the anomalies, depressions and outcries from the public, it is this House that has to vote that money in order to give power to the doctors to do the work we want them to do.

Mr Speaker: Time.

Mr E. N. A. Onyekwelu (Enugu North-west): I want to call the attention of the Minister of Local Government to a very serious case. (*Interruptions*) . . . If you want to maintain austerity measures you must start by amending your own home. The Caretaker Council in the Enugu Municipality has overstayed its usefulness and I wish to appeal to the Minister of Local Government to see that a fresh election is held.

The Minister of Local Government: Is that under Supplementary Estimates?

Mr Onyekwelu: As I said before, the Minister of Local Government should protect the interest of the taxpayers. I think the money that is being paid to the Caretakers is more than what the Councillors should receive if elected. Moreover, the Ogbete Market is supposed to have been finished by this time. The traders and taxpayers were promised new stalls as soon as possible when they were being dispossessed of their old stalls. They were told that new stalls would be ready for them not later than the end of September, 1962, but up till now the contracting firm named Jammal and Company have not done a useful work, instead they go about entrenching death-traps. I am appealing to the Minister of Local Government to ask the P.W.D. architect or the engineer to go to the market and see what this contracting firm is doing, because when they might have finished the construction something else might happen and that time they

might not be in this township. I am asking the Minister of Local Government to make a statement as soon as possible for the benefit of the people of Enugu.

Another point is that the Minister of Works, as I stated earlier in this House, should see that all the roads in Enugu are tarred. The condition of some of them is too bad. The only useful roads are in the Independence Layout and the Edinburgh Road, which are the only tarred roads in Enugu. The Minister of Works concentrates his activities outside Enugu, forgetting that Enugu is the capital of Eastern Nigeria.

Another point on which I must appeal to the Minister of Finance, in view of the rigidity of the Finance Law, is that whenever tax collectors are going out either for assessment or on a tax drive a responsible officer should be attached to the van because the present system is bad, where you have two or three constables and a clerical assistant sent out on a tax drive and one finds them manhandling tax defaulters without sympathy. A breach of the peace might happen in this way, but if a responsible officer is attached to the van I think this will help to eliminate trouble.

Now, I have to appeal to the hon. Minister of Education to see that our children studying overseas are properly maintained. The present scale of maintenance is not enough and I hope that something reasonable will be considered.

Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo (Ogoni South-east): The first observation I have to make is in connection with our roads. We cannot over-emphasise the importance of roads in our economic development. But it is regrettable that the Ministry of Works has left Ogoni Division at the mercy of the Shell Company. It is often times said that we are lucky that the Shell-BP found oil in our Division, but when you come to examine the matter properly, you will find that our so-called luck has become ill-luck. Of some 150 miles of roads in Ogoni Division only twenty miles from Umukoroshe to Bori are directly the responsibility of the Eastern Nigeria Government. Of this over 100 miles of roads, some eighty per cent. are the responsibility of the Khana County Council, and when the Shell-BP came into the Division we thought

[MR SARONWIYO]

that the Government should maintain the roads. What we find now, however, is that the people, after paying their rates and taxes and buying their bicycle licences, have to use community labour to maintain the roads only for Shell-BP to come and spoil them and make them impassable. We have, in a question in this House, asked whether the Minister would visit us to see things for himself. In answer to another question, the Minister had this to say:—

“If a private company causes damage to the property of a Council, the Council should seek redress from that company rather than from my Ministry. In the past, Shell-BP have always been co-operative in this respect. I have no immediate plans to relieve the Khana County Council of this responsibility for maintaining these roads.”

The Company pays fifty per cent. royalty to this Government and another fifty per cent. to the Federal Government. Out of the fifty per cent. to the Federal Government the Eastern Nigeria Government has a share. How on earth do you expect villagers or even the Khana County Council with limited sources of income, mostly inadequate grants, to face the Shell-BP, which has hundreds of millions of pounds, in a case of redress in court? I am asking that the Minister considers coming to Ogoni to help us and urge this Company either to repair these roads or to compensate us directly or through the Government, so that we can hope to pass through our roads to our homes in reasonable ease and convenience.

Mr A. O. Arungwa (Aba North): I am concentrating my observations on the Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs. I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister in charge of this Ministry the fact that there is an obnoxious practice which some habitual criminals engage in, in order to get over their plaintiffs who are either less intelligent or less enlightened. This practice is that when an action is taken in a court to clear a debt, the defendant runs down to the Provincial Customary Court Adviser to obtain permission to transfer the case to a Magistrate Court. In nine cases out of ten, this permission is usually granted. The result is that if the plaintiff has no money to hire a barrister or to carry on the case generally, he loses. Then the chronic

debtor turns round and boasts to him that the debt will never be paid. I think you can see the plight of this poor creditor who has been put in this kind of fix.

Another point I wish to make is about the salary of Customary Court Judges. I know there is the question of austerity measures, but the position of these Judges is so significant that we cannot overlook it at all. There are people who have become so accustomed to certain standards of living that £6 or £8 a month means nothing to them, and if they have no other way of making an honest living, it is unlikely that they can effectively administer justice in the Courts. I feel that the salaries of these Customary Court Judges should be increased.

Another point I want to make is about the increase of seats or benches in some of these Courts. I know of two Courts—Nkwodara and Ugba—that do get about £100 a month from fees, and there are cases in these Courts that have been lying for a very long time indeed because of this lack of sufficient benches. I strongly suggest that consideration be given to increasing the number of benches in these Courts.

I expect that the Ministries of Education and Internal Affairs are aware of the increase of poverty in the rural areas. It is our duty to find out where the troubles of the natives in the rural areas lie, and our duty, I think, to bring their problems to this House for due consideration. The first thing which I feel is the cause of this poor state of affairs in the rural areas is the indiscriminate establishment of quasi primary schools.

Some of these schools even claim to be Government schools and these so-called Government or Local Authority schools have been set up where there had already been existing full Primary Schools. For one reason or the other, one or two people bring in these small schools to disturb the existing ones, thereby making it extremely difficult for teachers to earn their salaries at the appropriate times.

Mr J. O. Dike (Okigwi Central South): We have been called upon today to debate the Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the services of the Region. I would make an amendment—it should not be for the services

of the Region but for the services of certain Divisions in the Region. I say this because a few months ago we gave our consent to the approval of a huge sum of money for the services of the Region, and I am quite sure that at the end of 1968 there will be certain Divisions that will not see signs of the money being spent in their areas. I know what I am talking. In the Estimates we have certain roads that have been standing for seven or eight years. When the officials visit Okigwi, the reply they give to the people always is that their request is in the Estimates. What the people require now is an answer like this: "Your problem has been started and it will finish at such and such a time".

The most important thing is electricity for Okigwi township. I am giving my consent to this Supplementary Appropriation Bill on the condition that before the 31st March, 1963, electricity will have been installed at Okigwi.

The next point is that it will be quite good if more chances are given to teachers in this House, because they mix with different types of people in the community and what they say here are correctly the feelings of the people in their communities.

Most of us here have special schools where we send our children so that they receive first-rate education, but those in the rural areas, due to lack of equipment and staff receive anything but proper education. I appeal to the Minister to revise his decision and increase the grants-in-aid to schools in order to save the parents from the burden of Assumed Local Contribution, school fees and equipment of schools.

The last point I want to make is to ask the Minister of Education to give detailed account of how the American Peace Corps have been distributed in this Region, because there is some allegation that some Principals who applied for them received telegrams of promise from the Ministry but up till now they have not got any. Since the Peace Corps have been distributed, I think it is only right for the Minister to send out letters asking the Principals or schools not to keep on hoping.

Mr D. J. K. Kumbe (Ogoni North-west): In supporting the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I want to make some brief observations on the Ministry of Health.

There is an acute shortage of doctors in the hospitals in Port Harcourt Province, especially in Bori Hospital in Ogoni Division. It is a matter for regret to note that any time or day the only doctor in charge of that Hospital is away on duty or in the Operating Theatre, the out-patients suffer terribly. The nursing sister or senior nurse who acts for the doctor is quite unqualified and incapable of filling the doctor's place. May I appeal strongly to the Minister to consider giving two doctors to Bori Hospital. I think it escaped the hon. Minister to include Bori Hospital Extension, which is now overdue, in the present Draft Supplementary Estimates. I hope he will remember to include it in the 1963-64 Budget.

I want to congratulate the Minister of Education for the unification of the Inspectorate Division. It is expected that this will make for better efficiency.

In associating myself with what the hon. Member for Port Harcourt said in his appeal for the improvement of the lot of teachers of the lower grades, I want to make a concrete suggestion: that grants-in-aid to Primary Schools be based on twenty-five pupils in a Senior Primary Class and thirty in a Junior Primary Class, and not on thirty and forty respectively as is the case at present. If that is done, I think the trouble of teachers having to stay many months without salary will stop.

Mr P. A. Oji (Afikpo South-west): I thought this morning that the Paper which could have been laid on the Table of this House would have been on the Economic Mission to Europe, Canada and the United States. I was disappointed because I thought that industry, agriculture and town planning are the three most important things which should be carried out in this Six-Year Development Plan. I am saying this, because every Government is a Caretaker Government, and every Member here is a caretaker of his constituency. One day, all of us will disappear and give way to the coming generation. That is certain. I feel certain that if the report of the Economic Mission was laid on the Table of this House one thing that would have been discussed would have been the partnership agreement with overseas investors. Do we enter into partnership with overseas firms in cash or in kind? My opinion is that we enter it in kind; that is, these

[MR OJI]

people would overestimate their machinery value and personal emoluments while we contribute our own all in cash, and this places us in economic slavery. Where are the experts to determine the cost of the machinery? Are these overseas firms going to enter into partnership with us?

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (2):

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

The report of the Economic Mission is not before this House.

Mr Speaker: I think the hon. Member will agree with me that there are certain Heads listed out in the Supplementary Estimates that I would like Members to concern themselves with. The one he is speaking about is not on the list of the First Schedule.

Mr Oji: I come to the Ministry of Agriculture: That is one of the Ministries which will help abundantly in the Six-Year Development Plan.

Mr Speaker: It is not one of the Ministries we are considering. The Head of the Ministry of Agriculture is not there.

Mr Oji: I am now debating under development generally. Mr Speaker, about Farm Settlement, we copied it from Israel and Malaya. You will remember, as I do, that the Israelites were wanderers who came to settle in the place where their forefathers had left for centuries.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works (Mr D. A. Nnaji): Point of Order, Standing Order 33 (1):

“Debate upon any motion, Bill or amendment shall be relevant to such motion, Bill or amendment, and in the case of a substantive motion for the adjournment of the House the debate shall be relevant to the subject matter raised on the adjournment.”

Mr Oji: I remember how the Farm Settlements were established in Israel and

Malaya. I know the settlers were wanderers. Some were British Israelites, some American Israelites, Swiss Israelites and German Israelites, etc. Some were engineers, some doctors and scientists. That should be borne in mind by the Ministry of Agriculture. But in Eastern Nigeria, our farm settlers are boys and hungry people who are seeking for jobs. Government say they are establishing Farm Settlements for them where all of them will be happy, forgetting that the place from where they copied the scheme is quite different from Eastern Nigeria. Government pay them 3s per day, and this money is used in cooking for them, like Secondary School students. How will they learn to be reliable.

The only qualification for recruitment is having been to Fernando Po; thus the Ministry gives the impression that all those who have been to Fernando Po are the most qualified people for the Settlement. Why?

Mr A. O. Etim (Enyong South-east): The Supplementary Estimates of 1961-62 Financial Year stood at a total sum of £540,060. Now the Government is seeking to appropriate a sum of £553,410 for the year ending 31st March, 1963. Comparatively, there seems to be not much difference between the two estimates even though we are at the beginning of our Six-Year Development Programme. This gives me an impression that our Government is realising the need to be economical if the country is to prosper.

But judging from the standard of living today, one finds that there is a greater increase in the gap between the rich and the poor, between the rulers and the ruled, and so on, and so forth. And that is not the end of it. You find that those who are fortunate to belong to the better group look on themselves with pride and on the less fortunate group with contempt as if what they have were not given them. I wonder if our Government ever stops to consider what might be the fate of this country in ten years' time if this gap continues to increase. I feel Government should take immediate steps to reduce the gap between these two classes of people.

Now, taking the different Heads on which the said £553,410 is to be expended, I wish to make a few comments on some of them. First

is the Ministry of Education. For some time now, the system of primary education has been very unsteady. At one stage the Government embarked on granting free primary education, but was forced to retreat because of financial difficulties. At another the Government proposed the introduction of science in Primary Schools but in actual fact this has not been done and if it was done, it has not been properly handled. Last year, the period for infant school years was reduced from two years to one. And yesterday, it was officially announced that the Primary School period was going to be reduced from seven to six years. There is nothing wrong with this. As I said earlier, this educational set-up is unsteady in that no real preparations were made before these changes. The result was that the teacher of the Infant Class was left at sea because of lack of what to teach as no syllabus or scheme was provided before the change was undertaken. I hold that before the present plan is set working, Government should make sure that the right syllabus is provided.

I want to thank the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs for the establishment of Customary Courts in Uyo Province in general and Enyong Division in particular. But I wish to point out that there has been a lot of dissatisfaction in the appointment of the Court Judges. I know it is not possible to satisfy everybody since the number of judges to be appointed in each court area is so few. But I feel these appointments should try to reflect the wish of the people of that particular court area. The operative word in this Ministry is "Customary" and if the custom of the community concerned is to be preserved and justice ensured in every court then the interest of every group should be represented. For instance, if any land case is brought to the Customary Court for settlement and the judges might not come from that particular group, human nature being what it is, the judges might want to have the case in their favour as people from other areas are not represented. I am appealing to the Minister to reconsider these appointments for the sake of efficiency and fairplay.

Mr J. E. Adiele (Aba South-west): First I have to mention something about Customary Courts. In this connection, we have only one Customary Courts Adviser who resides in

Port Harcourt. In effect his job is so tedious that he cannot cover the whole area. There is so much delay because of one man handling some 200 jobs.

About the Ministry of Works, I have to say that in Aba Township, we have one High Court. That High Court is even older than age. I wonder why, in the Estimates, there is a provision for a new court but that old court still remains there and this vote continues to appear in the Estimates. I wonder why nothing has been done by the Ministry of Works.

We have many roads inserted in the Estimates, and you will notice that amenities on Divisional basis are given to certain sections.

I come to the Ministry of Agriculture. It is most unfortunate that the price of produce continues to be what it was in the past. It is true we have all embarked on the Six-Year Development Plan. I ask the Ministry of Agriculture to consider very seriously an increase in the price of produce. Again, you will see that a lot of our produce escape to the other Regions because of poor price. So I appeal to the Ministry of Agriculture to review its stand on the price of produce.

Another thing is the question of Farm Settlement. I find that only people in the area in which these settlements are sited are employed. In many cases, I have seen people from other areas who applied for jobs in Farm Settlements. Each time they go there, they are never considered.

For the Ministry of Information, I have this to say: I notice that the *Nigerian Outlook* which is the mouthpiece of Government is no more in wide circulation. The circulation is now very restricted. For instance, today, I have not had a copy to read. I would like to know whether there is no more paper or is the *Nigerian Outlook* being banned? We want to know exactly what is happening in the Region and the best medium is the *Nigerian Outlook*. It is a Government paper and it is necessary that we have it in our houses daily.

The Ministry of Local Government: I notice that this Ministry has done much by way of transfer of staff. We want it to do more.

[MR ADIELE]

Its staff should be transferred so that they could always enjoy a change of environment and outlook.

Sitting suspended at 12.00 noon.

Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.

Mr R. A. Iwe (Okigwi North): I have to make some comments while supporting the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Looking through the Estimates you will see that under the column—Savings—there is nothing but dash for all things, and so you would not see any saving or anything implementing the austerity measures. The paucity of the over-all amount to be expended would show really that the austerity measures are being implemented up to a point.

I would have to say something about the Ministry of Education, in which, perhaps, I have some vested interest. I would have to add to what other people had said about secondary schools, that our policy towards new secondary schools might be revised. We are aware of the fact that the cost of education in this Region is very high. If the Government had had the funds every possible aid should have been given; but in establishing a new secondary school a local community taxes itself to the full and only puts up buildings and equipment and other things. But the fact that the school does not receive any aid at all makes it not to start on a firm foundation; and if there is no aid to this section of study, it means that for about five years students who would be produced from such new schools would not know anything about science, and then would not play a full role in our much-talked-of policy of implementing scientific education. So I would suggest that the science equipment be given, or grant should be given to new schools to help their science teaching. Again, it is under the education code that no secondary school should start without a graduate, and most of those graduates that go to man secondary schools have been teaching in other colleges. When they are withdrawn, their salaries might be higher than the salaries of several teachers put together. In which case, it is found very difficult in some of these local schools to continue to pay these graduate staff who are heading their schools. I would suggest that inasmuch as such teachers had been in older schools before and had been

drawing salaries aided by the Government, they should continue to be on the same basis when they go to head the schools, and then the local community would try to find salaries of the lower grade teachers. I am suggesting this as a temporary measure because of the paucity of our fund.

Coming to science teaching in primary schools, it is a very good measure indeed, but I feel the time given by the N.B.C. to this teaching is too small considering that in some of these schools there are double or treble stream; in which case most of these children, when they are coming together, convert their studying place to a playing place because of the noise; nobody would hear what is going on in the radio. There is at most one for each school. I am wondering if it would not be appropriate to lengthen the time the N.B.C. would be relaying these lessons, and that some of the classes coming together should be split into smaller groups in order to make teaching available and more specific.

I now turn to science teachers. There has been a bonus to attract science teachers to the Region, but the complaint from some schools is that this bonus is not forthcoming. Well, that is the only thing we can do to retain science teachers, knowing the competition between the Corporations and schools for science teachers. Science teachers are very rare. We know, and we support the bonus being given to them in order to attract them. It is unfortunate that most schools lose their teachers, perhaps by the middle of the year, because most of these people come to make money. When they go to schools they look for better opportunity somewhere and when they find such they would not mind leaving the schools where they had been; and when the teacher leaves a school in the middle of the year and joins a corporation, it would be difficult to find another person to take the place of this teacher teaching in the highest cadre in the post-secondary part of the school. When such boys do not do well we would not have sufficient boys to go to the universities to continue to study.

Hospitals: The Minister of Health should be congratulated on having done something to ease the congestions in some of the hospitals by providing what are known as the Rural Health Centres. But I still feel that the

best hospitals in the country, not only in this Region, are those that are manned by the Missions. Supporting this belief I have to quote as an example the hospital at Umudike. The work that is being done there is exemplary and it is a place where you can dump any ill person, any patient, and leave him there and be sure that he would be catered for. Such hospitals should be given the greatest possible equipment so that they continue to do this good work. There you could see people queuing and staying for hours on end without getting the aid and their ailments are worsened by the fact that they have to remain for quite a long time without getting the treatment. In this connection, I would suggest, please, that such hospital, which attracts patients even from here, the Regional Capital, should be given enough money as is given to Government Hospitals. Again students from our Mission colleges, and even from Government colleges—because Umudike Government College sends her patients to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital—should receive free treatment or that it should be made possible for them to receive free treatment in such hospitals, because even in towns where these Mission hospitals exist side by side with Government hospitals civil servants prefer the Mission hospitals to the Government hospitals where they would have been treated free. I am therefore suggesting to the Minister responsible that the wide disparity between Government and Mission hospitals should be brought to an end.

Mr S. O. Nwachukwu (Owerri South): Speaking in support of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I have a few observations to make. One is in particular reference to the Ministry of Works. Sometime ago, the Minister made a Ministerial Statement in which he asserted that any people who desire to have pipe-borne water should contribute one-eighth of the cost. But as far as I am aware, there has been no medium whereby the natives are got fully aware of how this money could be raised and when Government is to come in. I would suggest that the Minister of Works should, through some information media, get the people fully informed as to how this one-eighth of the cost of the pipe-borne water could be raised.

In his Face-the-Nation broadcast, the Minister of Education was reported to have

quoted many nations from whom his Government is borrowing a leaf in the contraction of primary school life from eight to six years. It is not unlikely that the environmental circumstances which enabled such a scheme to be successful may not be in keeping with our country. I am therefore appealing to the Minister to study this scheme well before launching it. He said that the change will take effect in January. January is only a month hence but no curriculum has been drawn to ensure that this contraction will not have adverse effect on the quality of tuition given in our schools. This is a scheme on which the academic future of this Region depends and the Minister should ensure that school curriculum is so adjusted that its implementation will bring no difficulty. If this is not done, I am afraid the Minister will find himself in a tight corner in future.

Another point is that I should like to register the interest and appreciation of Owerri Division as a whole to the Minister of Education for siting the Advanced Teacher Training College at the old Shell Camp in Owerri. This is a welcome gesture and we all hope that now that money has been voted for it, the scheme will be implemented without delay.

Another point is that it was recently reported in the press that the United States Agency for Industrial Development donated certain machinery during the Trade Fair for use in the Owerri Industrial Centre. We want the Minister of Commerce to make a categorical Ministerial Statement on this gift so that when the machines eventually arrive the people will not be taken unawares. The people of Owerri will be prepared to make land available for the accommodation of the Industrial Centre. The Minister should therefore break his silence and tell us what is happening with this gift so that when eventually it comes to Owerri the people will be prepared to receive it.

Turning to the Ministry of Customary Courts, I have to point out to the Minister the difficulty and inconvenience which people, who by resorting to the Customary Courts, want to get justice without resorting to violence, experience. People who are taken to Customary Courts tell the judges that they have applied to the Customary Courts Adviser for transfer of their cases to the Magistrate Courts. In most cases this is false and many people are

[MR NWACHUKWU]

now taking this course because they have discovered that it is an escape manoeuvre to delay the cases unduly. When this is done the man who took the action would have no other medium of seeking redress. The Minister should please look into this complaint and take immediate action.

While on this Ministry I have to point out that the number of Customary Courts Advisers is so few that the Ministry cannot take immediate action on the number of cases referred to them. In this connection I am suggesting that if such application is made, time limit should be given within which if no answer is forthcoming from the Ministry, the Customary Court can proceed with the case. This is most important and the Minister should consider my suggestion.

Mr U. A. Otop (Opobo North-west): While speaking on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I wish to start by calling the attention of the hon. Premier to the inefficiency of the Ministry of Communications in this Region. In most cases when a subscriber wishes to make a telephone call the Posts and Telegraphs Department will tell him that the line is bad. This happens in all cases and I am wondering whether it is only in this Region that the Ministry derives pleasure from leaving its telephone installations in bad condition. The Premier should please communicate this complaint to the appropriate Federal Minister.

Another point for the Premier is that he should please advise His Excellency to be extending his visits to County Council Headquarters. In most cases His Excellency only visits the Provincial Headquarters and returns to Enugu. Our people in the remotest parts of the Region would like to know the Governor in person and not only on newspaper pages. The Premier should ensure that His Excellency is gracious enough to extend his visits to the County Council areas.

I thank the Speaker and staff of the Legislature for the hard work done in recording our proceedings and sending to Members.

The establishment of Customary Courts in Uyo Province is a farce. The custom of the people of the Province has been trampled upon by making immature young people the custodians of their custom. This, the Minister has succeeded in doing by appointing very

inexperienced youths as Customary Courts judges. This is a serious matter and my people have mandated me to express their resentment on the floor of this House. I hope the Minister will take immediate steps to restore the confidence of my people in the Customary Courts. A legal practitioner should be attached to the panel of County Appeal Courts to enable them to read and understand plans on land cases. The present position is just like jumping from frying pan into the fire.

Ministry of Local Government: While thanking the Minister of Local Government, the Local Government Councils need immediate reforms so as to reduce the powers of the Secretaries. The present position is that the present powers given to the Secretary of a Council are too wide. I would like the Minister to draw up standing rules to govern all the County Councils in the Region.

Another matter is that of surcharge. It is impossible for one to know that a councillor in the Council's roll know what is called 5% of the whole budget of the Council. It is the work of the Secretary/Treasurer, and the Ministry should know that they sent a trained Secretary to the place who is supposed to know better than the councillors themselves; but when the time comes they are asked to pay some tax which they should not pay, and when they are asked they reply that the Council overspent the money but not that the Councillors misused the money. For that reason the blame should be laid on the Secretary and not on the Councillors.

Ministry of Works: The Minister does his work well but his contractors let him down. A contract should be given to a man who has some knowledge of the work. For example, Mr F. N. Ude and Company were awarded about £4,000 contract by this Government to build Offiong Esiet market stalls. Now only £300 remains. The man went away without doing the work; there are sheds in the market and the people cannot build. I appeal to the Minister now to take immediate steps to protect the County Councils because this contract was given by the Tenders Board and they have no protection. I hope the Minister will take immediate steps.

Giving contracts to women who have no knowledge of contracts: A woman should

be given a contract in the Farm Settlements where she can weed grass and do cocoyam planting and such things.

Ministry of Health: There is a shortage of drugs in the Opobo Hospital.

Mrs Ekpo: Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (7):

“No Member shall impute improper motives to any other Members.”

I say this because I am a woman.

Mr Otop: Thank you. There is a shortage of drugs in Opobo Hospital. Opobo, Ikot Ekpenne and others are joined together as one. You never know the amount of money given to maintain the Opobo Hospital. Opobo hospital wants senior sisters. I want some labourers to clean the yard and other staff to be employed in the hospital.

Mr R. E. Etong (Eket North-east): In supporting the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I have two observations to make. The first is on the Ministry of Education. Much has been said about the cut in the Primary School years. If we examine the causes of the low standard of education in our Region we will find out that every day or every year changes in our educational policy come into play. The educational policy is not stable; this year we do one thing, another year, we do another. In attempting to copy the policy of, say, European countries, we should note that our parents have not come up to the standard of training their children at home before they are sent to school. In other countries most of the children, before they ever go to school, will finish up the course they should do in the infant classes at home. I would not even advocate the cutting down of the number of school years from what it was (seven years); I would advocate bringing it back to eight years. We can prepare our children in the infant classes (the preparatory classes) and then give them sound education in the upper classes of the Primary School. I would suggest that whenever the policy of our education is going to be revised, we should not depend entirely on the theoretical experts; we should also call in practical experts, that is, those people who deal with the Primary Schools and not those who deal with higher institutions of learning.

Coming to the Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, I have to say this: I happened to be present in the County Court to listen to the review of cases. I am referring to the County Court in Eket. I was very much impressed by the way they reviewed their cases. The only handicap in their work is the means of transport from one District Court to another. If the Ministry will consider providing them with motor cars it will be very easy for them to travel from one District Court to another to review their cases.

Mr A. Bassey (Calabar West): I hardly have anything to say against this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I think every item there is worth my support indeed. One thing strikes me and that is the last tour of the Premier to countries overseas. He went out and it was reported that at one time his plane had engine trouble. I think it is something for which we have to thank our God that he has come back safely. Whatever happens we in Eastern Nigeria shall do everything to get our population increasing. That is why I feel so very deeply touched by the news. The Premier went for us all and I am happy he came back safely.

When we consider the Supplementary Appropriation Bill something strikes me. The amount asked for is not much. The life I notice in Calabar today is dull and unpleasant.

I went to Ohafia the other day. (*Government Supporters: What did he go there for?*). I have a cousin there. My idea of going there was to see how life was going on there, how people were feeling or progressing. We can say we are putting up big buildings, opening roads and so on, but these do not determine the progress of Eastern Nigeria. It is just a few people who have buildings, and only a few who are rich. What matters is the majority of people who are not rich but poor. I think it is high time for us to study by what ways and means we can help the common man. When people are asked to pay tax, some people pay and others feel reluctant. But whether or not they like to pay they must pay and one of the benefits they get by paying tax is in the education of their children and the provision of other amenities. I am a common man. There are so many common men in the country, and they need Government protection in very many ways. I am convinced that the majority of

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our people are not having that protection. I think it is high time we looked around us and began to find ways and means of helping the people at home, so that they might progress. I do not attribute this lack of progress to any one Ministry. It is a problem for the Eastern Nigeria Government to tackle. They should tackle that as the Government in power. We should not judge the few people who are rich and say that the whole Eastern Nigeria is full of rich people. In fact here, the rich get richer and the poor, poorer.

Mr J. O. Ihekwoaba (Orlu East): I am speaking in support of the Bill, and I must say that it is not quite easy for hon. Members to come here and demand this or that whenever they are summoned to this House. Rather it would be better for hon. Members to suggest how money will accrue to Government in order to enhance the standard of living of the people of this Region.

I must start my speech by calling upon the Minister of Local Government. (*An hon. Member: He is on leave*). Over twelve months now this Ministry gave Demand Note letters to the out-going councillors at Orlu. It happened that the out-going Council misappropriated over £10,000 but up till now no attempt has been made by Government to recover this large sum. The present feeling among the people of the town is that since this amount cannot be recovered by the Government, or since the Government has not made any attempt, anyone who is elected to the Council could embezzle Government money and go scot-free. Therefore I am appealing to this Government to see that this amount of over £10,000 is recovered from the out-going councillors without delay.

Another point is the question of palm produce. I feel I must say something about it, so that Government is acquainted with all the facts. Producers in this Region are looking forward within the next few weeks to raising the prices of palm produce, and for that they look up to Government to announce the new prices next year. Looking at the profits made from palm oil and palm kernel, it is obvious that producers are losing in comparison with profits made five or six years ago. Our palm oil is now being transferred to the North, the West and the Cameroons. For your informa-

tion, the price of a tin of Grade 2 Oil is 10s in the East, whereas in the West it is £1 4s.

An hon. Member: What is he talking about?

Mr Ihekwoaba: It is my business and I know what I am talking about.

Mr G. C. Okeya (Owerri Oguta): My College buys at £1 5s a tin.

Mr Ihekwoaba: If you go to Lagos the price is £1 4s. So the Government should do something about the situation. If you watch carefully you will see that everyday about fifty to 100 tons of oil are transported out of this Region. Go to Asaba you see our oil, and if you go to the Railway stations you see drums of oil being loaded to the North. In order to arrest this situation a slight increase in the price of oil will make oil remain in this Region, but where we stick to one price year in year out the position becomes very unbearable. I know many owners of palm tree plantations who refuse to cut palm nuts when ripe on account of the cost of labour which is always higher than the profits.

Another point I want to make is the question of Licensed Buying Agents. I am sorry the Minister of Agriculture is not here to hear what I am going to say. It is the withdrawing of licences from Buying Agents for not buying up to the required quantity. About five or six years ago the number of Buying Agents was not more than seventeen, but today the number has exceeded 200 and they do not seem to have exceeded the quantity bought as against the number of seventeen some years ago. The point I am making is that I see no reason for withdrawing the licences of some buying agents for failing to reach the required quantity.

These seventeen Licensed Buying Agents were buying the produce which 200 Licensed Buying Agents are buying now. There is no increase of palm produce in this Region since then, and this makes the present Licensed Buying Agents not to buy up to the quota which is required by this Government.

Mr P. E. Chukwurah (Ogidi Mbanano): I want to talk about the Peace Corps people. There are many new schools, I understand, that have been asked whether they will require the services of these American teachers, and in most cases I understand that the answer

is yes because it will help the new schools to carry on, since they will not be required to pay them salaries. They are asked to provide accommodation for these teachers and some of them have done so. But I understand that it will not be possible to send those teachers to the schools next year. In other words, expenses have been met, which ought not to have been borne just immediately, were it not that the schools have been asked to provide accommodation for the teachers. If the Minister of Education is not sure that the teachers will be available, he will see that the schools do not build in order to provide accommodation, because it puts them into debt.

Now I come to the Ministry of Health. I have come to know that there is a social welfare service being rendered by Health Visitors to schools in townships. This service is very good and all those concerned need to be congratulated for all that they have been doing. I have to ask that this service be extended to the rural areas instead of being concentrated in the townships as at present.

Although the Minister of Agriculture is not here, I would like to inform him that there is a mistake that has been made in the West where boys have been sent to Farm Settlements with the hope, they thought, that they were to supervise labourers. Then these boys were shown plots on which to work and they had to hire labourers to work for them. Afterwards some of them deserted the farms and went back to look for work. I suggest that from the very start our people should be made to understand that they are going there to work. Another thing is that the old Agricultural Settlements are so much out of the way that they exert no influence at all on the farmers. The Farm Settlements we have now are scattered here and there and I wonder what influence they are expected to have on the majority of the people, as most of the workers live there permanently. It is my view that the Government should try to help the farmers, by providing tractors which can be hired by those farmers who want them, and furthermore by giving some sort of subsidy or grant to promising farmers who can employ most of the people who have no job. To concentrate all we have on Farm Settlements is a great waste.

Mr E. N. Njaka (Orlu North): First of all, I must use this opportunity to thank the Governor and Lady Ibiam for their recent visit to Earnest Gems Grammar School, Akaokwa; so also the hon. Speaker and the Provincial Commissioner for Owerri.

On the Legislature, may I be allowed to advise that in future all materials that we will debate upon be forwarded to us, say, a week before the sitting, because it pricks my conscience to see that I come here just to talk and talk without any real study of the subjects I am to deliberate upon. After all, I feel obliged to the people who elected me to see that I consult them, discuss with them and know their needs, or else I should not be here. So, I do not think that we are really pulling towards democracy if we are here just to pass our Bills without studying them.

Coming to the question of education, I have asked a series of questions and I was requested to submit my recommendations. If I have a school and it is not grant-aided, but recognised, standing to be the only Secondary School in the Federation or country to be recognised but not grant-aided, I do not see how I can go on spending more and more money in order to bring recommendations to the Ministry of Education while others are paid to do the same job. I think that we should completely insulate education from politics. If a person is really working for the development of the country, I see no reason why he should not be encouraged. The other time it was said that American graduates were no good. Later on we have people from the United States teaching in the University of Nigeria, and we allow Peace Corps people to come into the country too to teach our children. But when I asked people to come and teach in my school, I was told that they were not qualified. I sent their names to the West African Examinations Council and they were accorded graduate status. The West African Examinations Council is very honest, sincere and hard-working. If they have certified these people as qualified, and the people themselves have spent up to five years in universities, I do not see why they cannot be accepted here by the Ministry of Education. The other day, for example, one of my graduates was called in for a conference here. Although she was not qualified as a graduate she was considered qualified to give advice!

[MR NJAKA]

The Ministry of Works should be congratulated, but I am surprised that at times when work has been started, all of a sudden the workers are taken away without any cause. Then the answer is "policy". I think that in a democracy we should not be imputing motives into certain things especially when we operate public services. If a place needs public service, why not give it to it?

So I think in a democratic country we should not be imputing motives into certain things. If a person is qualified for a place in the public service, why not give it to him.

I must ask the Minister of Local Government to urge the Minister of Agriculture to look into the establishment of a Farm Settlement in Orlu North-east Council area. I think and hope that the good Minister will do something to see that he talks to his fellow Ministers on this point.

Chief B. E. Obi (Orlu West): I want to make a very brief remark on the Ministry of Agriculture. First of all, it should be clearly understood that palm produce is the main economy of Eastern Nigeria and should not be side-tracked.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Mr M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.): Point of Order! Mr Speaker, I think you made a ruling sometime ago that Agriculture should not form the subject of this debate?

Chief Obi: The point I want to make, is that palm produce is the main economic crop of Eastern Nigeria and proper care must be taken to see that revenue accruing from it is protected. I understand that some of our produce do go to the North, West, the Cameroons, Ghana, and so on, for purposes of consumption. I suggest that something should be done to restrict this movement either in the way of legislation or by purchase tax. It must be observed that all these produce going away from this Region for consumption elsewhere do not fetch us purchase tax. The Minister of Agriculture should please note this.

Turning now to the Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, I would like to remind the Minister that a certain Customary Court at Orlu was closed for no just reason. We have been appealing and sending representations and delegations but we have not had any satisfactory reply from the Minister.

The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs (Mr O. U. Affiah): The policy of Government is to have certain Courts merged. As far as I am aware, there is no Court that has been closed in Orlu. What actually happened is that some Customary Courts have been merged with others.

Chief Obi: I want to be positive about this point. This is the Court for Orsu Clan. Both by revenue collection and population, the Court is viable. Why it is amalgamated with another Court I do not know and I am appealing very strongly to the hon. Minister to reconsider his decision.

As regards the Ministry of Education, that Ministry has done a very nice job for the Region, but I must express one point. The Minister must try to make a statement to clear the speculations of people. If you go outside this House, you will hear people saying that there would be no Infant Classes next year. Some say that Standards V and VI will cease next year. Some say we are going to have Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary. So it is particularly important that a statement must be made about primary education next year.

Another point I want to make is that I am very grateful to the Eastern Nigeria Government for throwing away those self-centred people who try to mislead the Government because of their selfish motives. Many of them do not really know what is happening in some Councils but they come to the floor of this House to say anything they like. I am very sorry but I would like to observe that some people like to climb their political ladder at the expense of others. That is just too bad.

Mr O. A. Etim (Uyo East): I am happy to say something about the Ministry of Finance. That Ministry is quite capable but the difficulty that we have at the moment is that some of us do not understand simple accounts; and you will not have expected those Members who are not students of accounts to have been able to go through the Draft Supplementary Estimates. So I appeal to the Minister not to be offended when we criticise his Ministry.

I would appeal to the Minister of Finance that the appointment of councillors to do the assessment of tax should be removed from the hands of the councillors, because when you go

along the streets, and perhaps you have any trouble with any councillor, the councillor will, even without knowing whether or not you have any property during the assessment period, recommend you to the Assessment Committee for income tax.

An hon. Member: An excessive one too!

Mr O. A. Etim: And as I understand, and as I have read through so many books, this income tax should be on the net income per year. If somebody is trading and his total income per year is £1,000, he pays his staff, his shopkeeper and other things, his income tax should be based on the net profit and not on the total sales.

I now turn to the Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs. I have got to be very grateful to that Ministry because it has been able to settle the unwarranted troubles in Uyo Division. Perhaps a few hon. Members read about the vote of no confidence passed in certain chiefs. It was quite correct because you have got to seek the voice of the masses before it could be done. In this case there was nothing received from the masses, and therefore the masses were annoyed, but I am happy now because the Minister has been able to settle that trouble in Uyo Division. Uyo Division is a spot of trouble. In Uyo Division you have the U.P.P. "Useless Peoples Party" and then you have the N.P.C., the Action Group and the N.C.N.C.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order! I should not like the hon. Member to say anything derogatory to any party.

Mr O. A. Etim: Some politicians who do not know how to associate themselves perhaps take politics to be a game of trouble in Uyo Division.

I thank the Minister who has been able to settle this matter in Uyo, and there will be no other trouble as far as the Customary Courts in Uyo are concerned.

I beg to support.

Mr S. U. Nweke (Ezza South and West): I hold the same view with those who have supported the Bill. I want to tell the Minister that the appointment of Tax Assessment

Committee is essential. The Minister should see that people who have lost their wealth through damage by fire or by stealing should be exempted from paying income tax.

About the Ministry of Information, I object to the announcement of tax drive because some tax defaulters, on hearing the announcement, often run away to other areas. It should remain confidential if at all we want to collect their tax.

The Ministry of Justice: The Ministry of Justice should see that unemployed boys in townships are repatriated to their respective homes where they will work and not roam about in towns and in hotels.

The Ministry of Education: This Ministry is very good.

The award of scholarships and free primary education scheme without introducing some sort of corporal punishment in schools have made boys very lazy.

Mr O. O. Ezeaka (Ikwo West): In support of the Appropriation Bill, I wish to make the following observations.

Ministry of Education: It appears that in any development programme comparisons have always been drawn from Enugu, Onitsha and other Municipalities as the basic standard of civilisation or improvement in the Region.

I wish to appeal to the Minister of Education that he must remember the uncivilised or primitive areas and give them consideration. I think it will be better if we increase the school fees and convert the schools into kindergarten schools where children could start at the age of three and then do their normal eight years' elementary course. We cannot compare our children in the townships with those in rural areas. I do not see the economy in leaving school in Standard VI without achieving anything. Ninety-nine per cent. of us come from rural areas and know what obtains in those areas. You will be surprised to hear a Standard VI boy speak as if he were a Standard I boy of those days. I know most of the people in the Region would prefer the increase in school fees to their children doing only six years. Some hon. Members here spoke about

[MR EZEAKA]

the condition of teachers. I support them because their conditions are really poor.

In Teacher Training Schools, the teachers do secondary school subjects, like History, Geography, etc., on advanced level. I do not see the need for teaching these secondary school subjects to teachers who will come out to teach in elementary schools. Some of the teachers doing these subjects on advanced level come out and continue to read up these advanced level subjects in order to qualify for their General Certificate of Education.

I would appeal to the Ministry of Education that instead of being taught secondary school subjects in teacher training colleges the teacher should be taught school methods and other subjects which will qualify him to man his class in the elementary school. These subjects at advanced level are unnecessary, since the teacher comes out to teach pupils in elementary schools.

Chief T. O. Odey (Ogoja North-west): I must have to associate myself with some speakers who commented briefly on our Premier's tour. He was our real ambassador. He was a proud representative of this Region. I wish to express my thanks to God for saving our Premier's life when his plane was in trouble. He was touring Canada and America on our behalf and could have lost his life. If all of us were there in that plane, our fear could have forced the plane. God was so kind to save his life, and while he was there he represented the Region boldly. He did not go there as a beggar but as a proud representative. I quote part of his speech on one occasion in Washington—

“Do not think of us just as prospective allies in return for your aid, as prospective markets in return for your investment. We do not barter our friendship. We are a proud people.”

Mr R. A. Iwe: Point of Order, Standing Order 32 (2)—

“Members shall not cross the floor of the House unnecessarily nor sit in a place allotted to any other Member.”

Chief Odey: I appeal to him that these industries should be diversified to all

the rural areas in the Region. Not only in Enugu, Onitsha and Umuahia should there be industries. The other time, some Americans came and stayed only two days or so in Enugu. They were not taken round to places like Ogoja, Obudu, etc., to see what industries could be established there.

I come back to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education has done much within a short space of time. It has promised giving £50 as grants to Primary Schools for the teaching of science subjects. The Minister has allayed our fears that the reduction of primary school life is to be gradually done and may not start within the next two or three years. In the Primary School, the foundation of children's education is laid. If the foundation of a house is not solid, the wind can pull it down. The Voluntary Agencies should also be encouraged because some of the managers are very hard-working. They collect the Assumed Local Contribution which the Government will not be able to collect. The foundation of our children's education can only be well laid if our children spend seven years in primary schools and thus become fully educated.

Mr J. M. Nwosu (Anedo-Atani): In supporting the Motion I have to say that what we are paying our doctors is not encouraging; so I am appealing to the Minister of Health through the Council of Ministers to reconsider the salary scale of our doctors. It is not enough. It is too small.

The Ministry of Works: There are certain roads which we approved during the Budget Session but none has yet been handed over to the contractors for construction. I wonder why! After approving the Estimate, I see that the money voted to the Ministry of Works is too small because they are in charge of water as well as roads. I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to reconsider for the coming year that the budget of the Ministry of Works should be enough in order to enable them to carry out the work of road construction, water supply, etc.

Mr G. C. Okeya: I rise to move that the question be now put.

Question—That the Question be now put—put and agreed to.

Original question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and under Standing Order 77 (4) stood committed to the Committee of Supply. Committee: Tomorrow.

(2) High Court (Amendment) Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Mr M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.): I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time. Section 48 of the Constitution of Eastern Nigeria provides that the Judges of the High Court shall be the Chief Justice and such number of other Judges (not being less than six) as may be prescribed by the Legislature of the Region.

In our High Court Law, this power of prescription was given to the Governor-in-Council, and all that this Law seeks to do is to bring it to the Legislature to prescribe in order to conform to the Constitution. I think the Bill is non-controversial. It only gives to the Legislature power which the Governor-in-Council has hitherto exercised. I do not think that it is controversial or that anybody will quarrel with it.

The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief A. N. Onyike): I beg to second.

Mr A. K. Uche (Bende East): I thank the Ministry of Justice for this amendment in the High Court Law raising the number of Judges in the Region from six to nine. I think as we advance in democratic practice so should our Judiciary advance, and it is true that the British men who were administering this country tried to leave things entirely to the native people in certain connections because their own idea was that we were a plantation and Britain or England was the mother country. Now that things are in our hands we should look into those things which were errors of the past and correct them, and that of the Judiciary in the Region is most commendable. I want to make this point, perhaps as a note of warning. I have in all debates concerning law courts in the past observed that the Judicial Service Commission should be right up

and doing in the selection of those persons who are going to be Judges. In fact, the court is the last place of resort for either between the individual and the Government or one individual against the other. We should try to safeguard those high principles of justice which in the past had guided advanced jurisprudence. I must say that with the Judicial Division must also go the Magisterial District. There is now a great lacuna in the Division of the Magisterial District and Magistrate sessions: Arochuku is under Bende and the Magisterial District of the Magistrate in Arochuku covers the administrative unit of Bende but in the distribution of sessions Arochuku is put under Ikot Ekpene; and last week in the High Court, eight persons were committed for murder by the Magistrate at Ikot Ekpene for trial but the Judge at Umuahia did rightly hold that the committal was bad in law because the Magistrate at Ikot Ekpene had no jurisdiction to hear cases in Arochuku, and I am bringing it to the notice of the hon. Minister of Justice to direct the right quarters to make correction in the schedule that places Arochuku under Ikot Ekpene. In Magisterial District Arochuku is under Bende Division so that it appears now that the Magistrate at Ikot Ekpene has no powers to hear cases from Arochuku, and every matter, either criminal or civil, that comes before him if he decides otherwise then on appeal he is completely reversed on that single point of law of having no jurisdiction.

With these observations, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

Bill to be sent to the House of Chiefs with the appropriate Message.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

The Minister of State, Premier's Office (Chief A. N. Onyiuke): I beg to second.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATES

(1) Gunman in the Premier's Lodge

Mr A. O. Onyewuchi (Owerri Central): I rise to speak on a matter of very grave concern to the entire people of the Owerri Division.

My people are shocked and aggrieved to hear that the gunman who was arrested at the Premier's Lodge claims to come from Ikeduru in the Owerri Division. On inquiry it was revealed that the man is apparently unknown at his home, having left home some twenty years ago.

It is most unimaginable, however, that a person from Owerri should dream dreams of such a wicked act or lend himself as partner in such a heinous and outrageous act. Our hearts have no strength of malice for the Premier. We bear him no grudge. In fact he is our own Premier. We cherish the affinity, we are proud of him and hold him in very great esteem. We are prepared at any time to lay down our lives for the life of this illustrious and most distinguished son of Africa. We would use all our resources to fight for the complete liquidation and utter extinction of any race, tribe or community that tries its hand on this evil act. We cannot therefore bear the arm ourselves. We disown this gunman with his activities and his dreams.

As the General Secretary of the Owerri Divisional Union and by the Grace of God, Member for Owerri in this hon. House, I am instructed to condemn without equivocation, without reservation, and with all the emphasis at my command, whatever motive the stray man had in his ill-fated visit to the Premier's Lodge. I am to ask that he should be made to feel the full weight of the law.

Any excuse of insanity or mental disorder is silly and untenable. If people lose their

heads they should start with killing themselves and their immediate relations.

I am to apologise to the hon. Premier for this isolated breach of courtesy and to assure him that the people of Owerri Division are unshaken in their love, their loyalty and their confidence in him.

I am to pledge on behalf of the entire Division our unflinching support to the Premier and his Government at all hazards.

I am to request most humbly that the hon. Premier be graciously disposed to receive a high powered delegation of a few personalities from the Division at his Lodge today, to apologise for this unprovoked and unwarranted insult.

Mr G. U. M. Nwagbara (Owerri Ikeduru): I rise to say that we, the people of Ikeduru in Owerri Division, are all one with those in Owerri in all the statements made to condemn this gunman. We pray that the law should have its way on the man.

Rev. M. D. Opara (Owerri Mbaitoli): As the General Secretary of the Owerri Divisional Union said, I personally was shocked this afternoon to hear this very news; and Ikeduru used to be in my own constituency. I do not think that that man comes from Ikeduru: he might have remembered that name because it was given to him in Ghana before, and most of our people from that area used to be in Ghana. So I shall make every effort when we get home to trace out the real home of this man and then we can do something.

(2) Dismissal of Uncertificated Teachers; Corporations; Ministers' Tours

Mr L. Egu (Owerri South-east): In supporting the last speaker, I am going to deal on a very grave matter.

This is about Government intention to reduce the duration of primary school course to six years, and the apparent misinterpretation of this subject matter. As many of us are aware, the Voluntary Agencies have already started to dismiss very many teachers of the class called Standard VI, some of whom have served the Agencies for the past three years

and have actually acquired immeasurable experience in the field. Well, it is not fair to make them the scape-goat of every progressive measure. I am therefore alerting the hon. Minister of what is happening because these things reflect some kind of discredit on the Ministry more or less. The Minister, in my opinion, should send out circulars warning the Voluntary Agencies that he has not asked them to dismiss this class of teachers. If actually there is some measure to this effect, I think it is the job of the Education Board in consultation with the Ministry to make a way out. It is not for Voluntary Agencies to take the law into their hands and get these people dismissed immediately. I think the Minister is not aware of what is happening. It is appropriate that we alert him. Now that he has heard of it, we call on him to first of all make categorical statement and then send out circulars, because if he makes radio broadcast not many people will hear what he has said, and if published in the *Nigerian Outlook* or any other official organ of the Government not many people will know what is happening. So we suggest that the Minister sends out circulars to all the authorities concerned and tell them to reinstate all those teachers pending the decision to be arrived at by the Education Board in consultation with the Minister.

One thing I also want to mention in passing is something I think concerns the Executive Council as a department or as a unit, and that is this idea of Corporations competing with the aspirations of the indigenes themselves. We all support the idea of the Building Society or the Housing Corporation functioning, but then . . . (*Interruptions*) . . . What I am trying to say is that we are the aspiring young men of this Region . . . (*Interruptions*).

I want to mention one other point to the Executive Council also. Very often Ministers go on tour; the Minister of Works goes on tour, the Minister of Finance goes on tour, the Minister of Education goes on tour, but it never occurs to them to consider us their colleagues in this House. After all, some of us might be Ministers tomorrow. When we tell them we should go along with them so that we actually know when something is wrong, they want to go all alone. Supposing, God forbid, anything happens. We suggest that we their colleagues should accompany them

during their tours. I therefore suggest that the points I have raised should be taken into consideration because they are serious ones.

Mr Speaker: I regret that the other Ministers concerned were not informed about the facts of the hon. Member's speech, and therefore, the Minister of Education will answer that part relating to his Ministry.

(3) Proposed Changes in Primary Education

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): In reply to hon. Egu and any speakers who have spoken on Education this morning I wish to take this opportunity to clear the air of misleading rumours which have recently been circulating about proposed changes which will affect our Primary Education and to give the House the true facts about Government's intentions.

The age of admission into Primary School will remain at six years old and also fees will be unchanged. In other words the infants class and Standards I and II will be fee-free. The fees for Standards III and IV will be £5 and for Standards V and VI £8.

Now the changes which Government proposes to make are as follows:

Firstly, as from 1st January, 1963, the maximum number of pupils allowed in classes will be raised from forty to forty-five in the Junior Primary classes and from thirty to thirty-six in the Senior Primary classes. Secondly, as from the same date the Assumed Local Contribution factor will be raised from thirty to thirty-six. Thirdly, it is proposed to reduce the period of the Primary School course from seven to six years, which is the length of the Primary School course in most parts of the world, and which has been recommended by experts like the *Dike Commission* and the *Ikoku Commission*. This change will take place over a considerable time but our intention is to begin by giving Standards V and VI an examination in 1963 so that they will both leave the Primary course in the same year. This means that there will be only six classes in the Primary course from January, 1964, and these will be renamed Elementary I to Elementary VI.

[DR IMOKE]

I must explain to the House however that although there will be only six primary classes from January 1964, those leaving school up to and including December, 1966 will have enjoyed seven years of Primary Education. This is a little surprising at first sight but the reason is that those leaving school up to that date entered Primary School in our old Infants I at the age of five and they will not be leaving school till the age of twelve although there will be only six classes. Those leaving Primary School from 1967 onwards will have had six years of education.

Fourthly, we shall try to eliminate unviable schools and classes as from January, 1963. A survey of Primary Schools was conducted recently and as a result it is proposed to close 293 unviable schools, to amalgamate ninety-six and to reduce 168 to Junior Primary status. Altogether 547 schools are involved, and it is inevitable that there will be opposition to these measures in some quarters. Nevertheless, I feel sure that the action proposed will be in the best interests of education and of the people to be served. In particular the local people will be rid of the burden of maintaining unviable schools and classes.

Every attempt has been made to avoid merging Catholic and Protestant Mission Schools, and as a result of this approach I am pleased to say that there will be no such mergers. In five cases, however, neighbouring Catholic and Protestant schools will be asked to close and the appropriate County Council will be asked to open a school in place of the closed mission ones.

The reduction of the primary course to six years and the closing of unviable schools

and classes will inevitably mean loss of employment for some unqualified teachers. Nevertheless, this process is going to take place in any case because of the continued output of qualified teachers from training colleges, and because of Government's policy of improving the quality of staff in our schools. The Training Colleges are turning out about 4,000 trained teachers a year. I therefore anticipate that the higher standards which we are achieving year by year from better staff will more than compensate educationally for the reduction of the Primary Course to six years.

Some of the changes which are to be made will be unpalatable to certain people, but I would like to remind the House that we are second-to-none in providing resources for the improvement of education. During the five-year period ended in 1962 Government devoted an average of 43 per cent. of its expenditure to education.

It is the intention of my Ministry to exercise constant vigilance—through the newly created unified Inspectorate Division—on this issue of redundant and unviable schools and thus ensure always that Government expenditure on our Primary Education System is as realistic as possible. And on this I hope I can rely on the co-operation of hon. Members and other leaders of our people including councillors to help in explaining the situation to the people in the various localities that will be affected, in order that the operation may be carried out as smoothly as possible.

Question put and agreed to.

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

EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 12th December, 1962

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

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPER

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, during the current sitting, a Paper was delivered to hon. Members. This will be deemed to have been laid upon the Table and will be entered upon the Votes and Proceedings of Today. It is:—

Staff List—revised up to 1st December, 1962, 10th issue (Official Document No. 26 of 1962).

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

Illegal Collection of Fees in Primary Schools

163. **Mr E. S. Umoh** asked the Minister of Education, whether any inquiry was conducted into the allegation of extra fees in some Primary Schools; if so, what were the findings.

The Minister of State, Ministry of Education (Mr D. S. A. Agim): Allegations of illegal collections in schools are investigated, and where the allegations are substantiated the offenders are penalised. Several cases have been investigated, but it was only in a few cases that illegal collections were proved. Most other cases were voluntary contributions for specific purposes which the parents were free to pay or not to pay. If it is proved that a child was in any way victimised for non-payment of such voluntary contributions, the offending Headmaster or Manager is penalised. All Managers and Headmasters know this.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (1962-63)

Considered in the Committee of Supply.

(FIRST ALLOTTED DAY)

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1-6 postponed.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Head 421.—Premier's Office

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £9,500 for Head 421—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr G. U. M. Nwagbara (Owerri Ikeduru): I wish to draw the attention of the Premier, who is in a position to contact the Federal Government on Police matters, that the Owerri Police are dangerously short of materials for work. Recently, there has been a wave of burglary in the Province. Many safes of Oil Mills have been blown with dynamites (and this is general in the Region) and large sums of money removed by thieves. Night marauders have made life less enjoyable for peace-loving citizens.

The Police in Owerri complain that they have no vans to make their work easy and effective in tracking down these idle criminals who live on the sweat of hardworking people. The only van available is constantly in a very bad state of repair. I therefore appeal to the Premier to let the Federal Government know of this, so that they may take immediate steps to remedy the situation especially at this Christmas time when the number of robbers increases and their devastating activities are intensified.

This call should not be neglected as it is very important for our peace and safety. The distances to be covered by the Police in Owerri Division are great and cannot be done by mere trekking or cycling.

Mr U. A. Otop (Opobo North-west): I think it is possible for the Police to stamp out the bogus doctors in the Region. The Police can make and unmake. The question is, where are these drugs coming from? If perhaps they come from the markets, how did they manage to get through the Customs? We have to advise the Police in the whole of Nigeria to do their best in this regard, otherwise the health of our people in the homes and in the farms will be in great jeopardy.

We heard from the radio some time ago that the life of the hon. Premier was probably being aimed at by a man whose name was not disclosed. I think that in such matters the name of the person involved should be disclosed.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 425.—Eastern Nigeria Legislature

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £7,500 for Head 425—Eastern Nigeria Legislature—stand part of the Schedule.

Mrs M. U. Ekpo (Aba Urban North): I want to talk about the position of Members of this hon. House who attend meetings of the Legislature. In the Federal Parliament where Members earn more than we do here, when they attend meetings each Member is allocated a room and a kitchen and everything to himself. When the House adjourns, it is up to the Member to go away with all his things or to leave behind those things which he does not like to travel with. The room is always there for him exclusively. But here in the East we travel all the way to Enugu to attend meetings of the House, and have to pay £3 3s per night minus feeding. Considering the austerity measures, ten per cent. cut in our salaries, car advances, tax deductions all these place heavy burden on our shoulders. I want to put it on record that the Minister of Finance should treat us as hon. Members and provide us free quarters when we are attending meetings of the House.

Mr L. E. Egu (Owerri South-east): I want to begin by congratulating the Speaker and the staff of the Legislature for the excellent way in which they organised the visit to Eastern Nigeria of the delegates to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. But I must complain that in a place like Port Harcourt some of us hon. Members who happened to be there were out of the show. We did not know anything about the arrangements and we were not invited to any of the parties there. I know that was not a deliberate act, but I think it must be brought home to the Provincial Commissioners that we all are qualified to become like themselves. As the hon. Mrs Ekpo has just said, we are all hon. Members. The only qualification to become anything here is to win the election, and we do not like our hon. colleagues who have been appointed to these offices to slight us. We were very much slighted at Port Harcourt during the visit of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegates. We were actually forgotten. Let the Ministers and the Provincial Commissioners treat us as their colleagues.

Mr Chairman: May I point out that the arrangements in Port Harcourt were carried out by the Chamber of Commerce and the Municipality, and the issuing of invitations was entirely their matter.

Mr A. G. Umoh (Enyong Central): It was a big surprise to me that during the whole visit of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegates not one part of the old Calabar Province was visited. If Uyo was not found good enough, I think Calabar ought to be. What about Ikot Ekpene and the rest? I think the whole of that Province has been forgotten. Whether it was because there was no Calabar Minister or Commissioner, I cannot understand. I am therefore appealing to the Ministers that in future the old Calabar Province should be remembered when these important personalities visit the East.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 427.—Public Service Commission

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £420 for Head 427—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. C. Aboh (Awka South): Speaking under Head 427—Public Service Commission—I have two important points to make. The first one is the recruitment of senior civil servants by competitive examination. I hope this new policy will help us, because we discovered that the old policy was one which discriminated against graduates with general degree. They were appointed to the Executive grade instead of to the Administrative grade and then we discovered that the Public Service lost very valuable personnel who often left the Civil Service and got into the firms and corporations, where there is nothing like discrimination. Both the graduates with the general degree and those who have honours degree should be given a chance to do this competitive examination, and those who qualify should be absorbed in the Administrative grade.

The second point is the recruitment of junior civil servants. There is going to be a new policy whereby applications are to be submitted into a special box and then Committees will be appointed to look into these applications. I think the aim of the Public Service Commission is to do away with bribery and corruption. I suppose this policy will

not be a question of old wine in a new bottle, because when these boys apply to Permanent Secretaries of different Ministries very often we discover that there seems to be some nepotism. Since the Public Service Commission has deemed it wise to make these new applicants submit their applications into the box and then a Recruitment Committee sits to consider their applications, I hope we can expect fair treatment for these new school leavers.

In the past we discovered that when a new school leaver is not related to a Permanent Secretary or has nobody of influence in the Ministry, he finds it very difficult to get employed, whereas other boys even get employment before doing their School Certificate Examinations. I therefore hope that by these new policies, our young graduates would be given the opportunity to remain in the Civil Service because some of them were even awarded scholarships to do general degree, and it would not be just to discourage these young men since this country is in need of very valuable personnel.

Mr P. A. Oji (Afikpo South-west): Under this Head I would like to say from the outset that there is indiscipline in the whole rank and file of our Civil Service. I know the root cause of all these. Those so well-placed men at the head import their relatives and girls to the offices with the result that when the girl does anything wrong and somebody below his rank queries her, it does not go anywhere. I have information at my command.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (9):—

“The conduct of Her Majesty, Members of the Royal Family, the Governor-General, the Governor, Members of this House or the other House, Civil Servants and Judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a Substantive Motion; and in any amendment, question to a Member or remarks in a debate on a motion dealing with any other subject, any reference to the conduct of the persons aforesaid shall be out of order. For the purposes of this paragraph ‘Substantive Motion’ does not include any motion for the Adjournment.”

Mr Chairman: I wish to remind hon. Members that the language of the House must be strictly parliamentary and one that befits Parliament.

Mr Oji: I was not commenting on any particular individual. I am only saying that if you enter the Eastern Nigeria Secretariat buildings you will see people wandering far and wide. They do not take dictation from the man at the head. They fear nobody and the reason is this: These people have immediate relations at the top who protect them when they are queried by their immediate bosses. This is my main point. If we go at length to dwell on this point of indiscipline, I will cite instances to show that even in the Divisions, since independence, the Civil Service has lost its meaning from the colonial Civil Service. That is my main argument. I urge that a thorough check should be made by the Public Service Commission to see that civil servants give maximum output for the salaries they receive.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 430.—Ministry of Customary Courts

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £1,840 for Head 430—Ministry of Customary Courts stand part of the Schedule.

Mr E. Oriji (Ikwerre Central): I would like to say a few words about Customary Court judges in Eastern Nigeria. We are happy to observe that these judges are striving to do everything to promote justice in the Customary Courts. By that I mean that the Customary Courts in the East are not used for the purpose of victimisation. It is a very good reflection on the Government because it goes to show that people with integrity are chosen as Customary Court judges. But these people should be given some encouragement. We find that they are faced with difficulty and I feel that the particular Minister in charge should reconsider the remuneration paid to these Customary Court judges. Their salary is such that, all things being equal, cannot make a decent living. The cost of living is very high and we expect these men to eschew bribery and corruption. We must give them remuneration compatible with decent living and I am trying to make this appeal on their behalf—that reasonable salaries should be paid to Customary Court judges.

Mr B. E. Ekpenyong (Uyo North): I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister of Customary Courts for introducing Customary Courts in Uyo Division. This has been long overdue and many of those who expected to be appointed judges have been constrained to wait painfully. There were many who abandoned their previous jobs in the hope that this Ministry held out a good promise for all of them. Many have obviously gained and others lost.

I disagree with the hon. Minister in the way he appointed the Customary Court judges in Uyo Province. He has carefully restricted the appointment to his N.C.N.C. Chairman and Party supporters. The people of the Division who are opposed to the N.C.N.C. have been seriously threatened by this acute intimidation and slight. I pray the hon. Minister that in future appointments he should be liberal in the appointment of court judges. The appointment must be extended to people of all shades of political affiliation. In this way the people will feel that these new Courts are not institutions for furthering N.C.N.C. party ideologies but one that is to cater for the justice of the people as a whole.

I associate myself with the sentiments already expressed by many hon. Members about the low wages paid to Customary Courts judges. If they are to work well and be divorced from all acts of bribery and corruption which made the old Native Courts unpopular, they must be well paid.

With this observation, I beg to support.

Mr M. R. Ekpo (Uyo Western Nsit): I thank the hon. Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs for establishing Customary Courts in my constituency. There was an error when courts were being amalgamated: imagine three courts being consolidated into one and to serve forty villages with a population of 38,000. It is inadequate. It is the duty of the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs to see to it that Ndiya Itreto has a separate court, while Ikot Obioetan, with a population of 18,000, should stand by itself. At the moment the distance the court judges have to do is about eighteen miles, and hon. Members will agree with me that it does not encourage prospective litigants to go to take court action because of fear of the distance they will have to cover.

For instance, old men and women, who quite commonly suffer from rheumatism, hardly trek five miles when they are being compelled by distance to trek eighteen miles.

I beg the Minister to look into this matter.

Mr S. A. Kalu (Bende South-east): I thank the hon. Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs for the able way he has been carrying out his duties. It is a matter of very great regret that the present system of Customary Courts has not been established in my constituency.

During the last Budget Session a promise was made to establish one, but nothing has been done up till now, and I hope the hon. Minister will hasten up matters and see to it that Customary Courts are established in the area.

When hon. Members sit together in this House, they have always asked how the Government would be able to get money in order to be able to finance the various development projects in this Region. I would say that the Customary Court set-up should be one of the ways by which money could come into the Region.

I would ask the hon. Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs to advise the Customary Courts to impose reasonable fines in the Courts in order to be able to meet the needs of the area. The salary paid to the Customary Court judges is very low, and I would ask the hon. Minister to see to it that the salary paid to them is fair and reasonable so that they may not enter into corrupt practices.

I beg to support.

Mr W. E. Ufot (Opobo Central): I have this to say in relation to Customary Courts. The set-up of the Customary Courts was meant to replace the old Native Court system which was not well administered. The present set-up will, like the old Native Court, deteriorate justice of this Region unless the Presidents of the Customary Courts are literate, and able to take down the proceedings of their Courts by themselves. By that they will be able to control the whole Court without necessarily asking the Registrar to take the necessary

proceedings. If the Registrars in the Magistrate Courts and the High Courts were asked to take down the proceedings themselves while the Judges sat down quite unconcerned they would not be able to administer absolute justice in the Region. Our literate members should be able to take down the proceedings themselves so that we may know that they are controlling these Courts entirely. Anything short of this may tend to divide the Court into two. One section, which was the practice of the old Native Court, belongs to the section that takes proceedings, and the other section belongs to the unfortunate judges who are not absolutely conversant with the whole happenings of the Court. Eventually, whatever justice is administered, the judges themselves will be held responsible.

I therefore implore the hon. Minister of Customary Courts to rectify the present system and see to it that the Presidents are trained to be able to take down the proceedings of these Courts so that the Registrars may do the duties strictly assigned to Registrars. Continuation of this old system will appear as if we are just turning new wine into an old bottle, or even an old wine into an older bottle.

I hope the hon. Minister will heed to this without delay.

Lastly, we really want to see that the Customary Court set-up discharges its duties efficiently.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 432.—Ministry of Education

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £2,600 for Head 432—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr I. O. Nwauche (Aba South-east): There is a point I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Education to and that is Nigerianisation of our Voluntary Agency grammar schools. What I would like to know is, how many of our Nigerians head our secondary grammar schools? In some of our Voluntary Agency grammar schools, the heading of the schools is made the exclusive preserve of expatriate officers. If we have Nigerians to run the various Ministries in the Government time has come when we should

make it possible for Nigerians to head the grammar schools, and then the expatriate officers in such schools will teach under the Nigerians who are the heads. It matters who educate our children. There are two essential things a school should provide for its pupils. One is personality growth and the other is character training. If you have an expatriate educating your own children, they tend to have that inferiority complex of looking on things African as inferior. As independent countries, we should now begin to legislate to make it possible for Africans to head our grammar schools, and the expatriates will teach under them.

The other point I would like to make is that the grammar schools should be graded, and that appointment of Principals to certain grammar schools should carry with it some increase in the emoluments. At the moment, for instance, the Principal of the Dennis Memorial Grammar School does not have any increase in salary. He receives just the same amount of pay as a Principal who has just begun a new grammar school and it does not make for encouragement and efficiency.

Then, the other point is that our primary schools should also be graded. We should have Grade A primary schools in which the Headmasters and the other teachers are given some sort of allowance. Then we should have Grade B where the Headmasters are given some sort of allowance and then Grade C where no allowance is given to either the Headmasters or the teachers. Lastly, Grade D where the Headmasters and the staff are warned to work harder. If we grade our primary schools, there will be a struggle for them to improve to the higher grades and it will raise the standard of education in the Region. When we leave our primary schools ungraded, there is not the impetus—the incentive—to work harder, and it downgrades the standard of education. I am calling attention to this point that time has come when we should have Nigerians educating Nigerian children. It is a mistake to allow expatriates to educate our children. We saw what Hitler and Napoleon did with education. We should have our Nigerians educating Nigerian children.

With these points, I beg to make a support.

Mr E. N. Njaka (Orlu North): I am supporting the last speaker and at the same time I would ask the Minister of Education to carry out a good propaganda work before any change in our educational system is set out. I am in full support of this Six-Year Programme in the primary schools and I think that it ought to have been widely publicised, say, a year or so before it actually took place as I think that this will create a healthy atmosphere in our educational system.

Another point I would like to make is this question of Grade II teachers. They should be given encouragement by way of giving them scholarships for Grade I Certificate courses or to universities, as the case may be. I asked a question and I was referred to the Board of Education. I think it is a little disturbing to have to wait for replies from the Board of Education. I think there should be a policy whereby teachers should not be given any increase in pay if they do not behave well because I think that we should have our pupils under teachers by whom they are well regulated and properly controlled, and who can give them the adequate discipline they need. I do not know how far I have to emphasise the point that the Ministry of Education should try to recognise the degrees of those educated in the United States. They offer scholarships tenable in the United States, and I think it is unfair for people to have to spend five to six years and to come back without their degrees recognised. I thought that this had been thrashed out before and everything settled about the issue; but I have had experience the other way round.

Mr M. N. Onwuma (Aba West): The Minister of Education appears to be always enthusiastic to introduce innovations. Yesterday, he told us that primary school fees will remain unchanged. On the same strength, he told us that the Assumed Local Contribution factor will increase from thirty to thirty-six units. I want him to explain to us exactly what he means by that sentence, and what effect it has on us generally.

Secondly, it is possible that some of these things may react on us in a way that we do not at the moment appreciate. The Minister of Education may be thinking that many of

us are simpletons when he says that maximum primary education of six years is what obtains in advanced countries; our country is not advanced. The Federal Government is introducing free primary schooling for eight years. And this is in our own country. How could our own children compete with children from the Federal territory when they go to school for only six years and those in the Federal territory spend eight years? I think that all the four Governments should get together and decide what to do about primary education. We have not solved the problem. We have not made any attempt and it will continue to be so unless our children go to school for eight years. So, it is absolutely necessary for us to approach the Federal Government to reconsider the situation and find out if the Federal Government cannot take up primary education completely or make grants for primary education in the Regions.

I would like to place on record that the Minister of Education should tell us something about what happened at Nsukka, and what action Government is taking on the matter. Some of the boys there were goaded into strike action. For my part, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, is new, and we have spent a lot of this Region's money to build up this University. We should do all that we can to discourage all sorts of strike action by these students. They are expected to behave well, and they are the people who are going to rule the country in the next four or five years.

I think it is very bad and we would like the Minister of Education to make a statement on the issue.

Mr S. O. Nwachukwu (Owerri South): I want to dwell a little more on this issue of reduction of primary school years. Yesterday, the Minister of Education read to us his proposal about eliminating some schools which, in his Ministry's light, they have considered unviable. In a statement further he wanted the co-operation and assistance of hon. Members of this House to make the scheme work. Much as I do not doubt the integrity of the propositions of the Inspectorate Division we still feel that we should have been taken into confidence in whatever reasons that prompted that Division to think of merging schools. We

appreciate that it is a very welcome gesture and a big relief for the suffering community to merge some of these unviable schools. But, we feel that some schools which have existed for many years and had hitherto lived up to expectation in any way should be allowed to stay. Certainly, in some parts of the Region there exist on the staff of some schools people whose presence amounts to playing gooseberry, that is people whose continued stay in certain stations becomes sour. There are such cases I know of, especially in my constituency, that have scared some parents to remove their children from such schools. When such decisions as merging of schools are proposed, reasonable members of the community, such as the hon. Members of this House, should be consulted rather than depending on whatever information might have been got from members of the staff who even in some cases have themselves led to the deterioration of certain schools that may be eliminated.

Coming to the strike at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, many reasonable and responsible members of the community have agreed that it was most irresponsible of the students to have gone on strike. But from the information at our disposal the students should not be entirely blamed. Although they did strike and were all suspended I plead that now that the students have become repentant of their unruly action it will not be nice to make any group of them a sort of sacrificial lamb. I feel that careful investigation should be made to see that the case of the eighteen students who are now suffering because, perhaps, of a collective action should be reconsidered, particularly now that we hear that the University Council is going to meet. We feel that the action of the students was wrong, whatever led to it, but at the same time it is the feeling of any reasonable person that the students should all be recalled. This should be so because it may not be possible to prove that the eighteen students who have been turned out of the University were the ringleaders or even participated conspicuously. I am pleading that the University Authorities should temper justice with mercy—they should not make these eighteen students a sort of sacrificial lamb. This is my feeling.

Mr E. O. Osuagwu (Mbaise Central): I shall begin my speech by thanking the hon. Minister of Education for what he has done to

improve the lot of teachers in a practical way this year. This really shows that we want to carry through the policy of the Government regarding the teaching of science in primary schools. Some time this year a course was arranged for teachers at Nsukka and now there is another course going on at Umuahia for teachers who are to introduce science in the primary schools next year. Some time last month, I think on the 1st of November, it was gazetted that a two-year course for science for Grade I teachers will be started in Umuahia. I want to make it known to the Minister that teachers fully appreciate this gesture and I thank the Minister personally.

On the other hand, I feel that the Minister's statement of yesterday was rather belated. The primary schools require to be informed well in advance of any innovations, and the Minister of Education should have been aware of this. But it was only yesterday that he came to tell us that a number of schools will be merged, others will be reduced and others will be abolished totally when in fact, all primary schools are expected to reopen about the 21st of January, 1963. Voluntary Agencies are not aware of these proposals. You can imagine the hardship that these people have to incur during the early part of next year. Many of the teachers will not know their place of posting till many weeks after the schools have reopened. I am saying that the Minister should take steps to see that this type of delay does not continue.

Again he says that Standards V and VI will have a common class and examination next year. Next year Standards V and VI will do the same course, this year a set of boys must have completed Standard V and next year those in Standard IV this year will go up to Standard V. The two sets are required to do the same course and the same examination. Now what I want to point out is that the first or second set will be retarded in their studies. Again, how will they take the examination? A boy has done up to Standard V and another boy has barely completed Standard IV but yet they are to take the same examination! The Minister should give serious thought to finding a solution to this disparity if he is to avoid this trouble of retarding the academic progress of certain children.

We are also told that eighty-five schools will be doing science next year. We want to know

[MR OSUAGWU]

whether the science taught will form part of the examination to be taken by the children, and if so will it be confined to the eighty-five schools or will it be extended to all others? I should like the Minister to consider this and see in what way he is to help the children and the teachers. Many of us have been blaming the Voluntary Agencies for delaying very much in making certain policies of Government known to the people. Now I can see that the delay emanates from the Ministry of Education.

Some time there was a rumour that the Ministry of Education was to scrap the Grade III centres. Up to this time nothing has been said about this officially. Now the Voluntary Agencies do not know whether they should proceed to recruit teachers for next year. They are completely ignorant of . . .

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): They are all aware of the position.

Mr Osuagwu: Well, if they know, I do not know myself. I am repeating that many Voluntary Agencies do not know the intentions of Government. I would like to know, so that when I go back home I will tell those who would like to know. The Minister should clear the air before we adjourn today.

Mr M. A. Idoko (Nsukka North-east): I only want to say a few words about the new changes that are going to take place. Hon. Members have said a lot of things about the lot of teachers as a result of the introduction of free Primary Education in 1956, and the other changes that took place on the same free Primary Education in 1957. Now, there is a very big rumour, and we have been made to understand really that the rumour is true, that a good many teachers are going to be laid-off next year. From what we have heard from the Minister of Education it is true that a good many of them are going to be laid-off. Many were laid-off during the changes of the previous year and nothing was done to see that these teachers were rehabilitated. In any case, it will be very nice if the Minister can do something about these teachers by giving them employment priority in the industries and employment priority in the industries and Farm Settlements that are being established in the Region by arrangement with the Ministers of Commerce and Agriculture. Most of these

teachers have put in very many years service in the field, and it will be really very unfortunate to leave them to wander about the streets of the townships like small boys.

Another point I want to make is about the merging of schools. We have heard from the Minister that he does not intend to merge schools of different denominations, and that where such things will create trouble he is going to see that a central school is built for them and then given to the Councils. I want to say this from the beginning. If this is going to be done let it not be the type of Council Schools we have, where grants are given to begin the schools and then after that nothing further is provided to develop the schools; and sometimes those schools stand as eye-sores when compared with the Voluntary Agency schools. If such schools are going to be established at all it will be good if the Minister sees that provision is made for the development of the schools from year to year.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr A. Agams (Orlu South-east): All I want to say under this is that after listening to the speeches by the hon. Members I have got the feeling that the Ministry of Education is now overdue for overhaul. I have come to this conclusion because it does seem to me from the speeches already made that there should be better opportunities for teachers in the Region so as to arrest the exodus now taking place in the teaching profession. Also I have arrived at the conclusion because it seems to me that there is need for us to make the best use of our graduates instead of going to places like India to recruit High School Certificate people because their certificates are designated B.A. (*Some hon. Members: Good talk!*). I feel strongly convinced that the best thing to be done is that the graduates in our Administration, who have teaching experience, should now go back to the chalk and the blackboard and apply their training. Similarly, I feel that in our secondary schools there should be promotion facilities so that a teacher can reach the top of the profession without having to leave the classroom.

There is one other important point to which I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Education. That is that the

inspection of schools should be left to our old experienced Headmasters, who, I am sure hon. Members will agree, know more of our primary school education than most of our graduates.

I know of one graduate who is itching to go back to the classroom but is made to inspect schools. This graduate is not at all satisfied because he feels that there is very little he can do by inspecting primary schools. Now we have evolved quite a number of policies whereby we can do this or do that. One of those things is this: we have been talking so much about ways and means of projecting the African personality and of projecting the Nigerian personality; but it does seem to me very unfortunate that the very system, which should interpret this slogan, is itself completely ill-equipped to do so. All I want to emphasise finally is that some time ago the Minister of Education announced that a new system of education would soon be evolved. I can only hope that that new system will be based on our needs and requirements and able to provide the mental discipline and moral courage with which we can build up our nation. There is no point in our saying these things if we cannot take deliberate steps to implement them.

Finally, I want to appeal to the hon. Minister of Education to bear in mind that any system of education in this country which does not take full cognizance of our tradition and culture will be completely inadequate.

Mr E. E. Ukaegbu (Bende North): I would like to say a word or two about the Ministry of Education. While appreciating very much the innovation the hon. Minister has introduced, I would very much like to add to the statement just made. Whatever steps that are being taken to improve our educational system, the Minister must bear in mind the need for consideration of our own background. African children in most homes do not come in touch at all with those things that are connected with education, or those things that are done in the classroom. It is always very difficult to learn very quickly in the classroom because those things are not found at home. So when any introduction is being made I would beg the Minister to consider our own background.

We understand that the African is the best teacher for the African. In this connection I do not see the need for bringing into this country expatriates from India, China, etc., to teach in our schools, particularly in our secondary schools, and some of them are asked to teach English. They do not understand the difficulty the African children have in hearing them. It is only the African who can understand and appreciate their difficulties, and I think he is the best to teach them. In this connection I would call upon the Minister to establish some sort of allowance to all English masters in secondary schools such as is being paid to Science masters. We have forgotten the fact that when our candidate fails English in the West African School Certificate Examinations he fails, and even if he succeeds in Science subject without passing English, he still fails, but when he passes English, I think he passes. Because of this, there is nothing to encourage English teachers in our secondary schools whether he is a graduate or not to enable him work harder and improve the English language in our secondary schools.

The third point is that in my own opinion the existence of the Board of Education is redundant and should be scrapped forthwith. I do not know what that Board is actually doing, because when we are confronted with a difficulty, we invite experts from overseas, and yet the Board of Education does not offer all the advice to the Minister himself. What is then the need for creating the Board? Except we are considering the existence of the Board in connection with political leaning otherwise it should be scrapped and we make use of our teachers. When we want experts who come all the way from Britain or America we pay them a great deal of money, and almost nothing is given to the African teachers who sit down day and night considering our educational system and how best it should be improved. Therefore, the Minister ought to consider seriously the need for scrapping the Board of Education.

A great deal of injustice is done to the teachers from Voluntary Agency schools who are compelled to retire. These teachers remain for over six months without getting anything connected with their gratuity and pension, yet they are compelled to retire when they are not yet ready to do so; for one reason or the other they are asked to retire. We forget that these

[MR UKAEGBU]

teachers are the people who actually brought up some of the Ministers, Legislators, doctors, etc., and yet when they are asked to retire no attempt or arrangement is made for the payment of their gratuities and other entitlement. I would ask the Minister to take care and see that before any teacher is asked to retire, particularly those from Voluntary Agency schools, every effort should be made to get intact his emoluments—gratuity and to secure him a job commensurate with his former status in the Mission. It is unfair to leave these unfortunate teachers without adequate security.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 433.—Ministry of Finance

£5,000 for Head 433—Ministry of Finance—agreed to.

Head 436.—Ministry of Health

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £9,780 for Head 436—Ministry of Health—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr E. A. Bassey (Izi North-west): The point I want to make on the Ministry of Health is about the administration. There is something definitely wrong with the administrative set-up in the Ministry of Health. Sometime ago in this very House, the administration of the Ministry of Health was criticised, particularly that doctors should not be put in administration in the Ministry. What is happening now in the Ministry has proved that right. For the past six months about three to four doctors have left the service of the Ministry of Health, Eastern Nigeria. Their main quarrel for leaving is not so much the salary, but that they are not quite satisfied with the administration. The ways matters are being handled are not quite pleasing to some of them, and that orders and circulars change hand quite irregularly. No definite instruction is always given on specific issues without some sort of alterations now and then. The Ministry of Health complains of lack of doctors, but there are many doctors who are

holding administrative posts in the Head Office of the Ministry. These doctors could still be asked to work in out-stations and be given the same salary that they are being given as Principal Medical Officers and Senior Hygienists and so many other officers like those in the Head Office. Administrators should be sent into the Ministry of Health to do the administration. Some of the Medical Officers who are acting as administrators are more interested in writing lengthy essays on matters of transfers of staffs rather than going out into the out-stations to see things for themselves in the various hospitals of the Region.

Our hospitals are in lack of enough doctors. The hospital in Abakaliki has only one doctor who attends to about four to five hundred patients daily. So I would suggest that wherever possible doctors who are in the Head Office should go out to the rural areas to work.

On the question of drugs, as a Pharmacist, I have had the opportunity of coming in contact with some of the drugs supplied by oversea firms to the Ministry of Health. Some of these drugs have been found by some Medical Officers in various stations not quite good in the biological contents. In future I suggest that when the Ministry is indenting for drugs from overseas, it should make sure that only drugs which are up-to-date in their biological contents or units are brought into the Ministry.

A lot of these drugs which were sent to some hospitals were found to be bad. The Medical Officers themselves refused to use them.

The Minister of Health: What was wrong with them?

Mr E. A. Bassey: The unit content of the drugs is low; it does not respond to what is called BP standard.

The Minister of Health: Without a laboratory test it is impossible to make that statement about the low quality of drugs.

Mr E. A. Bassey: I am not condemning wholesale the drugs brought in from other parts of the world but there are some drugs

which are not altogether good for use. I think that in future when we are making arrangements to buy our drugs from outside we should make sure that such drugs for the treatment of people are quite genuine and will be of good use to the people.

Mr C. U. O. O. Adi (Awka Central): Yesterday, when I made a suggestion about increasing the salaries of doctors I made that with all seriousness because we have heard a lot about the shortage of doctors, but I personally do not accept that plea because quite a number of doctors of Eastern origin are domiciled in the University College Hospital, Ibadan, and their main reasons for not coming over to the Eastern Nigeria Public Service are as follows: Firstly, the poor conditions of service, and secondly the inadequacy of initial salary scale. Their conditions of service should be reviewed; this is one point. The second point is the trouble between the Government and the Medical Officers over private practice. If we have a good number of Medical Officers in the Eastern Nigeria Public Service, it will reduce the chances of private practice, and then, there comes in the question of raising their initial salaries and improving their conditions of service.

Another point: At present, there are some agitations against the conduct of some Medical Officers. Some of these allegations are real and some of them unfounded. There are some cases which if taken to court, for example, allegations of abortion by some doctors, there may not be proof for conviction, but if the Government will be able to give some moral encouragement to organisations such as Medical Officers' Association, I think this body will have to apply their code of conduct where the court finds it impossible technically to take action.

There is one instance either in America or Canada, where a Medical Officer accepted in open court that he actually committed murder but that this was done on plea of mercy. The court actually found him not guilty because he acted on mercy principle, but the Medical Officers' Association of that country struck his name out of Medical Officers' List because his conduct was against the code of conduct of Medical Officers. This is where the Government should have to look into recognising or

trying to work hand in hand with Medical Officers. As a matter of fact, there is serious allegation against, though very few of, our doctors of certain malpractices. It is true that these allegations may be difficult to prove, but I think in some cases they are real. Where the Medical Officers' Association is given a little bit of moral support to go into these cases, they can help in eliminating most of the troubles we have in the Ministry of Health.

Somebody has just said something about the cause of discontent in the Ministry of Health. It is correct. Just last month a Medical Officer was about to go on leave. There was a send-off for him to leave the following day but on the send-off table a letter was given to him from Enugu that he should not go on leave. Why? Because somebody tipped to go and relieve him refused to take over. Why did he refuse and what action was taken against him?

There is another case where a Medical Officer has gone on relief duty for six times because some one else refused to go to a rural area. (*Interruptions*).

Mr P. A. Oji (Afikpo South-west): Point of Order, Standing Order 32 (5):

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

Mr Adi: These are some of the cases that cause discontent in the Ministry of Health and I would like the Minister, whom I know very well to be a serious young man, not to brook any nonsense, to go into these complaints and take proper action.

With all these points, I do not move.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 440.—Ministry of Local Government

£1,720 for Head 440—Ministry of Local Government—*agreed to.*

Head 443.—Ministry of Works

£4,000 for Head 443—Ministry of Works—*agreed to.*

£42,360 for First Schedule—*agreed to.*

SECOND SCHEDULE

Head 801.—Buildings

£1,400 for Head 801—Buildings—*agreed to.*

Head 805.—Development, General

Question proposed, That a sum not exceeding £531,710 for Head 805—Development, General—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr S. Ahamba (Mbaise South): The Ministry of Town Planning has developed the Independence Layout, Enugu, and many other Layouts in Enugu, Port Harcourt Trans-Amadi Layout, and so on. I do not know whether the Minister is hoping that another Ministry would be created for developing the countryside. I have been hearing of Town and Country Planning. What is the use developing Enugu every day. Most of us are not born in the townships; many of us come from the countryside and most of us have mighty bungalows in the country and no cars can reach these mighty bungalows. I am appealing to the Minister of Town Planning to extend his planning down to the Headquarters of every County Council, so that life may get into the country and not restrict it only to the townships. I do not move.

Mr E. J. Etim (Ikot Ekpene Central): I notice, as somebody said here before, that it is surprising that the former Calabar Province was left out of the Development Programme. It was mentioned here that many visitors coming to this country—whoever he is that draws up the itineraries for them—never includes Calabar Province. Possibly there is nothing to show, and that is why they do not have to go there. Here we have services for Ikom Layout, services for Degema Layout, services for Abakaliki Layout, and services for no place in Calabar Province. I am only trying to point out that it is high time we began to think in terms of the whole Region, so that every part of the country could get something to show. I am saying this very seriously, and I think the Minister in charge of this Devel-

opment Programme will think very seriously about what to do for old Calabar Province. We have been left out very often in the past and we do not want to be left out any more.

Question put and agreed to.

Head 807.—Development and Welfare Schemes, Residual Costs

£20,300 for Head 807—Development and Welfare Schemes, Residual Costs—*agreed to.*

£553,410 for Second Schedule—*agreed to.*

Postponed Clauses

Clauses 1-6 agreed to.

Question: That the Preamble be the Preamble to the Bill—put and agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without Amendment, and pursuant to Standing Order 77 (19)—Appropriation Bill—the Minister of Finance moved: That the Bill be now read the Third time and passed and Mr Speaker put the Question thereupon to the House without amendment or debate.

Question agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

Bill to be sent to the House of Chiefs with the appropriate Message.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn *sine die.* (The Minister of Education, Dr S. E. Imoke).

Adjourned, accordingly, at twenty-two minutes to twelve o'clock noon.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Wednesday, 11th July, 1962

Water Supply

190. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Works, what local council units in Southern Ngwa County Council area in Aba Division have been included as areas to be supplied with pipe-borne water during the 1962-68 Development Plan Period; when will all units of Southern Ngwa be considered as in Northern Ngwa.

The Minister of Works: In Southern Ngwa with a population of 68,000 provision has been made in the Development Plan for one water supply scheme covering Ugwunagbo as against two schemes in Northern Ngwa with a population of 116,000 covering the Nkwo Udara, Owerrinta Group and Ngwa Ukwu. It is therefore false to say that all the local council areas in Northern Ngwa have been provided with pipe-borne water supply.

It is Government's intention to provide the whole of Eastern Nigeria with good potable water and a Master Plan which will evaluate the problem and allow Government to seek International Finance in the course of preparation by Israeli Consultants.

In the meantime pumped and piped schemes are being carried out in many parts of the

Region and I offer no apologies for getting on with the Nkwo Udara-Owerrinta project in my constituency because in the last Development Plan, I was severely criticised and discredited by the hon. Member in this House and before my people at home for developing other parts of the Region except my own area. To quote the hon. Member's own words that I was "a Jesus who saved others and did not save himself".

Bridges

198. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Works, how soon will he give consideration to the construction of a permanent bridge (Umuara Bridge) over the Aba Stream at Umuara in Southern Ngwa area.

The Minister of Works: It would appear that the bridge to which the hon. Member is referring is on a County Council road and consequently it is the responsibility of the Council to improve it. The roads and bridges which the Ministry is improving in this Division are listed at pages 153 and 154 of the Estimates. Government help in a case of this nature has often been got through the Community effort of the people under the direction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

APPENDIX

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Answers received during Adjournments

(19th April to 10th July, 1962)

Siting of a Pottery Industry in Ezeagu

19. **Mr T. C. Ekwem** asked the Minister of Commerce, if he is aware that there is a rich deposit of clay in Ezeagu, Udi Division; if so, how soon will a pottery industry be sited there to utilise the clay.

The Minister of Commerce: I am aware. There are extensive clay deposits in Eastern Nigeria. Stretching from Uyo and Ikot Ekpene area to Okigwi and Umuahia area right up to Onitsha and indeed beyond, there are deposits of clays of various types. If the hon. Member has in mind the establishment of a rural local industry to exploit the clay deposit in the area he has indicated, the idea is a good one and any local industry started by the people of the area would receive every sympathy from my Ministry. The hon. Member will have learnt that a ceramics industry is being started in this Region on a commercial scale and a limited liability company to operate it is at the moment in formation. We have had the services of some German experts who, together with our own Pottery experts, have made an extensive tour of the Region in search of clay deposits and the best possible site for the ceramics factory. After an extensive search they decided upon a site at Umuahia-Ibeku. Accessibility, nearness to various means of transport, electricity supply and other economic factors were the points they took into consideration in arriving at a decision on the most suitable site. It is hoped that when the new ceramics factory is in operation it will mother all other small pottery industries in the Region.

Tarring of Roads

35. **Mr N. O. Onwudiwe** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware that the Umuduru-Umunze Ehime-Obollo-Ugiri-Orie Amaraka road links Owerri and Orlu with Mbano County Council and Okigwi, and in view of this how soon does Government intend to tar the road.

The Minister of Works: I am aware, but we are at present reconstructing and tarring the Orlu-Umuduru and Amigbo-Amaraka roads. These and the Owerri-Umunna road already completed provide an adequate Trunk

"B" network in the area and it is up to County Councils to improve the roads feeding into this system, until such time as the Government is in a position to consider more new roads which are not now shown in the estimates.

Government Loans

52. **Mr P. A. Oji** asked the Minister of Agriculture, how many people who own poultry farms, piggeries, have benefited from Government loans in Eastern Nigeria in view of the importance attached to protein in the daily diet of the people.

The Minister of Agriculture: The Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation has, so far, granted a total sum of £10,960 as loan to individual farmers for the establishment and maintenance of piggeries and poultry farms. This may be broken down as follows:

Poultry farming only: three loans amounting to	£ 3,300
Piggery only: six loans amounting to	2,700
Joint poultry and piggery, etc., six loans amounting to ...	4,960
Total	£ 10,960

Government Rest House in Agulu

53. **Mr C. U. O. O. Adi** asked the Minister of Agriculture, if he is aware that the Agulu Erosion Sites and the Agulu Lake attract a large number of African and European tourists and visitors; and, in view of this, when does he propose to convert the two existing Government Rest Houses in Agulu into modern Catering Rest Houses.

The Minister of Agriculture: I am aware that the Erosion Sites in Agulu have excited some amount of interest in recent times. It would, however, be unfair to the people of Agulu if the damage were allowed to continue purely for the purpose of supporting a Catering Rest House business.

The Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation has undertaken a Region-wide programme of investigation for suitable Catering Rest

House sites. The advantages of Agulu, including the Agulu lake, will be borne in mind during the course of the investigations.

Awka Government School

57. **Mr C. U. O. O. Adi** asked the Minister of Education, if he is aware that the Njikoka County Council in Awka Division is willing to manage and run the Awka Government School as a Secondary School; if so, will he consider assisting the Council to convert the primary school to a Secondary School in 1963.

The Minister of Education: I am aware of the desire of Njikoka County Council to

convert the Government School at Awka to a Secondary School. As the hon. Member knows the school does not belong to the County Council and therefore the question of converting it to a County Secondary School does not arise.

Industries

71. **Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Minister of Commerce, to enumerate industries established or about to be established in Eastern Nigeria, indicating on Provincial basis where these industries are sited or are going to be sited, and showing what shares the Eastern Nigeria Government has in each.

The Minister of Commerce: The following large industries are established in Eastern Nigeria:—

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Location and Province</i>	<i>Government Share per cent.</i>
Cement Manufacture	Nkalagu (Abakaliki Province)	47
Cement Manufacture	Port Harcourt	25
Palm Oil Processing (Pioneer Oil Mills)	Throughout the Region	about 95
PLANTATION INDUSTRIES		
Calaro Oil Palm Estate	(Calabar Province)	100
Kwa Falls Oil Palm Estate	(Calabar Province)	100
Oil Palm Plantation	Elele (Port Harcourt Province)	100
Oban Nigerian Rubber Estate Ltd. ...	(Calabar Province)	49
Rubber Plantation	Elele (Port Harcourt Province)	100
Rubber Plantation	Nekede (Owerri Province)	100
Cocoa Plantation	Ikom (Ogoja Province)	about 60
Coconut Plantation	Bonny (Rivers Province)	100
Cashew Plantation	Akama Oghe (Enugu Province)	100
Cashew Plantation	Mbala, Okigwi (Owerri Province)	100
Cattle Ranch	Obudu (Ogoja Province)	100
Aluminium Roofing Sheets	Port Harcourt	40
Steel Doors and Window Frames ...	Port Harcourt	25
Pepsi-Cola Plant	Onitsha	100

2. The following large industries are building:—

Motor Tyres and Tubes	Port Harcourt	20
Asbestos Cement Products	Emene (Enugu Province)	20
Glass Factory	Port Harcourt	100
Brewery Factory	Umuahia	100
Ceramics	Umuahia	100
Scrap Steel Smelter and Rolling Mill	Emene (Enugu Province)	49

3. Industries about to be established are:—

Fully integrated Cotton Textile Mill	Aba (Umuahia Province)	30
Fully integrated Cotton Textile Mill	Onitsha	10
Industrial Gases (Oxygen and Acetylene)	Emene (Enugu Province)	77
Oil Refinery	Eleme (Port Harcourt Province)	8
Stationery Manufacture	Port Harcourt	50
Chipboard	Calabar	30

4. In some cases such as the Textile Mills certain fiscal reliefs are being sought from the Federal Government before the industry can be established. Discussions are also taking place with private investors in respect of the establishment of other industries for the local manufacture of vitreous enamel ware, floor and wall tiles, paints, hurricane lamps, footwear, ladies' and men's garments and so on. The areas in which these industries will be sited must depend upon economic factors. There are of course other privately owned industries.

72. **Mr H. O. Eboh** asked the Minister of Commerce, what consideration has been given to siting of industries in Aguata County Council area in Awgu Division in the Five-Year Development Plan of the Government.

The Minister of Commerce: The possibility of establishing industries in Aguata County Council area or indeed in any other area will be given consideration as occasion to site industries arises, but the hon. Member will, I am sure, readily appreciate that economic considerations determine the siting of all industries.

73. **Chief D. O. Awassam** asked the Minister of Commerce, if he is aware of the lead-zinc and coal deposits in great quantities in Obubra Division; if so, what steps will Government take to exploit them for commercial purposes.

The Minister of Commerce: I understand further investigation will be necessary before it is known whether lead-zinc is available in commercial quantities in the Obubra Division. Unfortunately, the present depressed world price of lead and zinc does not make it easy to attract investment at the present time, but I can assure the hon. Member that Government is exploring all measures to exploit known deposits.

I am not aware of coal deposits being available in great quantities in the Obubra Division as the hon. Member claims, but in any event, the exploitation of coal would be a matter for the Nigerian Coal Corporation. The hon. Member may wish to let my Ministry have a sample of the coal to which he refers so as to pass it on to the Coal Corporation.

75. **Mr C. U. O. O. Adi** asked the Minister of Commerce, if he is aware that there exist at the Agulu-Nanka erosion sites large quantities

of white and yellow clays; if so, will he consider establishing a light industry for the manufacture of white chalk, whitewash and other colour paints.

The Minister of Commerce: I am aware that quantities of clays exist at different parts of the Region. The hon. Member is referred to my answer to Question 19.

Roads

83. **Mr R. A. Iwe** asked the Minister of Works, when will the tarring of the following roads start, Inyi-Achi-Mbala-Amuda-Ngodo-Ihube road and Umunze-Isuochi road.

The Minister of Works: I am in sympathy with the hon. Member as these roads have appeared for a long time in the Road Estimates. They are high up in my priority list for the preparation of contract documents.

85. **Mr P. Ndigwe** asked the Minister of Works, whether he will consider converting Anam-Nzam road to Trunk Road B in view of the fact that Anam and Nzam are the chief producers of yams, rice, fish, groundnuts, and other Agricultural products in Onitsha Province.

The Minister of Works: I refer the hon. Member to Head 802 Sub-head 62 of the Draft Estimates where there is token provision for the reconstruction of the Anam-Nzam road during the coming development plan. It may be that when my engineers survey this area they will recommend the installation of a ferry service between Anam and Aguleri prior to the reconstruction of the road.

86. **Mr P. Ndigwe** asked the Minister of Works, when will the Trunk B road from Awka-Achalla to the Igbariam Farm Settlement and to Aguleri be tarred to make it possible and convenient for the transportation of materials to the Farm Settlement, remembering that this road is seasonal and exposed to erosion.

The Minister of Works: This road is not at present a Trunk "B" road. It will become so when reconstructed, and it has been included in the Development Plan. I refer the hon. Member to page 154 of the Estimates, Sub-head 71. Presently, the road is being resurfaced and improved by the Provincial Engineer,

Onitsha, so that there will be an all weather access to the Farm Settlement.

87. **Mr G. E. N. Onyekwuluje** asked the Minister of Works, how soon will the Ogidi-Ogbunike-Umunya-Nteje road be taken over and tarred and also the branch of this road running to the Agricultural Demonstration Farm at Nkwelle-Ezunaka in order to link the former with the Oyeagu-Otuocha road.

The Minister of Works: I regret to inform the hon. Member that this road is not included in the Development Programme but the branch road to Nkwelle may be improved from the allocation for plantation roads.

88. **Mr G. E. N. Onyekwuluje** asked the Minister of Works, when the tarring of the Aguleri-Achalla-Awka road will begin.

The Minister of Works: I refer the hon. Member to page 154 Sub-head 71 of the Estimates. This road is in the Development Plan and will be reconstructed when availability of funds and staff permit.

Water Supply

89. **Mr A. B. Nwele** asked the Minister of Works, when he will visit Abakaliki rural areas with a view to seeing for himself the problem of water supply and the kind of water people drink in the rural areas; how soon will the water supply in the rural areas be improved.

The Minister of Works: I propose to visit Abakaliki as soon as possible after the present Budget Session. However, the area is not at present being neglected. A pilot dam at Abina is being built and a supply for Effium town is to be provided during the Development Plan period. At present a United Nations Hydrogeologist is investigating the problem of potable water supply in the Cross River Plain area with particular reference to Abakaliki Division. It is hoped that his report will assist us to provide improved water supplies for the people of the Division.

Bridge Construction

95. **Mr J. N. Nwankwo** asked the Minister of Works, whether he will not consider giving assistance to the construction of Oferekepe Iziogo Bridge in Izi County Council area.

The Minister of Works: I am afraid that all available funds are committed to projects listed in the Estimates. The Abakaliki Ring road, Effium-Iboko-Onuabonye, is in the Development Plan. I am informed that the bridge mentioned is on a Community Development road and I suggest an approach to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for assistance.

Trained and Untrained Teachers in Primary Schools

96. **Mr R. A. Iwe** asked the Minister of Education, what is the proportion of trained to untrained teachers in the Primary Schools in this Region.

The Minister of Education: The proportion of Trained to Untrained teachers in Primary Schools in 1960 for which up-to-date returns have been received is 1:1.9. The proportion in 1962 is estimated at 1:1, that means that about half of our 45,000 teachers are trained.

Secondary Schools

97. **Mr R. A. Iwe** asked the Minister of Education, what is the number of Secondary Schools in the Region and what is their total enrolment.

The Minister of Education: The number of Secondary Schools of all type in the Region at the end of 1961 was 137. The enrolment figures are as follows:

119 Secondary Grammar and Technical—
Enrolment 21,415 (boys—18,392 and Girls—3,023).

Eighteen Secondary Commercial—Enrolment 3,724 (Boys—3,395 and Girls—329).

In 1962, fifty-nine new Secondary Schools, including two Technical and one Commercial, have been permitted to open. The enrolment figures are not yet available.

Scholarships

100. **Mr E. E. Ukaegbu** asked the Minister of Education, how many scholarships have been awarded to Eastern Nigeria by Russia.

The Minister of Education: I know of no scholarship awarded by Russia to Eastern Nigeria.

Houses. It is intended to put up the matter to the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation Board for consideration during the present financial year.

Agricultural Development

168. **Mr E. S. Umoh** asked the Minister of Agriculture, in view of the fact that in Enyong Division the people of Biase in particular have offered several pieces of land to the Government for agricultural development, how soon does the Minister intend to utilise these lands and what is the nature of agricultural development envisaged.

The Minister of Agriculture: Government welcomes offers of land for agricultural development and I am glad to know that the people of Biase wish to make land available. If they have good land, with suitable soil, which is not in dispute, Government will certainly consider it. I must warn the hon. Member, however, that the only land offered by the Biase people of which I am aware is the subject of a violent dispute with the people of Asaga in Bende Division. Government does not wish to enter into land disputes and I suggest that the hon. Member should take steps to make sure that there is clear title before renewing any formal offer.

Forest Reserves

169. **Mr E. S. Umoh** asked the Minister of Agriculture, if he is aware that the products of forest reserves in Enyong extending from Eki to Umon and Aupet in Biase are being harvested; if so, does the Government pay anything in the form of royalties to the owners of these forests; if so, how much.

The Minister of Agriculture: In 1960-61 royalties totalling £118 14s were paid to Local Councils in Enyong Division for distribution to owners. This was made up as follows:

Uwet Odot Forest Reserve £109 19s 0d
Lower Enyong Forest Reserve £8 15s 0d
There were no sales from Umon Ndialichi Forest Reserve.

It is anticipated that similar sums will be available for 1961-62.

170. **Mr E. S. Umoh** asked the Minister of Agriculture, whether he is aware that some money is collected from natives whose forests have been reserved before they are allowed to fish in the streams within the forest reserves or allowed to go into these forests to collect palm fruits and wild mango fruits; if so, why.

The Minister of Agriculture: I am not aware that any sums of money were collected from the persons mentioned by the hon. Member. During the year, 1961-62, the following permits were issued at the rates stated

- 10 permits to collect palm produce, at 10s per permit;
- 36 permits to fish, at 10s per permit;
- 5 permits to reside, at £1 0s 0d per permit;
- 1 permit to reside, free.

The hon. Member may be pleased to know that all the permittees were strangers and that the rights were granted upon the consent of the owners who themselves received the payments direct.

Government Loans

173. **Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo** asked the Minister of Agriculture, what are the names of the indigenous farmers of Ogoni Division who have received Government loans for agricultural enterprises from the inception of such loans to the present; and how much did each receive; if none, what are the names of the applicants and why were their applications refused.

The Minister of Agriculture: The following loans for projects of agricultural development within Ogoni Division have been approved and fully paid or partially paid (as the case may be) by the Corporation to the following farmers:—

Name of Farmer	Amount approved	Amount paid	Project
G. A. Olujie	£ 3,000	£ 3,000	Coconut Plantation at Obunku-Ndoki (Umuosi).
Chief W. O. Chithey (Deceased).	450	300	Cocoa Plantation at Eteo Village.
Kemte Giadom... ..	1,050	350	Cocoa Plantation at Bodo.
G. U. Udensi	1,300	1,300	Cocoa Plantation at Ebubu.

Records do not indicate that the recipients of the loans are all natives of Ogoni Division. According to the policy of the Corporation, the question of development of the area concerned and viability of the project takes precedence before any other consideration. Another important question is the nationality rather than the clan or tribe of prospective recipients.

Health Centre

177. **Mr E. S. Umoh** asked the Minister of Health, whether he is aware that Ini County Council is over twenty miles from the nearest hospital at Ikot Ekpene, if so, will he consider converting Odoro Ikpe Dispensary into a Health Centre to serve the medical needs of the people of the area.

The Minister of Health: As far as I am aware there is no move by the Council to convert Odoro Dispensary into a Health Centre. Funds are at present limited. It will not be possible to consider the above Council for a 50 per cent. Capital Grant this financial year.

Removal of Ikot Ekpene X-ray Apparatus

178. **Mr E. A. U. Ntekpere** asked the Minister of Health, whether he is aware that the X-ray apparatus intended for Ikot Ekpene Hospital had been removed to Aba Hospital; if so, why; and when will it be brought back and used in Ikot Ekpene Hospital.

The Minister of Health: Owing to the very serious shortage of X-ray Technicians, it was necessary to close down the X-ray Department at some hospitals Ikot Ekpene included.

As soon as a full trained X-ray Technician is available for posting to Ikot Ekpene then the X-ray Department can be re-opened. There are at the moment twenty X-ray Technicians being trained, eight in their final stages.

Water Supply

194. **Mr G. O. G. Ume-Ezeoke** asked the Minister of Works, when work will start on the Amichi-Azigbo water scheme, bearing in mind the length of time since the application was made and the required deposit paid.

The Minister of Works: These towns will be incorporated in the Nnewi scheme which will come into operation this year.

Aba Urban County Council

206. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Local Government, how many categories of Nwadias are injected into the Aba Urban County Council; what are the criteria for declaring a category of Nwadias rotatory in the Aba Urban Council.

The Minister of Local Government: I do not know what is meant by "categories of Nwadias". So far as I am aware a Nwadiala is a Nwadiala and there is no further classification of the title. There are eight Nwadias sitting at any one time on the Aba Urban County Council and they represent the land-owning interest.

The distribution of appointments is as follows:—

Village	Seats
Eziukwu	2
Aba Ukwu	1
Obuda	1
Ogbor	1
Ndiegoro and Eziama	1
Akoli and Umuokpoji	1
Asa Okpuaja, Osusu and Umu-ngasi	1
Total	8

For those groups of villages which have to share one seat between them selection is in rotation in the order in which the village names appear above, and the Nwadiala selected for a village sits on the Council for one year only and then gives up his seat to the Nwadiala of the next village, and so on.

207. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Local Government, what areas other than the Crown land constitute the area of authority of Aba Urban County Council and by what instrument did they so become and when.

The Minister of Local Government: The areas outside Crown land which fall within the jurisdiction of the Aba Urban County Council are as follows:—

- (1) The Ogbor Urban area, on the Eastern side of Aba.

- (2) The Eziukwu Urban area, on the Western side of Aba.
- (3) The Ndiegoro Urban area, on the Southern side of Aba.
- (4) The Eziama Urban area, on the Northern side of Aba.

These Urban areas were constituted by Orders signed by the Governor as follows:—

Urban Area	Order No.
Ogbor	51 of 1933
Eziukwu	17 of 1944
Eziama	7 of 1950
Ndiegoro	12 of 1951

Local Government Staff participating in Politics

209. **Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Minister of Local Government, how many Local Government staff were found guilty of taking active part in politics in the Region during the last General Elections; what are their names and where do they come from; and what disciplinary action was taken against each of them.

The Minister of Local Government: During the last General Elections two Local Government staff were reported to have taken active part in politics. Their cases were examined by the Local Government Service Board who recommended that they should not be retained in the service.

The first was Mr A. O. Ngei the former Secretary of Northern Annang County Council who stood for nomination in the Eleme-Tai Constituency in Ogoni Division. His appointment was terminated.

The second was Mr M. I. Borogha, an unlicensed Surveyor from the Southern Ijaw County Council who, among other things, was accused of using the Council's dinghy for political campaigns. He was dismissed from the service.

Senior Local Government Course

210. **Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Minister of Local Government, whether he is aware that none of the Local Government staff who recently attended the Senior Local Government Course in the Region has been promoted to higher posts since the completion of the course; what steps is he taking to promote those who have successfully completed the course.

The Minister of Local Government: Eighty-six members of staff have attended the four Senior Local Government Officers Courses which have so far been held. Six of these officers have since been promoted to higher posts.

The course does not carry with it automatic promotion. It is a training course aimed at increasing officers' knowledge and application of Local Government work and at fitting them for promotion. Those who successfully complete the course become eligible for promotion when they have also satisfied the other requirements of staff regulations and when a vacancy exists.

Local Government Elections

211. **Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Minister of Local Government, whether, in view of the fact that at present Local Government elections no longer take place in March or thereabout to enable Councils to hold inaugural meetings in April as was the case at the inception of Local Government in the Region, he will give directives to all Local Government Councils to the effect that it is no longer obligatory to hold annual meetings in April.

The Minister of Local Government: No, Sir. It is correct that a large number of Local Government elections take place in the August-September period and the newly elected Councils thereafter elect their Chairmen. In the following April the annual meetings of the Councils take place and the first business is the election of Chairmen. The Local Government Association raised this point and objected to the double election of Chairmen in the Councils affected in the space of twelve months.

I am not prepared to alter the date of the annual meeting which is held by all Councils in April in accordance with the provisions of the Law. What the Government is prepared to do is to extend the term of office of all those Councils whose next election falls in August-September, 1964 until March, 1965. This would rationalise election dates and put them all in the February-March period throughout the Region. The complaint raised by the hon. Member and the Local Government Association would not then arise and the annual meeting of the Council would always be the first meeting of the Council after an election.

Hospital for Ikeduru

221. **Mr G. U. M. Nwagbara** asked the Minister of Health, whether he is aware that Ikeduru needs a good hospital; if so, what arrangements is he making to provide the area with one.

The Minister of Health: Proposals for a hospital at Ogwa in Mbaitoli County area have been approved. When that has been built, there will be four hospitals—Owerri Government Hospital, Mbaise Joint Hospital, R.C.M. Hospital, Emekuku and the Ogwa Hospital—within easy reach of Ikeduru.

Amichi Health Centre

222. **Mr G. O. G. Ume-Ezeoke** asked the Minister of Health, what is delaying the building of the second phase of Amichi Health Centre.

The Minister of Health: The Onitsha Southern County Council and the people of Amichi are delaying the building of the second phase of Amichi Health Centre. My Ministry has already given the Council a grant of £2,500 towards the project. They definitely do not expect any further assistance from the Ministry.

Rice and Maize Cultivation

225. **Mr G. U. M. Nwagbara** asked the Minister of Agriculture, whether he will not consider conducting a survey of the swamps of the River Uramurukwa in Ugiri, Okwu, Amakohia and Avuvu towns in Ikeduru County in Owerri Division with a view to deciding their suitability for rice and maize cultivation as part of the Agricultural scheme of the 1962-68 Development Plan.

The Minister of Agriculture: I would state that the 1962-68 Development Plan has already been made and that adequate provisions, within the financial and other limitations of the plan, have been made for rice and maize cultivation. Rice cultivation is to feature in three specific projects as follows:

- (a) rice will be the main crop in one of the Farm Settlements;
- (b) rice will probably be predominant in the Cross River Scheme;
- (c) also, in the Niger Delta Scheme, emphasis will be placed on rice.

It is important to note that each of these schemes and projects has been suggested by the known physical features of our Region and that the place and mode of execution of each scheme have been and will continue to be determined after very careful study of all available resources everywhere in the whole Region. I have no doubt that in the course of over-all Regional investigations, due notice was taken of the swamps of River Uramurukwa in Ugiri and the towns of Okwu, Amakohia and Avuvu. I trust that any relevant potentialities which may exist in these places can, in any case, be fully realised under our more general extension schemes whereby professional advice will be made available to all enterprising farmers, whether they cultivate rice or maize or other useful crops.

Ekoli Band of Hope Union

226. **Mr P. A. Oji** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice whether he is aware that Mr Egwu Emegha and two others charged for stealing money belonging to Ekoli Band of Hope Union in Edda, Afikpo, about five years ago have since not been tried in Court; if so, what is holding up their trial and how soon will they be tried.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: The Police received a complaint from Prince Aneya Orji. They investigated the complaint and sought the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions. On the advice received they prosecuted one Eme Udu Oji in the Magistrate Court, Abakaliki on a charge of stealing property belonging to the Ekoli Band of Hope Union. The accused was acquitted and discharged on the 30th day of June, 1956. It is therefore not correct that there has been no trial.

Abakaliki Catering Rest House

231. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Agriculture, how soon will the Catering Rest House at Abakaliki be modernised and enlarged to accommodate more visitors.

The Minister of Agriculture: The estimates of cost for the modernisation of the Abakaliki Catering Rest House, including provision for two additional air-conditioned chalets, have been submitted to Government. Construction work will commence as soon as necessary funds are provided.

Loans to Farmers

232. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Agriculture, what arrangements he is making to give loans to poultry, rice and yam farmers in Abakaliki to encourage the individual farmers there to increase their production.

The Minister of Agriculture: The question of supervised credits for farmers is being discussed in my Ministry. If feasible, it should provide some solution to the credit problems of Abakaliki farmers whether their interests lie in rice or yam or poultry.

Water Supply

235. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Works, what steps he is taking to provide Abakaliki rural areas with water bore-holes to rescue the people from the attack of guinea-worm from which over seventy-five per cent. of Abakaliki people are suffering.

The Minister of Works: I can assure the hon. Member that I am very much aware of the water supply problem in Abakaliki Division. At the moment a United Nations Hydrogeologist is examining the Cross River Plain with a view to recommending a solution to the problem of potable water supply. Some test bore-holes are shortly to be put down, initially for investigational purposes, in various parts of Abakaliki Division. In addition the Israeli consultants carrying out the Master Plan investigations have given particular attention to the problems of the Cross River Plain.

Magistrate's Court Building

237. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice how soon will a Magistrate's Court be built at Abakaliki as at present the Magistrate sits under shades of trees to hear cases.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: There is a Magistrate Court Building at Abakaliki and the Magistrate sits there regularly. Whenever there is a High Court Session at Abakaliki, the Magistrate leaves the Court for the Judge and sits either in the Urban District Council Hall or the Hozana Hall which is temporarily hired for the duration of the High Court Session.

It is not correct, therefore, that the Magistrate sits under shades of trees to hear cases.

Medical Facilities

238. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Health, whether he will not consider an arrangement whereby doctors could visit Local Government Council dispensaries weekly or fortnightly to attend and administer injections to patients, in view of the fact that some villages are as far as forty to fifty miles from the nearest General Hospital.

The Minister of Health: Owing to the present acute shortage of staff it is not possible for doctors to visit Local Government dispensaries weekly or fortnightly. Discussions are, however, going on with a view to enlisting the co-operation of private medical practitioners and mission doctors, so that they may take over and supervise Local Government dispensaries and maternity homes in the neighbourhood of their place of residence. Every kind of treatment, including injections, will be administered by the doctor at the dispensaries.

239. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that everyone who goes to the General Hospitals is seen by a Medical Officer and attended to the same day.

The Minister of Health: The Ministry is recruiting more Medical Officers and other staff and expanding the out-patient departments of our hospitals, and also proposes to build polyclinics in some of the larger towns to attempt to relieve the congestion in hospitals. At present the demands made upon our hospitals are greater than our ability to meet them fully, and it is regretted that this unfortunate situation will continue until our means enable us to rectify it.

240. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Health, what aid he can give to Ezzikwo County Council to provide drugs and necessary materials for their ill-equipped dispensaries.

The Minister of Health: None. It will, however, interest the hon. Member to learn that the Ministry of Local Government in 1961-62 approved the sum of £1,900 for Ezzikwo County Council for the purchase of drugs and equipment. That amount if properly used should have been sufficient for the running of the only health centre and the three dispensaries maintained by the Council.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Tuesday, 13th November, 1962

Water Supply

93. **Chief A. E. Ukachuku** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware that Eleh, a village in Oru clan, Orlu Division, contributed money for a water supply scheme; if so, what has been done for the village so far.

The Minister of Works: It should be possible to link Eleh to the proposed district scheme incorporating Orlu, Nempi and Amiri. The total cost of the extension will of course have to be met by the community.

Local Government Staff

392. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Local Government, whether he is aware that letters transferring a Council Secretary or a junior staff who has remained with a Council for over two or three years are generally cancelled if the staff concerned is unwilling to go on transfer to another Council; if so, will he take action to ensure that any Local Government staff who has remained with one Council for more than two years is transferred to another Council.

The Minister of Local Government: The power to transfer Local Government staff is exercised by me under section 95 (3) of the Local Government Law, and it does not permit of any alteration by a Council or a member of

the staff when I have so directed. I am therefore not aware that my transfer orders are generally cancelled if the employee concerned is unwilling to go on transfer to another Council. There have been a few cases where after ordering transfers I have for very good reasons suspended them.

2. It is my policy to transfer members of Local Government staff who have stayed too long with one Council.

393. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Local Government, whether he is aware that councillors and Chiefs who come to Enugu on delegations to him to plead the cause of Secretaries for one thing or the other do so under undue influence; if so, will he take action to discourage such delegations.

The Minister of Local Government: I do not know what the hon. Member has in mind by the expression "undue influence". I am aware that councillors, Legislators, Chiefs and other members of the public come to Enugu to see me and the senior members of the staff of my Ministry on matters connected with Local Government Councils, and I do not see anything wrong in this. I shall be glad to be informed of specific cases where members of a delegation have been unduly influenced by a Secretary in order to plead his cause.

APPENDIX

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Answers received during Adjournment (12th July to 12th November, 1962)

Water Supply

26. **Mr M. A. Obodoh** asked the Minister of Works, what arrangements are being made to supply pipe-borne water to the people of Obudi Agwa and Ara Umunwoha Court areas whose inhabitants drink bad pond water.

The Minister of Works: Provision has been made in the Estimates for supplies to Ekwereazu, Mbieri and Obizi in Owerri Division but at present no supply is earmarked for villages in the Court areas in question. However, funds are available for piped supplies to any boarding institutions situated in these Court areas and for simple water points. When the master plan for water supplies in Eastern Nigeria is completed towards the end of this year, I will have a better idea of priorities as between different parts of the Region.

28. **Chief B. E. Obi** asked the Minister of Works, how many villages and towns in Orlu Division are included in the present water scheme; what are the names of these towns and villages.

The Minister of Works: In the present scheme, Nempi, Ibi, and Aji have been provided and an extension to Eke is planned. Amiri also has a supply and bore-holes have recently been completed there. A scheme covering Amaifoke, Ihioma, Okporo Umunna, Umawa and Orlu itself will soon be commissioned and extensions of this project to Ogbe Lulu and Eziachi are planned. Nkwerre is also listed for a supply in the 1962-68 Programme. The Bishop Shanahan school and the Urualla hospital are two institutions presently to benefit from pumped supplies and I hope all other boarding institutions will be covered in the 1962-68 Development Plan. There is also money available for water points (wells) to supplement the forty already provided in Orlu Division.

Tarring of Roads

29. **Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Minister of Works, when he will consider taking over and

tarring Ikwek-Utu Etim Ekpo-Azumini road and Utu Etim Ekpo-Aba-Opobo road in view of the importance of these roads to the economic life of the people of the area as measured by the volume of traffic passing through them.

The Minister of Works: The Aba-Utu Etim Ekpo-Ikwek road is one of those projects listed in the 1962-68 Development Plan. It will be appreciated that I presently have more than thirty road and bridge projects on hand including the Abak-Uyo road and until some of these are completed I have not got any engineers available to carry out surveys of new projects. It will be understood that the road projects listed are to be carried out during the next six years and many will not be carried out until nearer the end of the Programme.

Water Supply

36. **Mr N. O. Onwudiwe** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware that the water scheme at Nsu which is now in operation, cannot supply water to all the villages that contributed towards the project; if so, when will the supply be increased so as to cater for these villages.

The Minister of Works: I am aware of the fact. It is intended to provide another bore-hole at Nsu at Government's expense and then as many additional villages as possible will be brought into the scheme. It is well to note that the people will be required to contribute towards the cost of any further extensions since the original contribution was enough only for the work already done.

37. **Mr N. O. Onwudiwe** asked the Minister of Works, if he is aware that the bore-hole at Umuopara-Umuezeala in Ehime clan has a large quantity of water in it and that the people of the area are desirous to contribute towards having a pumping machine in order to facilitate the drawing of water from it, if so, how soon will the machine be installed.

The Minister of Works: I am not aware of a bore-hole at Umuopara. Perhaps it is one

drilled by Shell-BP. Could the hon. Member please send specific details of the location to my Ministry.

38. **Mr B. A. Okolie** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware that Ebenator and Awo Idemili in Orsu clan, Orlu Division are draught areas of the clan; if so, how soon will the present Orlu Water Scheme be extended to these areas or when will a separate water scheme be launched for them.

The Minister of Works: I am aware that the latter community only recently deposited £500 in the Council Treasury but until the Master Plan presently being carried out by Israeli consultants is received towards the end of this year I am not in a position to assign priorities as between different areas of the Region.

Tarring of Roads

40. **Mr C. U. O. O. Adi** asked the Minister of Works, when the tarring of Awka-Achalla-Aguleri road which was included in the last Five-Year Road Development Programme will start.

The Minister of Works: It will be appreciated that I have on hand at the moment over thirty road and bridge projects the construction of which is engaging the attention of all my available engineers. When some of these projects are finished and engineers are released it will then be possible to start on further new projects such as Awka-Achalla-Aguleri.

Water Supply

41. **Mr C. U. O. O. Adi** asked the Minister of Works, how soon pipe-borne water will be supplied to the following towns in Awka Division:—Agulu, Agulu-Uzoigbo, Neni, Akwaeze, Adazienu, Adaziani, Adazinukwu, Ichida, Obeledu; and whether he will consider the extension of the St. Joseph's Hospital Water Scheme to these towns as the people are willing to contribute financially.

The Minister of Works: My engineers are already surveying the area to ascertain the feasible limits of a pumped supply based on bore-holes in the St. Joseph's Hospital Scheme. As soon as a scheme has been designed it will be necessary to see what funds can be made available and how much the communities will have to collect.

42. **Mr C. U. O. O. Adi** asked the Minister of Works, if he will consider extending the Awka-Amawbia Rural Water Scheme which has reached Nibo town in Awka Division to Mbaukwu, Umuawulu and Isiaagu towns which are just two miles away from Nibo since the people of these towns are willing to contribute financially.

The Minister of Works: Investigations regarding the maximum possible extension within the scope of the scheme are presently being carried out.

Tarring of Roads

43. **Mr C. U. O. O. Adi** asked the Minister of Works, when the tarring of Ogidi-Abatete-Oraukwu, Neni-Adazi-Agulu road which had been approved since last year will start.

The Minister of Works: We may not be using the same nomenclature. But the Ogidi-Abatete-Adazi-Igboukwu road is down in the Estimates with token provision. It is not possible at this juncture to say when reconstruction will be undertaken until survey and realistic estimate are made.

76. **Mr H. O. Eboh** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what social amenities have been extended to Aguata County since the inception of the Eastern Regional House of Assembly in 1952 up to date.

The Minister of Internal Affairs: Since the inception of the Eastern Nigeria House of Assembly in 1952, the Community Development Division of my Ministry has assisted with grants in the provision of the following social amenities in Aguata County Council area:—

- (a) Aguata Post Office ... 1959-60
- (b) Ezinifite Water Tank 1959-60
- (c) Achina Spring Improvement and Tank.

2. In 1952 the Divisional Officer in charge of the area provided corrugated iron sheets and cement from funds made available by the Community Development Division of my Ministry, for the building of Ekwulobia, Igbouku, and Awgbu local markets, all of which are within Aguata County Council area of jurisdiction.

3. These do not include other social amenities that might have been provided to Aguata County Council area of authority by other Ministries.

Roads

84. **Mr R. A. Iwe** asked the Minister of Works, when will the survey and construction for tarring start on Owerri-Nneato-Aku Ihube road.

The Minister of Works: This road is not in the Development Programme, which was framed on the general and not detailed needs of all the Divisions because of limited funds. I regret that until these general needs as listed on pages 153-154 of the estimate are considerably reduced there is little point in adding more roads.

Water Supply

90. **Mr R. A. Iwe** asked the Minister of Works, when will the extension of pipe-borne water from market places to various villages start in Isuochi.

The Minister of Works: The Mballa (Isuochi) pumped and piped scheme presently covers the villages of Mballa, Amuda, Umuaku and Ngodo. Extensions from the standposts at Ngodo can be made to Obinulo, Umudim and Uhuda provided that the community is prepared to pay the full cost estimated at £3,300, and the community has been so informed. Similar extensions can be made from Umuaku to Umuawuru, Umudi, Ameke, Umudike, Obogu and Obulozo, if the community is willing to meet the cost. In that case, the community should contact the Divisional Officer, Okigwi who will outline the procedure to be followed, as set out in my Ministry's Circular No. AD. 4 of 1962.

91. **Mr E. E. Ukaegbu** asked the Minister of Works, how many clans of Bende North have applied for pipe-borne water supply and how many of them have been supplied.

The Minister of Works: So far as I am aware, there has been a request only from Igbere Local Council. Uzuakoli in Bende North is to be supplied during the present Development Plan. Presently, a Master Plan for providing water for the whole of Eastern

Nigeria is under preparation by a firm of Israeli consultants. I will have a better idea of priorities when this is received.

92. **Mr L. E. Egu** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware that there is not a single water bore-hole in Owerri South-east Constituency and that the people in some towns in this constituency trek eight to ten miles to the nearest stream; if so, how soon will water bore-holes be provided in the area.

The Minister of Works: Ekwereazu, Mbieri and Obizi in Owerri Division have been included in the 1962-68 Programme for pumped and piped supplies. As will be noted from a study of the 1962-63 Estimates, there is a considerable sum unallocated and it may be possible to include a pumped and piped scheme in this area. In this connection, it is noted that the Owerri Provincial Assembly recommends that Onyeaghala-Nwanneya Local Council area be the first place in Ngor-Okpala County for a pumped and piped supply.

94. **Chief A. E. Ukachuku** asked the Minister of Works, whether Omuma and Akatta villages in Oru clan, Orlu Division, are among the villages to be benefited in the present Orlu Water Scheme.

The Minister of Works: There is a proposal to provide a district scheme incorporating the Orlu, Amiri and Nempi schemes. When this is done Omuma and Akatta can be supplied. But it should be noted that the total cost of these extensions must be borne by the communities concerned.

Secondary Schools

98. **Mr P. Ndigwe** asked the Minister of Education, whether he has received any application seeking approval of Father Joseph Memorial Grammar School at Aguleri being the only Secondary School in Anambra County area; if so, what consideration is he giving to the application.

The Minister of Education: Approval was given for the opening of the Father Joseph Memorial Grammar School and it was opened in 1960.

Yahe-Oturkpo Road

128. **Chief T. O. Odey** asked the Minister of Works, how soon will the Yahe Trunk "B"

road be linked with the Oturkpo road so as to encourage trade relations between the Idoma people of Northern Nigeria and the people of Ogoja in this Region.

The Minister of Works: My Ministry has been in correspondence with the Northern Nigeria Ministry of Works for sometime regarding the construction of a bridge across the Okolo River and the construction of about fourteen miles of road from there to the Ibila-Oju-Oturkpo road. Unfortunately, Northern Nigeria have not included this project in their 1962-68 Development Plan and until they are prepared to make their road, there is little point in constructing a bridge. Perhaps, the hon. Member will contact his opposite number in Idoma Division as it is the Northern Nigeria Ministry and not mine which is delaying the completion of this link with the North.

Bridging of Okolo River

130. **Chief T. O. Odey** asked the Minister of Works, what step he is taking to build a bridge across Okolo River in Ukelle, Ogoja Division.

The Minister of Works: There is little use building a bridge unless there is a road on the other side. My Ministry has been pressing the Northern Nigeria Ministry of Works to include this road project in their Development Plan. This they have not done and it is suggested you might pursue the matter further with the Local Government Council concerned in Idoma Division.

Roads

144. **Mr E. S. Umoh** asked the Minister of Works, when will the construction of the Nto Ndag-Arochuku road which was included in the last Five-Year Road Development Programme be completed.

The Minister of Works: The present contract is for 12.2 miles of earth road, culverting and embankment to the Nkana Bridge. I understand it is at last completed. I am now making arrangements to take over the road from the contractors and will continue to improve the surface which is especially bad on those sections which have not been provided with a laterite basecourse. I hope that later on in the Development Plan period

it will be possible to seal this road as much heavy traffic going to Calabar now uses the road and some sections are in very poor shape.

151. **Mr P. U. Onyeishi** asked the Minister of Works, how soon will the Nsukka-Ogrugru road which was put down for tarring in last year's Development Programme, be tarred.

The Minister of Works: Many roads listed in the last Development Programme were not started due to lack of funds. In order to make a start on this project I have instructed my engineers to prepare contract documents for replacing the Iyikoro and Eshi bridges with concrete structures.

Bridges

156. **Mr E. A. U. Ntekpere** asked the Minister of Works, what help will he give to Otoro County Council in Ikot Ekpene Division to enable the Council construct the Usaka and Alacha bridges.

The Minister of Works: I shall detail one engineer to examine these sites with a view to ascertaining whether indeed the County Council cannot undertake the work from its own resources. It may be that a bailey bridge will meet requirements and in that case I shall recommend obtaining assistance from the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the form of a grant. If on the other hand, the bridges fall within the category undertaken by my Ministry, favourable consideration will be given, subject to the availability of funds.

Oil Mills

172. **Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo** asked the Minister of Agriculture, whether he is aware that oil palm fruits abound in Babbe, Baen and Tanbangh areas in Ogoni Division and that the people have made requests to Government many times to establish Oil Mills at these centres; if so, how soon will an Oil Mill be sited at each of these three centres.

The Minister of Agriculture: The Minister of Agriculture is not unaware of the abundance of oil palm fruits in Babbe, Baen and Tanbangh areas in Ogoni Division and Government is not lethargic about establishing Oil Mills for these areas. Action to establish an Oil Mill at Taabaa is already in progress.

So far several investigations had been conducted by the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation and in consequence the Corporation has entered into temporary agreement with landowners and elders of this area. It is hoped therefore that in the very near future an Oil Mill will be established at Taabaa in Ogoni Division.

Trade Union Courses

174. **Mr E. S. Umoh** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, how many Trade Unionists have been sponsored for Trade Union Courses overseas by the Eastern Nigeria Government; if any, what are their names and achievements.

The Minister of Internal Affairs: One Trade Unionist, Mr Nwazota, attended a three months' course in the United Kingdom from September to December, 1961. He did not take any examination and no report was received from him and therefore it is not possible to assess his achievement in the course.

1. Two others, Messrs E. J. Ebong and I. C. Uchendu are now attending a three months' course in the United Kingdom under the United Kingdom Technical Assistance Scheme.

Government Press

175. **Mr E. S. Umoh** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what arrangements are being made for the training of a Nigerian to take over the Government Press when the present Government Printer retires.

The Minister of Internal Affairs: The Nigerianisation of the Printing Division is progressing very successfully. Already

Nigerians have been appointed to the posts of Superintendent and Deputy Government Printer. There are at present twelve Nigerians in the Printing Division who have had courses of instruction in the United Kingdom. The training required for appointment as Government Printer cannot be accomplished in a few months but I am happy to say that there is favourable report on the progress of this Division and that when the present Government Printer retires the Press will function efficiently.

Boards and Public Corporations

180. **Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo** asked the Premier, which Boards and Public Corporations are at present established and functioning under the control of the Government of Eastern Nigeria, and who, and from what Division is the Chairman and members of each Board or Corporation.

The Premier: The following eight Boards and Public Corporations are at present established and functioning:

- (a) The Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation.
- (b) The Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board.
- (c) The Eastern Nigeria Information Service.
- (d) The Eastern Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation.
- (e) The Eastern Nigeria Library Board.
- (f) The Eastern Nigeria Sports Commission.
- (g) The Eastern Nigeria Printing Corporation.
- (h) The Eastern Nigeria Housing Corporation.

The following Schedule shows the names and divisions of origin and residence of Chairmen and members of each Board:—

SCHEDULE

EASTERN NIGERIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

<i>Chairman and Members</i>	<i>Division of Origin</i>	<i>Division of Residence</i>
Dr G. C. Mbanugo, <i>Chairman</i> ...	... Onitsha	Udi
Mr A. D. W. Jumbo, <i>Member</i> ...	... Degema	Port Harcourt
Mr E. A. Agim, <i>Member</i> ...	... Ogoja	Ogoja
Mr E. A. Essien, <i>Member</i> ...	... Abak	Abak
Chief I. Nwadinobi, <i>Member</i> ...	... Bende	Bende
Mr Wachuku Abengowe, <i>Member</i> ...	... Aba	Aba
Mr S. O. Achara, <i>Member</i> ...	... Okigwi	Udi
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, <i>Member (Ex-officio)</i> ...	...	—
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, <i>Member (Ex-officio)</i> ...	...	—

EASTERN NIGERIA MARKETING BOARD

<i>Chairman and Members</i>	<i>Division of Origin</i>	<i>Division of Residence</i>
Sir Odumegwu Ojukwu, O.B.E., <i>Chairman</i>	Onitsha	Lagos
Mr G. C. N. Akomas, <i>Deputy Chairman</i> ...	Bende	Port Harcourt
Mr J. C. Anyansi, M.B.E., <i>Member</i> ...	Onitsha	Aba
Mr J. U. Whyte, <i>Member</i> ...	Enyong	Calabar
Chief N. B. Wokoma-Horsefall, <i>Member</i>	Degema	Degema
Mr N. Kalu, <i>Member</i> ...	Bende	Aba
Mr M. A. O. Williams, <i>Member</i> ...	Afikpo	Afikpo
Chief P. Anatogu, the Onowu of Onitsha, <i>Member</i> ...	Onitsha	Onitsha
Mr C. A. Oputa, <i>Member</i> ...	Owerri	Port Harcourt
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, <i>Member (Ex-officio)</i> ...	—	—
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, <i>Member (Ex-officio)</i> ...	—	—
Economic Adviser to the Government, <i>Member (Ex-officio)</i> ...	—	—

EASTERN NIGERIA INFORMATION SERVICE

<i>Chairman and Members</i>	<i>Division of Origin</i>	<i>Division of Residence</i>
Barrister E. Kooffrey (Snr.), <i>Chairman</i> ...	Calabar	Calabar
Mr V. U. Njoku, <i>Member</i> ...	Owerri	Owerri
Mr H. Ezeokpube, <i>Member</i> ...	Awgu	Awgu
Mr F. O. Nwabianeli, <i>Member</i> ...	Onitsha	Onitsha
Mr C. C. Udom, <i>Member</i> ...	Owerri	Ahoada

EASTERN NIGERIA BROADCASTING CORPORATION

<i>Chairman and Members</i>	<i>Division of Origin</i>	<i>Division of Residence</i>
Dr W. N. Onubogu, <i>Chairman</i> ...	Onitsha	Udi
Mr A. U. Uzomba, <i>Member</i> ...	Orlu	Orlu
Mr R. Ngwu, <i>Member</i> ...	Okigwi	Nsukka
Mr N. W. Gwegwe, <i>Member</i> ...	Brass	Brass
Mr A. E. Ogar, <i>Member</i> ...	Ogoja	Ogoja
Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo, <i>Member</i> ...	Ikot Ekpene	Ikot Ekpene
Mr S. Akpadiok, <i>Member</i> ...	Ikot Ekpene	Ikot Ekpene

LIBRARY BOARD

<i>Chairman and Members</i>	<i>Division of Origin</i>	<i>Division of Residence</i>
Mr M. R. Snodin, <i>Chairman</i> ...	—	—
Mr S. B. A. Atulomah, <i>Member</i> ...	Bende	Bende
Mr T. Udoffia, <i>Member</i> ...	Abak	Abak
Mr G. C. Mbanugo, <i>Member</i> ...	Onitsha	Udi
Mr T. K. Utchay, <i>Member</i> ...	Bende	Aba
Rev. Fr. B. J. Kelly, <i>Member</i> ...	—	—

Eastern House of Assembly Debates

EASTERN NIGERIA SPORTS COMMISSION

<i>Chairman and Members</i>	<i>Division of Origin</i>	<i>Division of Residence</i>
Mr D. C. Erinne, <i>Chairman</i>	Onitsha	Owerri
Mr E. Efem, <i>Member</i>	Afikpo	Uyo
Mr E. N. Oba, <i>Member</i>	Asaba	Udi
Mr E. E. Ekong, <i>Member</i>	Calabar	Calabar
Rev. Fr. E. J. Fitz-Gibbon, <i>Member</i> ...	Ireland	Federal Capital of Lagos

EASTERN NIGERIA PRINTING CORPORATION

<i>Chairman and Members</i>	<i>Division of Origin</i>	<i>Division of Residence</i>
Mr J. Okwesa, <i>Chairman</i>	Onitsha	Lagos
Mr A. Fashanu, <i>Member</i>	Abeokuta	Lagos
Mr J. A. C. Onwuegbuna, <i>Member</i> ...	Onitsha	Onitsha
Mr S. E. Onyia, <i>Member</i>	Udi	Enugu
Mr N. Nweze, <i>Member</i>	Abakaliki	Abakaliki
Mrs P. Onwudiwe, <i>Member</i>	Onitsha	Enugu

EASTERN NIGERIA HOUSING CORPORATION

<i>Chairman and Members</i>	<i>Division of Origin</i>	<i>Division of Residence</i>
Dr L. O. Uwechia, <i>Chairman</i>	Onitsha	Port Harcourt
Mr E. Udonkim, <i>Deputy Chairman</i> ...	Opobo	Opobo
Mr P. A. Amaefunah, <i>Member</i>	Awka	Onitsha
Mr S. C. Abani, <i>Member</i>	Afikpo	Afikpo
Barrister R. Woyike, <i>Member</i>	Ahoada	Port Harcourt
Chief W. Obasi, <i>Member</i>	Owerri	Owerri

Chieftaincy Titles

184. **Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo** asked the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, whether he is aware that the chieftaincy titles of Gbono-Mono Khana and Pop-Mono Gokana, in Ogoni Division, are First-class Chieftaincy titles like Amanyanabo in the Rivers area and Obi and Eze in Iboland; if so, how soon will he recognise the present holders of the title as First-class Chiefs of the Eastern House of Chiefs; if not, would he investigate with a view to giving Ogoni people the status befitting them in the chieftaincy set-up of Eastern Nigeria.

The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs: I am not aware that chieftaincy titles of Gbono-Mono Khana and Pop-Mono Gokana in Ogoni Division are

First-class Chieftaincy titles like Amanyanabo in the Rivers area and Obi and Eze in Ibo areas. The investigation the hon. Member seeks is not considered called for, as the Selection of Second-class Chiefs Regulations, 1959 (E.R.L.N. No. 386 of 1959) adequately provide for the purpose stated.

Independence Celebrations

189. **Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, what was the sum given to each of the twelve Provinces of Eastern Nigeria for the Independence Day Celebrations on 1st October, 1960, stating the population of each Province; and of the share for Port Harcourt Province, how much went to each of Ahoada, Ogoni and Port Harcourt Divisions.

The Minister of Internal Affairs: The amount given to each Province is shown in the

schedule subjoined hereunder. The schedule also shows the population of each Province.

Province	Population	Amount	Other
		allocated	Expenses
		£	£
Abakaliki ...	829,526	6,979	300
Annang ...	516,097	3,574	300
Calabar ...	140,731	1,191	500
Degema ...	117,903	1,023	150
Enugu ...	1,007,172	8,000	200
Ogoja ...	300,287	1,362	300
Onitsha ...	761,240	6,468	850
Owerri ...	1,359,635	11,660	300
Port Harcourt ...	501,788	4,254	900
Umuahia ...	718,256	6,298	750
Uyo ...	883,263	8,085	300
Yenagoa ...	126,954	1,106	150

In addition to the amounts shown against Port Harcourt Province an additional grant of £3,000 was made for the Port Harcourt water fountain.

The sum of £4,254 allocated to Port Harcourt Province was distributed as follows:—

Division	Population	Amount
		£
Ahoada ...	286,225	1,350
Ogoni ...	156,717	650
Port Harcourt ...	67,646	2,254

The additional grant of £900 under "Other Expenses" in the schedule was taken charge of by the Provincial Engineer, Port Harcourt, for the whole Province.

Water Supply

191. **Mr B. E. Ekpenyong** asked the Minister of Works, how soon he will complete the Uyo pipe-borne water project.

The Minister of Works: The generator and pumps are expected to arrive any time now. I am advised that the scheme will be in operation by August, i.e., next month all being equal.

192. **Mr G. U. M. Nwagbara** asked the Minister of Works, what arrangements he is making to extend the Rural Water Supply Scheme to Ikeduru in Owerri Division.

The Minister of Works: This town is not among the sixty places approved by the House of Assembly during the last budget. However, the need of the town is noted and priority consideration will be given to it at the next revision of the Development Programme.

Roads

195. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Works, when will the Aba-Obohia road be tarred.

The Minister of Works: It is listed for inclusion in the present Development Plan, but as I have already pointed out several times, my staff, which is under strength is fully engaged on existing projects. When these are completed, I shall have some engineers available for survey and design of new roads.

196. **Mr G. U. M. Nwagbara** asked the Minister of Works, what roads he has earmarked through Ikeduru in Owerri Division for the current financial year.

The Minister of Works: Ikeduru must have benefited greatly from the reconstruction and sealing of the Owerri-Umuna road completed a year ago. There are no further road projects presently listed for Ikeduru.

197. **Mr G. O. G. Ume-Ezeoke** asked the Minister of Works, when Orlu-Ukpor-Utu-Azigbo-Adazi road will be taken over and tarred by the Government.

The Minister of Works: There are no plans to tar this road and until the road projects listed in the Estimates are considerably reduced I can hardly consider additional roads.

Bridges

199. **Mr I. O. Nwauche** asked the Minister of Works, if he is aware of the delay in constructing the Azumini bridge; if so, what efforts are being made to expedite action.

The Minister of Works: The delay was caused by the incompetence of the original contractor who had to be expelled. The work is now proceeding normally, all piling and abutments are completed and work on the superstructure is now well in hand and will be completed in August all being equal.

Aerodrome for Aba

200. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Works, as the agency of the Federal Government, when will the proposed aerodrome at Aba become a reality.

The Minister of Works: I am constantly making representations to the Federal Government about the improvement of air services in this Region. The Federal Government have stated in their Development Plan that they will construct twenty-six air strips and we have submitted Onitsha, Nsukka, Umuahia, Aba, Owerri, Obudu and Uyo as sites in Eastern Nigeria.

Establishment of Customary Courts in Urban Crown Lands

201. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, whether it is the intention of the Government to establish Customary Courts in Urban Crown Land areas; if not, will the Minister declare the stand of the Government on this issue with respect to the recent agitation of the stranger elements in Aba township for a Customary Court.

The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs: The question of establishing Customary Courts in Urban Crown Lands, including Aba township, is under serious consideration, and it will not be too long before I submit my proposals on the subject to Government. The second part of your question does not therefore call for a reply at this stage.

Aba-na-Ohazu and Awo Customary Courts

202. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, when he will implement the agreement reached between the Southern Ngwa County Council and the Ministry of Justice last year to establish a second bench in each of Aba-na-Ohazu and Awo Customary Courts.

The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs: I am not aware of such an agreement.

Selection of Chiefs

204. **Mr S. N. Nwaroh** asked the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, what is the basis for selecting a Clan Head and a Second-class Chief; is population a deciding factor.

The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs: All Second-class Chiefs are Clan Heads. To qualify for selection as a Second-class Chief the person to be selected must be a member of the clan from which he is selected as a Second-class Chief, except that the Second-class Chief representing Port Harcourt Division is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Premier. Considerations of population do not come into the matter. The method of selection is contained in the Selection of Second-class Chiefs Regulations, 1959 (E.R.L.N. No. 386 of 1959).

Aba County Appeal Court

205. **Mr I. O. Nwauche** asked the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, when he will appoint an Ndoki representative.

The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs: Action has been taken to appoint a suitable person from Ndoki to be a judge of the Aba County Court of Appeal.

Creation of Specialist Inspectorate Posts

212. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Education, whether he will consider the creation of Specialist Inspectorate posts in the Ministry of Education in order to provide opportunities for the promotion of deserving officers in that Ministry.

The Minister of Education: The re-organisation of the Ministry is now under active consideration and may result in the creation of senior duty posts to which deserving officers with the necessary experience would be considered for promotion in due course.

Education Officers (Science)

213. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Education, how many Education Officers (Science) have to date been recruited; to what institutions have they been posted, and what are their qualifications.

The Minister of Education: Sixty-six Education Officers (Science) have been recruited to date. Their postings are as follows:—

To Government Colleges and Institutions	... ..	24
To Roman Catholic Mission Colleges	...	6
To Christian Council Colleges	...	8
To other Agencies	... ..	28
25 of them have B.A. or B.Sc.		
37 of them have M.A. or M.Sc.		
4 of them have Ph.D.		

All of these people have Science degrees even though some of them were accorded B.A.s. The reason is that some Universities grant B.A.s for their degrees whether they be in Arts or Science subjects.

Scholarships

215. **Mr P. A. Oji** asked the Minister of Education, whether he is aware that no son or daughter of Edda County Council area has benefited from Government Post-Secondary Scholarships; if so, will the Minister treat this area as a special area in future awards.

The Minister of Education: No. But Edda County Council is in Afikpo Division and Post-Secondary Scholarships are made on Divisional and population basis and not on County Council basis. It was to make sure that no area would be neglected that Government formulated the policy of distributing Post-Secondary Scholarships according to Division and population. If there is any qualified candidate from Edda County Council that candidate will have to be considered along with other qualified candidates from Afikpo Division. In any case I am not aware of any qualified candidate from Edda County Council who applied and failed to secure an award.

Adult Education

218. **Mr B. E. Ekpenyong** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether he will consider giving sufficient financial assistance to County Councils in order to enable them recruit paid full-time instructors for the various Adult Education Centres.

The Minister of Internal Affairs: My Ministry does not give grants as such to County Councils to enable them recruit full-time instructors for the various Adult Education

Centres (of which there are at present about 900 mixed and seventeen women's) in the Region.

Adult Education is one of the social services provided by County Councils to communities within their areas of authority and the Ministry of Local Government is prepared to encourage County Councils to establish the Centres, especially those Councils in whose areas there are none at present. Accordingly, the Minister of Local Government has issued a Circular to all County Councils indicating that he will approve provisions in their Estimates for appointing Adult Education staff.

Roads

227. **Mr G. O. G. Ume-Ezeoke** asked the Minister of Works, when work will start on the tarring of Nnewi-Amichi-Uga road.

The Minister of Works: As early as possible, during the current Development Programme. The route has been surveyed and an application for A.I.D. loan to construct the road will shortly be submitted to the United States Authorities.

Scholarships

228. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Education, what arrangements he is making to ensure that in the award of Regional Scholarships applicants from areas with comparatively low percentage of literacy are given priority.

The Minister of Education: Regional Post-Secondary Scholarships are awarded on Divisional *cum* population basis whilst Secondary Grammar and Secondary Technical Scholarships are based on population and County Council areas. If therefore an area with a comparatively low percentage of literacy has any qualified candidate, that candidate usually gets the award as there are not many other candidates from the Division or County area to compete for the quota. It was to make sure that a qualified candidate from such area with low percentage of literacy gets an award, that the Government adopted this quota system based on population. My experience so far has been that in some of these areas with low percentage of literacy the quota is never used up.

Local Authority Council Schools

229. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Education, whether he will consider taking over the supervision of Council Schools from the Council Secretaries who have no idea of teaching; if so, how soon.

The Minister of Education: The Inspectorate Staff of the Provincial Education Offices inspect and therefore help to supervise Council Schools in a small way. With the co-operation of the hon. Minister of Local Government, the Ministry of Education would like to take over completely the supervision of Council Schools if it has the requisite staff.

I would advise the hon. Member to wait till the Executive Council has given consideration to the memorandum on the reorganisation of the Ministry which has been put up to it after which I shall be able to make a categorical statement on the issue.

230. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Education, how soon will he introduce religious knowledge as a subject in Council Schools.

The Minister of Education: Religious knowledge has always been a subject on the curriculum of County Council Schools and the question of introduction does not therefore arise.

Bridges

236. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Works, how soon he will arrange to have bridges built across the Ndende, Oyolu, Ifina and Ebonyi creeks in Ikwo Clan in Abakaliki Division where village integration is in rapid progress.

The Minister of Works: I am informed that the roads leading to the creeks mentioned are being built by communal labour and I would suggest that the hon. Member approach the Ministry of Internal Affairs for an allocation to assist in the construction of the bridges.

Water Supply

241. **Mr M. R. Ekpo** asked the Minister of Works, when will the rural water supply service be extended to Western Nsit and Afaha Offiong to ease the acute water problem there.

The Minister of Works: It will not be possible to provide pumped and piped supplies to the areas mentioned during the present Development Programme. However, there is provision for the construction of simple water points and hand-operated shallow bore-holes, and I am instructing that the possibility of providing some in this area should be investigated.

242. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Works, where do Akaokwa, Akpulu, Isuokpu, Obodo, Osina, Urualla and Uzzi in Mbanasa Clan, Nwabosi Clan and other parts of Orlu Division not included in the present pipe-borne water scheme at Orlu stand in the Rural Water Supply Scheme of the Eastern Nigeria Government.

The Minister of Works: It would not be practicable to provide extensions to the areas mentioned from the Orlu Scheme. Consideration may be given to a separate scheme when funds are available, but presently we must concentrate on those places listed in the Estimates.

243. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Works, what arrangements are being made to supply Secondary Schools and other high educational institutions in rural areas with good water supply.

The Minister of Works: Government has already supplied many institutions with water in the past five years. In the current Development Programme, £100,000 is available for pumped institutional supplies. The Ministries of Health and Education are at present taking steps to recommend suitable institutions. Any institution which is situated in a town listed for a new pumped and piped Rural Water Supply will automatically be connected to that supply when the scheme is constructed.

244. **Chief M. Dike** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware of the scarcity of good drinking water at Balucku, Okwoli, Luebe, Kalori, Nyogor Lueku, Ten Lueku and Luude Lueku and other towns in Ogoni Division; if so, whether he will consider these towns in the rural water supply scheme in the 1962-68 Development Programme.

The Minister of Works: Government is already supplying Bori Yeghe with a pumped

and piped water supply during the current Development Programme. It will not be possible to provide pumped and piped water to every area but provision exists in the Development Programme for simple water points and hand-operated shallow bore-holes and for assistance to Community schemes, and I shall ask my engineers to investigate the possibility of providing some assistance in this area.

245. **Mr D. U. Ugwuoke** asked the Minister of Works, when will the Obukpa people who live near the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, be supplied with a water bore-hole.

The Minister of Works: I have no immediate plans to provide the Obukpa people with a bore-hole, but an extension of the Nsukka scheme to this village can be considered if the people are willing to pay the cost.

246. **Mr D. U. Ugwuoke** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware that the bore-hole at Ibagwa Nkwo is not in good order; if so, when will it be repaired and the engine replaced.

The Minister of Works: I am aware that there was a slight defect in the engine two months ago, but I am informed that this has since been repaired and that the engine is working normally.

247. **Mr D. U. Ugwuoke** asked the Minister of Works, what arrangements is he making to supply water from Ovuko bore-hole to Iheaka, Ihakpu and Ihoro as the Igbo Eze County Council in Nsukka has precepted on the Local Councils; how much will a town collect before the Government comes to its aid in the matter of water supply.

The Minister of Works: No request has so far been made for those extensions, and accordingly no proposal is on hand for them. If a formal request is received and a favourable feasibility survey can be had, the project may be considered. It is to be noted, however, that the entire cost of the extensions from Ovuko to Iheaka, through Ihakpu to Ihoro on the existing scheme has to be met by the communities desiring such extensions.

248. **Mr E. O. Osuagwu** asked the Minister of Works, what plans he has to supply pipe-borne water to all the areas of Mbaise County Council in Owerri Division.

The Minister of Works: Obizi and Ekwereazu in Mbaise County Council area are to be provided with a pumped and piped supply during the current Development Programme. It is possible that some institutions may also be selected by the Ministries of Education and Health for institutional supplies. It is also proposed to retain and improve the Aboh bore-hole.

249. **Mr E. O. Osuagwu** asked the Minister of Works, when the Rural Water Supply at Enyi-Ogugu will be completed.

The Minister of Works: Most of the work on this scheme, except for the installation of the pumps which are on order, has been completed. It is expected that the scheme will be in operation by March, 1963.

250. **Mr E. O. Osuagwu** asked the Minister of Works, what institutions in Mbaise in Owerri Division will benefit from the provision made for institutions of learning to have water.

The Minister of Works: The Ministries of Education and Health have been asked to recommend to me institutions which they consider require pumped institutional supplies during the current Development Programme. I shall in due course select those that are to benefit and Mbaise's requirements will then be considered.

251. **Mr C. A. Opara** asked the Minister of Works, how soon will pipe-borne water and electricity be supplied to Ahoada Town.

The Minister of Works: Ahoada is one of those towns included in the survey contract being negotiated with the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. After all the towns listed in paragraph 54 of the Development Plan have been surveyed, it will be possible to plan a time-table for the execution of schemes.

The sum of £13,900 has been provided for a pumped and piped water supply to Ahoada in the current Development Plan. A preliminary survey has already been made and final survey and design will be undertaken shortly when staff are available. Due, however, to shortage of staff and the time lag experienced when ordering equipment from overseas, the scheme is unlikely to be in operation before the end of 1963.

252. **Mr S. O. Nwachuku** asked the Minister of Works, when will the pipe-borne water scheme be extended to Okpala North villages of Obowe, Alulu, Akala, Oburu and Ntu in Okpala, the scheme having already been started from Okpeta Central villages; is he aware of the amount said to be deposited with the Divisional Office, Owerri by these villages for this purpose.

The Minister of Works: My engineers are at present investigating the possibility of supplying the whole or part of this area from the Eziamia Scheme. If the extension proves technically possible the work will be undertaken provided the community is willing to bear the cost. As soon as an estimate is received it will be sent to the community, via the District Officer, Owerri.

254. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware that in the distribution of the pipe-borne water taps in Orlu, Amaifeke which is the smallest of the towns in Orlu got about twenty-seven taps while Ihioma and Okporo the largest towns in population has three and two taps respectively and Umuhu, Ogberuru and Eziawa none at all; if so, will he authorise necessary action to be taken to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of the taps to all the towns on the basis of population.

The Minister of Works: I am informed that Amaifeke has only eight taps while Ihioma has four and Okporo five. Other taps are distributed as follows:—Orlu twenty-seven, Umuna seven, Eluama one, Umuowa one, and along the road from Orlu to Bishop Shanahan College there are eight taps. My Ministry has endeavoured to allocate taps as equitably as possible. If anyone feels he has been overlooked I suggest he makes representations in writing to the Provincial Engineer.

Bridges

255. **Mr M. R. Ekpo** asked the Minister of Works, what assistance he will render to build concrete bridges over Ndiya on Oron-Opobo road and Afaha Ikot River on Uyo-Eket road.

The Minister of Works: The Uyo-Eket road is in the Development Programme and when it is reconstructed permanent bridges will be erected. I do not propose, however,

to have the bridges built before the reconstruction of the road. I am advised by my experts that the cost of building a bridge over Ndiya will be very great and that the present cable ferry is fully adequate for existing traffic.

256. **Mr D. Osimiri** asked the Minister of Works, what efforts are being made by his Ministry to effect the bridging of Uju River which is the only link between Owerri-Ohaji and Ogba-Egbema County Councils.

The Minister of Works: To bridge the Uju River alone would serve little useful purpose since I am informed that twelve miles of road and embankment are also required to complete this link. I appreciate that this proposal would help to open up this area but provision has not been made for it in the current Development Programme and funds are not therefore available to carry out this work at present. I suggest, however, that the County Councils concerned might tackle this work with their own resources, with the assistance perhaps of communal labour.

257. **Chief M. Dike** asked the Minister of Works, what help will he give to Khana County Council in Ogoni Division to enable the Council to construct the Kor-Kpong-Beer-Bianu Kabangha bridges.

The Minister of Works: I am informed that the bridges referred to were constructed last July by communal effort with financial assistance from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The bridges are not situated on roads maintained by my Ministry.

258. **Mr J. N. Nwankwo** asked the Minister of Works, what steps is he taking to build a bridge over Izekwe River at Ogoja/Abakaliki boundary.

The Minister of Works: I am taking no steps to have the Anyim River bridged at Ezekwe since the cost of construction would be out of all proportion to the economic return. This route was the old main road to Ogoja and was abandoned when the present main road was opened.

259. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware that the bridge linking Ihite Nansa and Eziawa in Orlu Division which was damaged several years ago has not

been rebuilt; if so, how soon will the reconstruction of the bridge commence in order to restore the link.

The Minister of Works: I am not aware that this bridge was damaged several years ago. Since the bridge is not on a Trunk "B" Road, but on a road which it is the responsibility of the Orsu County Council to maintain, I suggest that the hon. Member directs his question to that authority.

Roads

260. **Chief M. Dike** asked the Minister of Works, when will the Obigho-Afam-Umuagbai-Okweli-Tabangh-Bori road be tarred.

The Minister of Works: Contract documents are being prepared for the first phase, that is, to Umuagbai and work on this phase should begin next dry season if funds can be found.

261. **Mr D. U. Ugwuoke** asked the Minister of Works, how many miles of roads have been tarred in Nsukka Division by the Eastern Nigeria Government.

The Minister of Works: The road from Opi to Nsukka which is six and half miles long has been tarred by the Eastern Nigeria Government. The road from the Abakaliki boundary to Ikem a distance of twelve miles is now being tarred, and it is proposed that the reconstruction of this road will be extended to Obollo or Eha-Alumona during the present Development Programme. As the hon. Member will be aware the Federal Trunk Road from Nine-Mile Corner to the Northern Nigeria border has also been sealed recently.

262. **Mr E. O. Osuagwu** asked the Minister of Works, whether the survey in Igrita-Okpuala-Nguru-Ekwerazu-Umuezeala road is complete; will the tarring commence in 1962-63.

The Minister of Works: The survey of this road has not yet begun. An agreement has recently been signed between the Nigerian and American Governments, for Agency for International Development assistance to survey this road. It is expected that work on the

survey will begin during the coming dry season and reconstruction is likely to begin in late 1963 or early 1964.

263. **Mr S. O. Nwachuku** asked the Minister of Works, whether he will not include in the priority list the tarring of the road that runs from Ulakwu-Umuneke-Obike-Umuekwune-Akpoku-Nihi-Chokocho-Port Harcourt and the road that runs from Okpala-Umuaturu-Umundiche-Okomoko-Igrita-Port Harcourt as these roads are of economic importance to the Region.

The Minister of Works: I feel that the hon. Member has mixed up the two roads and that the roads in question are the Ulakwu-Umuneke-Obike-Umundiche-Umuaturu-Chokocho-Igrita-Port Harcourt roads.

The Chokocho-Igrita road, however, is part of the Igrita-Okpala-Umuezeala road which will be surveyed shortly. When the survey is completed, construction can begin.

264. **Dr J. O. J. Okezie** asked the Minister of Works, when will tarring commence on the Umuahia-Ibeku-Bende road.

The Minister of Works: This road is in the Development Programme but sealing will not be possible for some time, first, as my staff are fully occupied with the supervision of existing road projects and the survey of new ones, and secondly because my Ministry is presently spending over £½ million on the Umuahia-Ohafia-Arochuku road.

265. **Chief M. Dike** asked the Minister of Works, what step he has taken with regard to the damage done to roads and bridges by the Shell-BP in Ogoni Division; what assistance will he give to the Khana County Council to maintain these roads and bridges in good repair.

The Minister of Works: If a private company causes damage to the property of a Council, the Council should seek redress from that company rather than from my Ministry. In the past, Shell-BP have always been co-operative in this respect. I have no immediate plans to relieve the Khana County Council of this responsibility for maintaining these roads.

266. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Works, when will the Urualla-Okwelle road and Orlu-Umuahia road be tarred completely.

The Minister of Works: The Orlu-Umuduru road with a branch to Amaraka is being reconstructed at the moment. I am advised that the contract will be completed during the coming dry season. I presume that this is the road which the hon. Member is calling the Orlu-Umuahia road. The Urualla-Okwelle road is in the Development Programme. It is not possible to say when work will begin on it, as all available staff are at present fully committed on other projects.

267. **Mr Nnana Kalu** asked the Minister of Works, whether he is aware that the road opposite Ugba-Umuahia road leading to Ogwe, Ngwa Iyekwe and Port Harcourt will reduce the distance to Port Harcourt from different directions, via Ugba by thirteen miles if constructed; is he equally aware that the route will reduce transport claims on Government and ease unnecessary influx of vehicles to Aba township, thereby minimising accidents; if so, how soon will this road be constructed.

The Minister of Works: If the road to which the hon. Member is referring is the Umu Uvo-Eberi-Ogwe road, as it would appear to be, it has been included in the Six-Year Development Plan and will be reconstructed and taken over when funds are available.

Electricity Supply

268. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Works, when will work start on the proposed electricity supply to Orlu township.

The Minister of Works: Orlu has been listed in the Development Plan as one of those towns included in the E.C.N. survey contract. Only after surveys have been completed and the feasibility of supplying the various towns in the contract determined, will E.C.N. be able to start the actual construction work. When this will be I am unable to state at present, but it is estimated that most schemes will be started in 1963-64.

Discrimination by Expatriate Contracting Firms

269. **Mr J. N. Amechi** asked the Minister of Works, if he is aware that certain expatriate contracting firms awarded contracts do discriminate one tribe against the other in the appointment of staff and thereby infuse tribal strife.

The Minister of Works: I am not aware that expatriate contracting firms discriminate on tribal lines when appointing staff. Any allegations which are specific will, of course, be investigated.

270. **Mr M. A. Obodoh** asked the Minister of Works, how soon will the Nekede Agricultural Centre and Owerri town be linked up with telephone and a tarred road.

The Minister of Works: I have no immediate plans to tar this road which is not included in the current Development Plan, but there is an allocation for "Plantation Roads", and it might be possible at a later date to include this road under that category and I have in consequence referred this question to my colleague, the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

There are no immediate plans either for a telephone link but I have referred this matter to the Federal Ministry of Communications which is responsible.

271. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Works, what steps are being taken to persuade the Federal Government to improve the telephone system at Orlu which has a very poor reception.

The Minister of Works: I am informed that between March and May of this year contractors were busy clearing the bush and felling trees on the Owerri-Orlu telephone trunk route and that at the same time maintenance gangs were overhauling the overhead lines. No doubt this work, which is still in progress, is responsible for the hon. Member's complaint. I have been assured by the Authorities concerned that an improved service can be expected as soon as this maintenance work is completed.

Deportation of Eastern Nigerians in the Cameroons

272. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Premier, whether he is aware that some Eastern Nigerians in the Cameroons have been deported and their property confiscated; if so, what step is he taking to protect the interests of these people; will aid be forthcoming from Government to rehabilitate those affected by the deportation order.

The Premier: The hon. Member presumably has in mind the deportation of three Eastern Nigerians, Messrs R. O. M. Iyizoba, J. C. Okafor and A. U. Okpokang from Western Cameroons on the 21st of December, 1961. As soon as these deportations became known, I asked the Federal Government what action it proposed to take on the matter since the deportees left behind their families and property in Western Cameroons.

2. It is not correct to say that their property was confiscated though they had only very short notice and could not in the time available arrange for the proper disposal of their property. The Federal Government has been assured by the Government of the Cameroun Republic of the safety of the property of the deportees in the Cameroons. The deportees have been invited to send an inventory of their personal effects so that the Nigerian Consul in Buea could see that their movable property would be safely delivered to them. Furthermore, they have been invited by both this Government and the Federal Government to submit an inventory of their immovable property such as land, houses, etc., and to name agents who would, with the co-operation of the Nigerian Consul, arrange for the disposal of such property and remit the proceeds to them. So far, only one of them, Mr J. C. Okafor, had sent the inventory of his property but even so, he failed to nominate an accredited agent. On 4th July, 1962, the deportees were again contacted by my Office following representation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, to give names of agents looking after their property in the Cameroons as well as instructions which they might have given to them or may wish to give to them as regards their property. Further action awaits the receipt from them of the information sought.

3. As regards their rehabilitation, Messrs Iyizoba and Okpokang have been encouraged to form a Company known as Iyizoba and Okpokang Building Contractors, Limited, and with the active co-operation of my Office, the Company has been registered by the Ministry of Works for the award of contracts. Mr Okafor has applied for loan facilities for engaging in produce business. A recommendation to this effect has been made to the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation by my Office on behalf of Mr Okafor.

4. It will be seen from the foregoing that this Government, in co-operation with the Federal Government, is not only making sustained effort to see that the property of the deportees or the proceeds from the sale of their immovable property are returned to them but is also doing its best to help in their rehabilitation.

Appointment of Board Members

273. **Mr A. O. Onyewuchi** asked the Premier, what persons have been appointed into Boards and Corporations in Eastern Nigeria from Owerri Central Federal Constituency, i.e., the Oratta County Council and Owerri Urban County Council areas; on which Boards or Corporations are they serving and what salary does each receive.

The Premier: Mr P. Chukueke, who is a member of the Board of Education, is a native of Owerri Central Constituency. Mr Silas Onwu, a member of the Owerri Divisional Local Government Tenders Board, is also from the Constituency.

A sitting allowance of £3 3s per day and a mileage allowance of 1s per mile is payable to each member of the Board of Education. Members of Local Government Tenders Boards receive a sitting allowance of £2 2s per day and a mileage allowance of 1s per mile.

The hon. Member's question seems to arise from an impression that Board members are selected as representatives of constituencies; that is not so. They are chosen after due consideration of the special qualifications, ability and experience required for particular Boards. It is true, however, that Government does try to ensure an even distribution of such posts, and the hon. Member may be interested to know that the following persons from Owerri Division are members of Boards:—

Mr C. A. Oputa—Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board.

Chief W. Obasi—Housing Corporation.

Mr A. O. Njoku—Local Government Service Board.

Messrs C. Onuoha, Michael Akalugwu, Silas Onwu—Local Government Tenders Board.

Mr V. U. Njoku—Eastern Nigeria Information Service.

Mr C. C. Udom—Eastern Nigeria Information Service.

Mr P. Chukueke—Board of Education.

Rev. Father M. Unegbu—Students Advisory Board.

The list does not include persons from Owerri Division who are members of Federal Boards and Corporations. It would be both difficult and unprogressive if considerations for even distribution are allowed to degenerate from the Divisional to the Constituency level.

Farm Settlement for Awkunanaw

285. **Mr J. E. Igwesi** asked the Minister of Agriculture, when the people of Awkunanaw in Nkanu County Council area will be informed which of the two parcels of land which they offered to the Government for a Farm Settlement is selected for the project, and how soon will a Farm Settlement start on the selected area.

The Minister of Agriculture: Government appreciates the offer of land made by the people of Awkunanaw in Nkanu County Council area. This offer is noted. Government is, however, starting Farm Settlements at a number of different places and it will not be possible within the period of the present Development Plan to start another one in the area of Awkunanaw.

Financial Assistance to Peasant Farmers

288. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Agriculture, what financial assistance he proposes to give to peasant farmers to enable them develop their farms and so be able to employ some school leavers.

The Minister of Agriculture: My Ministry is making reasonable effort to encourage the peasant farmers to develop their farms and a free grant of £18 would be paid to them in both cash and kind per acre of land. This subsidy would help the farmers:

- (a) to rehabilitate many acres of their Palm Groves;
- (b) to establish thousands of acres of Rubber Plantations in the 1962-68 Six-Year Development Programme.

Both schemes will involve the Government in an expenditure of nearly £5,000,000.

A further financial assistance in form of subsidy will be provided to the farmers. This will enable them to purchase spraying pumps and chemicals for systematic spraying of cocoa farms to check the menace of blackpod disease and caspid bugs. By subsidising the cost of Amazon cocoa pods and plastic pots, farmers are thus encouraged to increase the planting of high-yielding Amazon cocoa and to adopt improved techniques in establishing and maintaining their cocoa plantations as advocated by this Ministry.

These subsidy schemes will, no doubt, help the peasant farmers to develop their farms and enable them to employ large numbers of school leavers.

Umudike School of Agriculture

289. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Agriculture, the minimum entrance qualification to the School of Agriculture, Umudike.

The Minister of Agriculture: The minimum educational qualification for appointment as Agricultural Assistants-in-training in the School of Agriculture, Umudike, is either Cambridge or West African School Certificate or General Certificate of Education (with four passes at Ordinary level including English Language). Preference is, however, given to candidates who offered science subjects in their examination.

Library for Orlu

291. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Information, when will a library be established at Orlu to serve the educational needs of the many secondary schools in the Division.

The Minister of Information: The Library Board has no plan now to provide a library for Orlu, but the Board makes provision for assisting libraries brought into being by local communities, provided they fulfil certain conditions. The Library Board is prepared at all times to discuss with local communities any plans they may have for the provision of libraries for the community.

Publicity to the Six-Year Development Plan

292. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Information, what action will he take to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the Six-Year

Development Plan by the *Nigerian Outlook* in the main languages of the Region.

The Minister of Information: The *Nigerian Outlook* is at present published in English language only. Owing to technical problems connected with the orthography of the main indigenous languages of Eastern Nigeria, it is not possible to set types in any but the English language. It is proposed in the near future to explore the possibility of purchasing type-setting equipment capable of producing matrixes in the main indigenous languages of the Region.

Employment of Thugs during Election

293. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Premier, what steps are being taken by his office to enact a law against the use of thugs by political parties or individuals in order to intimidate and scare citizens during elections in Eastern Nigeria.

The Premier: My office is not taking any steps in the matter because the law as it stands adequately provides against the use of thugs by political parties. In the first place, section 5 (1) of the Public Order Law No. 17 of 1959 states:

"If the members or adherents of any association of persons whether incorporated or not are—

- (a) organised or trained or equipped for the purpose of enabling them to be employed in usurping the functions of the police or of the armed forces of the Crown; or
- (b) organised or trained or equipped either for the purpose of enabling them to be employed for the use or display of physical force in promoting any political object, or in such manner as to arouse reasonable apprehension that they are organised, trained or equipped for that purpose;

then any person who takes part in the control or management of the association or in so organising or training or equipping as aforesaid any members or adherents thereof, shall be guilty of an offence . . ."

Again, Regulation 85 of the Elections (House of Assembly) Regulations, 1961, states that:

"A person who, at a political meeting held in a constituency after the announcement of the date for holding an election—

- (a) acts, or incites another to act, in a disorderly manner for the purpose of preventing the transaction of business for which the meeting was called together; or
- (b) has, in his possession, an offensive weapon or missile, is guilty of an offence . . ."

There are also the ordinary provisions of the Criminal Code which prohibits the use of violence. In view of the present legal provisions, I do not see any need for further legislation at present.

While the police will do everything possible to enforce the law strictly on all future occasions, it is my hope that agreement will be reached by all political leaders to eschew the use of thugs.

Strength of the Police in Orlu

294. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Premier, whether he is making efforts (a) to get the Federal Government increase the number of Police Constables in Orlu; (b) to persuade the Federal Government to speed up the establishment of Police Stations at Mgbidi and Akaokwa in Orlu Division.

The Premier: I am informed that a proposal for posting an Assistant Superintendent of Police to Orlu and increasing the number of Police Constables there in the year 1963-64 is at present under consideration.

Proposals for the establishment of Police Stations in Akaokwa and Mgbidi are likely to materialise before the end of the Development Plan period.

The implementation of any or all of these proposals is, of course, subject to the provision of the necessary funds by the Federal Legislature.

Fire Services

296. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, when will Fire Services be extended to the rural areas; how soon will Orlu Division be so served.

The Minister of Internal Affairs: Funds provided in the Development Plan are for the Establishment of Fire Stations in the principal urban areas in the Region where there are concentrations of population and where the danger of loss by fire is greatest. No provision has yet been made for the extension of the service to the rural areas. This will not be considered until all the large urban areas have been served.

Adult Education

297. **Mr W. E. Ufot** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, whether the organisers of the Adult Education class in Opobo Division are under the Ministry; if so, how do they receive their salaries; are they authorised to collect fees from the classes they organise; what are the fees for the primary classes.

The Minister of Internal Affairs: Adult Education as one of the Social Welfare Services provided by this Government in its effort to obliterate mass illiteracy is under my Portfolio, and therefore organisers of the Adult Education classes in Opobo Division, if any, are under my Ministry. I am, however, informed that at the moment there is no Adult Education organiser in Opobo Division.

In his recent itinerary my Senior Adult Education Officer has indicated that he would tour Opobo Division to meet the County Councils there and to press for the appointment of organisers in keeping with a recent circular from the Ministry of Local Government to all Councils.

Adult Education organisers appointed by Councils are paid by the Councils that appoint them, and they are not permitted to collect fees from the classes they organise. I have to point out that most of the Adult Education classes are organised and conducted by instructors who receive a small remuneration of 5s to 10s a month from the small fees ranging from 1s to 3s a month which the pupils pay.

Community Development

298. **Mr A. O. Onyewuchi** asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, which communities in the Oratta County Council area of the Owerri Division have received financial assistance from the Ministry for community projects; what sum was given in each case.

The Minister of Internal Affairs: The communities in the Oratta County area of the Owerri Division that have received financial assistance from the Community Development Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, for community projects are as shown below:—

Community	Year	Amount	Purpose
Orogwe ...	1959-60	£100	Maternity Home Bridge
Umuocham Emeke	1960-61	£100	
Oforola ...	1960-61	£150	Maternity Home
Ezeoba Emekuku	1961-62	£250	Water Tank

Reorganisation of the Educational System

299. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Education, when will he start on a complete reorganisation of the educational system of Eastern Nigeria in order to have the content of Education serve social environmental needs of the people.

The Minister of Education: Various experts and committees were appointed to report on the educational system of Eastern Nigeria and to make recommendations about its organisation and these reports have recently been published. In particular there was the report by the committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Dike, there was the Goldway Report on Vocational Training and most recently the Report of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr A. Ikoku.

As a result of the recommendations received, many important changes will be made in our educational system during the period of the current Development Plan. For example—Vocational High Schools will be established, the facilities for Technical Education will be

greatly increased and children in primary schools will have a greater opportunity to learn handicrafts.

Salary Review for Teachers

300. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Education, whether he will consider an increase in the salaries of all grades of teachers as well as tightening their discipline in primary, secondary and commercial schools.

The Minister of Education: The answer to the first part of your question is no.

Salary revision for teachers is usually considered on the national level and is not a matter in which I or this Government can act independently. Any proposal to increase teachers' salaries will have to be examined by the National Council on Establishment and such increases determined in relation to salaries in other segments of the Public Service. As the hon. Member is no doubt aware, teachers were also affected by the recent Mbanefo awards and it seems premature to begin to talk of a further increase in salaries at a time when this country is faced with the problem of mobilising its resources to carry out its huge Development Programme.

2. Government has established a Teachers' Disciplinary Council which regulates the conduct of teachers in all types of schools. This Council is doing a good job but if the hon. Member has any suggestions for tightening up discipline I will be glad to consider them.

Graduate Teachers in Voluntary Agency Schools

301. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Education, when will graduates teaching in Voluntary Agency Secondary Schools be accorded the same conditions of service as those teaching in Government Schools.

The Minister of Education: Voluntary Agency graduate teachers teaching in Secondary Schools are not accorded the same conditions of service as are accorded to graduates teaching in Government Schools, simply because the former are not civil servants, while the latter are. The conditions of service in Government establishments including the responsibilities and the privileges are different from those in

Voluntary Agency including the educational field. If "same conditions of service" means running the same scales of salary and enjoying the same pension rights without accepting the other civil service conditions and restrictions, it is not seen how this request can be granted. It is understood that in at least one Region of the Federation Voluntary Agency teachers were offered identical conditions of service with Government teachers, including the usual restrictions, e.g., from politics, membership of Boards and Corporations and Local Councils, movement during school holidays; but the teachers declined.

Opening of Isu College in Orlu

302. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Education, when will approval be given to open the Isu College in Orlu Division.

The Minister of Education: The School has already been approved in principle to open in 1963.

Rural Science Course

303. **Mr E. O. Osuagwu** asked the Minister of Education, when will the two-year course on Rural Science at Umuahia-Ibeku Rural Education Centre begin.

The Minister of Education: It is proposed to start an Advanced Rural Science Course at Umuahia Rural Education Centre as soon as the necessary arrangements have been completed and the syllabus for the course approved by the Joint Consultative Committee and ratified by the Board of Education.

304. **Mr E. O. Osuagwu** asked the Minister of Education, when will the teachers who passed in Grade III after their course in Rural Science be granted the Grade I Teachers' Certificate in view of their excellent performance in their respective schools.

The Minister of Education: According to the regulations, students who passed were divided into three groups. Those who passed in the first or second-class were awarded Grade I Certificates after they had taught for two years and received two satisfactory reports on their work by the Rural Science Officers

responsible. Those who passed in the third-class received two increments, with no further chance of rising to Grade I by means of Rural Science qualifications. There is therefore no question of a Grade III pass teacher hoping to get a Grade I Certificate since it is not the intention that a Grade III should be used as a means of gaining a Grade I Certificate.

Football Organisation

305. **Mr S. O. Nwachuku** asked the Minister of Education, how much was spent on football organisations in the Region from January, 1960 to December, 1961 and how.

The Minister of Education: In 1960, the Sports Commission spent the underlisted amounts of money in the interest of football in Eastern Nigeria as follows:—

- (a) Salary of one Football Coach (Dan Anyiam), £711.
- (b) Salary of one Organising Secretary for six months, £262.
- (c) To bring the Middlesex Wanderers football team (on behalf of the East Football Council) to play two matches in Aba and Enugu, during Nigeria Independence, £3,320 9s 2d.
- (d) Transport for East Football Council supplied by the Commission, £91 1s 8d.

Total in 1960 ... £4,384 1s 8d.

In 1961, the Commission spent as follows:—

On behalf of the East Football Council for the Gold Cup match in Kano and Lagos.

	£	s	d
(a) Football Boots for players	64	0	0
(b) Jerseys, stocking and footballs	35	0	0
(c) Cash Grant to cover tour	100	0	0
(d) Camping of team in Enugu			
(i) for Gold Cup tour ...	29	10	10
(ii) for Sheffield Wednesday	40	9	6
(iii) for Espanol match ...	37	2	2

Total for 1961 ... £ 306 2 6

No grants were made to individual clubs.

Recognition of Chiefs

318. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, why recognition is not given to the sons of the late warranted Chiefs like Onuoha Eworom, Ndugha Nwachu, Ezimoha Oko of Ihioma, Anasoh of Amaifeke, Egeole Idim and Egemba Anumaoka of Umuhu, Iriele of Ogberuru, Okereke Nwanya of Okpara, Obidike of Eziawa, Obinaeri of Orsu Ihite Ukwa, Okorie Igwe and Iyinagoro of Awo Idemmili and Ikpeawuba of Amaebu in Orlu Division whose fathers helped the Government in the early days to stop slave trade and establish peace.

The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs: The answer to the hon. Member's question is that the gentlemen in question have not been put forward by their people through selection under existing laws for recognition.

Customary Courts

319. **Dr J. O. J. Okezie** asked the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, when will the Ibeku Customary Court be built and what has been responsible for the delay in building it.

The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs: My Ministry is not responsible for the erection of court buildings.

320. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, why two large clans, the Orsu Okpo Clan and the Orsu Alamiri Clan in Orlu Division which previously had one court each are grouped together to have one court.

The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs: The amalgamation was done in the best interest of the people. Wherever Government has felt that amalgamation has the same result, it has been done throughout the entire Region.

Hospitals

322. **Mr U. Enyi** asked the Minister of Health, why has the proposal to make Uburu Hospital in Afikpo Division a Joint Hospital been abandoned.

The Minister of Health: The proposal to make Uburu Hospital in Afikpo Division a Joint Hospital has been suspended for the meantime because of lack of funds.

323. **Mr E. O. Osuagwu** asked the Minister of Health, when Mbaise Joint Hospital will have a nursing school attached to it for training Grade I nurses.

The Minister of Health: As there are no nursing schools in the country training Grade I nurses, I presume that what the hon. Member means is a midwifery school for the training of Grade I midwives.

The Midwives Board has recognised Mbaise Joint Hospital provisionally as a Grade I Midwifery Training School provided that the number of deliveries is up to 300 by 1st September, 1962. Reports from the hospital, however, show that they cannot possibly have this number by that date.

324. **Mr E. O. Osuagwu** asked the Minister of Health, if he will grant Nguru in Mbaise permission to build a cottage hospital.

The Minister of Health: No application has been received for permission to build a hospital at Nguru. There is already a Joint Hospital at Aboh, Mbaise which is well staffed and equipped and serves Nguru area.

Felling of Economic Trees

325. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Health, whether he is aware that Sanitary Inspectors in some rural areas are paid money by the villagers annually so that their economic trees may not be felled; if so, to what head of Revenue are these payments credited.

The Minister of Health: I am not aware that Sanitary Inspectors are paid money by villagers so that economic trees may not be felled. If the hon. Gentleman can give specific examples, they will be investigated.

Umuahia-Ibeku Urban County Council

327. **Dr J. O. J. Okezie** asked the Minister of Local Government, why are there no traditional members in the Umuahia-Ibeku Urban County Council and how soon will he inject traditional members into the Council.

The Minister of Local Government: It has not been possible for me to inject traditional members into the Umuahia-Ibeku Urban County Council because the persons originally recommended by the Council did not appear to me to be persons with genuine traditional authority within the area of authority of the Council.

Although the Council put up fresh recommendations their recommendations did not enjoy popular support. I am still giving thought to the matter in order to find out the best way to select traditional members, which will cause the least possible friction.

Owuwa Anyanwu County Council

329. **Mr A. K. Uche** asked the Minister of Local Government, why he did not give approval to a recommendation by the Owuwa Anyanwu County Council in its Supplementary Estimates that £420 be granted to the Abiriba Joint Hospital in its area of jurisdiction built largely through community self-help.

The Minister of Local Government: The Abiriba Joint Hospital is an Institution maintained on fifty-fifty basis by the Government and the Owuwa Anyanwu County Council.

On account of the Council's weak financial position due largely to poor rates collection and large outstanding advances totalling £12,000 out of an estimated Working Balance of £21,000, it was considered imprudent to approve further recurrent expenditure at the expense of other services until the much needed rates were collected.

Besides, the Council's request raised certain points of policy which my Ministry referred to the Ministry of Health. Further consideration will be given to the request when the Ministry of Health's comments are received.

Owuwa Anyanwu County Council

330. **Mr A. K. Uche** asked the Minister of Local Government, what are the difficulties in the way of the Minister in approving the recommendation of the Owuwa Anyanwu County Council in its 1962-63 Estimates for a rural health centre in Ania Local Council area on a fifty-fifty basis.

The Minister of Local Government: Health Centre projects must receive the Ministry of Health's prior approval and decision to participate on fifty-fifty basis before provision in the Estimates for the project can be approved by my Ministry.

The Council was clearly informed in the commentary to its Approved Estimates that until it was certain that a grant was forthcoming from the Ministry of Health it was wrong to presume that a grant of £2,600 would be paid.

If the Council obtains the undertaking from the Ministry of Health, I will give due consideration to the matter.

Port Harcourt Municipal Council

331. **Mr J. N. Amechi** asked the Minister of Local Government, when is he prepared to give a loan to the Port Harcourt Municipal Council for its proposed Housing Scheme.

The Minister of Local Government: In 1953 and again in 1957, Port Harcourt Municipal Council applied for a loan of £600,000 for its proposed Municipal Housing Scheme. This request could not be granted because the Ministry had £100,000 in 1957 available for granting loans to all the Councils in the Region.

The position to day is worse. With £20,000 allocated in the current financial year for loans to Local Government Councils, the Housing Scheme is unlikely to be accommodated. A Housing Scheme by the Municipal Council is not a real necessity since the Government is undertaking a Housing Scheme within the area of Authority of the Municipal Council.

The Government Scheme which is fairly elaborate will provide houses for the Industrial Estates and thereby help in reducing congestion in the township. In addition, there is a Low Cost Housing Scheme designed to enable people in the low income range to own houses by monthly payments extending over say a twenty-year period. The Housing Corporation with its Headquarters in Port Harcourt has certainly provided an answer.

Ohaji County Council

333. **Mr D. Osimiri** asked the Minister of Local Government, whether he is aware of the

squabble which led to much bloodshed during the recent election of the Chairman of the Ohaji County Council in Owerri Division; if so, will he institute a high powered Commission of Inquiry to probe the issue.

The Minister of Local Government: I am not aware of any such squabbles or bloodshed during the recent election of the Chairman of the Ohaji County Council. No report of such incident was received in my Ministry.

Khana County Council Building Bye-laws

336. **Mr M. N. Onwuma** asked the Minister of Local Government, whether he is aware that the Khana County Council in Ogoni Division intends to enforce within its area of jurisdiction building bye-laws similar to those in operation in the townships such as Port Harcourt, Aba, Onitsha, etc.; if so, will he indicate that the peasant farmers within the area of authority of the Council will be able to comply with such bye-laws or whether it is proposed to comply with such bye-laws or whether it is proposed to convert all the villages into townships.

The Minister of Local Government: I am aware that the Khana County Council proposed recently to operate building bye-laws in its area of authority. The draft bye-laws sent for my approval, were closely studied in my Ministry and were found unsuitable for this County Council, as Ogoni was considered to be a rural area. The bye-laws followed more or less the provisions of similar bye-laws for townships and it was felt that their enforcement would be both impossible and unfair. Consequently, the bye-laws were returned to the Council, after due consultation with the Divisional Officer, Ogoni. The Council was, however, advised to propose a simpler set of bye-laws.

Judicial Division

340. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, whether he is aware that the grouping of Orlu Division in Owerri Province and Awka Division in Onitsha Province into one Judicial Division is causing inconvenience and hardship to litigants; if so, how soon will he constitute each of the Divisions into a Judicial Division in order to expedite the course of justice.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: It is not correct that Orlu Division and Awka Division are grouped into one Judicial Division. Orlu Division is in the Umuahia Judicial Division while Awka is in the Onitsha Judicial Division. The hon. Member may be confusing Judicial Divisions with Magisterial Districts. Awka and Orlu Divisions were under Awka Magisterial District, but since the 1st of July, 1962, the two Divisions are no longer under one Magisterial District. Orlu Division is now under Okigwi Magisterial District (*vide* Appointment of Places of Session Order 1962, published in *Eastern Nigeria Gazette* No. 42 Vol. II of 28th June, 1962).

Magistrate Court Building

341. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, whether he is aware that the Magistrate sits in the old Orlu Native Court for the trial of cases; if so, how soon will a Magistrate's Court be built in Orlu.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: Yes, Sir, it is true that the Magistrate sits in the old Orlu Native Court for trial of cases. A Magistrate's Court will be built at Orlu as soon as money can be made available.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

Monday, 10th December, 1962

Allocation of Plots

372. **Mr M. A. Obodoh** asked the Minister of Town Planning, what conditions govern the allocation of plots in Eastern Nigeria and what is the minimum fee per plot.

The Minister of Town Planning: The conditions which govern the allocation of plots in Eastern Nigeria are laid down in paragraph 22 of the pamphlet entitled "Policy for Land" published by this Government in 1955, as Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1955.

It is not clear, from the second part of the question, whether "the minimum fee" the hon. Member referred to was the deed fee payable for the completion of an instrument of grant, or the ground rent. Deed fees or ground rents payable in respect of Crown grants vary so widely that it is impossible to state categorically what is the minimum fee payable per plot throughout the Region unless a specific layout in an urban area is being considered. Such factors as the size of plot, the zone of the layout in which the plot is located, the purpose for which the grant is made, determine the rent and other fees chargeable for the grant.

APPENDIX

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Answers received during Adjournment
(14th November to 9th December, 1962)

Industries

157. **Mr E. S. Umoh** asked the Minister of Commerce, what industry has been earmarked for Ikot Ekpene Division in the 1962-68 Development Programme; if any, when will it start.

The Minister of Commerce: Under the Six-Year Development Programme, no specific industry has been earmarked for any place. The siting of industries is guided by economic considerations. However, the Industrial Development Centre at Owerri has been scheduled to examine such industries as the existing Raffia Industry in Ikot Ekpene and find out ways of improving and expanding them. The possibility of establishing other industries in the area will depend purely on the economic conditions that the siting of such industries requires, as the hon. Member will, I am sure, readily appreciate that economic considerations, availability of materials, etc., determine the siting of industries.

158. **Mr E. S. Umoh** asked the Minister of Commerce, whether he is aware that the pottery industry in Eastern Ibibio Ikono was opened by the voluntary efforts of a cultural organisation (Esop Ufon Eastern Ibibio, Ikono) as an encouragement to local enterprise; if so, will the Minister not consider giving grant for the improvement of the industry instead of its winding up.

The Minister of Commerce: I am aware of the existence of a small rural pottery industry in Ibibio Ikono, and offer my deep appreciation for the effort of the local community in establishing the industry. If the people of Ibibio Ikono apply for a grant, their application will be considered on its merit.

159. **Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo** asked the Minister of Commerce, in view of the nearness of Bori to the source of power at Afam and Bomu oilfields, and in view of the excellent water supply from the Lubara River at Bori,

what industries he intends to site at Bori in the Six-Year Industrial Development Scheme.

The Minister of Commerce: I am aware of the nearness of Bori to these sources of power and its good water supply, but the hon. Member will understand that factors other than the ones enumerated above are prerequisite to the siting of an industry. The hon. Member is referred to the answer to his question No. 224.

Eastern Nigeria Printing Corporation

160. **Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo** asked the Minister of Commerce, what was the profit realised by the Eastern Nigeria Printing Corporation in each of the years 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61; and how much was the total amount spent to establish the Corporation.

The Minister of Commerce: Although the Eastern Nigeria Printing Corporation was established in 1957, it did not actually start production until 1960. In the circumstances no profit could have accrued to the Corporation before then. The total capital investment in the Corporation was £200,000. In 1960 which was the first year of operation, the Corporation made a net profit of £4,887. The audited Report for 1961 has not yet been received but I am sure it would also show a substantial net profit.

161. **Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo** asked the Minister of Commerce, whether he will consider selling a percentage of the shares of the Eastern Nigeria Printing Corporation to the public of Eastern Nigeria in order to realise some needed money for the Government's economic development plan; and if not, why.

The Minister of Commerce: The Corporation was established by Government to satisfy a need in the printing trade. Government has therefore no immediate intention to sell a percentage of the shares of the Eastern Nigeria Printing Corporation to the public.

Private Printing Enterprises

162. **Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo** asked the Minister of Commerce, what assistance, financially and otherwise, has Government given to private Printing Enterprises in Eastern Nigeria.

The Minister of Commerce: My Ministry has from time to time supported the application of private Printing Enterprises for land and for loans and has also offered technical advice to those entrepreneurs who seek such advice.

Co-operative Society

182. **Mr E. A. U. Ntekpere** asked the Minister of Commerce, whether he is aware that there is no building for the office of the Co-operative Society in Ikot Ekpene; if so, when will one be built.

The Minister of Commerce: If the hon. Member means a building for the Co-operative Division of my Ministry, there has been in fact a three-roomed office at Ikot Ekpene for several years.

If the hon. Member means an office for Co-operative Societies, Government is not responsible for providing this, but it is a fact that the Ikot Ekpene Union has a very handsome building at Ikot Ekpene. This serves all the credit societies in the area.

Industries

185. **Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo** asked the Minister of Commerce, whether he is aware that Bo'uo and Buan in Ogoni Division have rich deposits of clay suitable for pottery industry and if so, how soon will he consider the establishment of a pottery industry there to help the people to improve on their traditional methods.

The Minister of Commerce: I am aware of the existence of rich deposits of clay in Bo'uo and Buan in Ogoni Division. If the hon. Member has in mind the establishment of a rural industry to exploit the clay deposit in the areas he has indicated, the idea is a good one and any local industry started by the people of the area would receive every sympathy from my Ministry. The hon. Member may

have known that a Ceramics factory is being built at Umuahia. It is hoped that when the new factory is in operation it will mother all other small pottery industries in the Region.

Roads

188. **Mr F. M. A. Saronwiyo** asked the Minister of Works, how soon will he tour Ogoni Division to see for himself the people's problems in road development and to help them solve same.

The Minister of Works: This question was sent to my Ministry in April, 1962. The hon. Minister of State in my Ministry, Chief J. H. E. Nwuke, when he acted for me, visited Ogoni Division on 19th October, and replied to a number of questions concerning road and water problems in that area. I am now fully aware, as a result of his report, of the problems in the hon. Member's constituency. Nevertheless I am prepared to visit Ogoni myself when I have the time.

Industries

223. **Mr P. A. Oji** asked the Minister of Commerce, whether he will consider siting a Wood Industry between Akeze and Ishiagu in Afikpo Division in view of the large quantity of logs produced in Nzerem in Akeze area.

The Minister of Commerce: The existence of a large quantity of logs in Nzerem in Akeze area is noted. However, if the hon. Member has in mind the establishment of a milling industry, I would say that this is a good idea, and that such an industry is very well suited to indigenous entrepreneurship. My Ministry will be prepared to offer technical information to any group of business men from Akeze and Ishiagu who are anxious to get such an industry started.

224. **Mr I. O. Nwauche** asked the Minister of Commerce, if he is aware of the potentialities for industrialisation in Afam, namely, gas, oil, electricity; if so, when will he site an industry in Afam.

The Minister of Commerce: I am aware. These potentialities are being fully utilised in Port Harcourt and surrounding districts. As the hon. Member knows, several competing factors have to be taken into consideration

when siting any industry; if an opportunity occurs in the future and it is proved without reasonable doubt that Afam is most suited for a particular industry, the industry will go to Afam, definitely; but at the moment it is considered that Afam is well served by developments in Port Harcourt area.

233. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Commerce, how soon he proposes to establish rice, yam, flour and palm wine bottling industries in Abakaliki Division.

The Minister of Commerce: I am aware of the abundance of rice, yam and palm wine in Abakaliki Division but I consider that the processing of these valuable foodstuffs should rest entirely with indigenous entrepreneurs. My Ministry is prepared to offer technical advice to such indigenous entrepreneurs.

234. **Mr O. O. Ezeaka** asked the Minister of Commerce, how soon will the Nyeba Lead/Zinc Factory in Abakaliki Division be reopened.

The Minister of Commerce: Certain negotiations are at present proceeding in respect of the mine at Abakaliki, but I regret I am not at present in a position to say whether or when the mine can be reopened.

I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the present very low price of lead which is a hindrance to developing a mining operation.

Soccer Promotion

306. **Mr S. O. Nwachuku** asked the Minister of Education, how much is allocated to the Sports Commission for the promotion of soccer in the Region; how is the allocation disbursed.

The Minister of Education: In 1960, Government made a grant of £3,000 to the Sports Commission in order to bring out the Middlesex Wanderers to play football on 1st October, 1960. Government does not normally make any separate allocation to the Sports Commission for individual Sports in the Region. Government only makes a block grant to the Sports Commission for all its services within any one year. It is from this grant that the Commission assists the various sporting bodies, football, hockey, athletics (men), athletics (women), cricket, wrestling,

table tennis, lawn tennis, netball and boxing. The Commission spends about £1,950 annually for the promotion of soccer. The grant of £3,000 in 1960 was on the occasion of Nigerian Independence Celebrations.

Industries

307. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Commerce, what industries have been earmarked for Orlu Division and where, since Orlu has no Agricultural Farm Settlement Scheme.

The Minister of Commerce: No specific industries have been earmarked for any Division or Province. The area in which large industries can be sited is determined by economic factors. The hon. Member will, however, be aware that the siting of new industries is based on economic considerations and Orlu Division, and indeed any other area, will be given every consideration if the economic factors necessary for the siting of any particular industry are readily available.

308. **Mr E. N. Njaka** asked the Minister of Commerce, what financial assistance will be given to any individual wishing to establish an industry in Orlu rural area.

The Minister of Commerce: The assistance given by Government to individuals wishing to establish an industry depends on the viability of the project submitted for the Government's consideration, and also on the potential importance of the proposed industry to the national economy.

309. **Mr R. E. Etong** asked the Minister of Commerce, whether he will not consider investigating the possibility of establishing a glass industry in Ibeno-Eket in view of the alleged suitable sand there for such industry; if so, when.

The Minister of Commerce: The hon. Member will be aware that a Glass Industry is now being established at Port Harcourt and in view of this it would not be economical at this stage to consider the setting up of a similar industry at Ibeno-Eket.

310. **Mr R. E. Etong** asked the Minister of Commerce, when will he take steps to develop the Raffia Industry at Ikot Ekpene which was a

flourishing concern in the forties; if so, what arrangements are being made to that effect.

The Minister of Commerce: Considerable financial assistance has been given to the raffia workers at Ikot Ekpene with a view to helping them to develop their industry. What perhaps may now be needed is a more energetic approach by the workers themselves to place on the market items acceptable to the buying public. My Ministry would be ready to offer advice in this respect if the workers so request.

Local Motor Mechanics

311. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Commerce, what recognition and encouragement are given to local motor mechanics who help to train most of the school leavers in automobile engineering.

The Minister of Commerce: If several mechanics who have the necessary knowledge and experience can pool their resources together and establish a fairly well equipped workshop and adopt a definite programme of training, sympathetic consideration may be given to any application for assistance they may make. But it must be pointed out that Government does not, from the very first day, begin to patronise any private Educational Institution, whether technical or otherwise. There is usually a preliminary period during which the progress of the Institution is carefully watched and studied.

Loans to Traders

312. **Mr T. O. Egemole** asked the Minister of Commerce, why loans are not granted to local traders to develop their import and export trade.

The Minister of Commerce: Our national wealth depends on how much we can make our export exceed our import trade. But the trader, whose main concern is the sale or purchase rather than the production of goods, tends to inflate the value of our imports at the expense of our exports. If the farmer who grows cocoa or cotton does not produce enough from his farm, there is nothing the trader can do to improve his export trade in cocoa. At the same time if the palm groves

do not yield palm oil and kernels, a grant given to a produce buyer will not increase the export of our palm produce. Any assistance given to the trader is not in the best interest of our national wealth.

Palm Oil and Kernels

313. **Mr G. U. M. Nwagbara** asked the Minister of Commerce, whether he is aware that Ikeduru in Owerri Division is the largest producer of palm oil and kernels in the Region; if so, will he site a soap factory in the area to utilise these raw materials.

The Minister of Commerce: The hon. Member will be aware that there are already several successful soap manufacturing industries established in Eastern Nigeria. In view of this, there would appear to be no reason for Government to site a soap factory at Ikeduru, particularly as growers have no difficulty in disposing of the palm oil and kernels produced in the Owerri Division.

Owuwa Anyanwu County Council

328. **Mr A. K. Uche** asked the Minister of Local Government, whether he is aware that in June, 1961, the Owuwa Anyanwu County Council in Bende Division recommended one of the Second-class Chiefs to be appointed the President of the Council; if so, will approval be given without further delay.

The Minister of Local Government: There are many factors against the approval of the candidature of the President-designate of the Owuwa Anyanwu County Council. The most important of these factors is the recommendation of the Council that the office of a President should rotate.

2. Government is anxious that there should be stability in the machinery of Local Government Administration and except in very grave circumstances it is not advisable that the office of President should rotate. The matter is still under consideration and I hope to take a final decision at no distant date.

Farm Settlement

369. **Mr G. I. Aleke** asked the Minister of Agriculture, when will the land acquired

by the Government at Ezzillor in Abakaliki Division be utilised for a Farm Settlement.

The Minister of Agriculture: Ezzillor was originally selected as a site for one of the Farm Institutes to be established in the Region during the current Six-Year Development Programme. It was not to be a Farm Settlement since there is already one at Erei in Abakaliki Province. The site is now to be developed as a Livestock Research Centre and for this reason the original area of 1,000 acres has been considerably increased to about 5,000 acres.

Sub-Treasury for Oron

385. **Mr R. E. Etong** asked the Minister of Finance, when will a Sub-Treasury be built at Oron in view of the fact that the one at Uyo is far away for people from Oron.

The Minister of Finance: There is no prospect of building a Sub-Treasury at Oron in the foreseeable future. It is not considered that the degree of inconvenience suffered by the people of Oron in attending the Sub-Treasury at Uyo is so great as to justify the capital cost of erecting new Sub-Treasury buildings and the recurrent costs of staff and maintenance.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

Tuesday, 11th December, 1962

Beer Brewery at Umuahia

339. **Dr Chike Obi** asked the Minister of Town Planning, how many times since 1951 has the Crown acquired and lost rights over the piece of land, now called Afara Layout, on which the Beer Brewery at Umuahia is being erected; when and how did the Crown acquire and lose those rights.

The Minister of Town Planning: The hon. Member does not appear to know that a portion of Afara Village in Umuahia and the

site leased to the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation for a beer factory are included in the parcel of land known as Crown land, which was granted to the Governor in 1919. Government has not, on any occasion, lost its rights or title over this parcel of land since the acquisition. Recently, however, Government considered very favourably the representations of some Afara villagers who have occupied portions of this land for a considerable period and decided to surrender those portions to the villagers. Steps are now being taken to implement this decision.

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Adj. Deb. = Adjournment Debate	Com. = Committee	E.N. = Eastern Nigeria
1R = First Reading		Q = Oral Questions
2R = Second Reading		W = Written Questions—
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Illegal Collection of Fees in Primary Schools	125Q
Industries	77W
Roads	13W, 14W, 33W
Trade Union Courses	35W
Water Supply	13W
UMUAHIA:	
Beer Brewery	87-8W
Roads	54W
Umuahia-Ibeku Urban County Council	69-70W
URURUKA, MR P. O., Minister of Works:	
Aerodrome for Aba	43W
Bridge Construction	10W
Bridges	2W, 34W, 42W, 47W, 51-3W
Bridging of Okolo River	33W
Discrimination by Expatriate Contract- ing Firms	56W
Electricity Supply	50W, 55W
Pipe-borne Water for Ogoja Town	12W
Roads	53-4Q, 71-2Q, 8-9W, 13W, 14W, 31W
.. .. .	33-4W, 42W, 46W, 53-4W, 55W, 80W
Tarring of Roads	54Q, 3-4W, 28W, 29W, 30W

	Column
Telephone and tarred Road Link of the Nekede Agricultural Centre with Owerri Town	56W
Telephone System at Orlu	56W
Water Supply	4Q, 71Q, 1-2W, 9W, 12W, 13W, 13-14W, 18W, 23W, 25W, 27W, 28-30W, 31-2W, 41W, 42W, 48-50W, 51W
Yahe-Oturkpo Road	33W

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WATER SUPPLIES:

Amichi-Azigbo	17-18W
Institutional Water Supplies	48W, 50W
Rural Water Supply—Abakaliki Division	9W, 23W
Rural Water Supply—Enyong Division ..	13-14W
Rural Water Supply—Ikot Ekpene Divi- sion	13W
Water Supply—Aba Division	1W
Water Supply—Ahoada Town	50W
Water Supply—Awka Division	29-30W
Water Supply—Bende Division	31-2W
Water Supply—Nsukka Division	49W
Water Supply—Ogoja Town and Ogoja Division	12W
Water Supply—Ogoni Division	71Q, 48-9W
Water Supply—Onitsha	4Q
Water Supply—Orlu Division	25W, 27W, 29W, 32W, 48W, 51W
Water Supply—Owerri Division	27W, 32W, 41- 2W, 49-50W
Water Supply Scheme—Okigwi Division ..	28-9W, 31W
Water Supply—Uyo Division	41W, 47-8W

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