



EASTERN NIGERIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE SECOND HOUSE OF CHIEFS
OF EASTERN NIGERIA

SESSION (1961-62)

FIRST MEETING

12-14th December, 1961

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BY WILLIAM M. BARTON

NEW YORK

1912

EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

FIRST-CLASS CHIEFS (TRADITIONAL RULERS)

- Chief the hon. Douglas Jaja, the Amanyanabo of Opobo.
 Chief the hon. Francis O. Joseph Allagoa, M.B.E., the Amanyanabo of Nembe.
 Chief the hon. Kanu Oji, the Eze Aro of Arochuku.
 Chief the hon. Nnani Ojiako, the Obi of Oguta.
 Chief the hon. Prince Eugene William Dappa Pepple, the Amanyanabo of Bonny.
 Chief the hon. Frederick Princewill Amachree, M.B.E., Amachree VIII, the Amanyanabo of Kalabari.

FIRST-CLASS CHIEFS (PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Province</i>
Chief the hon. N. U. Ofem	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. S. A. Essien	Annang.
Chief the hon. Ika Ika Oqua II	Calabar.
Chief the hon. Sampson I. Adoki	Degema.
Chief the hon. Ako Okwoli II	Enugu.
Chief the hon. J. U. Okudare	Ogoja.
Chief the hon. N. N. Anyika	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. Johnson Osuji Njemanze, M.B.E.	Owerri.
Chief the hon. J. Mpi	Port Harcourt.
Chief the hon. J. N. Wachuku	Umuahia.
Chief the hon. Eket Inyang-Udo	Uyo.
Chief the hon. Zumoh Efeke V	Yenagoa.

SECOND-CLASS CHIEFS (DIVISIONAL REPRESENTATIVES)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Division</i>
Chief the hon. G. A. Olujie	Aba.
Chief the hon. F. N. Ogudoro	Aba.
Chief the hon. P. W. A. de Orji	Aba.
Chief the hon. J. U. U. Ebong	Abak.
Chief the hon. Ogba Ekirigwe	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. Nwancho Atuma	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. N. Udude	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. J. A. Anigor	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. W. A. Uguba	Afikpo.
Chief the hon. O. O. Uzor	Afikpo.
Chief the hon. W. Obi	Ahoada.
Chief the hon. R. A. Ukwu	Ahoada.
Chief the hon. E. E. Okpa	Awgu.
Chief the hon. Angus O. Ilonze	Awka.
Chief the hon. C. O. Nebe	Awka.
Chief the hon. G. A. Agwu	Bende.
Chief the hon. S. N. Okorie	Bende.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Division</i>
Chief the hon. J. I. Onuoha	Bende.
Chief the hon. G. A. Ikibah	Brass.
Chief the hon. Edet Edem	Calabar.
Chief the hon. Ginah Iponi	Degema.
Chief the hon. A. U. Ukpa... ..	Eket.
Chief the hon. E. O. Atakpa	Enyong.
Chief the hon. U. U. Ibanga	Ikot Ekpene.
Chief the hon. E. N. Abang	Ikom.
Chief the hon. Ugwu Ezugwu-Ukuma	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. E. O. Nwonye	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. R. U. Iyida	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. P. U. Obodoeze	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. E. A. Egbara	Obubra.
Chief the hon. J. D. Agba	Obudu.
Chief the hon. P. M. Abue... ..	Ogoja.
Chief the hon. S. B. Maeba	Ogoni.
Chief the hon. D. O. Aligwekwe	Okigwi.
Chief the hon. A. A. Ekwebelem	Okigwi.
Chief the hon. S. A. Ike	Okigwi.
Chief the hon. J. N. Orizu	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. J. A. Onwudiwe	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. S. O. Ezenwa	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. R. Ojimba Oraelosi	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. N. Ibok, M.B.E.	Opobo.
Chief the hon. G. N. Agbasiere	Orlu.
Chief the hon. N. Duru	Orlu.
Chief the hon. J. A. Nwosu	Orlu.
Chief the hon. S. E. Onukogu	Owerri.
Chief the hon. G. O. Ihenacho, M.B.E.	Owerri.
Chief the hon. H. I. Akwitti	Owerri.
Chief the hon. E. U. Dureke	Owerri.
Chief the hon. A. K. C. Nosike	Owerri.
Chief the hon. Joseph Wobo	Port Harcourt.
Chief the hon. E. A. Nnaji	Udi.
Chief the hon. M. O. Okongwu	Udi.
Chief the hon. V. O. Agana	Udi.
Chief the hon. E. A. Affiah... ..	Uyo.
Chief the hon. Nyong Essien, C.M.G.	Uyo.

SPECIAL MEMBERS

Chief the hon. M. I. Asinobi.

Chief the hon. A. O. Chikwendu.

Chief the hon. C. E. Amobi.

The hon. J. O. Umolu.

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.
MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL	...	...	...	...	...	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	...	...	...	...	...	Enugu Province.
Hon. M. E. Ogon	...	...	...	...	...	Port Harcourt Province.
Hon. P. A. Onwe	...	...	...	...	...	Annang Province.
Hon. N. L. P. Apreala	...	...	...	...	...	Degema Province.
Hon. M. C. Awgu	...	...	...	...	...	Abakaliki 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 Amanyano of Opobo;
Chief the hon. A. N. Onyiuke; Hon. H. U. Akpabio; Chief the hon. S. E. Onukogu;
Parliamentary Secretaries: Hon. J. O. Umolu;
Hon. I. Igajah;
Hon. E. Chuku;
Chief the hon. D. O. Aligwekwe.

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. Odonu.

Ministry of Information:—

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

Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs:—

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

Ministry of Justice:—

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

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER AND MINISTRIES OF 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.

COMMITTEES

Committee of Selection

The Premier (*Chairman*).
Chief S. E. Onukogu (*Minister of State*).
Chief D. Jaja (*Minister of State*).
Chief J. N. Wachuku.
Chief E. Inyang-Udo.
Chief J. Mpi.
Chief C. E. Amobi.

Standing Orders Committee

President (*Chairman*).
Deputy President.
Minister of Town Planning.
Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.
Chief J. A. Anigor.
Chief A. U. Ukpa.

House Committee

Minister of Internal Affairs (*Chairman*).
Chief Angus Ilonze.
Chief P. U. Obodoeze.
Chief S. A. Essien.
Chief S. N. Okorie.
Chief J. D. Agba.

Public Petitions Committee

Minister of Information (*Chairman*).
Chief S. A. Ike.
Chief J. Nwosu.
Chief N. N. Anyika.
Chief E. O. Atakpa.
Chief Joseph D. Agba.
Chief G. A. Ikibah.

Committee of Privileges

Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs (*Chairman*).
Chief Edward Nnaji.
Chief E. E. Okpa.
Chief Kanu Oji.
Chief F. N. Ogudoro.
Chief Akpan Enang.
Chief Ogba Ekirigwe.
Chief R. A. Ukwu.
Chief Sampson B. Maeba.

Statutory Corporations Committee

Minister of Commerce (*Chairman*).
Chief N. U. Ofem.
Chief J. U. U. Ebong.
Chief H. I. Akwitti.
Chief Silas Ezenwa.
Chief G. O. Ihenacho, M.B.E.
Chief Sampson B. Maeba.

Public Accounts Committee

Chief A. U. Ukpa (*Chairman*).
Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.
Chief C. E. Amobi.
Chief Eket Inyang-Udo.
Chief J. Mpi.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

The President: Chief the hon. Nyong Essien, C.M.G.
Leader of the House: Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke, *Minister of Education*.
Deputy President: Chief the hon. G. N. Agbasiere.
Clerks of the Legislature: Mr C. E. Ekpe; Mr A. E. Eronini, I.S.O., M.B.E.
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.
Assistant Editor, Official Report (*Hansard*): Mr J. A. Okoh.
Official Reporter: Mr K. A. N. Ekwos.
Executive Officer (General Duties): Mr W. N. Okafor.
Executive Officer (Accounts) : Mr J. C. Nwadiakwa.
Serjeant-at-Arms: Mr B. O. Ajumogobia.

EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Tuesday, 12th December, 1961

The House met at 10 a.m.; and it being the first meeting of this House, pursuant to Proclamation by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government of Eastern Nigeria, Cyril Eziefula Ekpe, Esquire, Clerk of Legislature, Eastern Nigeria, attending in the House, took his seat.

The Serjeant-at-Arms brought in the Mace and laid it under the Table.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke) *stood up and addressing himself to the Clerk of the Legislature (who, standing up, pointed to him and then sat down) said:* In accordance with the provision of paragraph 1 of Standing Order 4, I rise to acquaint the House that His Excellency desires the House to proceed with the Election of the President of this House.

Chief J. Mpi (Port Harcourt Province) *stood up, and addressing himself to the Clerk of the Legislature (who, standing up, pointed to him and then sat down) said:*

I beg to move, That Chief Nyong Essien do take the Chair as President of this House.

It is a pleasure for me to have to propose this motion. Chief Nyong Essien, most of you will remember, once participated very actively in politics. For more than twenty years he has been a legislator. He was a Member of the old Legislative Council of Nigeria, and later, a Member of the Eastern House of Assembly. He took part in the 1957 Constitutional Conference at which he pleaded the course of the Chiefs of this Region. It was fitting that the Government of Eastern Nigeria acknowledged his services by appointing him the first President of the Eastern House of Chiefs. As the President of that House, he creditably discharged the onerous duties of his office.

I am sure that hon. Chiefs here present will wish this House to benefit from the wisdom and experience of Chief Nyong Essien.

Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E. (Owerri Province) *stood up, and addressing himself to the*

Clerk of the Legislature (who, standing up, pointed to him and then sat down) said:

I rise to second this Motion. We Chiefs in this House will honour our *ex*-Premier who is now Governor-General of Nigeria. He quickly realised the importance and the activities of Chiefs and with his foresight the Eastern House of Chiefs was established. The House was dissolved and we are very grateful to our present Premier for his good works. We hope that a very suitable person will continue in this job. We do not want any alteration to be made. We want Chief Nyong Essien to continue in this job. I therefore ask this House to call upon him to take the Chair.

The House then unanimously called Chief Nyong Essien to the Chair.

Chief Nyong Essien, C.M.G.: The hon. Leader of the House and hon. Chiefs: In fact, I am dumb. I have no words to express myself. Any way, I have to acknowledge the weight of my responsibility to you for the honour you have proposed to confer upon me. I am quite prepared to pass along in carrying out the errand to your satisfaction. Nevertheless, I depend upon your support and co-operation.

The House then having again unanimously called Chief Nyong Essien to the Chair, he was taken out of his place and conducted to the Chair by Chiefs J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E. and J. Mpi.

Mr President-Elect (*standing on the upper step of the dais, took the Oath of Allegiance*) said:

Mr Clerk, I desire before taking the Chair, to express my respectful and humble acknowledgement to the House for the great honour it has been pleased to confer upon me.

Mr President sat down in the Chair.

Then the Mace (which before lay under the Table) was placed upon the Table.

The Premier (Dr M. I. Okpara): Mr President, may I on behalf of my colleagues and myself congratulate you on your elevation to this very high office. We all remember your own personal contributions to the Nationalist Movement.

Eastern House of Chiefs Debates

3 [Election of Deputy President]

12 DECEMBER 1961

[Oath of Allegiance]

4

[THE PREMIER]

I recall when I was a young medical man that I noted you were one of the seven people who went to London to ask for independence for this country in 1947. We did not get it then but we got it a few years later.

As has also been said, you have served in many Legislatures. Therefore, you are conversant with the ways of Parliament.

Since you were elected to this office early in 1960, I must say that we have found to our delight that you have held this office with credit.

Fortunately, you are still young at heart and it is our earnest hope that you will still give this hon. House many more years of fruitful service. May I once again congratulate you and say that I and my colleagues look forward to valuable contributions by this hon. House to the progress of this Region—a measure which has been achieved in the last few months due to your good umpiring in the last House of Chiefs.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Chief C. E. Amobi (Special Member): Mr President, I beg to move: That Chief G. Agbasiere be elected the Deputy President of this House. May I, in doing so, remind hon. Chiefs and Members that Chief G. Agbasiere is a Second-class Chief of repute. He was an active Member of the First House of Chiefs and I am sure his wise experience and mature mind would enable him to carry out the duties of Deputy President confidently and efficiently.

Chief Z. Efeke V (Yenagoa Province): Mr President, I beg to second the Motion which has been very ably moved. Chief Agbasiere, as hon. Chiefs will recall, was a Member of the old House of Chiefs and the former House of Assembly.

He is not only capable but also versed in parliamentary practice and procedure. His election as Deputy President of this House will receive the unanimous approval of the general public. I therefore ask the House to call upon him to take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(Chief Agbasiere was then conducted to his seat by the Clerk of the Legislature, Mr C. E. Ekpe.)

Chief G. Agbasiere (Orlu Division): Mr President, hon. Premier, hon. Ministers and my hon. colleagues: I thank you all very much for this honour which you have done me this morning.

(Then Chief Agbasiere took the Oath of Allegiance.)

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara.
Chief the hon. B. C. Okwu.
The hon. P. O. Ururuka.
The hon. E. Emole.
Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke.
The hon. I. U. Akpabio.
The hon. M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.
Dr the hon. A. N. Obonna.
The hon. O. U. Affiah.
Chief the hon. A. N. Onyiuke.
The hon. P. N. Okeke.
Chief the hon. E. P. Okoya.
Chief the hon. J. U. Nwodo.
The hon. G. E. Okeke.
Chief the hon. J. H. E. Nwuke.
The hon. P. O. Nwoga.
Dr the hon. N. Otue.
The hon. D. S. A. Agim.
The hon. H. U. Akpabio.
The hon. J. M. Echeruo.
Chief the hon. S. E. Onukogu.
Chief the hon. Douglas Jaja.
Chief the hon. A. O. Chikwendu.
Chief the hon. D. O. Aligwekwe.
The hon. J. O. Umolu.
Chief the hon. F. O. J. Allagoa, M.B.E.
Chief the hon. F. Princewill-Amachree, M.B.E.
Chief the hon. Kanu Oji.
Chief the hon. Nnani Ojiako.
Chief the hon. P. E. W. D. Pepple.
Chief the hon. N. U. Ofem.
Chief the hon. S. A. Essien.
Chief the hon. Ika Ika Oqua II.
Chief the hon. S. I. Adoki.
Chief the hon. J. U. Okudare.
Chief the hon. N. N. Anyika.
Chief the hon. J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.
Chief the hon. J. Mpi.

Chief the hon. J. N. Wachuku.
 Chief the hon. E. Inyang-Udo.
 Chief the hon. Zumoh Efeke V.
 Chief the hon. G. O. Ihenacho, M.B.E.
 Chief the hon. C. E. Amobi.
 Chief the hon. J. Wobo.
 Chief the hon. G. A. Olujie.
 Chief the hon. F. N. Ogudoro.
 Chief the hon. J. U. U. Ebong.
 Chief the hon. O. Ekirigwe.
 Chief the hon. M. I. Asinobi.
 Chief the hon. N. Atuma.
 Chief the hon. N. Udude.
 Chief the hon. J. A. Anigor.
 Chief the hon. W. A. Uguba.
 Chief the hon. O. O. Uzor.
 Chief the hon. W. Obi.
 Chief the hon. E. E. Okpa.
 Chief the hon. A. O. Ilonze.
 Chief the hon. C. O. Nebe.
 Chief the hon. S. N. Okorie.
 Chief the hon. J. I. Onuoha.
 Chief the hon. G. A. Ikibah.
 Chief the hon. Edet Edem.
 Chief the hon. A. U. Ukpa.
 Chief the hon. E. O. Atakpa.
 Chief the hon. G. Iponi.
 Chief the hon. R. A. Ukwu.
 Chief the hon. E. A. Nnaji.
 Chief the hon. M. O. Okongwu.
 Chief the hon. V. O. Agana.
 Chief the hon. A. K. C. Nsike.
 Chief the hon. E. U. Dureke.
 Chief the hon. H. I. Akwitti.
 Chief the hon. E. A. Affiah.
 Chief the hon. J. A. Nwosu.
 Chief the hon. G. A. Agwu.
 Chief the hon. R. Ojimba Oraelosi.
 Chief the hon. J. A. Onwudiwe.
 Chief the hon. S. O. Ezenwa.
 Chief the hon. S. A. Ike.
 Chief the hon. A. A. Ekwebelem.
 Chief the hon. S. B. Maeba.
 Chief the hon. P. M. Abue.
 Chief the hon. J. D. Agba.
 Chief the hon. N. Duru.
 Chief the hon. N. Ibok, M.B.E.
 Chief the hon. E. A. Egbara.
 Chief the hon. P. U. Obodoeze.
 Chief the hon. R. U. Iyida.
 Chief the hon. E. O. Nwonye.
 Chief the hon. U. Ezugwu-Ukuma.
 Chief the hon. E. N. Abang.
 Chief the hon. U. U. Ibanga.

Chief the hon. P. W. A. de Orji.
 Chief the hon. J. N. Orizu.

PRAYERS

Mr President: The House will stand adjourned until 12 o'clock for recess.

Sitting suspended at 11.33 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12 noon.

PAPER

Presented:

Draft Supplementary Estimates of Eastern Nigeria (including Memorandum), December 1961. (*The Minister of Finance*).

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

MESSAGES FROM THE EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(1) Audit

Message on the Audit (Amendment) Bill, 1961—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly, endorsed with the Certificate of the Speaker that the Bill is a Money Bill in accordance with Standing Order 60—read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

(2) Governor's (Emoluments)

Message on the Governor's (Emoluments) Bill, 1961—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly, endorsed with the Certificate of the Speaker that the Bill is a Money Bill in accordance with Standing Order 60—read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

(3) Newspapers

Message on the Newspaper (Amendment) Bill, 1961—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly; read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

(4) Local Government

Message on the Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 1961—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly; read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

(5) **University**

Message on the University of Nigeria Bill, 1961—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly; read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

(6) **Supplementary Appropriation**

Message on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1961—*brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly, endorsed with the Certificate of the Speaker that the Bill is a Money Bill in accordance with Standing Order 60—read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(1) **Audit (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.

The Mbanefo award raised the salary of the Director of Audit from £2,400 to £2,700. It is therefore necessary to amend section 3 of the Audit Law, No. 38 of 1955, as already amended by the Audit (Amendment) Law, No. 10 of 1960, in order to incorporate in the Law the substance of subsections 1 and 4 of section 59 of the Constitution of Eastern Nigeria. These subsections provide that the Legislature shall prescribe the salary payable to the holder of the office, among others, of Director of Audit.

Certain sections of the Law are to be renumbered consequent upon the repeal of sections 4, 5 and 7. These sections were repealed by E.N.L.N. No. 79 of 1961 purely for constitutional reasons.

This Bill is non-contentious and seeks merely to regularise the existing situation.

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

Chief J. Mpi (Port Harcourt Province): I do not see, as the hon. Minister said, anything contentious in this Bill. It is a very good Bill

but at the same time I have to warn that the Audit Department should be doing its work properly without any partiality. Their work concerns the auditing of the accounts of Local Government Councils and we can only assume that with this Bill passed the Audit Department will understand that we expect them to improve their work. I support that this Bill be passed.

Chief C. E. Amobi (Special Member): I rise to support this Bill and in doing so I have to say that this Bill affords me a big opportunity to send my congratulations to the Audit Department. I was a member of the Public Accounts Committee of the old Legislature and there I was able to appreciate the good work being done in that Department. Any increase, therefore, that is sought for the Head of that Department is to be supported without grudge.

Chief J. N. Wachuku (Umuahia Province): I have a few words to add to what one of my hon. Friends has said. The life of a Local Government Council depends largely on its finances and every encouragement should be given to whoever is responsible for keeping the accounts of Councils in order. In supporting this Bill therefore I am suggesting that the staff of the Audit Department be increased to make it possible for the Department to be able to tour to many Councils at short intervals for their work. It is imperative, considering the work of this Department, that they should be frequenting Local Government Councils for audit purposes.

With these, I beg to support.

Chief J. U. Okudare (Ogoja Province): This Bill is non-contentious and there is no need wasting time on it.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

And it being certified a Money Bill;

Question: That the Bill be committed deemed to have been negatived.

Question: That the Bill be now read the Third time—put forthwith and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.

(2) Governor's (Emoluments) 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.

Section 224 (1) of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1954, became effective, by virtue of Statutory Instrument 1958/429, from 1st April, 1958. This meant that the amounts of salary and duty pay of the Governor, and of the salary of the Deputy Governor, ought to have been prescribed by Law from that date. They were not, however, so prescribed, and there is therefore some doubt whether, with effect from 1st April, 1958, the charges that were made upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund were fully covered by legislative authority. This applies, so far as His Excellency's salary and duty pay are concerned, to the period up to the present and to the salary of the Deputy Governor up to 30th September, 1960, after which date it ceased, under the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960, to be a statutory emolument and became part of the ordinary provision annually appropriated by the Legislature. This Bill seeks to rectify this situation retrospectively.

The Bill also proposes that the duty pay of the Governor shall be increased from £1,200 to £2,000 per annum in order to enable him to meet the many onerous expenses of his high office.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

And it being certified a Money Bill;

Question: That the Bill be committed deemed to have been negatived.

Question: That the Bill be now read the Third time—put forthwith and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.

(3) Newspaper (Amendment) Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.): I beg to move that the Bill be now read a Second time. This is a simple and straight-forward Bill. It makes it imperative on the printer or publisher to send a copy of the issue of every paper published by him and signed, to the Minister of Information for record purposes. I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me that it is important for purposes of record that a Government should have a copy of every newspaper published in its territory. The Minister of Information will file the copy. Section 12 (b) (i) and (ii) provides that if the printer or publisher fails to supply a copy, then we can act and make it obligatory on him to supply it. A penalty or fine of £50 is prescribed for any day on which he fails to comply with the Law. I am sure that hon. Members will approve of this Bill very easily. It does give us power to demand that the printer or publisher should give us a copy of his paper for reference purposes.

The Minister of Economic Planning (Mr G. E. Okeke): 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 President resumed the Chair)

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

The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.

(4) Local Government (Amendment) Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

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

[CHIEF NWODO]

Bill be now read a Second time. The amendment proposed to the principal Law are the fruits of the experience gained over the last year and a half. They are important and necessary amendments and I am happy to be able to present them because I know that hon. Members, many of whom are themselves Councillors, realise fully that the practice and needs of Local Government are constantly changing and therefore the Law cannot stand still. As we learn by experience, so must that experience be expressed in up-to-date Legislation and that is exactly what these amendments are designed to achieve. Quite shortly, they are aimed at clearing up a number of anomalies and at making the routine administration and control of Local Government Councils more effective.

The objects and reasons have been clearly set out in the printed Bill and I shall not refer to them further at this stage. Additional powers are given to the Minister in respect of inquiries and staff matters with the object of plugging loopholes and to make control more speedy and sure. Experience has shown that under certain circumstances the Minister must step in effectively but without the power he cannot do so and unsatisfactory situations arise which give cause for general complaint. But under existing legislation I cannot intervene. Clearly there is room for remedy and that is what is proposed.

As Local Government Councils expand and undertake more services so local administration becomes more complicated. When the Law becomes incapable of dealing with certain complexities it has to be changed and I therefore commend to hon. Members the amendments which are proposed as being most necessary for the orderly progress of Local Government.

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

Chief J. Mpi (Port Harcourt Province): I do not think there is much to argue about as far as this Bill is concerned. I would like to say that this Bill should not empower the Minister to run the Local Government Councils from Enugu. I beg to support.

Chief E. A. Egbara (Obubra Division): Although it is not my place to say anything against this Bill, I feel concerned about the way in which Councillors are to be surcharged. We all know that it is not necessary for a Councillor to have gained accounting experience before he is elected to the Council, but in many cases the Councillor has violated the Law one way or the other through the direction of the Executive Officer of the Council. It pains the Councillor to see that he has been surcharged through the order of the Minister. But I think it is quite reasonable to think that the Councillor has erred after obtaining the expert advice of the Executive Officer on what the latter knows to be evil. Surcharges are quite good in themselves but I would suggest that the Minister concerned or the Government should consider the matter seriously and exonerate Councillors who are themselves untrained in the field of accounting and pass the blame to the Executive Officers. I am saying this from experience because many Councillors have complained seriously about this question of surcharge. Having no other aspect to criticise in this Bill, I beg to support.

Chief C. E. Amobi (Special Member): In rising to support this Bill I must say that the Bill is very essential in that it clarifies the position of Provincial Commissioners. There was a time when the Local Councils and the Councillors tried to usurp the powers of Provincial Commissioners. In some official ceremonies many things do not work in order, but now that the position of Provincial Commissioners is clarified, the personalities involved will now know where they stand: what to do and what not to do.

Another thing to remember is the position of Local Government workers, who are retiring at the age of 60. We all know very well that some of these workers started with meagre salaries and in most cases they found it difficult to train their children. Now that retiring age has been raised to 60 years I think they will now find their feet and will be able to train their children and maintain their families.

Another aspect is this question of powers given to the Minister. That is very, very essential because in some Councils the Councillors do not care for the Provincial Commissioners. Now that this Bill is to be passed the

Councils will now know where to start and where to end. They will never take things into their own hands again. That is why in some places there are no developments because they do not care. If they are told that the Minister says this or that, they reply that it is not in their order of business, that the Minister has no hands in their business. But now it is clear that the Minister will have to give direct orders to the Councils. I think this question of surcharging will have to stop. Somebody was talking about Councillors not knowing accounts. But it is not for the Minister to appoint Councillors. If the people want to elect illiterate people into their Councils it is up to them. If people elect qualified men into their Councils there will be no trouble and with these minor observations, I beg to support the Bill.

Chief J. U. Okudare (Ogoja Province): I rise to support the Bill. We want some powers to be given to the Minister because in some cases Councillors try to look into things which could have gone to Court. In other places they take upon themselves to reduce the tax of some people or exempt them from paying on account of old age. In some of these cases it is observed that men who are not old enough are being exempted from paying tax. By doing this the Councillors take the Law into their own hands. So by this power given to the Minister the Councillors will now take orders from the Minister, and this will eliminate bad practices on the part of the Councillors to a great extent. The question of tax shortages is due to the Councillors. If one goes to the Councillors and gives them a goat, they agree that one is too old and must be exempted from paying tax. That is not good! Therefore the powers given to the Minister in this Bill augur well for the future.

Chief Zumoh Efeke V (Yenagoa Province): In supporting the Bill I wish to make a few points. One is about the Councillors and the other is about the Local Government workers. Some people are just talking about Councillors alone and leaving the workers. Some of the troubles in the Councils, for example, shortage of funds, affect not only Councillors but also workers. There are times when things go wrong in some Councils and Councillors would want to correct the workers and there would be misunderstanding among them. When trouble comes they run to Enugu. Another

thing is that in the County Councils there has been misappropriation of funds with the result that in such Councils there are no fund to pay teachers. Such cases are mostly caused by Local Government workers and not the Councillors alone. It is true that most Councillors have no knowledge of accounts. Some are illiterates and it is a fact that one cannot entrust such responsibility to an illiterate, although Local Government workers are there to do the work of the Council. Only in a few cases that teachers are elected into Councils and when they want to know what is going underneath trouble begins and the work of the Council comes to a standstill.

There is no fund and there is no work; that is because many Councils are not doing well. Therefore the Minister of Local Government should take steps to see that the Councillors—and not only the Councillors but the workers—are surcharged, in order that the people or the electorate will have confidence in the Government, because the Government, in the rural areas, now depends upon the people. So that if the Government is not working very effectively or efficiently then the people in the rural areas will think otherwise. We want the Government to control the Councils very seriously, and to improve Councils in the rural areas, and that is why I am supporting the Bill and the Government and the Minister of Local Government should take a very serious view of taking control of, or examining, the accounts and everything in the County Councils.

Chief J. N. Wachuku (Umuahia Province): The question of Councils' matters is one of the problems facing the people of this Region, and this amendment is very good. But I think the Provincial Commissioners should take this responsibility themselves and not delegate their powers to the Executive Officers.

Talking about the question of surcharge, it is time that Secretaries and Treasurers should come in. Nobody would arrest a Treasurer for not paying out what he considers is irregular. If there is a matter which affects the Council or Council's agents, they feel as Councillors they are not going to be penalised. It is up to the Secretary who is trained to record his advice in the minutes of that Council and not to hide it. So that the best thing is that steps should be taken to include the Secretary and the Treasurer in the Bill so that they should know their

[CHIEF WACHUKU]

responsibilities. I know that on many occasions the Secretaries have to write and send confidential letters to Enugu reporting that this man is interfering with this and that man is interfering with that when they know you cannot give them chance of either appointing or making irregular appointment or otherwise. The Treasurer should be brought in because if he finds that the Council has forced him to pay anything he has the Local Government Commissioner or Provincial Commissioner to report to. If he keeps quiet and wangles with the Councillors and they lavish the money then what he says is that it is the fault of the Council "not my palaver"; with the result that when he is told that this should be done or that should be done, he says "yes I am a servant". Behold, he knows everything; he does everything! That is the point. The Secretary and the Treasurer should be included in the surcharge, because in the minutes of that Council in which a decision was taken their views were recorded and it could be said whether they advised the Council and the Council refused to accept their advice. It may be remembered that most of the official letters from the Eastern Region are received by the Secretaries who go into the Councils to read "letter number so so and so from the Minister of Local Government—noted", not knowing that they are reading their corrected minutes. Some Chairmen scarcely see such circular letters with the Secretaries for them to read and digest, and then know what is happening. Therefore, I am suggesting very seriously that Secretaries and Treasurers should be included in the surcharge, so that you know you are having everybody. I think this surcharge a very good thing as long as Secretaries and Treasurers are included, and everybody knows they are responsible officers. They are having big salaries now and they want everything for themselves. Therefore they should take care of whatever they do. Instances are not wanting. Therefore I think this amendment of the law is very good.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

Chief F. N. Ogudoro (Aba Division): I rise to support the Bill. In doing so I have to point out that the Staff Regulations should be amended. Since the Local Government

Law is being amended, a decision should be taken to amend the Staff Regulations as well.

As other Chiefs have said, the Secretaries and Treasurers of Councils are very fond of duping the Councillors, and you know, there is a great difference between Rural and Urban County Councils. In a rural area where people do not know what is happening the Secretary assumes all powers and in doing that he puts everybody into trouble, and after which no surcharge is placed on him.

Secondly, Sir, I think, even though the law says that they should retire after or within sixty years, there are many of them who are suffering from physical or brain troubles. They should be retired within fifty years because if we allow these people to continue after fifty years, they mess up. They do not know what is happening. So I think, Sir, that the law that has empowered the Secretary/Treasurer as head of department should be amended, so that the Chairman may share equal power with the Secretary/Treasurer, so that when he goes astray he will be called to order or the whole thing will be passed to the Minister of Local Government, because what we are suffering in the rural areas is terrible.

I know some irresponsible men criticised this hon. House sometime last year that we passed twenty-five Bills within five days, but then there is nothing to quarrel with in this Bill. I think that this Bill is very good, and I beg to support.

Chief J. U. U. Ebong (Abak Division): I rise to support the Bill and in doing so I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister for having allowed the control over the funds of the Councils, because in some Councils unauthorised people have been allowed to handle the funds of the Councils with the result that the Councils suffer losses. I will also quote some instances where there were many cases of loss and members of the Council refused to make the Treasurer to refund.

It happened that all these cases were a waste of money on their part yet they will make unnecessary reports. So since the power is given to the Minister he will be able to exercise direct control over the funds of the Council.

Secondly, I am glad the Councils would be put in proper way to deal with the matters which concern them. For instance, I can remember whenever the members meet, they will not follow the directives; they will keep on making unnecessary noise in the Council and will make unnecessary suggestions which are not covered by the Law of the Council. So since the Minister will now exercise his powers over all the dealings in the Council, he will be able to keep the Council on a good platform. I would like to congratulate the Minister because in some cases the Presidents of the Councils do not know what they should do—they simply go to the Councils and sit down and then go away. The Presidents of the Councils will now know their duties and do them well.

The Minister of Local Government: I want to thank all Members who have spoken on this Bill. In effect they have all spoken in favour of the Bill. There is only one point which I want to disabuse the minds of Members about, and that is that it is the intention of this Amendment to control the Local Government Councils from Enugu. That is not the intention; but it is the intention to make the Local Government Councils work more efficiently and take decisions speedily.

I want to warn that Local Government Councils are agents of the Regional Government and they must work in conformity with this Law or its principles and make sure that they implement the policies and decisions of the Regional Government. I will not close my eyes when informed of a Local Government Council in the Region which is working against the decision of the Regional Government. In fact, all I can do is to apply the instruments of the Law and that in effect will mean sacking that Council completely.

The other point is the question of surcharge. On that, the principle involved is that the Council is the sole authority within its area and the Executive of the Council cannot take responsibility for the decision of the Council itself. You might remember that there are certain categories of expenditure which the Councils are empowered to approve. If a Council goes off the rails, for instance if in the award of contracts, a Council overspends, or when the Council for one reason or the other wants to award a contract in order to appease

certain people, it will not be proper for the Minister, when a surcharge is brought up against the particular Council by the Audit or Examiner of Accounts, to simply waive it. It will be quite irregular for the Minister to do so, and that is the intention of this surcharge.

The other point is the appointing of Provincial Commissioners as Local Government Commissioners. There was a debate in the Lower House as to whether we were not duplicating the powers of Provincial Commissioners in the case of a District Officer acting as a Local Government Commissioner and as well as Provincial Commissioner. That is, whether their duties are not conflicting in exercising their powers. I want to emphasise that there is no conflict in the exercise of their functions. The Provincial Commissioner will have his own sphere of authority as well as the District Officer: the two are quite distinct.

The other point is about some Councillors adjudicating over some matters. I am afraid this was not made specific; if it were made specific, the proper Minister to look into that would be the Minister of Justice who will see whether the Councillors have overstepped their bounds by arrogating to themselves the powers of a Court to adjudicate over certain matters. If that happens, I think there is a procedure in law for dealing with such matters. But I think that under the Finance Law the Local Government Councils are empowered to appoint Tax Assessment Authorities, because they know the people; it is they who know the people to be assessed and know the people who ought to come under the Regional Income Tax. Under that sphere of law the Councils are quite competent in appointing some of their members to the Tax Assessment Authorities.

I think, on the question of dealing with staff, the Amendment in the new Bill has covered properly the way to deal with staff and I will refer hon. Chiefs to clauses 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22. These clauses deal with where the staff have actually misdirected the Council or in any way influenced the decisions of the Council contrary to the provisions of the law. In such cases the Minister has the power to initiate disciplinary action against such Councils.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 25 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr President resumed the Chair)

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

The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.

(5) University of Nigeria Bill

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.): Mr President, at page 11 of the University of Nigeria Bill, hon. Chiefs will see the various laws which this Bill intends to repeal. They are: The University of Nigeria Law, 1955; the University of Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1956; the University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) Law, 1958, and the University of Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1958, and the University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) (Amendment) Law, 1959. Hon. Chiefs will agree with me that this is a formidable array of laws and that it is time they were codified and brought up to date. That is what this Bill seeks to do. We intend to get these laws together and bring them up to date.

You will agree with me that what has happened at Nsukka is a great revolution—a small town transformed overnight into a huge University town. This Bill intends to amend the laws in quite a number of places. First of all, the University of Nigeria Provisional Council which was established in 1958 has done its work—it has built the University and now intends to give way to the real University Council. You will find that in the Law. Again, the University of Nigeria intends to award its own degrees—that is contained in clause 3 of the Bill and the Governor of

Eastern Nigeria will be the Visitor of the University *vide* clause 6 of the Bill. Some of you may have had your invitations to Nsukka for the 16th of this month, when we are going to appoint a Chancellor as provided in clause 9 of the Bill.

There is nothing to quarrel with in the Bill. It is straightforward and we of the Government take pride in this University Scheme because, I think, it is one of our greatest achievements. Everybody who has been to Nsukka knows that we have done a good job of the work and I am hoping that today hon. Chiefs will praise the Government for its attainments. I remember that in 1958 when we introduced the University of Nigeria (Provisional Council) Bill, people on the Opposition side laughed at us, ridiculed our idea of having a University and thought we were being crazy. Now the aim has been achieved—there is the University. The other day, some of them who laughed at us were praising us profusely in a magnanimous way and I have no doubt that this Bill will commend itself to the hon. Chiefs of this House and that on the 16th December, 1961 they will go to Nsukka to see what the Government has been able to do.

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

Chief J. Mpi (Port Harcourt Province): This is very good news and we are sure the Government will continue to be a good Government because a good man will always be a good man. First of all, I have to congratulate the present Governor-General. I know all kinds of words were thrown on him, his advisers and his lieutenants for establishing this University at Nsukka and the same people who accused him are now enjoying the fruits of the University. That is why we say that our Government is full of sensible people. No wonder all the Ministers of the former Government were returned at the polls. We hope that our praise will encourage the Government to continue the good work they are doing without relaxing. They have done well but there is still room for more to be done.

Chief C. E. Amobi (Special Member): Mr President, my face is full of laughter and joy for having the opportunity to speak on this Bill. In the first instance, I have to thank the

Attorney-General in trying to bring all these laws into one. That is the first item. The Attorney-General, after a few years with the Government, will be one of the best qualified men to teach law in the University of Nigeria. I say this because each time he introduces a Bill to us, his explanations give me the anxiety of going back to the University, if it is possible.

The whole of Nigeria has its compliments for the present Governor-General of Nigeria in the person of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe for having done what was unbelievable—what took Great Britain many years to achieve—just in a matter of five years' rule in Eastern Nigeria. Some people who were shedding crocodile tears only last year, started offering unwarranted scholarships to boys just to cover their shame. I quite agree that the Eastern Government is a democratic Government but at times we tend to practice democracy to a fault. These people who are trying to break down the Government must always be paid in their own coins and should be made to feel the pulse of the people, otherwise they will continue to scatter false news about what the Government is doing. If we had not got people like Dr Azikiwe, and our dynamic leader Dr Okpara and his Cabinet, who stood firm behind him, we could not have got this University. But now everyone is happy. Our children are being trained, and what is more, the University is the only autonomous University in Nigeria. I hope that Members who had the invitations will try, as the hon. Attorney-General has said, to go to Nsukka and see what the Government has done.

Mr President, with these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Chief N. N. Anyika (Onitsha Province): Mr President, in supporting this Bill, I must say that the two things on which the Government have been vehemently criticised but which have been carried out successfully are the establishment of the University of Nigeria and the creation of the House of Chiefs. When the University was to be constructed, not everybody agreed. Many people attacked Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe who started it. The same thing happened when we were fighting that the House of Chiefs should be created and some people were against it. Today everybody is happy that it has been created, and we are not

going to forget these two things that Government has done for us. I hope that we are not doubtful of the present Government, because it is the same people who did these two things during their tenure of office. I have to congratulate them again for all they have done and pray that they will do more for us in the future. They will never fail us because we know what they can do for us.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief P. M. Abue (Ogoja Division): I rise to congratulate the Governor-General for his efforts towards the University. In saying this, I pray that if there be any higher post above being Chancellor he should be appointed to it because of his good works in Nigeria. I also thank the Government of Eastern Nigeria for having assisted the Governor-General in providing the University because during the past years our children had been going to U.K. to learn and we had been paying a lot of money in order to send them there, but now at least we can save the cost of transport. I will also say that the Government should use their good offices to see that boys are selected from all parts of the Divisions in Eastern Nigeria. Although the University is not for the Eastern Region alone, I feel that preference should be given to boys from the Eastern Region.

Chief J. N. Wachuku (Umuahia Province): I have but one comment to make, and that is to thank the people of Nsukka for the land they have allowed for the University of Nigeria. There was a time when people asked why this University should be sited at Nsukka. There would have been a lot of troubles elsewhere for scarcity of land. So, the Nsukka people have done very well for giving out the land for the benefit of everybody. We know the value of land in Eastern Nigeria. Therefore the willingness of Nsukka people to assist by offering land for the University should not be forgotten. So I am very grateful to them. There are some areas where Government wanted to establish some development projects and the people of these areas cried "you take my land". Now the University is growing bigger and bigger because the students are coming from every part of the world. So I hope the people of Nsukka will not be tired of giving us more land.

Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E. (Owerri Province): I rise to thank our Governor-General and his able supporters for this great achievement they have made. Really, it is said in the Book of Books that he who is against us is not for us. But today those who were against this University are for us. I know the troubles our Governor-General and his able lieutenants suffered over this site at Nsukka, and also I thank Nsukka people. I was at Nsukka in 1922. (*An hon. Member: Is that so?*) The District Officer who was there then (of course, I was the interpreter explaining the matter to late Onyeama and late Iwodu) said that Nsukka will in time become a very important place in Nigeria. But nobody understood, and I never knew what it meant, until now that that place has been chosen for the University and although many people were against it, today great achievement has been made. Again, we should thank Nsukka people because if they had listened to Europeans they would not have given out that land. If one goes to the University today one will find, I am sure, that not only Nigerians are learning there. There are many people who come from different parts of Africa, and I am sure time will come when Europeans will be studying there.

So, I thank you Mr President for having given me this little time to stand and thank the Nsukka people and also our Government. The Sun rises from the East, so the most important events in Nigeria hail from the East. There were some of our brothers who were not happy when Zik started to think of the University. We are proud that we established the first University in Nigeria. Our Western brothers will not be thinking of having their own University; (*An hon. Member: They have now begun*); and also our Northern brothers are starting to struggle for a University. So that all those who were against it, are now proposing to start, and I thank God the Easterners have the pride of place to establish the first University in Nigeria.

Chief O. O. Uzor (Afikpo Division): I rise to thank the Government for the establishment of the University of Nigeria. It is a blessing to every citizen of this country and we Easterners in particular. It has been always said that a tree which shades people during the sun is

never planted. Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe was the founder of this University and I thank him and his lieutenants who helped in making the proposals of the University a reality. I thank the Minister who planned this work, especially in avoiding racial or religious discrimination. Section 5 of the Bill reads:

“No racial or religious qualification shall be required of any member of the council, officer, teacher or student of the University, and no such member, officer, teacher or student shall be under any disability or suffer any disadvantage on the ground of race or religion.”

This ruling goes to vindicate that the Government of Eastern Nigeria will give democracy to every member of the public. If racial discrimination were introduced into the University I do not think we could have achieved unity in Nigeria.

While supporting the last speaker who said that we should thank the people of Nsukka for giving the Government the land to build the University, I must also thank the Government of Eastern Nigeria who accepted the offer. If Government wants to embark on such a large project next time, we of Afikpo will be prepared to offer her more land.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General: I wish to thank the hon. Chiefs who have congratulated the Government on its achievement. We take pride in our achievement and I feel we deserve the praise by hon. Chiefs.

We also thank the Chiefs who stood by us when we were criticised and harassed on the introduction of the University. They stood solidly by us and that gave us inspiration to work and I am glad that we now see the fruit of our labour.

I am hoping that many of us can afford to go there on the 16th and see the buildings and our children as well.

Thank you very much indeed for all the good things you have said.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Bill immediately considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 32 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr President resumed the Chair)

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

The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.

(6) **Supplementary Appropriation Bill** (1961-62)

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.

As hon. Members are no doubt aware, this is the first occasion on which I have had to present an Appropriation Bill as the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Members will observe that the Bill seeks to appropriate the sum of £493,710 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for recurrent supplementary expenditure. It is usual, when presenting the Supplementary Estimates, to attempt some indication of the probable out-turn for the financial year. This cannot be done with any accuracy several months before the end of the financial year, but I can confidently assert that there is every reason to expect that estimated revenue will be realised and that the under-expenditure which always occurs will leave a balance of about £4½ million in the Consolidated Revenue Fund at the close of the financial year.

While the total amount to be appropriated from the Consolidated Revenue Fund as shown in the First Schedule to the Bill is £493,710, hon. Members will observe that the summary at page E 11 of the Supplementary Estimates shows that a total of £540,060, is to be provided. The difference of £46,350

between the two figures represents the total additional Statutory expenditure required under the Governor's, Judicial and Public Debt Charges Heads; this is, of course, not subject to appropriation.

Examination of the Recurrent Supplementary Budget shows that the bulk of the additional provision sought is required to meet the cost of the recent Regional Elections (temporarily met by an advance from the Contingencies Fund) and to provide for the agricultural cash training programme. Apart from these two main items it has also been found necessary to augment certain Sub-heads not susceptible to accurate estimation. In every case, however, additional provision has been made only where expenditure is considered essential and where at the same time it has not yet been possible to find savings elsewhere under the same Head. My Ministry has already, in fact, made very considerable amounts of essential provision by the procedure of virement and has thereby reduced the present provision sought to a level much lower than it would otherwise have been.

I now turn to capital expenditure. The Bill seeks to appropriate the sum of £2,578,850, which, added to the provision of £10,114,110 in the Approved Estimates, makes the enormous total of £12,692,960 for the year. Taking into account the actual balance in the Capital Development Fund at 1st April, 1961, and assuming that estimated capital receipts are realised, the Fund would be approximately £1½ million in deficit at the end of the current financial year if the whole of the approved provision and of the proposed supplementary provision were to be expended.

I should not, however, wish hon. Members to imagine for one moment that this is likely to occur. The Capital Budget, even at this comparatively late stage in the financial year, is not susceptible to accurate estimation; it is always necessary to make supplementary provision for a number of important new projects, but it invariably occurs that lack of executive capacity and various other difficulties, delay progress. My point here is that it is impossible to foresee now precisely which of our many projects will be so affected before the end of the year; it is certain, however, that a number of them will be considerably delayed. Hon. Members may be surprised to learn

[MR EMOLE]

that underexpenditure in the last two years of the present Development Programme has in fact been in the region of 45 per cent. as an average over-all Heads, and this has regularly occurred even although the Supplementary Estimates have been taken towards the end of the third quarter of the financial year. I am reluctant to suppose that underexpenditure in the total Capital Budget, including the supplementary proposals now before the House, will again this year prove to be as high as 45 per cent., but I think I can say with absolute certainty that it will, at the very least, be in the region of 30 per cent. This would mean a total capital expenditure of less than £9 million in the current year, which is in fact considerably less than the already approved provision of £10,114,110; and the result would be a balance in the Capital Development Fund, at the end of the financial year, of approximately £2 million.

I do not intend at this point to make any further comments upon the individual proposals, either recurrent or capital, in these Supplementary Estimates. Hon. Members will find detailed comments in the Memorandum at page E 115 and in footnotes to the several Heads and Sub-heads, and if any further explanations are required I am sure that my colleagues will provide them when the individual Heads are under discussion.

I think that hon. Members will agree that the requests for recurrent and capital supplementary provision incorporated in this Bill are reasonable. My Ministry has already excluded from these Supplementary Estimates a number of requests from various other Ministries for considerable amounts of additional provision; and despite the certainty of under-expenditure, especially on the capital side, it is necessary to make provision for every one of the remaining items now shown in order to avoid any interruption in the maintenance of essential services and to ensure that no important capital project is temporarily held up. I do not therefore propose to waste the time of the House by extending this speech to any greater length.

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

Question proposed: And under paragraph (2) of Standing Order 77—Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Bills—the debate stood adjourned until Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjourned, accordingly, at twenty minutes to two o'clock p.m.

EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Wednesday, 13th December, 1961

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

PRAYERS

(Mr President in the Chair)

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Hon. R. O. Iwuagwu.
Hon. S. O. Masi.
Hon. M. E. Ogon.
Hon. D. J. Edoho.
Hon. E. A. Chime.
Hon. A. E. Bassey.

PAPER

Presented:

Audited Accounts 1959-60, Eastern Nigeria Town Planning Authorities. (*The Minister of Town Planning*).

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

REPORT FROM A SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole): The Joint Public Accounts Committee has agreed upon a report—No. 2 of 1961. I beg to lay the report on the Table.

Report to lie upon the Table.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): I beg to move, That the following be elected members of the Committee of Selection of the Eastern House of Chiefs for the Session 1961-62, pursuant to Standing Order 63 (2)—Committee of Selection:—

Chief the hon. J. N. Wachuku.
Chief the hon. E. Inyang-Udo.
Chief the hon. J. Mpi.
Chief the hon. C. E. Amobi.

The Standing Order provides that the Committee of Selection shall consist of the Premier or his representative as Chairman, not more than two Ministers who are Members of this House to be nominated by the Executive Council, and four Members to be elected by this House. The Executive Council has nominated two Ministers of State who are Members of this House to be members of the Committee of Selection, namely,

Chief the hon. S. E. Onukogu.

Chief the hon. Douglas Jaja.

The Committee will meet in the Committee Room of the House immediately on adjournment Today.

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

Question put and agreed to.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Supplementary Appropriation Bill
(1961-62)

(FIRST AND ONLY ALLOTTED DAY)

Order read for resuming adjournment Debate on Question (12th December): That the Bill be now read a Second time.

Question again proposed.

Chief J. Mpi (Port Harcourt Province): In this Supplementary Budget Session we are called upon to approve a very small provision just to finish the unfinished business for the year. I do not see that this will take us any long time because I know that hon. Chiefs here are eager to return home before going to Nsukka for the installation of the Chancellor of the University on Saturday. I have, however, a few observations to make.

The Government of Eastern Nigeria has done much for the people and deserves the praise of everybody, and I have to congratulate the Members of the Government on their success at the last Elections. We are glad that they have come back to continue the valuable work they have been doing.

[CHIEF MPI]

I do not see that there is anything to quarrel with in the Supplementary Estimates as they are just meant to complete the work started a few months ago. The only thing I wish to add is that our goodwill is with the Government and they should go ahead with their well-planned policy. This is an opportunity for Chiefs to ask for amenities for their Divisions and I am saying that the Government should not forget the people in the rural areas. If one is in the township one should not forget the countryside because the people there do not know what is happening in the world. They require some light and this light can only come with the introduction of various amenities into these areas. We need electricity, good roads—I know the Minister of Works has been doing very well in the past and now that he has another Minister working with him I trust he will do even more for the people. This goes for all other Ministries but I do not want to go into details now and I reserve my requests until the full Budget Session.

Chief C. E. Amobi (Special Member): I am very pleased to see that the former Ministers were returned during the last Elections and I have to thank them for the able way in which they carried out their work. They deserve congratulations for the way the Elections were conducted and their success at the polls. I have also to congratulate the hon. Chiefs here for the way they tried to see that things went on very well in their respective areas.

Of course there were surprises but they were minor ones. As our hon. Ministers have reassembled, there is no doubt that the work of the Region will continue as planned. I have to thank the hon. Premier for the last economic tour which he undertook and which was very successful. I pray that God will give him more energy and health to carry on such tours in future in the interest of the Region, and so too his Ministers.

Before I take my seat I have some important request to make, and that is in connection with the Ogidi water supply. It is said that the first shall be the last, but in this case I do hope that the first shall not be the last. The Ogidi rural water supply was the first to be initiated for which the people of Ogidi were very thankful, but unfortunately it was discontinued, and I

must say that the work went into the hands of inefficient engineers and the work was not properly done. If you go to Ogidi you will see along the main roads that people waste two to three hours waiting for their turn to get water. In many cases, school boys go late to school and women go late to market and this is because they are now used to pipe-borne water.

Another request I am going to make is about a town just near Ogidi. That town has produced efficient men and women who are working for the progress of this Government directly or indirectly. The town is Obosi. It is unfortunate there were minor family squabbles, but everything is now dying out. It is unfortunate that a place like Obosi cannot boast of any Government amenities and I would like the Minister responsible for Works to see that, at least, that portion of the road from Iwaka Junction to Obosi is tarred and that Obosi is given good water supply. They merit it.

There are two other towns in Awka Division which are thickly populated areas—they are Igbo-Ukwu and Isu-Ofia. I happened to have toured that area in my capacity as Special Member for Onitsha Province, and moreover it is my business to tour those areas from time to time. Apart from these places being thickly populated, a reasonable amount of tax is being collected there and palm produce is abundant. But unfortunately if one stays there for two weeks one cannot get water to drink. This matter is an urgent one even though this is not the real Budget Session. I would like the Minister responsible to see that this is incorporated in the 1962-63 Estimates so that something is done there.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Chief F. N. Ogedoro (Aba Division): Before supporting the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I have to make the following remarks. It is a fact that health is very important; so I would suggest that more doctors be employed. A sick man, when he goes to the hospital, is anxious to see the doctor and when he sees the doctor, he becomes well. Unfortunately, in many cases, people go to hospital but do not see the doctor. In the long run they are asked to come the following day. It is a fact that millions of people in this

Region depend on health and when they cannot get it, it means things are not in order and there is no hope of survival. Therefore I feel that more doctors should be employed and this matter is directed to the Minister of Health.

Coming to the Ministry of Finance, I think the Auditor has been encouraged since the Bill was passed yesterday. I am suggesting that constant checking of accounts, mostly in rural Council areas, should be conducted. When an account is not checked for a considerable length of time the Secretary/Treasurer and the Councillors become tin-gods of the area and subsequently misappropriation sets in. So I am suggesting that there should be frequent checking of accounts, so as to keep everybody on the alert and thus avoid misappropriation.

Coming to the Ministry of Local Government, I feel that this Ministry and the Ministry responsible for Chieftaincy are more or less alike in certain aspects. I am suggesting that fellow Chiefs at home be given a special allowance, i.e., £3 3s 0d., per sitting. That will encourage them and reduce any amount of inconveniences and trouble which one experiences during electioneering campaigns. You know what happened during the last election.

Coming to the Ministry of Town Planning, I feel that planning in all third-class townships should be speeded up so that we get everything as we want it.

Coming to the Ministry of Works, I thank the Minister of Works for the work which he has already started. I pray that he should see that contractors complete the work already started before the rains set in, because without completing the work it will give us a lot of trouble as regards erosion. I remember what happened last time. There was no road at all and before a man could ride ten to twenty miles he encountered inconveniences before getting to the proper place.

Coming to the Ministry of Justice, I doff my hat to the Minister for the work which he did by giving repeated warnings to Customary Court Judges, even though a couple of days ago these Customary Court Judges were handed over to another Ministry. But I believe that the present Minister should follow

suit, by issuing such warnings wherever he goes as this has made most of the reckless Customary Court Judges sit up.

Coming to the Ministry of Education, may I suggest that even though this House passed a Bill about the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, yesterday, that University should be changed to read "Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nsukka". In fact the University should bear the name of our great son of Africa because this man has actually done a lot for us, and he ought to be remembered. Following up, I would like to suggest that most of our History books bearing Imperial names and pictures be cut off. What is happening in Nigeria today is sufficient proof for us to see that these pictures are cut off. It is needless to see the pictures of white men whom our sons and daughters do not know. It will therefore be better for us to have the pictures of our sons and daughters working today than to talk of the Pope in Rome. We have our President here and his picture is very essential to be seen in the House of Assembly, in the Ministries and offices of Government.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Chief S. O. Ezenwa (Onitsha Division): I am glad that the President can see some of us at the corners of the Chamber and give us the opportunity to speak. I have nothing to quarrel about in the Supplementary Estimates. All I want to say is about the activities of some of the members of the Public Service of the Region. In fact these men are not doing the good job for which they are paid to do for the people.

In fact, as is being said in most offices, some public servants act well, while some clerks continue playing and preparing for their examination or reading their paper. In most cases they leave offices and go outside. I remember last September when I sent somebody to go and pay in some money to the Treasury, the boy spent the whole day there without paying in the money. We are crying that we have no money to maintain our Region, but I think some of our civil servants are playing with their work, and I think it is time we made a law to make it impossible for anybody who loses his job because of inefficiency to get any job at all in the whole Federation.

[CHIEF EZENWA]

Coming to the question of doctors in the Region, I do not think that employing more doctors is enough to solve this problem, because I think, as before, we should increase their salary and watch whether they would indulge in private practice any more. Most of them are not happy, because after spending most of their time in the United Kingdom, or in the United States doing medicine they come and see the so-called senior service people with Cambridge or something like that get higher salary than they do. They have no alternative but to go back home and find one way or the other to maintain themselves. I think the best thing is to give them more salary so that we would be able to know whether they would do their job efficiently.

Coming to the question of industries, at present we are fighting to get more industries in the country, but I wonder how young industries will succeed when they are paying heavy duties on the packages which they are using in packing their production not to mention the fuel which they are using to operate their machines. In Europe this is not like that and Government will do well to allow these people to pay low tax on the fuel they use in their machinery and free duty on the papers or packages which they use in rapping goods. I mean, if this is done I think they will be able to get up just like other countries.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Chief Zumoh Efeke V (Yenagoa Province): I think there is nothing in this Bill to debate about because it is already a dead horse and there is no need kicking a dead horse. Although that is what it is, I have some observations to make and that is in the form of advice for the Ministers to take note of. Our Ministers have done a lot of good work within a short period, and I do congratulate them for what they have done in the general development of the Region. It is our duty to make remarks and observations because as Chiefs we have a very good idea of the difficulties of our people in the rural areas because we mix with the common men who have a lot of things to tell us. I am just making these observations, not in the form of

criticism, but in good faith and I am sure the Ministers will take them as such.

About education, you know the increases in school fees or assumed local contributions are very heavy, very painful, because you know the people in the rural areas were particularly happy about the former low school fees. Every poor person has children in schools and now that school fees are being increased from £6 to £8 all the people in the rural areas are crying. They tell us: "This is your Government." Those of us who are Chiefs and live and work with the commoners are the only people representing the Government in the rural areas and we answer these questions often during elections. I am saying all these to show what experience we get during elections. Therefore I am now praying the Minister of Education to see that these increases are cut down, because the people are suffering. They do not appreciate the value and the interest of the Government they do not know. What they will say is that the Minister is getting £4,000, £3,000 and that hon. Members are getting £940, what about them, the poor people? The benefit that goes to the poor people in the street is only schools and many poor persons have children in schools. Most of them are having so many wives and so many children. In fact, some people are having from three to ten children in schools. It is very important that the Government should sit down and explore one way or the other to find money to meet up and cut down school fees.

Another thing is that while we are criticising the West for the offence, separate schools for children of the poor and rich are being run and maintained in this Region. I have seen some in this Region. I found in Onitsha and some other places that rich parents' children and poor parents' children do not attend the same schools. We do not want anything like that in the Eastern Region. This is the most democratic Region and we must enjoy it. Let the poor and the rich parents' children go to the same schools. It might be observed that these schools might be partially financed by the state in one way or the other as the teachers are registered by the Ministry of Education, and therefore public fund must be there. Government should close all these separate schools; the people are against anything like them. What is happening in

Western Nigeria should not happen here. I urge the Minister of Education to try to discourage this kind of segregation which does us no credit. We do not want to see all these things. Government should see that the fees are reduced so as to convince our people during election campaigns. During election campaigns these things are what people use in campaigning against us. They give us no chance. We continue from place to place, to convince the public in the rural areas about the working and funds of the Government. The ordinary man in the street can be easily convinced about all these things by our opponents.

The Minister of Education should consider these things so that the common people in the street will be able to finance the primary education of their children.

The Ministry of Commerce: The result of the Economic Mission led by the Premier is very fruitful and the results are now being seen, but one thing that the Minister should consider is the rural areas. Since this Economic Mission returned we have seen many industries established in Port Harcourt, Onitsha and other places. Does it mean that Port Harcourt, Enugu, Umuahia, Aba, etc., are the only places in the Region? The rural areas must be considered. My people have not seen any good sign of the result of the Economic Mission. Therefore, something must be done to encourage the people in the rural areas.

The E.N.D.C. has completely neglected our area. We have sufficient palm oil and cocoa. Not a single loan has been given to us—not even a penny. The E.N.D.C. should do something to encourage us. There is no industry whatsoever in our area.

The Minister of Information should see about the E.N.B.C. If we have no money what is the use of having the E.N.B.C.—Eastern Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation. It is a duplication and waste of money. We have the N.B.C. where we get the news quite correctly. The Minister, if he wishes, can get all the news from there or say what he wants to say through the N.B.C. What is the use of getting the E.N.B.C. and the duplication of all sorts—N.B.C., Lagos; W.N.B.C., Ibadan and

N.N.B.C., Kaduna? The Minister should consider this. Money could be got from there to finance education.

Electoral Commission: Government should take a very serious view of the violence and thuggery which featured prominently during the last elections. You know we suffered a lot during the last elections. We were even rounded up and hooted at; so that Government should take a serious view of this, otherwise when the Federal Elections come, when the other parties will fight for life and death, perhaps they will shoot some of us. The Government should take a serious view of violence and thuggery in the Region. We did not hear of such things in the Region before, although we heard of them in the Western Region.

The Ministry of Works has done a very good work, but I want to say that they never think about the rural areas. We have a waterworks which has not yet been completed. Port Harcourt has got £40,000 for waterworks and that has been completed. The Minister of Works should warn his workmen to pay attention to the rural areas because the people there also want to enjoy some of the amenities that are found in the townships. The waterworks at Port Harcourt has been completed but that of my own area is left out! We are stranded. This is no criticism; I am just bringing these things to the Ministers because there is no other forum than the floor of this House where we can air our views. If Government can provide another confidential means for us to meet the Ministers and discuss these things, I will go to meet them.

The Minister of Health has improved health conditions in the Region and we thank the Government for that. But the present Minister should realise that there is work in Yenagoa Province which has not been completed. We need two more Health Centres in Southern Ijaw County area at Oporoma and Amassoma. The Minister should put them in the Estimates so that when the main Estimates come up for discussion in March he will do something for us so that he will be praised as his predecessor.

Mr President, with your permission, I want to speak about the Ministry of Agriculture. This

[CHIEF EFEKE]

Ministry has done a very good work, but one thing I want to tell the Minister of Agriculture is that he often thinks that we have no land.

We have land. We have allocated over 110,000 acres of land for Farm Settlements. So he should not take for granted, when considering Farm Settlements that Brass Division has no land. We have the most fertile land in the whole Region where cocoa will take about five years to produce fruits, whereas in other areas it will take about seven years . . . (*Interruptions*). I am an authority in agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture should do something to help us.

Ministry of Internal Affairs: If you travel through the whole of Yenagoa, although it is small, it is a province by itself; so if you are talking of a King, whether he is the King of England or not, a King is a King.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

Chief J. N. Wachuku (Umuahia Province): Mr President, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak now. I know our Government is full of wise men. We could understand this by the recent Economic Mission sent overseas. The Federal Government sent many people; the Western Region about fifty, but our men sent only a few people and they achieved more than what other people were able to do. This means that they are taking great care of our money.

There is, however, a matter which the Government may not like to hear now, and that is about accommodation for us in Enugu. A man of fifty years and over is invited to this place, and on arrival he is asked to go and find where to stay. We come here on receipt of the telegram from the Clerk and when we arrive we are asked to go and find where to stay. There is no respect in that. The greatest insult is that the President of this House was asked to quit his chalet. He had to run from place to place before he could find somewhere. This is a sorry situation. Although we come from the rural areas we have lodging places where we come from with sufficient attendants; but when we reach here, we are told there is no accommodation. It is disgraceful.

Ministry of Education: There was an announcement some months ago about some illegal schools existing in the Region. These illegal schools have been in existence with the "army" of staff in the Ministry of Education. They were unable to find out these illegal schools. Now the parents are the people to suffer. They are told that their children have been in those schools for a number of years and that they are not entitled to transfer certificates and so forth. The worst part of it is that we were told that more illegal schools would be announced. After stating that more schools will be closed, up till today we have not heard anything. The people actually affected are the parents of the children.

Again, sometime ago, my hon. Friend, the Minister of Internal Affairs proposed that there would be County Police. It is important to have County Police because they will serve a very useful purpose. At the moment, we have got none, and I think that something should be done to encourage and improve the conditions of service of Bailiffs. There was a centre for their training at Awgu. I feel that the short period of training for two or three days is not sufficient. They need to be educated, and when I say so, it does not mean that we should be doing such things that are being done in the West. When trained, they should be able to understand things. And we should do something to improve upon what we have instead of importing.

Regarding the Ministry of Town Planning, I am so happy that my hon. Friend the present Minister of Town Planning has done something good in the rural areas. I am only appealing that more should be done to improve those small places particularly the areas in which the people are interested. They should be encouraged, and something should be done to assist them, because that is the only way to reduce the number of people running to the townships.

We have been talking about the salaries of Medical Officers—that they should be paid higher salaries than they are now earning. Anybody who goes to the hospitals will see how the patients are lying about the premises; and there is congestion here and there. I think the only way to reduce the congestion is to offer more scholarships not higher salaries;

so that in about seven years from now the Eastern Region will benefit from the services of Medical Officers. If you pay higher salary to a man, after all he can only work for seven hours at most and close. Otherwise, in ten years to come we will suffer for want of Medical Officers. I am therefore suggesting that more scholarship awards should be made in the field of medicine.

I said something about accommodation before, but let me remind our people that in each Division we have a V.I.P. Rest House. When people visit the rural area a V.I.P. Rest House is ready for them; but when we come here, despite the telegrams sent, there will be no accommodation. Look at men like Chief the hon. Allagoa or Chief the hon. Njemanze and others. I think they have done something towards our independence. When we come here such men are told to go and find accommodation. Could you believe that some of us have not taken our bath since we arrived here? The question of accommodation for us in Enugu should be looked into.

Chief E. O. Atakpa (Enyong Division): I have this opportunity to make my remarks with regard to certain points. Many of my fellow Chiefs made remarks about the increases in school fees. Referring to detailed report in the Supplementary Estimates we will realise that the expenditure for education in the Eastern Region is almost fifty per cent. of the total expenditure. I think it is a credit on the part of Members of the Government who have taken very bold steps to provide sufficient funds for education in Eastern Nigeria. But people may think of it in this way, that the Government in one way or the other, is trying to cheat the community. It is not so at all. The ambition of the Government is to improve educational facilities in Eastern Nigeria. Education for instance, is not accruing any profit whatever. It is purely and solely expenditure and as such if the Government's concentration is so based on education it means other heads of expenditure will have nothing practically. As such, it is the intention of this Government to be bold and frank to tell the truth to the world because this same condition that has affected the Eastern Government is affecting the other Regional Governments of the Federation, even though some of those Governments may not be prepared to be as

bold as we have been in the interest of the people. They will conceal it and continue to endure the difficulties not knowing that in the long run they will suffer the consequences. It is always the case with the Eastern Government to be frank and to be sincere no matter the circumstances, no matter whether they are returned to power or not. They are quite prepared to tell the truth whether you accept it or not.

Any other Government coming to pursue the administration of this Government will equally suffer the same difficulties as the present Government is suffering. If you will allow the "Cock" to crow for more than five years, with your co-operation, we are quite certain that the "Cock" which is quite willing to serve you, will crow to the extent of improving the educational facilities of Eastern Nigeria. Already the Government is embarking upon agricultural development all over the Region. This will surely afford opportunities for our young boys and girls. We hope that the present agricultural development within the next ten years will be a profit-making concern. Also by then we hope to think out what other things we could do to make our children enjoy free education. We should not at this critical moment think of running a Government without being responsible. We must try to be responsible and finance our Government. That is the only way in which I believe any good citizen or right thinking man can support the Government.

Secondly, I refer to the Ministry of Town Planning and what I may call the Ministry of the Interior. I strongly appeal to the Minister of Town Planning to extend his development activities to the rural areas; the people in the rural areas or villages will appreciate the planning and development of their area. If the development of rural areas is left to the villagers alone it is certain that they will not be able to carry out any successful planning. I therefore suggest that the operation of the Minister of Town Planning should be extended to the interior so that he will be able to help in the planning of the rural villages. As you know, in Eastern Nigeria nearly every fifty square feet belong to an individual. As a result you cannot plan a nice survey without the assistance of the Ministry of Town Planning and the co-operation of the people in the area

[CHIEF ATAKPA]

concerned. As such I appeal to the Minister of Town Planning and Interior Affairs (*laughter*), to take particular interest in ensuring that his present undertaking is carried out to the rural areas as is being done in the township. Our people in the rural areas do not enjoy independence as they should: independence should be enjoyed right from the lower level to the higher level otherwise there will be unhappiness among certain members of the community. Happiness, progress, success and educational facilities should be extended to all corners of the Region. Education should, as a matter of fact, start from the interior part of the Region.

I beg to refer you further to the Ministry of Works. In my area, that is, where I come from—Uyo Province, I say this categorically, that there is nothing like Catering Rest House and this indeed is very painful. It is so essential to provide a Catering Rest House in that area. This indeed will benefit the lowest man as well as the highest man because if a Catering Rest House is built there and a person goes to Uyo, that person can easily walk to the Rest House, and help himself. I refer this matter to the Minister of Works to see that a Catering Rest House is put up in that area. (*Several hon. Members: No, Minister of Agriculture*).

I now refer to the Ministry of Health. I was once a nurse and as such I take particular interest in nursing work and hospital work as well. All hospitals, whether Government or Mission, are built to cater for the interest of humanity. But this sole objective can only be achieved if the Doctor on duty will take his duty serious, if he will realise the importance of his responsibility, and leave all family things or pleasures and attend to his work in order to save the lives of his patients. Furthermore, the Doctor should keep aside all his pleasures and attend to emergency cases, it may be a serious case of a tax-payer who will for the next five to ten years, contribute to the finance of this Region. At the moment you see Doctors relaxing and relaxing: they do not take life serious. I feel I should refer this specifically to the Minister concerned that Doctors of this country and Eastern Nigeria in particular, should be taught to be responsible, especially whenever serious cases are taken to

them. Otherwise, the lives of the lowest as well as the greatest people in this Region, will be seriously affected if Doctors are not checked.

The number of mortality cases in the Region is increasing nearly every day because of lack of sufficient interest shown by Doctors in this country. Some of our Mission hospitals are not contributing much to the services of this country and Governments have been paying heavy grants in order to keep up these hospitals. The Minister of Health should therefore interest himself in the matter and see that specific registers are made for free operations because in many cases the Bodies running these hospitals say that they have been making free operations when there are no provisions for that in the Mission hospitals as well as Government hospitals. In most cases, they collect the money for the operation in the theatre before the operation is carried out. I am to say emphatically that operations should be carried out creditably. Also I would like the Minister to ensure that the anomalies which I have enumerated are stopped immediately in the interest of the tax-payers.

I shall be very grateful to know the number of deaths and births in Eastern Nigeria after the last census. If he can give us proper calculation of deaths and births this will help us to know the average number of deaths and births in the Region.

I beg to take my seat.

Chief E. E. Okpa (Awgu Division): I am very happy at the opportunity you have given me to speak. I am very happy at the good work done by the Ministry of Information during and after the last Regional elections. The E.N.B.C. arranged a discussion group which kept people busy and interested while the votes were being counted on the 16th of November, 1961. I congratulate that Ministry for this and its other activities. Also it is noteworthy that during the electioneering campaigns the activities of both the Government and Opposition parties were given wide publicity. This goes to show that our Government is not partial.

I will show more appreciation to that Ministry if it tries to see to it that at least one

staff reporter is appointed in each Division to bring to the notice of the rural areas the activities of the Government. Furthermore I would not like the Government to regard the Ministry of Information as a lucrative source of revenue but rather as a medium whereby the people in the rural areas are brought to know the activities of Government. In the olden days we used to have what was known as "Children's Own Paper". I suggest that such a paper should be established in this Region for free distribution to all school children so that those of them in the rural areas can impart the knowledge gathered therefrom to their parents. If this is done the people will be well informed of Government intentions well in advance and when this is done there will be less trouble when any Government measures are announced.

As it is certain that not everybody in the townships can afford to buy a radio set or television I am appealing to the Ministry of Information to endeavour to provide free radio and television sets at public parks and street corners so that such people and every passerby can listen and hear the news of the moment.

To make the task of Government less difficult I also appeal to them to provide rediffusion in each area of 40 miles radius. The people in such an area should be able to contribute 5s each for the maintenance of the rediffusion. This measure if it is adopted will ensure that the facilities of information is at everybody's disposal. When this is done everybody will be happy that this Government is living up to expectation.

Thank you, Mr President.

Chief N. U. Ofem (Abakaliki Province): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill and in doing so I have a few remarks to make. The main purpose for presenting this Bill is to enable the Government to be able to carry out its work and to be able to complete those already started. It is therefore necessary for all of us to support this Bill so that the Government will be able to carry out its work successfully.

I have to thank the Ministry of Works for its good work on the Obubra-Ediba road. The tarring of the road is so well done that this road

is one of the best in the whole Federation. It is really a very good job and we are grateful to Government.

In this area, too, the same Ministry is working to bring pipe-borne water to the people. The work on the erection of the tank has almost been completed and the men on the work are now waiting for funds to start the laying of pipes which will enable them draw water from Ediba which is about 8 miles. We are also grateful for the work so far done and beg the Government to make funds available in order to have this good work completed.

The increases in primary school fees are welcome. I will urge the Government to see that industries and Farm Settlements are established in large numbers in each Division so that if the people in the rural areas labour to pay school fees for their children they will be able to find jobs and the people will see the fruit of their labour. There is no sense in siting these industries only in townships like Port Harcourt, Onitsha, Enugu and Aba, etc. The reason used to be that there are no roads for the industries but I wonder what the reasons are now for concentrating these industries in one part of the Region. When visitors from overseas come to this Region they do not form their impression from what they see only in Enugu and Port Harcourt. They know that it is only in the rural areas that one will be able to see the real life of the people. For this the Government should do all in its power to improve the rural areas by establishing Farm Settlements and industries. As I have said before if these industries are created there will be work for elementary school leavers and the Government can claim justification for raising the school fees.

With these remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Chief Francis O. J. Allagoa, M.B.E. (The Amanyanabo of Nembe): In supporting the Bill I align myself with the sentiments expressed by my hon. Friend, Chief J. N. Wachuku. It is very disappointing that when one travels from a very far distance to attend meetings of this House one is told on arrival to make one's own arrangements for accommodation. But many of us have no relatives here. I had telegraphed the Manager of the Catering Rest House three or four days

[CHIEF ALLAGOA]

before the end of November to reserve accommodation for me as I had proposed to attend the meetings of both Houses—the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs. I travelled all the way from Nembe only to be told on arrival at the Catering Rest House that the Government had made no accommodation arrangements for me and that I should cater for myself. This is really very painful and it is very disappointing that we should be treated in Enugu in this manner. Government should do something immediately to see that this sort of thing does not repeat itself again.

I once told this House that when my eldest son died a telegram sent to me took seven days to reach Nembe. It arrived at the same time with about twenty-four other telegrams from sympathisers. As a result I could not be present at the burial of my son because before I could reach Onitsha it was many days after he had been buried. This will go a long way to show the difficulty we in Brass Division experience in matters of communication. I am praying Government to do something now.

I support my hon. Friend, Chief Efeke, in his call for the establishment of Farm Settlements in Yenagoa Province. In our Provincial Assembly people from Ijaw and Nembe and all other parts of the Province expressed the wish to have Farm Settlements established in the Province. We are ready to make available to the Government over 10,000 acres of land for this purpose and we are appealing to the Government to see that something is done in this direction.

Ministry of Works: In my area, we do not generally have sufficient water during the month of December. It would be appreciated if the Minister of Works will look into this.

The proposal to build a bridge at Nembe between Ogbomolomabiri and Bassambri has been made for many years. Over £2,000 was first given for the construction of this bridge and subsequently an increase was promised but this increase has not been given, and the work has not been undertaken. I urge that the Government should supplement that amount and get the bridge constructed as early as possible.

I align myself with those who spoke of our grievances in the rural areas. We admired the economic mission and prayed for its success and fortunately it has succeeded. I want the rural areas to benefit by it. I want the Minister concerned to take note.

Town Planning: I appeal to the Minister of Town Planning. I had requested on the floor of this House that arrangements should be made for the planning of the rural areas. When good roads are made in the rural areas as in the townships visitors to the townships who would like to visit the rural areas would then be able to appreciate the general outlook of the Region and the good work done by the Government. However, I still say that Government is doing its best. In 1910, there were no good roads from Okigwi to Enugu and other places. Now there are many good roads from Okigwi to Enugu and other places and journeying is made very pleasant. Think of a road that will connect Yenagoa, Iloibiri and Nembe. The construction of this road will, no doubt, make possible more advantageous exploitation of the produce and other resources in the area and life more enjoyable.

With these few remarks, I take my seat.

Chief S. A. Essien (Annang Province): I rise to support the Supplementary Bill and in doing so I have to thank the Premier for the successful economic tour he and his lieutenants undertook in the interest of the Eastern Region. I thank him for having considered all his former Ministers in the formation of the new Cabinet in Eastern Nigeria. I have to make these remarks: First of all I would ask the Eastern Nigeria Government to consider creating a new Ministry to be called and known as Community Development Ministry. There are so many items under Internal Affairs. Community Development is one of the important items that we should consider very seriously. Why I say so is that a place like Abak Division would not have got the present hospital were it not for community efforts. We the people of Abak Division have contributed heavily towards the erection of that hospital. It was through community efforts that we were able to do that before the Government came in. I think it will serve the people of Eastern Nigeria very much if Government

considers making the Community Development Department separate from the Ministry of Internal Affairs so that a separate Minister will take all the responsibilities of that Department. It is known that in some areas there are people who are interested in community development work but because they do not have sufficient information they lag behind. The Minister who will be responsible for that Department will be able to tour various parts of the Region.

I now call upon the Minister of Commerce to consider in his scheme of things to site one of the industries in Northern Annang. During the economic mission undertaken by the Right hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe some years ago, the people of Northern Annang petitioned to him and asked him to see that one of the industries was sited there. We had his reply. I am now reminding the Minister in charge to see that these people are considered.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo, Q.C.): What industries?

Chief S. A. Essien: Well, we have several industries. The hon. Minister knows the type of industries that are sited in some of the big townships. If they are sited in some of the rural areas I am sure it will also be of benefit to the people of Eastern Nigeria.

The Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy: I want to ask the Minister to consider recognising the Third-class Chiefs from various wards and villages so that these people may be injected into the Local Councils. In rural areas only clan heads (what we call clan head in Annang Province is one particular Chief who is at the head of so many villages) are injected into the County Councils. It might be forty to fifty villages, but only one Chief is allowed to attend meetings of the County Council and the rest of the Chiefs do not know what is going on. They are eager to go to Local Councils but they are not recognised.

Ministry of Education: I want to tell the Minister of Education that it would be proper if most scholarships were awarded to students doing agricultural courses in the Nsukka University, so that these men when they come out having been trained would be able to supervise our agricultural farms. I

know that Government stated that Farm Settlements will be established one in each Province. In any case we are hoping this year that this will be done. Otherwise I ask that farms be established in the Divisions. I know it will be costly but we hope to see that farms are established at least one in a Province so that we may be able to see that our children are engaged.

Ministry of Local Government: I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Local Government to the fact that his Ministry is not doing enough in the working of gratuities and pensions due to the staff of the Local Government Councils. We have revised the conditions of service and also the Ordinance of the Councils. But it is surprising to see that the working of the gratuities are still based on the old schedule that was prepared by our expatriate masters. This is not fair and I hope this time the Minister will pay more attention to this particular point. We have been complaining that our people have been cheated in the way they are given their pensions and gratuities.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief J. A. Onwudiwe (Onitsha Division): I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. The Bill is a good one worth supporting to enable the Government to carry on its work. I know it is not out of place to say that I have to express my gratitude to the rulers and the N.C.N.C. for the part they played during the last elections. I pay tribute to the hon. Premier, Dr Okpara, who has proved himself a capable leader. I was happy indeed when I noticed that many of the Members of the former House of Assembly and Ministers regained their seats even though minor changes were made in the Ministries; it is all the same. The new Ministers I hope will prove their abilities. Looking round here, I have seen new faces and I have a feeling that so many of my friends are here. To the new ones I say welcome and for the old ones who are not here, I express my sympathy that they are not back in their seats.

I have been listening very attentively to speeches from all corners of this hon. House. No Chief has said anything without mentioning

[CHIEF ONWUDIWE]

rural areas. It is an Ibo parable that if a pregnant woman is speaking to one, one should listen very carefully because two persons are talking to one. When all Chiefs in the rural areas speak I wish our Government will pay careful attention because in the rural areas we move and discuss freely with the people than the Premier and the Ministers. Therefore, when we speak here we are expressing the feelings of the people in the rural areas. We should be grateful if the Government would not forget people in the rural areas. I am quite sure that everything we say here is recorded in the *Hansard*; if so, I think that many of us should be proud and we have the hope and belief that Government will do all that lies in its power to help the people in the rural areas. A sincere Government is a democratic Government because we the Chiefs always confirm the Bills and it will also be well that whatever we say should be taken into consideration.

I feel that people are looking at their wrist watches for time and I feel I should not speak for long. We have much to talk about in this House next time.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Chief R. O. Oraelosi (Onitsha Division): I thank you Mr President for allowing me to speak. This is a Supplementary Appropriation Bill in which we have not got much to talk about but I thank God that all the Ministers have been returned, to complete the job they have not completed. So in these Estimates I beg to repeat certain remarks which I made last time. I know that whatever is spoken in this House is recorded and since it is so, I beg the Government to take them into serious consideration.

As my comrades had spoken, I beg Government to construct a road to connect Ihiala, Orlu and Oguta. That road will be very useful because people in that area often pass their produce to another side. We ask Government for this road because so many people, including Ministers, can go through it more easily to Port Harcourt than through the main road which the Federal Government is maintaining. In this way I think that road is important.

The next thing is that as we have a Minister for Customary Courts now I think our courts should be modelled in the same way as those of the West in order to employ efficient and intelligent men in the courts. In this way I think the Chiefs ought to be in the Customary Courts in order to give them something to do because those Chiefs who are not with us here may not be pleased to be called "Chiefs without having something to do". So I beg the Government to inject the Second-class Chiefs into Customary Courts.

The next thing is our Provincial Commissioners. As it has been proved that Provincial Administration is right I think it is high time more jobs were given to the Provincial Commissioners in order that our Provinces may go ahead. I remember last time some people from the so-called C.O.R. area used to nickname the Provincial Commissioners (*interruptions*), but now it proves us right that those Commissioners have something to do and apart from that rural areas may not get anything.

The next thing is the siting of industries. So many hon. Chiefs have spoken about industries. Industries should be well sited in order that we may get equal distribution. As I am saying, other Chiefs who are not here should be encouraged and industries should be sited in the rural areas in order that the urban areas may not be congested.

The next thing is rural water supply. This is very essential because wherever we get water supply even if there is no job people will still be happy. Even central water supply in rural areas would, I think, lessen the difficulties in the thickly populated areas and if any industry is sited that will be to the advantage of the Government.

Mr President, with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Chief C. O. Nebe (Awka Division): Hon. President, my fellow hon. Members, I am very happy to be given a chance to say something. As a new man in the House I am not expected to say much, but to study the proceedings of this House. But I feel my presence will not be noticed if I fail to say something.

The Minister of Education: 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 the President or Chairman" and not hon. Members.

Chief Nebe: Mr President, I hope I am allowed to speak. I said that I have not much to say as a new man in this House, but I feel my presence must be shown somehow otherwise I will look like a monument. Before I continue I have to congratulate the Premier and the Government of Eastern Nigeria for the able way the last elections were conducted. According to what I see now, this House, to the best of my knowledge, is a separate House and our duty is to support the Government in power and also to make the condition of Chiefs an enviable one. In Eastern Nigeria the institution of Chieftaincy is only in the making because the start-off two years ago was an innovation. With experience I have in other areas I can say that with the help of this Government our institution will grow as in other Regions.

I have to say a little about this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I associate myself with the comments made by my hon. Colleagues on the siting of industries in the rural areas. My town is Awka and Awka people are known as people who handle steel. For many years since the advent of the British everyone knows that the Awka man is a man of iron—he deals with iron, and I can say that iron is in his blood. If the Government will ensure that this art does not die in our blood, the siting of an iron industry is well suited for Awka.

Before I sit down, I think I have to touch upon one thing, and that is the Ministry of Chieftaincy. I am making reference to the speech made about the creation of Third-class Chiefs. It may not serve us any useful purpose if we continue to create things without consolidating any. I do not think we have consolidated the position of all the Second-class Chiefs with clan heads. They have no functions. I suggest, if it is possible, to give these Second-class Chiefs some functions and to consolidate their positions before creating Third-class Chiefs. Before the Third-class Chiefs are created, I warn that if a good investigation is not carried out, it will only mean a friction between the two classes of Chiefs and the end will be worse.

With these few words, I beg to support.

Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E. (Owerri Province): Mr President, I thank you very much for giving me this chance to make a few comments. I support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, and in supporting it, I will ask you to allow me to make some observations.

I call upon the Minister of Health. I have to thank him for the good service he has rendered towards Owerri General Hospital and we pray that he should continue. But one thing is this: hon. Chiefs know Owerri Division to be very thickly populated and I do not think it wise for only two Medical Officers to attend over thousands of people in the area. Therefore, we feel that a third doctor is required at the Owerri General Hospital.

At times when the doctor is busy in the theatre and the other Medical Officer is on tour, one finds the Nursing Sister performing the duties of Medical Officer and attending to over 600 people. We are asking the Government to consider giving Owerri one additional Medical Officer.

The dispenser is also overworked. There is only one dispenser to attend to the out-patients everyday. This boy has no time to take his lunch—he will be there until 3 to 4 o'clock attending to the crowds here and there.

While on the case of additional doctor, there will be no quarters when one is provided. I ask the Minister of Health to provide quarters for this man in the interest of the people.

I come to the Minister of Works. I thank the Minister of Works for tarring the Owerri-Okigwi road. That road is one of the best now. I was also happy when I was coming to Enugu last Sunday or Monday to see three Europeans and labourers working on the Owerri-Orlu-Awka road. Perhaps, I think the Minister of Works has considered that to be one of the worst roads and is trying to work on it. If my assumption is correct, thanks are due to him. I am also thanking him for the other road which is now under construction. That is the Owerri-Emekuku-Umuahia road. It has proved an excellent road although the tarring has not started.

[CHIEF NJEMANZE]

I seize this opportunity to thank the Government for the announcement made over the Radio and in the *Outlook* about Owerri, and that is about the establishment of a high technical school in Owerri in place of the camp of the Shell-BP. We thank them very much. There is something which we want—I know everybody here wants industry—but we want an industry to accommodate our manpower. If you go to Owerri today, everything is lacking since the departure of the Shell-BP. I appeal to the Minister of Commerce to get up and see what he can do for us.

Now, I am sorry indeed, Mr President. Truth is bitter. When war is declared in a battlefield even the bravest man may seem to be a coward, but when victory is won everybody will try to sing praises. Now, when the Governor-General was the Premier and National President of the N.C.N.C., in one of the N.C.N.C. conventions, he warned the N.C.N.C. not to wash their dirty linen in the public.

I now call the attention of most of our Chiefs here . . . (*interruption*).

Mr President: Order! Order!

Chief Njemanze: Will I continue after break?

Mr President: It is now 12 o'clock, hon. Members, and if it is your wishes, the House will stand adjourned until half past twelve.

Sitting suspended at 12.2 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.

Chief Njemanze: I was saying that the victory of the N.C.N.C. is now a joy; everybody is rejoicing about it. All the Chiefs sitting in this House and in Councils who did not support the N.C.N.C. during the elections are now saying that they stood for the N.C.N.C. during the elections. Some of them supported Independent Candidates, Action Group, and so on, but now they claim to have supported the N.C.N.C. The N.C.N.C. know those for them and those against them. I wish it were possible to institute an inquiry to know those who stood for and against the N.C.N.C.

I was here yesterday, when the Amendment Bill in connection with the Ministry of Local Government was debated but I have to call on the Minister of Local Government, to be at alert, to be watchful and to be influential as regards the Independents and those who supported them in their fights against the N.C.N.C. They should not be placed on the head of any Council or organisation and the real N.C.N.C. supporters placed in a subordinate capacity. It is not good. We must be very watchful for I know what is going to happen. Those who fought against the N.C.N.C. should not be given prominent places. If they are forgiven now the next election will surely be worse than the last one. Let us call a spade a spade, and damn the consequences.

In supporting what Chief Wachuku said about accommodation for Chiefs, I appeal to the Government, the Premier and the Ministers, to take the matter very serious. It is very disgraceful for Chiefs who come to attend this meeting from distant places to be taking taxis to this House and also seek a place to lodge. I know that Government have not got enough accommodation but action should be taken to do something for the Chiefs. I am not talking about myself in particular, wherever I go today, I am at home. If I go to Lagos, Nsukka, Onitsha, Calabar, England, etc., I will feel at home. (*Laughter*). We are those nationalist Chiefs who sacrificed a lot for you hon. Members. I am appealing that next time something should be done for the Chiefs in this respect so that when we come from our various places we will not suffer much inconvenience in respect of accommodation. Look at people like the Mingi of Nembe; he has not got anybody here; other people come from Ogoja, Rivers, Calabar Provinces and so on. I am therefore appealing to our Ministers to see that something is done by the time the House sits again.

I talk now about the Catering Rest House. This is very essential. The question of a Catering Rest House for Owerri has been raised here for many years. I know Government is now taking charge of the old Shell-BP Rest House. Government should put up a decent Catering Rest House like those in other places. I do not want to be personal. What is good for the goose is good for the gander.

I now talk about the High Court. I know that the hon. Minister of Justice has that at heart: I know he will never forget it. We are proud and quite sure that within 1962-63 there will be a High Court in Owerri Province.

I beg to support.

Chief S. B. Maeba (Ogoni Division): Mr President, in supporting the Bill I have a few remarks to make. The Minister of Works has tarred the road from Umukoroshe to Bori. This is the only road that is tarred in Ogoni Division. Just as a house cannot be said to have been properly built if only one door was put in it, a whole Division cannot do with only one road. I want to bring to the notice of the Minister that in my Division there is one important road which links us with Aba Division. It is the Bori-Obigbo road. I want the Minister to see that this road is tarred as soon as possible to minimise the great difficulty which my people have in taking their products to the market for sale.

Mr President, since all the Chiefs here represent their Divisions and their Divisions sent them here to bring their difficulties to the notice of Government, I beg that everyone be given the opportunity to speak. As we are all here our people are keeping their ears wide open to hear what we are going to say and if one fails to say something because you, Mr President, failed to call on one to speak, it would appear to one's people as if one is misrepresenting them. So I am appealing to you to see that we all are given the chance to say our minds.

While development of different kinds is taking place all over the Region, Ogoni is completely forgotten. Government should do something to ensure that we too derive some benefit from the fruits of Independence. Our Government is a very good Government and it will continue forever. Before the last election I promised the N.C.N.C. that all its candidates in my Division would be returned. I have done this. Before the people agreed to vote for N.C.N.C. candidates I promised them, on behalf of the Government and the Party, that they would be given many amenities. I am now appealing to Government to see that my Division is considered in the distribution of amenities because without this they will never listen to the N.C.N.C. in future elections.

I congratulate Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara for being able to perceive that without us, the Chiefs, elections cannot favour him. He was very wise in amending the Constitution so that we, the Chiefs, could take part in politics. This was not previously provided for and things would have been difficult for him. So I congratulate him for this foresight.

I appeal to the Government to see that at least one secondary grammar school for girls is established in my Division. There are many girls who although brilliant and desirous to further their education, are not able to achieve their ambition because of lack of a girls' secondary school in the Division. I am appealing to the Government to see that something is done in this direction as it can appreciate what it means to leave girls idle.

Coming to the question of the increases in school fees, I have to inform the Government that the person most affected is the man in the village who even at the old rate found it difficult to pay the fees for his children. Doubtless, in the village it is the children of the poor who are brilliant and take their studies more seriously. As these fees have been raised most of these children will be thrown out of school. Before we left for this Meeting many people in my Division sent delegations to me asking that I persuade Government to stop this increase. My people will be hard hit and I am appealing to Government to do something about this.

Mr President, my Division is rich in palm produce and we produce large quantities of palm oil. But you will be surprised to note that in the whole of my Division there is not a single Oil Mill. I am appealing to Government to see that at least one Oil Mill is established for the benefit of my people. I hope the Minister of Agriculture will take note of this point.

My Division is completely neglected in the siting of the many industries which we hear of. The Government will be doing a lot of good to my people if it sees that at least one industry is sited at Ogoni. Something like beer or Krola brewery or any other industry will be very much appreciated. I do not want to take any more of the time of this House but I hope

[CHIEF MAEBA]

all the Ministers concerned have taken note of all I have said. They are important.

Mr President, I beg to support.

Chief Eket Inyang-Udo (Uyo Province): I rise to support the Bill. In doing so I have, first of all, to congratulate the hon. Premier and his able Ministers for being returned to power in the last elections. When the General knows how to fight his lieutenants will inherit his strength and this strength will render the enemy powerless. When people talked about the strength of the Opposition Parties in the so-called C.O.R. area I did not bother myself because I knew that their strength had been reduced. The whole of Annang Province returned all N.C.N.C. candidates, we had a greater part of the seats in Eket Division and we paired with the Opposition at Uyo. We also gained some seats at Enyong. This is indeed a sign of what will happen to them in the next elections.

Some individuals protested and some others expressed surprise that I was campaigning for the Government Party. I told such people that I was right in doing this because without the Party in power, I would not be a First-class Chief here. So I agree entirely with my hon. Friend, Chief Njemanze, who said that those Chiefs who do not support the Government of the day have no right to be in this House. In the Western Region all the Obas and Obis campaign for the Government Party because they know that with that Party in power their seats are secured. While congratulating the Premier and his Party on their success I urge them to begin now to pave the way for their success in the next elections into the Federal House.

I come now to the Minister of Agriculture who is in charge of the Catering Rest Houses in the Region. I was surprised some weeks ago when I came for a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee and was informed by the officers at the Catering Rest House that the place was out of bounds. If we must have a Manager at the Catering Rest House we must have the best man for it. Mr President, I do not see why they should bring in Standard VI boys to work in our Catering Rest Houses. In other civilised nations only people with B.A. or B.Sc. who have a sense of responsibility and

are well educated work as receptionists in Catering Rest Houses. The receptionists in the Catering Rest House here do not know how to attend to people. So I am appealing to Government to reorganise services at our Catering Rest Houses to see that only people who are trained for the job there are employed. A manager there, whether African or European, who fails to give us our due respect, must go.

I am an old politician and when I make promises I have to fulfil them. I want the Minister of Agriculture to be serious in our place and get our plantation started.

I now come to the Ministry of Works. Rainy season in our Division is just like that of Forcados or Bonny. The rain falls almost everyday. I am therefore asking the Minister of Works—a capable young man who knows his duty—to start tarring the Eket-Oron road because no car can go on that road without being repaired after doing so. I would like the tarring of this road to be started immediately. The Minister is a capable man and I know he will do it.

Let us talk about school fees. We should leave the talks that Government should do this and that. Some of us who have lived in foreign countries know that Government does not do everything. The individual persons should try to pool together. But here we are asking Government to reduce the school fees. We know that within three years time this Government will give us free education. Now let us take the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. They are two important Ministries in this Region. The only warning I would give to the Minister of Education is to watch out for these missionaries. These missionaries say they are helping the country but they are not helping the Government. Instead they make propaganda against the Government.

The Ministry of Health: I went to the Aba Hospital three weeks ago after the elections. I saw in one general ward one male nurse and not one Nursing Sister in that ward. The Head Doctor, what we call the S.M.O., had to write the reports and run to the operation room. There are so many of our young doctors. We are happy to have capable doctors but they are tied down. A place like Aba has only five

doctors. One ward can accommodate one thousand people. I went to that hospital and I could not think of better attention than the one I received there. I had all the attention necessary and so to come to this House and condemn our doctors is not fair. Our youngsters are doing their best. I am asking the Minister of Health to look into this Department.

When we talk about scholarships we should stop giving people scholarships to go and do Classics. Are we not tired of this Oxford English? Is it good English that this country needs? We want to send boys out to good Medical Schools; send boys out for the study of science and engineering to help build our country; send people out for Agricultural Engineering to become experts, not people to go and do B.A. and write big English. The new age is the atomic age and Africa must be awake.

The Ministry of Justice: The Lawyers now are beginning to show their worth because they have the opportunity. When a man is given the opportunity he can show what he learnt. Our boys are now in the Bar and those who think they are capable should come forward and show their worth; but when the imperialist masters were on seat our boys had not the chance. From what our Minister of Justice has been doing we can see that they will be able to run this Government well. If our President were in a place like America or Great Britain, for instance, he would after all be the Judge of so so and so. It is alright. After all what is law? Law is to go and hear lectures, in fact, to go to London University and get your LL.B. You go there, pass your examination, take your dinner, they give you your certificate and you come back and practise Law. But these youngsters who went to the University talk big English. Well, one can speak his grammar and the other can quote his African Law. (*Laughter*).

I told the Minister of Local Government—he is such a jovial young man—that he should be able to handle those crooks in the Local Government Councils. What I want the Minister to do is to create in Eastern Nigeria, a pool of Local Government Secretaries who will be transferred from one station to another. For example the Secretary of the Annang Province could be sent to Enugu Province, and the one at Uyo to Onitsha Province.

Do not keep them in one place, for if you do you are not fostering good Local Government.

With these words, I beg to support the Bill.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr I. U. Akpabio): It was not my intention to speak but I feel that I should say one or two words about what some hon. Chiefs have mentioned here. First of all, I want to say something about Local Government Police. I think it was Chief the hon. J. N. Wachuku who raised the point. We are really in agreement. We have been on it but what really matters is that because of one Nigeria, and Police being a Federal subject, we thought we should be very careful in approaching the problem. But I think what the hon. Chief suggests is what I have already done. I have taken the matter up with my Premier, but we have not come to a conclusion yet.

Another thing I would like to mention is what Chief the hon. Essien said about Community Development. I would at this juncture say something about how community development is run. I think it is quite right because some people do know that the Ministry of Internal Affairs is a big Ministry, and even Labour is their responsibility. In other Regions Labour has a separate Minister and here we have community development and other things. I thank him for being in sympathy with the work that one way or the other, should be done. But on the other hand, I would like to say that in community development if there are people not doing their best it is not because a Minister has not been appointed. I think, as a matter of fact, that District Officers in many Divisions are appointed as Community Development Officers. That is one of the chief duties. There are Community Development Officers because a Minister cannot just run about and know what is happening in any community. What they have to do is to initiate a project and then call upon the Minister to continue the work. I would like at this stage to let Members know that so much has been done in the Community Development Section. At the moment we have a Chief Welfare Officer whose chief duty is to look after the development section. He travels wide. All the Bailey bridges you see are not made by the Ministry of Works but by the Community Development Section. In the

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interest of hon. Chiefs I would like to say how community development grants are made by the Government. Each year Divisional Officers submit a list of projects and recommend that grants be made so that the Divisional Officers may assist communities by providing materials, skilled labour and transport. These grants are subject to a ceiling for each Division. When I say "ceiling" you know in community development, let us say this year, we can say each Division will have about £130 for its development, and apart from that we have another money set aside to stimulate interest. What I am trying to explain is that in addition to money allocated to each Division, matching grants from Community Development funds are made on certain conditions. These conditions are:—

- (1) the community must give voluntary labour;
- (2) they must supply local materials—sand and stone;
- (3) they have to deposit 50 per cent. of the cost of the project.

It is when these are done that the Divisional Officer informs the Ministry, and then it is the duty of the Minister to send his Chief Welfare Officer who is in charge of Community Development to go and look into these things. Already, so much has been done. During this year the following projects have been completed and those who come from different Divisions know really what I mean because they have initiated projects and Government have come to their aid.

The projects are:—

Ndi-Ebe, Bende—Bridge and Culvert.
Okon Ohafia, Bende—Culverts.
Atan Ibong, Ikot Ekpene—Bailey Bridge.
Awka—Achalla Road—3 Bridges.
Awlaw—Awgu—Maternity Home.
Amawbia, Awka—Market Stalls.
Akwete Weaving Centre, Aba.
Eha-Amafu, Nsukka—Market Stalls.
Nkerefei, Udi—Bridge.
Nnewi, Onitsha—Bridge.

If I were to enumerate, the projects already handled this year are more than twenty; apart from that, you will know that it is not a matter

of whether you have this or that. It is only a matter of some people not knowing what to do. They do not know what they should do in order that Government might come to help them. For instance, for Abakaliki Province, my Community Development Section has already given out £1,685 and Annang Province £1,450. Then we come to Enugu Province, Awgu/Nsukka/Udi £2,455 and Ogoja Province £2,330; Onitsha Province £1,467; Owerri Province £2,200; Port Harcourt £2,060; Umuahia £1,700 and Uyo £3,502 10s; Calabar £693. You will see that community development depends upon initiative. If Government were not kind enough some Divisions would not have got anything because they were unable to initiate projects. You must be able to initiate a project and when that is done, I am ready to do something. I have my Parliamentary Secretary to help me. Parliamentary Secretaries are appointed to help Ministers. So if the Minister has no time to come the Parliamentary Secretary will come and if the Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary do not have time to come the Chief Welfare Officer will come, or even my Permanent Secretary. Some time ago my Permanent Secretary toured Uyo Division and other parts of the Region.

In conclusion, I must warn you that it is not a problem of not having a Minister, rather it is a problem of not knowing what you are to do. So I call upon all the Chiefs to initiate projects and call upon the Ministry and we will come to help.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): Mr President, I only rise to speak because there has been an attack from one or two of the Members on the new measure taken by the Government to increase fees in Standards III, IV, V and VI, and I thought it would not be fair if this House is not given a sort of resume—summary of what the hon. Premier and I said to the Lower House—the House of Assembly—when we met last week. The purpose of these economic measures—I suppose most of the hon. Members have heard over the radio and read in the papers—is that the various Governments of the Federation of Nigeria intend to launch a development programme which will be for five years and which will be repeated, we hope, after the first five years for another five years and the

object of this is to improve the economy of the whole Federation of Nigeria. At the moment all the Governments agree that we are spending more on social services which are not very productive and it is about time we changed our policy and laid more emphasis on productive projects like agriculture, technical education, scientific education, industries, and so forth. And we all agreed to stop playing politics with measures that will help to improve the economy of our country. All the Governments, the Federal Government, the Western Government, the Northern Government and the Eastern Government had a meeting, with the Prime Minister at the Chair. All the Premiers were present in Lagos about two weeks ago for the National Economic Council and there it was very seriously discussed. Everybody there was convinced that unless we changed our emphasis from social expenditure to expenditure on industries, agriculture, technical and scientific training, then we are not doing the right thing because it means spending all our money until perhaps we go out of pocket and there will be no more money for productive projects and so the whole Federation is going out to raise loan of £620,000,000. The Federation has been advised by experts that we will have no prospect of raising this loan unless we can show that within Nigeria we can mobilise by ourselves, 50 per cent. of what we want to raise as loan for this development and the only way to mobilise this money, i.e., 50 per cent. of £620,000,000 which is about £310,000,000, is to carry out these economic measures. It just happened to be unfortunate that education was the first to come out with it and the reason for this is that tomorrow as you all know, all schools will close for the Christmas holidays and they have got to know what the fees will be when they come back, and that is why we had to come out with it and let everybody know that fees will be increased so that Government will have a little bit of saving from the grants paid to teachers to run the schools. The amount of savings we expect is only about half a million pounds. What we need is £50,000,000 and this one single measure has given us only half a million pounds and so you can see that that is not the only economic measure we are going to take. We are in future going to announce other ones. In fact, Members of the House of Assembly suggested that there should be cut in salaries beginning

from the top: Ministers and the Legislators, Chiefs and officials, and we said we are going to examine these proposals and suggestions put to us in the House of Assembly very carefully and see those that can be applied without much hardship to the people. The impression I want to wipe off is that the Government is not sympathetic with the poor people in the rural areas. It isn't that. We are trying to build up our economy so that in future there will be more money at the disposal of Government to carry out its projects. The Government will be in a position to raise more tax because people can afford to pay more tax, when our industries and agriculture grow and employment is given to everybody. Perhaps we shall be in a position even to launch free education. We tried it once and we found we hadn't enough money to carry it out, so we had to cut it down. First of all we want to get hold of the money; we do not want to put the cart before the horse. We want to do the right thing first and that is to improve our economy by developing agriculture, industries and by getting our people trained in science and technology rather than wasting all the money on primary education which is not very productive. We are turning out 80,000 Standard VI school-leavers every year and if you do not have employment for them there will be trouble in the country very soon. So we have to look very carefully at this problem. When we criticise we should try and study the whole problem and understand why your Government has decided to take certain measures.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr P. N. Okeke): I have to thank the Chiefs for comments and criticisms which they have made on the Ministry of Agriculture. I think I can reduce some of these comments and criticisms into five heads. There were criticisms on education, Catering Rest Houses and then over the offers of land for farm settlements, scholarship for agriculture, siting of Pioneer Oil Mills in many parts of the Region, and I think I shall have to reply to these points in the reverse order.

I shall begin with the siting of Oil Mills. I want to make it clear that the question of siting of Oil Mills is purely governed by economic factors. We do not have to site these Oil Mills just because we want to site them anywhere. Certain considerations will

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have to be taken before we decide where to site these Oil Mills. Some of you who come from around Owerri, I think around Mbieri, will remember that in the past because of not taking certain factors into consideration one Oil Mill was sited there many years ago and up till now this Oil Mill is not operating. People from that area know that very well. There was no water supply nearby. It was impossible to get water supply. And there are other factors why it has not been possible to open this Pioneer Oil Mill which has been constructed at very great cost to the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation. I want to make it clear that we have got to take other economic factors into consideration before we site Oil Mills.

As for the scholarships which somebody mentioned—the award of agricultural scholarships—I think it is clear that my Ministry has already initiated a special scholarship programme for agriculture as from this year. We have already, I think, sent twenty students to the University of Nigeria to study various fields of agriculture, and by the end of this year, or early January, another twenty will leave for the United States of America. It is now the policy of the Government to award forty scholarships every year purely for the Ministry of Agriculture, so that in the next ten years it might be possible for us to solve the acute problems of staff which at present handicap our agricultural activities in that Ministry. I want to assure hon. Chiefs that action has already been taken to remedy the situation.

As for the offer of lands for Farm Settlements, I am rather wary when I get offers of lands; especially when one of the Chiefs—I think it was Chief Efeke from Brass Division—offered 110,000 acres of land, I begin to doubt whether he understands the implication of this offer and the total area involved. In many places we have been invited to take 12,000 acres but the people did not understand what 12,000 acres mean. When we went to measure the land and when they realised that those 12,000 acres meant five miles square, it was not possible for us to get that. And, if my arithmetic is still correct, I know that 640 acres make one-square mile, and if hon. Chiefs divide 110,000 by 640 acres then,

perhaps, they will be in a better position to appreciate the extent of the land in Brass which the hon. Chief is offering. I know that at Brass it will not be possible to get 110,000 acres. Besides, it is easy to come on the floor of this House to make these offers of land. I have got petitions from clans, Local Government Councils and from District Councils making free offers of land. In many cases they say it is free; but then what is our experience? Wherever we have gone we have met with difficulties: agitations, litigations, at times bordering on attacking the officials of my Ministry who have been sent out to survey the lands. So that before we take these offers, we are generally very cautious nowadays because it is not all that easy when one goes out to the fields, especially when people make these offers in the House of Chiefs and House of Assembly.

However, I think those Chiefs who have made these offers; but I want to say that of late we have found ourselves in very great difficulty. We hope that we may not be forced to have to use compulsory acquisition of these lands. We had thought that by co-operation with the Chiefs it could be possible for us to get the lands for Farm Settlements. Many offers were made; we went in, and of late, we are getting troubles from Owerri—Chief Onukogu is here—and I have been there on many occasions in the night under heavy rain. We had to suspend work at Ohaji because of the hostility of the people around that area. At Boki in Ogoja we had our difficulty. At Itundiro in Bende Division we had our difficulty—and nearly everywhere. It is perhaps only Igbariam in Onitsha Division, where we are really short of land, and where I never expected it could be possible for us to get 12,000 acres, that Government has not got trouble from the land owners. So I hope that when people make offers of land, they must make sure that they are backed up by their people; otherwise, Government does not want to be brought into a very embarrassing position.

Finally, may I say a word on the general criticism about accommodation in the Catering Rest House. I think I can make this point: At present the accommodation in the Catering Rest House has been reserved for an International Conference which is taking place here in Enugu. It is the International Symposium

on Rural Trade which is taking place in Enugu this week. Representatives from other parts of the world are attending, and I think it is the duty of this Government to provide accommodation for the International delegations.

The Chiefs should regard themselves as fathers and also as hosts of these delegates who should go home with the memory of the hospitality of the Chiefs and peoples of Eastern Nigeria. I want to assure hon. Chiefs that some of them, at their spare times, can go to the Independence Layout. A new first-class hotel is going up there and we believe that by some time next year this 100-bed hotel will be completed and perhaps this problem of accommodation shall have been solved permanently.

They can now appreciate the reason for the inconvenience which many of them have encountered and we hope that they will take this inconvenience in good heart—it is none of our making. We have got to accommodate these delegates.

The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole): My hon. Colleagues have already given satisfactory explanations, I hope, to all the important points raised by hon. Members in this short debate. My duty now is only to thank all those who have spoken and to assure them that all the pieces of advice they have given will be taken into consideration in future.

As hon. Members are fully aware, these are only Supplementary Estimates which we are debating. It does not offer sufficient scope for full-dress debate. Within a couple of months from now the House will be given an opportunity to debate the real Estimates for the next financial year, and it is then that a full opportunity will be given for the full-dress debate on the financial and economic policies of the Government. So I thank all those who have spoken and hope that when we reassemble again, by the grace of God, those who have any advice to give as to the ways and means of improving our financial position will offer them.

The hon. Minister of Education has already explained why there were increases in school

fees. I do not need to do more than rub in the point that it has become necessary for this Government to take a bold move to reallocate our resources, because if we do not do that then the gigantic economic plans which we have prepared and which will soon be published cannot be financed. If we are to finance that then we must do certain things some of which may be unpopular, but somebody has got to do them. If the people of today do not understand those measures, well, the people of tomorrow may; but it is necessary for a Government to be bold, because we have been given the mandate for the next five years to run the affairs of this Region, and we have seen that the resources of this Region have not been properly allocated.

It is necessary, if we are to improve the overall welfare of these people—people of today and people of the immediate tomorrow—we should reallocate these resources. I have never heard of any country in the whole world which is spending 46 per cent. of its total revenue on one item called “Education”. That is why we have decided that something must be done. The axe must fall on this particular item, and we have done it only to that extent so far. I think the duty of every Member of this hon. House is to go home now and explain to the people why it is necessary to do what we have done. If every Member does that, I do not think that the people themselves will be very much worried. All that they want to know is why these things are done. As soon as we give them the reasons they will follow us 100 per cent. as they did on other occasions; but if they are not told the truth of what has happened then there will be a lot of confusion. So, I very much hope that as soon as the House rises all hon. Chiefs will take it as their common primary duty to enlighten our people as to why it has been necessary to allow the axe to fall on education.

Mr President, thank you very much.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second time.

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[Adjournment]

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And it being certified a Money Bill;

The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.

Question: That the Bill be committed deemed to have been negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

Question: That the Bill be now read the Third time—put forthwith and agreed to.

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

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

Adjourned, accordingly, at thirty minutes past one o'clock p.m.

EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Thursday, 14th December, 1961

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

PRAYERS

(Mr President in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR PRESIDENT

Mr President: Hon. Chiefs and hon. Ministers, I have the pleasure to announce that a presentation of the Staff of Office and the Certificate of Recognition will be made to Chief the hon. Fred. Princewill-Amachree, M.B.E., the Amanyanabo of Kalabari, at the Premier's Lodge at 11 o'clock this morning.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE
OF SELECTION

The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke): I beg to report that the Committee of Selection met yesterday, the 13th day of December, 1961 and made the following nominations to the various Committees of the House for the 1961-62 Session:—

Standing Orders Committee:

President (*Chairman*).
Deputy President.
Minister of Town Planning.
Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.
Chief J. A. Anigor.
Chief A. U. Ukpa.

House Committee:

Minister of Internal Affairs (*Chairman*).
Chief Angus Ilonze.
Chief P. U. Obodoeze.
Chief S. A. Essien.
Chief S. N. Okorie.
Chief J. D. Agba.

Public Petitions Committee:

Minister of Information (*Chairman*).
Chief S. A. Ike.
Chief J. Nwosu.

Chief N. N. Anyika.
Chief E. O. Atakpa.
Chief Joseph D. Agba.
Chief G. A. Ikiba.

Committee of Privileges:

Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs (*Chairman*).
Chief Edward Nnaji.
Chief E. E. Okpa.
Chief Kanu Oji.
Chief F. N. Ogudoro.
Chief Akpan Enang.
Chief Ogba Ekirigwe.
Chief R. A. Ukwu.
Chief Sampson B. Maeba.

Statutory Corporations Committee:

Minister of Commerce (*Chairman*).
Chief N. U. Ofem.
Chief J. U. U. Ebong.
Chief H. I. Akwitti.
Chief Silas Ezenwa.
Chief G. O. Ihenacho, M.B.E.
Chief Sampson B. Maeba.

Public Accounts Committee:

Chairman (To be nominated by the President).
Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.
Chief C. E. Amobi.
Chief Eket Inyang-Udo.
Chief J. Mpi.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Mr President: Hon. Chiefs and hon. Ministers, to comply with what is required of me this morning—to nominate the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee—I have the pleasure of nominating Chief A. U. Ukpa to be Chairman of that Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjourned, accordingly, at fifteen minutes past ten o'clock a.m.



APPENDICES

(1) WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Answers received from the 14th of June to the 29th October, 1961—the date previous to the dissolution of the First House of Chiefs

School Medical Service

10. **Mrs Margaret Ekpo** asked the Minister of Health, what efforts he is making to introduce in Townships like Aba, Port Harcourt, Onitsha and Calabar, School Medical Service as has been introduced in Enugu.

The Minister of Health: School Health Service is already in operation in the towns enumerated by the hon. Mrs Margaret Ekpo. The only difference between Enugu and the other towns is that, while Enugu has a full-time Medical Officer for Schools, other towns mentioned have part-time Medical Officer.

It is very necessary to point out at this juncture, that the Ministry has regarded this aspect of its services, for obvious reasons, as of high priority, and as more and more Medical Officers and Health Sisters are recruited, full-time Medical Officers and Health Sisters will be assigned to this very important work not only in the towns previously mentioned, but also in others too.

Scholarship Awards

18. **Mrs Janet N. Mokelu** asked the Minister of Education, what arrangements he is making for the grant of Secondary School and University Scholarships to girls to enable them take their rightful places in the community, having regard to the giant political stride which this country is now making.

The Minister of Education: Apropos my answer to hon. Mrs Margaret Ekpo's question about how many Eastern Nigeria girls were awarded Regional Scholarship to study at different Universities outside and inside Nigeria, the arrangements for granting

secondary school and university scholarships to girls are much the same as those for boys. The secondary school scholarships are awarded by the Provincial Scholarship Boards. So far as university scholarships are concerned, forty-six awards have been made from Regional funds for girls studying at universities in Nigeria, and eighty-eight for those at universities outside Nigeria. The number of qualified applicants for these awards is far less for girls than for boys, and where the girls have the prerequisite qualification, preference is usually given to them.

Since the priority in the award of scholarships is now being given to science, every effort is being made to encourage the teaching of science in girls' schools.

Water Bore-Hole at Umumbo

22. **Chief P. U. Obodoeze** asked the Minister of Works, what arrangements he is making to complete the water bore-hole at Umumbo in Uzo-Uwani in Nsukka Division in order to meet the urgent needs of the people concerned.

The Minister of Works: The Water bore-hole at Umumbo in Uzo-Uwani in Nsukka Division is only an experimental scheme carried out to show that water is available in the area for agricultural development. The experiment proved successful and the Ministry of Agriculture was so informed.

To save waste of water resulting from the experiment arrangements have been made to pipe it down to the neighbouring community. Umumbo is not included in the approved schedule of Rural Water Supply Schemes.

(2) LIST OF PAPERS DISTRIBUTED DURING ADJOURNMENT AND BEFORE THE DISSOLUTION OF THE FIRST HOUSE OF CHIEFS

1. Annual Report 1958—Ministry of Health.
2. Parliamentary Debates (Eastern House of Assembly) Official Report, Third Session (1959-60), Fifth Meeting, 16th-19th February, 1960.

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3. Parliamentary Debates (Eastern House of Assembly), Fourth Session (1960-61), Third Meeting, 8th-10th November, 1960.

4. Parliamentary Debates (Eastern House of Chiefs), Second Session (1960-61), Third Meeting, 22nd and 23rd November, 1960.

5. Annual Report—Forestry Division, Ministry of Agriculture, 1960-61.

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1R = First Reading
2R = Second Reading

3R = Third Reading
Com = Committee

E.N. = Eastern Nigeria
W = Written Question
—at end of Volume

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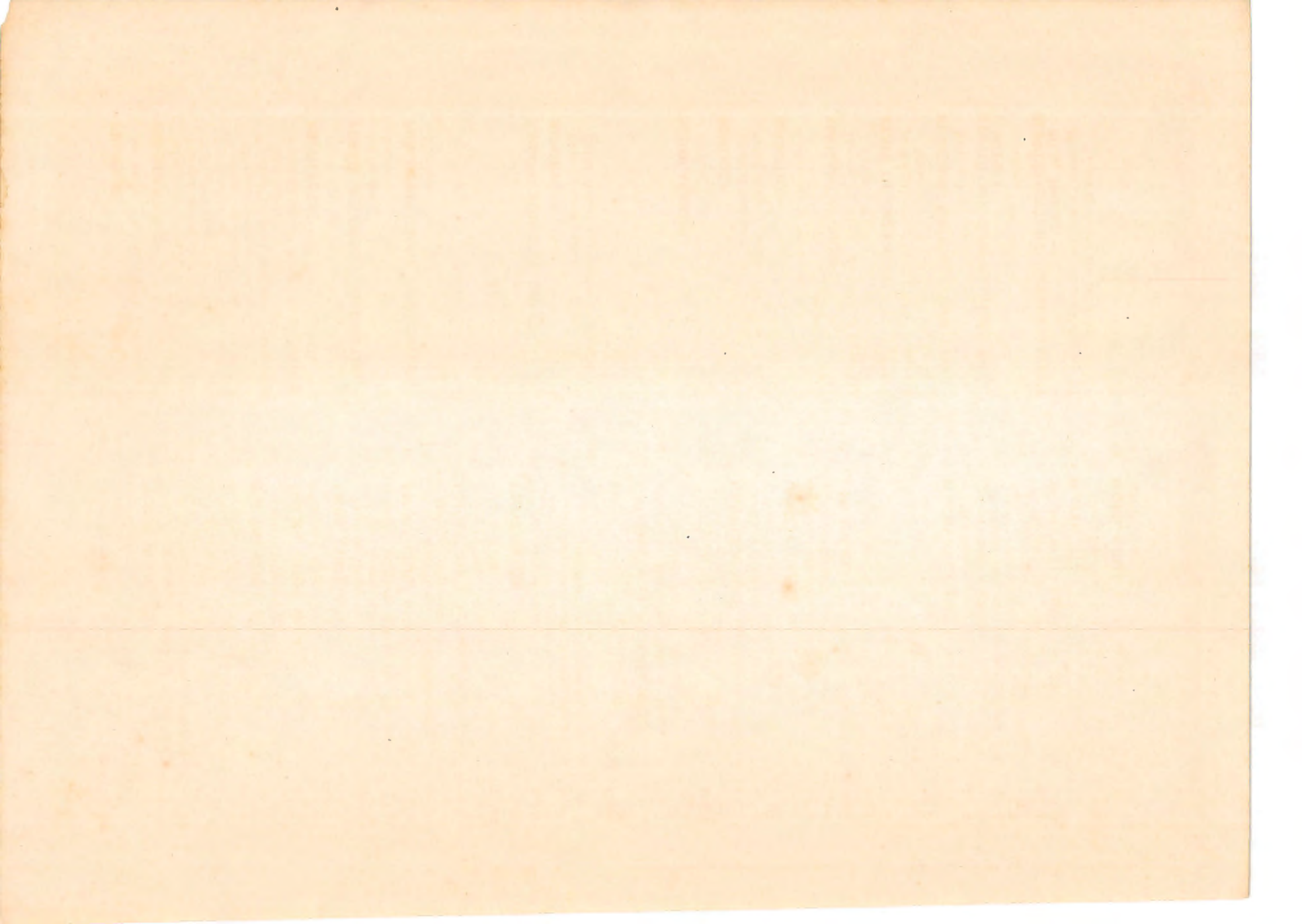
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