



EASTERN NIGERIA

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

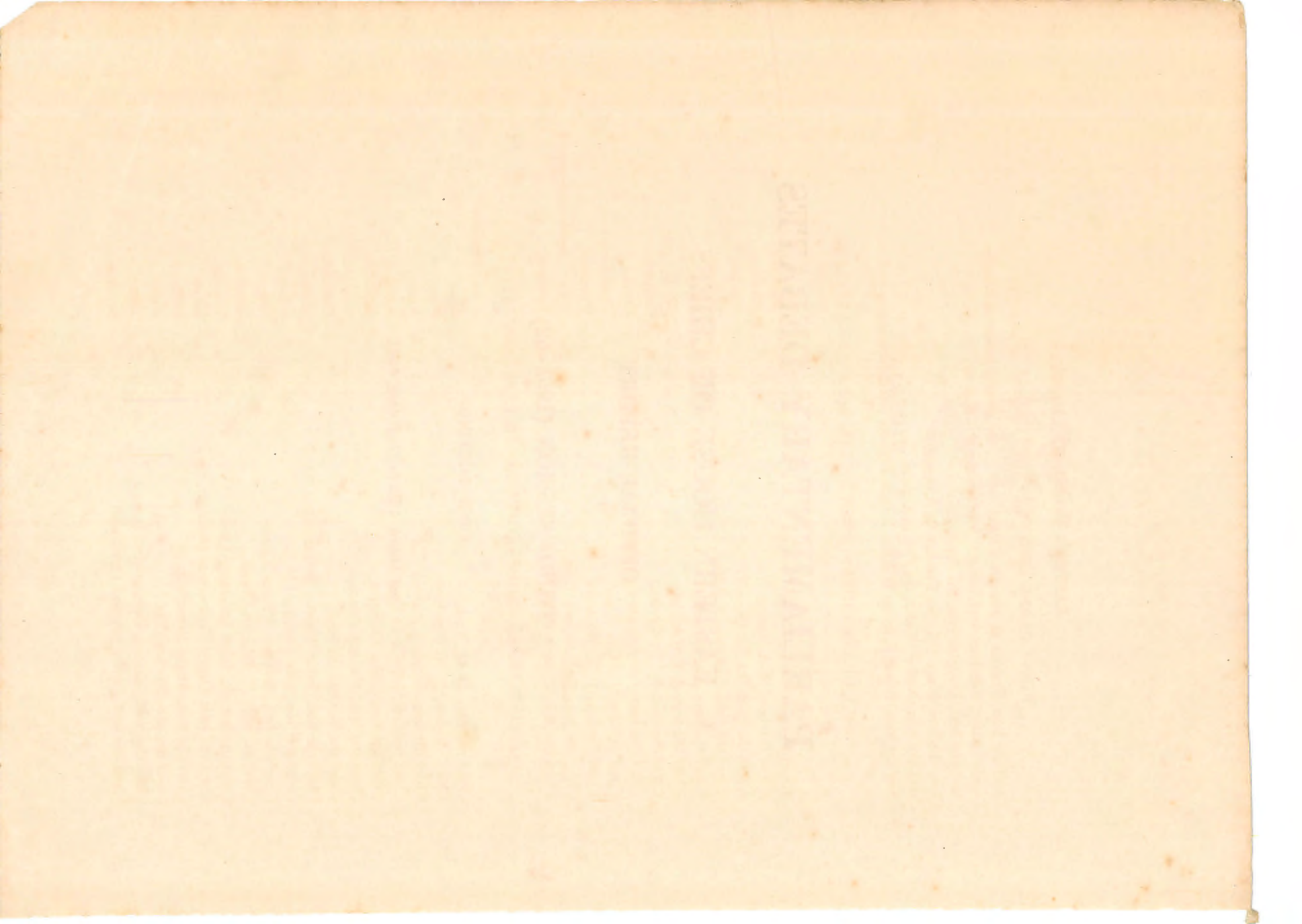
**EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**THIRD SESSION (1961-62)**

**FIRST MEETING**

*2nd March, 18th to 22nd April, 1961*



## EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

### FIRST-CLASS CHIEFS (TRADITIONAL RULERS)

- Chief the hon. Francis O. Joseph Allagoa, M.B.E., the Amanyanabo of Nembe.  
 Chief the hon. Ededem Archibong V, the Obong of Calabar.  
 Chief the hon. Douglas Jaja, the Amanyanabo of Opobo.  
 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.

### 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. D. O. Njoku ... ..	Aba.
Chief the hon. F. N. Ogudoro ... ..	Aba.
Chief the hon. Stephen Wabara ... ..	Aba.
Chief the hon. John Udo Udo Ebong ... ..	Abak.
Chief the hon. Ogba Ekirigwe ... ..	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. Nwancho Atuma ... ..	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. Akam Iteshi ... ..	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. Jonas Akpaka Anigor ... ..	Abakaliki.
Chief the hon. Ude Umanta ... ..	Afikpo.
Chief the hon. Solomon Chima Nkwor ... ..	Afikpo.
Chief the hon. E. Ashirim-Unosi ... ..	Ahoada.
Chief the hon. Richard Amachree Ukwu... ..	Ahoada.
Chief the hon. Daniel Ekekwetere Onuaguluchi ... ..	Awgu.
Chief the hon. Angus Ilonze ... ..	Awka.
Chief the hon. Michael Eze ... ..	Awka.
Chief the hon. Johnson Emeasiobum Ikeogu ... ..	Bende.
Chief the hon. James Johnson Ogbulafor... ..	Bende.

SECOND-CLASS CHIEFS — *continued*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Division</i>
Chief the hon. Ike Okoroafor ... ..	Bende.
Chief the hon. Gordon Ascot Ikibah ... ..	Brass.
Chief the hon. Kembenta O. E. O. Ekpo... ..	Calabar.
Chief the hon. Ginah Iponi ... ..	Degema.
Chief the hon. Akpabio Udo Ukpa ... ..	Eket.
Rev. and Chief the hon. Effiong Utit, M.B.E. ... ..	Enyong.
Chief the hon. Akpan Enang ... ..	Ikot Ekpene.
Chief the hon. Raymond O. Orem, M.B.E. ... ..	Ikom.
Chief the hon. Ugwu Ezugwu-Ukuma ... ..	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. Emmanuel Eze ... ..	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. Raymond Iyida ... ..	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. Paul U. Obodoeze ... ..	Nsukka.
Chief the hon. Egbe Araghe Egbara ... ..	Obubra.
Chief the hon. Joseph D. Agba ... ..	Obudu.
Chief the hon. Otu Lawrence Odu ... ..	Ogoja.
Chief the hon. Sampson B. Maeba ... ..	Ogoni.
Chief the hon. Richard Jones Onyeneho ... ..	Okigwi.
Chief the hon. Festus Brown Nduka ... ..	Okigwi.
Chief the hon. Michael Ogbuka Kanu ... ..	Okigwi.
Chief the hon. Josiah N. Orizu ... ..	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. Silas Okaa Ezenwa... ..	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. Joseph Onwudiwe ... ..	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. R. Oraelosi ... ..	Onitsha.
Chief the hon. Ntuen Ibok, M.B.E. ... ..	Opobo.
Chief the hon. Gregory Agbasiere... ..	Orlu.
Chief the hon. Francis Nwizu Ezerioha ... ..	Orlu.
Chief the hon. James 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. John N. Nwansi ... ..	Owerri.
Chief the hon. William A. Obassy... ..	Owerri.
Chief the hon. Joseph Wobo ... ..	Port Harcourt.
Chief the hon. Edward Nnaji ... ..	Udi.
Chief the hon. Michael O. Okongwu ... ..	Udi.
Chief the hon. Vincent O. Agana ... ..	Udi.
Chief the hon. Udo Equere ... ..	Uyo.
Chief the hon. Okon Essien Okon... ..	Uyo.

SPECIAL MEMBERS

- The hon. (Mrs) Margaret Ekpo.
- The hon. (Mrs) Janet Mokelu.
- Chief the hon. C. E. Amobi.
- Alhaji Chief the hon. Umoru Yushau.
- Chief the hon. M. I. Asinobi.

## EASTERN NIGERIA GOVERNMENT

(Formed by Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, December 1959)

### MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

PREMIER—Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara.  
MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS—Hon. I. U. Akpabio.  
MINISTER OF FINANCE—Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke.  
MINISTER OF TOWN PLANNING—Hon. E. Emole.  
MINISTER OF WORKS—Hon. P. O. Ururuka.  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION—Hon. B. C. Okwu.  
MINISTER OF COMMERCE—Chief the hon. J. U. Nwodo.  
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT—Hon. P. O. Nwoga.  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION—Hon. G. E. Okeke.  
MINISTER OF HEALTH—Hon. E. P. Okoya.  
MINISTER OF STATE CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND CHIEFTAINCY MATTERS—Hon. O. U. Affiah.  
MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Hon. M. O. Ajegbo.  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE—Hon. P. N. Okeke.  
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING—Dr the hon. A. N. Obonna.  
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO—Chief the hon. D. Jaja, the Amanyano of Opobo.

### PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS

Hon. R. O. Iwuagwu	...	...	...	...	Onitsha Province.
Hon. E. A. Chime	...	...	...	...	Enugu Province.
Chief the hon. A. N. Onyiuke	...	...	...	...	Umuahia Province.
Hon. M. E. Ogon	...	...	...	...	Ogoja Province.
Chief the hon. J. H. E. Nwuke	...	...	...	...	Port Harcourt Province.
Hon. P. A. Onwe	...	...	...	...	Abakaliki Province.
Hon. N. L. P. Apreala	...	...	...	...	Yenagoa Province.
Hon. E. Chidolue	...	...	...	...	Annang Province.
Hon. C. A. Okafor	...	...	...	...	Degema Province.
Hon. E. W. Udonkim	...	...	...	...	Calabar Province.
Hon. H. U. Akpabio	...	...	...	...	Uyo Province.
Chief the hon. S. E. Onukogu	...	...	...	...	Owerri Province.

### OFFICE OF THE PREMIER AND MINISTRIES OF GOVERNMENT

#### Premier's Office:—

Premier: Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara.  
Minister of State: Hon. O. U. Affiah.  
Minister without Portfolio: Chief the hon. D. Jaja, the Amanyano of Opobo.  
Parliamentary Secretaries: Hon. J. O. Umolu; Hon. S. N. Alo.

#### Ministry of Internal Affairs:—

Minister: Hon. I. U. Akpabio.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Chief the hon. R. O. Ukuta, M.B.E.

#### Ministry of Finance:—

Minister: Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. J. E. Eyo.

#### Ministry of Town Planning:—

Minister: Hon. E. Emole.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. D. O. Aligwekwe.

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

**Ministry of Information:—**

Minister: Hon. B. C. Okwu.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. S. O. Masi.

**Ministry of Works:—**

Minister: Hon. P. O. Ururuka.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. D. O. Nnamani.

**Ministry of Commerce:—**

Minister: Hon. J. U. Nwodo.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. K. Kiri.

**Ministry of Local Government:—**

Minister: Hon. P. O. Nwoga.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. P. U. Amaefunah.

**Ministry of Education:—**

Minister: Hon. G. E. Okeke.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. D. S. A. Agim.

**Ministry of Health:—**

Minister: Hon. E. P. Okoya.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. M. U. Obayi.

**Ministry of Justice:—**

Attorney-General: Hon. M. O. Ajegbo.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. D. A. Nnaji.

**Ministry of Agriculture:—**

Minister: Hon. P. N. Okeke.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. R. O. Anoke.

**Ministry of Economic Planning:—**

Minister: Dr the hon. A. N. Obonna.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. L. O. Uzoigwe.

**COMMITTEES**

**Committee of Selection**

The Premier (*Chairman*).  
The Minister of Economic Planning.  
The Minister of State (Establishments and Chieftaincies).  
Chief J. N. Wachuku.  
Chief Eket 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 S. C. Nkwor.  
Chief A. U. Ukpa.

### House Committee

Minister of Internal Affairs (*Chairman*).  
Chief Angus Ilonze.  
Chief J. Mpi.  
Chief S. A. Essien.  
Chief J. E. Ikeogu.  
Chief Emmanuel Eze.

### Public Petitions Committee

Minister of Information (*Chairman*).  
Chief R. J. Onyeneho.  
Chief F. N. Ezerioha.  
Chief N. N. Anyika.  
Rev. and Chief Effiong Utit, M.B.E.  
Chief Joseph D. Agba.  
Chief G. A. Ikibah.

### Committee of Privileges

Ministers of State (Establishments and Chieftaincies) (*Chairman*).  
Chief Edward Nnaji.  
Chief D. Onuaguluchi.  
Chief Kanu Oji.  
Chief F. N. Ogudoro.  
Chief Akpan Enang.  
Chief Ogba Ekirigwe.  
Mrs J. N. Mokelu.  
Chief Sampson B. Maeba.

### Statutory Corporations Committee

Minister of Commerce (*Chairman*).  
Chief N. U. Ofem.  
Chief J. U. U. Ebong.  
Chief W. Obassi.  
Chief Silas Ezenwa.  
Chief Gregory Agbasiere.  
Chief E. Ashirim-Unosi.

### Public Accounts Committee

Chief J. N. Wachuku (*Chairman*).  
Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.  
Chief C. E. Amobi.  
Chief Eket Inyang-Udo.  
Mrs Margaret Ekpo.

### PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

The President: Chief the hon. Nyong Essien.  
Leader of the House: Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke (Minister of Finance).  
Deputy President: (Vacant).  
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.  
Serjeant-at-Arms: Mr B. O. Ajumogobia.





Eastern House of Chiefs and House of Assembly Debates

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[Governor's Speech]

2 MARCH 1961

[Governor's Speech]

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JOINT SITTING OF THE EASTERN  
HOUSE OF CHIEFS AND THE  
EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 2nd March, 1961

The Houses met at 10 a.m. pursuant to a Proclamation made by His Excellency dated 20th February, 1961.

Mr Speaker read the Prayers and the President of the House of Chiefs took the Chair.

**The President:** Hon. Members, as you are aware, His Excellency the Governor will be here this morning to open the new Session of the Legislature. Is it your wish that His Excellency be received on his arrival?

**Hon. Members:** Aye.

**The President:** Sitting is suspended pending His Excellency's arrival.

*Sitting resumed.*

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

His Excellency the Governor having entered the Council Chamber in procession was pleased to make a Most Gracious Speech from the Throne as follows:—

**Mr President, hon. Members of the House of Chiefs, Mr Speaker, hon. Members of the House of Assembly**

*The past year has been an eventful period in the history of Eastern Nigeria. On 1st October, 1960 we joined the other Regions and the Federation in celebrating Nigeria's Independence; and shortly afterwards we were honoured by the visit of Her Majesty's personal representative, Her Royal Highness, Princess Alexandra of Kent. Other distinguished visitors whom we have received in the past twelve months have been His Excellency, President Tubman of Liberia and, more recently, the Prime Minister of the Federation.*

*In November 1960 representatives of my Government attended the inauguration of Dr the Rt. Hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe as the first Nigerian Governor-General of independent Nigeria and the following month it was my*

*honour and privilege, in this Chamber, to take the solemn oaths of office as your first Nigerian Governor. These two events fittingly symbolised Nigeria's final emergence from the Colonial era, and her entry on terms of full equality into the comity of nations.*

*The Constitution of Eastern Nigeria provides for a reconstituted House of Assembly of 146 Members. For the purpose of electing these Members it is necessary that the present Federal constituencies in the Region should be divided; and the manner of this division falls to be determined by the Regional Electoral Commission with the approval of the Legislature. The Commission has now made its recommendations which will, in this Session, be laid upon the Table of the House of Chiefs and of the House of Assembly.*

*A Bill for an Electoral Law, which will empower the Governor in Council to make Regulations for the conduct of Regional Elections, will also be introduced in this Session.*

*It is the continuing policy of my Government that, through the Provincial Assemblies, there should be the closest possible relationship between the Government in Enugu and the people throughout the Region.*

*Before the end of the current Session of the Legislature all Provincial Assemblies will have held their first meeting and appointed their Standing Committees. In the coming year this promising experiment in democracy will produce positive evidence of its value.*

*My Ministers' desire that government in Eastern Nigeria shall be government by consultation was given further expression by the two meetings of leaders of the professional and business communities and prominent intellectuals which were held during the year. Both meetings were most fruitful and their recommendations will be published.*

*All major chieftaincy disputes have now been resolved and Second-class Chiefs, throughout the Region, have been selected and recognised.*

THE PUBLIC SERVICE

*Two cardinal aims continue to govern the policy and actions of my Government with regard to the Civil Service: the development of a contented, efficient service, imbued with the*

highest ideals of loyalty and integrity; and Nigerianisation within the shortest practicable time.

The conditions of service for civil servants employed in the Region have been improved in accordance with the policy of my Government that such conditions should be in no way less favourable than those obtaining in other parts of the Federation. To this end, my Government has maintained close consultation with other Governments of the Federation on major questions of policy. After full consultation with the Civil Service Associations, the weekly hours of work have been increased from thirty-four to thirty-seven, and the possibility of introducing a forty-hour week in due course is under examination.

An Organisation and Methods Unit, headed by a Consultant provided by the Ford Foundation has been established in the Premier's Office. The main function of this Unit will be to help and advise Ministries and Departments on the proper organisation and employment of their staff to avoid waste either in money or men, time or talent.

Our training programmes were intensified during the past year and the process will continue. Full use will be made of the facilities accorded by overseas bodies—such as the Ford Foundation, International Co-operation Administration of America, Commonwealth Technical Assistance Bodies and certain Governments and organisations in Western Europe. Our Institute of Administration has now started work in earnest and a training expert has been loaned by the Ford Foundation: he will concentrate on staff development and practical training programmes.

A Report on training problems and staff development by Dr Kingsley of the Ford Foundation has been received. Some of its recommendations have already been implemented and the full Report will be published.

On Nigerianisation, hon. Members will be gratified to learn that almost all the key posts in our service are now held by Nigerians. This development has taken place without ill-feeling on the part of the expatriate civil servants, who indeed have themselves largely been responsible for the training of their successors. The ready adaptation of our Expatriate Officers to these startling changes is an eloquent testimony to their realism and understanding and is much appreciated by my Government.

#### UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

The formal opening ceremony of the University of Nigeria, graciously performed by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra in October 1960, was the culmination of an operation surely without precedent in academic history. In less than twelve months from the first meeting of the Provisional Council the University Buildings had been erected, academic staff had been recruited and the first students were in residence. The Provisional Council of the University will shortly be replaced by the Council for which provision is made under the University of Nigeria Law: the Provisional Council may look back upon the gratifyingly brief period of its existence with a pride fully justified by its achievements.

By October 1961 the University's faculty of science will have been opened. The facilities for scientific training so provided will make an important contribution to the reservoir of trained man-power required by my Government's development programme.

#### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The keynote of my Government's policy for Agriculture continues to be the raising of the standard of living of the people of Eastern Nigeria. This aim will be vigorously pursued.

It is essential that the productivity of the small farms which are the basis of this Region's economy should be increased, particularly as regards palm production, and to this end the Extension Services of the Ministry will be expanded. Our farmers may expect to receive assistance by way of advice, improved planting material and livestock on a scale much more impressive than heretofore. An Agricultural Information Unit has been established: the International Co-operation Administration have sent three experts to the Region to work on agricultural schemes in the fields of poultry, livestock and extension methods and six senior officers of the Ministry who have received training in extension and research work under the auspices of the International Co-operation Administration have now returned to the Region.

It is proposed in the near future to develop a Region-wide scheme, with the participation of overseas plantation interests, for the creation of modern farms owned by the local people and based upon nucleus plantations which will provide both advice and improved planting materials.

Investigation and Research, although not of such immediate importance, are in the long-term vitally necessary for the fullest development of our resources. The School of Agriculture at Umudike continues to develop; and a soil survey team which recently completed the soil and land-use survey of the Do-Anambra area of Nsukka Division is now carrying out a similar task in the Aro-Bende area.

Exploitation of the Region's Forest resources continues. The work of regenerating exploited forests and developing new plantations has been maintained. During the coming year it is anticipated that Exploitation Agreements will be drawn up covering all the major Forest Reserves in the Region. This will create many new opportunities for employment.

The Veterinary Division, whose Headquarters has now been re-established in Enugu continues to expand and four new centres have been opened. This Division is to be congratulated on the prompt and effective manner in which the recent outbreak of Rinderpest was brought under control.

The Fisheries Division will shortly complete its exploratory trawling programme and will begin a new series of experimental studies aiming at the exploitation of the abundant bonga concentrations in local waters.

The Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation continues to make general expansion in its activities, these include the establishment of two modern hotels, one at Enugu and the other at Port Harcourt. A Pepsi-Cola factory at Onitsha will go into production before the end of this month. Five new plantations have been started and more land is being acquired for further development.

The Marketing Board continues to make important contributions to schemes for the general betterment of the people while maintaining, despite the fall in world produce prices, the prices paid to the farmers of Eastern Nigeria for cocoa and palm produce.

#### MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Many potential investors have paid visits to the Region and industries are being set up. Delegations have been received from Western Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States in connection with the establishment of an integrated iron and steel and other industries.

Two industries in which my Government is participating started production this year: the Metal Doors and Windows factory of Williams and Williams, and the Nigerian Aluminium Products corrugated sheet factory.

The Port Harcourt Cement Company, the Raleigh Bicycle Assembly Plant, the Construction and Furniture Company and the Port Harcourt Gas Producers are among other industries that started production during the year. At Aba, Pfizers Pharmaceutical Products Limited are establishing a factory and, at Emene, a Steel Rolling Mill is now under construction. Heads of Agreement have been concluded for a Flour Mill, and a Bicycle Manufacturing Company. My Government is participating financially in many of these ventures.

In ceramics, investigations will be carried out in the field of sanitaryware. Ekulu domestic ware now enjoys nation-wide sales. The Textile Centre at Aba continues to weave its justly popular cloth.

There were 116 co-operative societies registered during the year. Co-operative marketing expanded, 16,500 tons being handled as compared with 3,200 for the preceding year. My Government increased the overdraft guarantee given to the Co-operative Bank because of this increased business.

The staff of the Co-operative Division will be augmented and an Adviser on Co-operatives is shortly expected from Israel. It is proposed to expand the Co-operative Movement throughout the Region and to make use of it as the main channel for Government assistance to farmers.

In the field of trade, Nigerian businessmen are being encouraged to form trade associations and companies in order to develop more substantial enterprises than they could handle individually.

My Government will do all it can to attract overseas investment in industry. There is every confidence that the year ahead will show a real advance in the industrialisation of Eastern Nigeria.

#### MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING

This Ministry, which was established just under a year ago is charged with the collection and analysis of data concerning the Natural and Financial resources of the Region, the Preparation of the Regional Development Plan and general

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[Governor's Speech]

2 MARCH 1961

[Governor's Speech]

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*Economic co-ordination.* The necessary specialist staff for the discharge of these assignments has been assembled and is now actively engaged on the preparation of the Five-Year Development Plan for 1962-67. The comprehensive survey of the Region's economy carried out last year by three experts provided by the Ford Foundation of the United States will be of the greatest value in this task. My Government is deeply indebted to the Foundation, not only for their past help, but for the continued full-time services of a highly qualified economist. It is hoped that the first draft of the Plan will be available in May.

It would be premature to speculate upon the form which the Development Plan will take; but it can be said that it will reflect my Government's intention to concentrate upon the expansion of agriculture and industry as the most satisfactory method of dealing with the growing problems of unemployment and under-employment.

### MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The decision to telescope the primary school course from eight to seven years was taken on professional advice and with the concurrence of the Board of Education.

To encourage the teaching of Science my Government has voted £652,000 to be spent on new laboratories, science equipment and other related needs at Government and Voluntary Agency secondary schools; and at the same time seventy-two new posts have been created for science graduate teachers, sixty of whom will be posted to Voluntary Agency schools. All seventy-two have been recruited from overseas and the first arrivals are expected this month. An encouraging start has been made in the task of building up the reserve of trained scientists which our developing economy will require.

Technical education too is to receive increasing support. Owing to delays by the contractors the new Port Harcourt Secondary Technical School has had to open in temporary premises at Afikpo; but it will transfer to its own buildings at Port Harcourt later this year. At the Primary level, nine handicraft centres are giving instruction in woodwork and metal work to no less than 4,000 pupils. My Government is grateful to International Co-operation Administration for providing two specialist instructors and much up to date equipment.

During the coming year my Government will award 100 post-secondary, 510 secondary, and

102 technical scholarships; the last two categories of award being made by the newly established Provincial Scholarship Boards. My Government will award five post-secondary and twenty secondary scholarships to students from non-self-governing territories in other parts of Africa to pursue their studies in Nigeria.

In the current year, approval was given for thirty-three new secondary schools (including nine girls' schools). Of these, twenty-one will be opened before the end of the year. Permission to build an additional sixty secondary schools has now been given.

Secondary schools are to be encouraged to open Sixth Forms as soon as the requisite staff and facilities are available. The number of schools with Sixth Forms increased from eleven in 1960 to seventeen in 1961.

My Government is to establish a new Advanced Teacher Training College at Enugu which will give a three-year course to the secondary school leaver or former Grade II teacher. Generous offers of overseas assistance for this project have been made from many quarters.

It is my Government's intention that before the end of the current financial year courses in Agriculture should be started in all schools (including primary and secondary schools and teacher training colleges) and that, by 1962, it should be a compulsory subject in school examinations. In this way the Educational System will make its own contribution to the industry which must remain the basis of our economy.

The Ashby Report on Higher Education has been generally welcomed and its recommendations, modified in places, have been accepted in principle by my Government and are expected to form the basis of our education policy for the next decade, provided the massive external aid on which they depend is provided by our friends overseas. The Ashby Commission made it clear that their Report should be regarded as a statement of Nigeria's educational needs and not as a plan confined to what she can afford from her own resources.

### MINISTRY OF FINANCE

At the commencement of the current financial year, the Consolidated Revenue Fund stood at rather more than five and a half million pounds; since then a further transfer of half a million

pounds has been made to the Capital Development Fund in accordance with my Government's announced intentions. In consequence of this, and of the fact that the year's operations on recurrent account are likely to result in a balance, it is probable that the fund will, at the close of the year, stand at five million pounds.

In the coming financial year there will be expansion of approximately one and a half million pounds in the Revenue of the Region; a large proportion of this expansion will result from increased revenues from the oil industry, and from the recent impositions by the Federal Government of increased Import Duties. Expenditure, particularly on the Social Services, continues to keep pace with this increase and steps will in the future be necessary to prevent it from overtaking revenue growth, and thus becoming a drain upon the Regional reserves.

The administration of Income Tax has been greatly improved by the recruitment of more Revenue Inspectors and Assistant Revenue Inspectors and it has been possible to take over from the Administration the duties of Tax Assessment Authority in no less than twenty Divisions; efforts will be made to assume these responsibilities for the remaining nine Divisions during the coming year. With greater experience, Tax officials of all grades displayed greater efficiency in countering tax evasion, in completing assessments, and in collecting the tax. The commission paid to the Agents who collect the flat-rate tax was increased to six per cent; regulations for the attachment and sale of the movable property of notorious tax defaulters were put into effect, and it is to be expected that the efficiency of collection, particularly of tax arrears, will thereby be considerably increased.

#### MINISTRY OF HEALTH

In the Medical and Health Services many projects in the current development plan came to fruition in the past year. New frontiers are now in sight and emphasis will increasingly be given to preventive medicine.

In the field of Rural Health, the process of building Rural Health Centres as units for both curative and preventive medicine has been gathering momentum. Twenty-three of these Centres were built in 1959-60 and this number has been doubled in the present year.

The Yaws Eradication campaign has achieved unqualified success and the mass injection phase

will shortly be completed. Leprosy continues to decline and this has allowed the Settlement at Isoba to be converted into a Tuberculosis Hospital.

The Campaign for the prevention of Smallpox in the Nsukka area is proving remarkably successful and will be extended to other parts of the Region. The Sleeping Sickness Campaign will be intensified in the endemic area of Ogoja Province. To provide staff for a concerted drive in this field, the Auxiliaries Training School at Oji River will be expanded. The help of the World Health Organisation and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund in these projects continues to be invaluable.

Improved Maternal and Child Health Services combined with domiciliary visits will be given greater emphasis. Towards this end the gift of £25,000 from the United Africa Company will be used for the establishment of a Child Health Institute at Aba.

The Curative Services will continue to receive attention. In the past year, work was completed in the modernisation programmes for seven existing Hospitals, including the Enugu General Hospital which has been entirely reconstructed. Oboho has acquired a completely new hospital. In the coming year, development will continue with the building of a Health Office at Calabar, new wards at Ogoja and Abakaliki Hospitals and the rebuilding of the Obubra Hospital.

In Port Harcourt, work will commence on the new hospital being planned to cater for the growing township around the new Industrial Areas at Diobu.

The new Regional Laboratory at Enugu will be opened during the year and, in addition to providing all laboratory facilities, will train Medical Laboratory Technicians.

A new Health Education Branch to spearhead and organise health education activities throughout the Region is being set up under a Specialist Hygienist. A Pharmaceutical Division is also to be created under a Chief Pharmacist and will be responsible for the organisation and control of pharmacy in the Region.

Close association with Voluntary Agencies in all Health matters will continue. Three rural hospitals will come under Mission Management as Joint Hospitals, raising the number of such hospitals to nine.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

*This Ministry has been reorganised, and it now consists of a Publicity Division and a Film Division.*

*The former Publicity Division of the Information Services Corporation has been absorbed by the Ministry and constituted into the Publicity Division headed by a Principal Information Officer. This Division is responsible for the production of information of all kinds, written and photographic, for the widest possible circulation through the newspapers, radio, magazines, special publications, posters, etc.*

*The Film Division will produce documentary, educational and other films for wide distribution. Although the Division was only recently set up, the first comprehensive colour documentary film on Eastern Nigeria has been completed and will be ready for release soon. It is proposed to acquire a new fleet of cinema vans for distribution throughout Eastern Nigeria, providing education and entertainment for many.*

*The Eastern Nigeria Information Service Corporation is now concentrating on the publication of the "Nigerian Outlook", the new daily which is rapidly making its mark. Large new press buildings are well under way, and Eastern Nigeria Information Service will soon be doing its own printing with a rotary press, which will greatly increase the number of pages and papers produced. Active steps are also being taken to improve the machinery of circulation to all parts of Nigeria.*

*Although the Regional Library at Enugu is a show piece, it is by no means static. Its ever expanding programme now takes in lectures and film shows. A similar library will be opened in Port Harcourt later this year, supplemented by a new mobile library. Government has substantially increased the grant for the recurrent costs of the Library Board.*

*After only a few months, the Broadcasting and Television Service produces 16 hours of radio and 3 hours of television each day, which is no small achievement. From this beginning, Government proposes to extend these services to other parts of Eastern Nigeria, and the problems involved are being actively considered. Active consideration is being given by Government to the use of the facilities provided by the Eastern Nigeria Broadcasting Service and Eastern Nigeria Television Service for educational purposes.*

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

*The Community Development Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has recently concentrated its main effort on the improvement of communications in rural areas. Assistance has also been given to such projects as the building of market stalls, a weaving centre and a maternity home. 15 Courses have been held at the Awgu Community Development Training Centre in the past twelve months.*

*Attention has been given to the sponsorship of Youth Clubs and official recognition has now been accorded to 112 such clubs with a membership of over 7,000.*

*The activities of the Community Development Division will be expanded as fully as available resources permit.*

*The standard of work turned out by the Printing Division continues to improve and the colour and precision printing produced in connection with the Independence celebrations was of a very high standard indeed. It is gratifying to be able to say, with confidence, that the Government Press in Enugu is setting the pace for the printing industry throughout Nigeria.*

*As the activities of Government expand so must the capacity of the Government Press be increased and proposals are under consideration for its re-siting to enable this process to be scientifically planned.*

*The Adult Education and Social Welfare Divisions of the Ministry made good progress during the year and will continue to do so.*

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

*The volume of work of the Ministry of Justice continues to increase. To meet the demands upon it, both as regards legal drafting and requests for advice from Ministries and non-Ministerial Departments steps are being taken to strengthen the professional staff.*

*Customary Courts have been established in almost all Divisions of Eastern Nigeria. A course of training has been organised for the Presidents and members of Customary Courts. Action is being taken to produce a Customary Courts Manual, in simple language, for the use of court members. Crown Counsel are being posted to Umuahia-Ibeku, Port Harcourt and Uyo to supervise effectively the work of the courts.*

My Government has secured the services of a former Judge in Nigeria to assist in the revision of the Laws of Eastern Nigeria. He will shortly assume office. A Bill will be introduced to provide him with the necessary legal authority.

Arrangements are being made for the appointment of an Administrator-General to deal with the administration of estates in appropriate cases. It is hoped that this will reduce the delay and inconvenience in estate matters which are at present disposed of through the Office of the Federal Administrator-General in Lagos.

Shortly before the attainment of Independence on 1st October, 1960, the post of Director of Public Prosecutions was substantively filled. His Department has been excised from the Ministry of Justice and it now functions as a non-Ministerial Department. The hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General will, however, continue to answer questions in the Houses touching this department.

Arrears of cases in our courts continue to grow. To combat these arrears and meet the increase in the number of cases that are filed, it is proposed to re-divide the Judicial Divisions and Magisterial Districts in the Region.

Law Reports of decided cases are an essential weapon in a lawyer's armoury and it is important for the efficient administration of justice that they should be accurately and speedily published. To this end, energetic steps are being taken to organise regular publication of Reports of important cases decided in the Courts of Eastern Nigeria.

#### MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The year has been one of general stability in Local Government. The major event was the passing into law of the Eastern Region Local Government Law, 1960, by which all former District Councils became County Councils. My Government considers that the period of political reorganisation is now at an end and that the accent in the coming year should be on the provision of better services.

The process of injecting chiefs and traditional members to County Councils is now almost complete. My Government hopes that this will give some Councils a more mature and stable outlook than they have had in the past.

During the year the Port Harcourt Municipality has been given increased freedom as regards awarding of contracts and approval of staff appointments. This is in keeping with my Government's desire to devolve maximum powers to Councils which have demonstrated their capacity to use them. My Government also intends to amend the Law to enable the Minister to delegate some of his functions to Provincial Commissioners.

After a standstill for some years, my Government has agreed to allow Councils to raise what Capitation rates they wish so that they can provide services up to the limit of what their rate-payers are able and willing to pay. In the coming period it is expected that Councils will make increased use of loan facilities for financing Capital Works. So far they have been hindered in preparing proper schemes by lack of executive capacity. The services of Consulting Engineers are now more freely available and there are signs that Councils intend to make more use of them.

The lack of responsibility of some Councils in the collection, spending and safeguarding of their funds continues to cause concern. The Examination of Accounts Division of the Ministry is, however, bringing irregularities to light more speedily than before. Until now, incomplete knowledge and lack of experience on the part of councillors and staff have often been accepted as a reason for dealing leniently with them. This period is now over and during the past year the hon. Minister of Local Government and the Director of Audit made full use of their powers of Surcharge. My Government will not hesitate to use all its powers to ensure good and honest administration in local government.

A Valuation Officer has arrived and, with his staff, will assist those Councils which use property rating. In the coming year an Education Officer will be appointed to assist Councils to improve the standards of their primary schools.

The Local Government Service Board has continued to do very useful work in advising the Minister and now has a woman as its Chairman. Increased use has been made of the Minister's powers to transfer staff and my Government, in the interests of raising the standards of the Local Government Service, intends to give the Minister power to initiate disciplinary action against staff. The new arrangement for training at the Institute of Administration has had a successful beginning

with three senior Local Government Officers' Courses during the year. Arrangements for training Local Government staff will expand with the Institute.

### MINISTRY OF TOWN PLANNING

The Land Division of the Ministry of Town Planning has allocated some 900 housing plots during the past year: Leases, responding to price incentives, have built fast. The demand for residential plots continues to be greatly in excess of the Crown Land available for this purpose; and in anticipation of further growth in population and business activity further acquisitions will certainly be necessary. It is the intention of my Government that in future great care should be taken to ensure that good agricultural land should not be used for constructional development.

It is the policy of my Government that a Registry for titles to land throughout the Region should be established and steps will be taken to this end.

The work of the Survey Division of the Ministry continues to expand. During the first nine months of the year, over 150 surveys were completed and the drawing office prepared almost the same number of deed plans and issued well over 5,000 prints. In the coming year it is hoped to carry out the large scale mapping of Enugu and its environs. Future plans include, also, the cadastral mapping of Aba, Port Harcourt, Uyo, Bonny, Onitsha, Umuahia and Calabar.

The Adviser on Town Planning has redesigned the Independence Layout and completed schemes for a Government Residential Area at Diobu, Port Harcourt, the extension of the Ekulu Layout in Enugu, and the Niger Bridge-Head Area in Onitsha.

Enthusiasm for town planning continues to mount and more Town Planning Authorities have been established. In order to avoid the difficulties that have arisen in the past the finances of Town Planning Authorities will now come under strict control by Government: their estimates will be laid on the Table of this House and will be subject to scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee.

### MINISTRY OF WORKS

As forecast a year ago, the tempo of the capital works programme undertaken by the

Ministry of Works has steadily increased. In every corner of the Region new buildings, roads and water supplies are being constructed.

Completed road and bridge projects during the last twelve months include three large bridges costing £100,000 at Chokocho, Ikot Okoro and Nyaba, the road from Abagana to Otu Ocha costing £115,000, and the Trans-Amadi access road, costing £42,000. Work continues on such projects as the Abbaomege-Itigidi and Ahoada-Mbiama roads.

During the last year no less than fourteen major road and bridge contracts including such important projects as the Ahaba-Arochuku and Obubra-Ediba roads have been signed: the cost will be over £2½ million. Work on all these is going ahead, or, as in the case of the Umuna-Owerri road, has been completed. In the next few weeks the Mbiama-Yenagoa, the Owerri-Emekuku-Umuahia, and the Amike-Efium road contracts will be awarded, whilst surveys proceed on several other projects. Thus by next dry season Government's road programme will have exceeded £6 million. In addition to these projects, my Government is seeking assistance from the United States of America for two important projects, namely, a road which will link Calabar with Ugep, Obubra and Ikom, and a third road to Port Harcourt going through the towns of Igrita, Okpuala, Nguru, Ahiara, Ekwerazu and Umuezeala Owerri. As a result of this huge road programme few people in the Region will live far from good tarred road. The turn of those who remain untouched will come in the 1962-67 Development Plan.

Those who are unable to benefit from the road programme have not been forgotten. During the last year five County Councils in the Delta area have been given passenger craft, and Government's fleet of launches has also been increased by two. Another two craft including a large and modern Creek mail costing over £40,000 are now under construction and should arrive towards the end of the coming year.

The last year has been a busy one for the Building Division. We will all remember the Independence decorations and especially the "NIGERIA 1960" sign in florescent light on Milliken Hill. Expenditure on buildings is estimated to be over £1½ million and completed projects include the new Government House, a block of flats in Lagos, four blocks of flats in Enugu and a Laboratory for the Ministry of



Commerce, whilst under construction are many quarters, judicial buildings, hospital buildings, offices and ten Provincial Assembly Halls. Projects now in the design stage include an Institute of Administration and a new Premier's Lodge, whilst the new House of Assembly and House of Chiefs and the associated multi-storey office block have now reached the tendering stage.

The Water Division has also had an active year. Pride of place must go to the opening of the very modern three million gallon-a-day water supply for Port Harcourt. An up-to-date urban undertaking is also being constructed for Enugu which will have an eventual daily capacity of ten million gallons whilst new supplies are being designed for Onitsha and Abakaliki. There has been good progress on the Uyo, Ikot Ekpene, Owerri, Okrika and Orlu supplies, and many rural water supply pumped-and-piped schemes have been commissioned. Completed institutional supplies include those at Itu Leper Colony, Sacred Heart Hospital, Obudu, the Union Secondary School, Ibiaku, and the Cornelia Connelly Secondary School, Uyo. Some 1,370 wells and spring improvements have been constructed. It is my Government's intention to provide everyone in the Region with an adequate and potable supply of water.

Three new electricity schemes at Owerri, Umuahia and Nsukka have been commissioned during the last year. Funds have been provided for a supply to Awka, and the Ministry of Works is in negotiation with the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria regarding further supplies.

My Government's representations regarding the inadequacy of existing airports in the Region have met with some success as new terminal buildings at Enugu and Port Harcourt indicate. Representations will continue to be made to the Federal Government for more airports and for still further improvements at Enugu and Port Harcourt so that this Region may have the benefit of an international air service.

Mr President, hon. Members of the House of Chiefs, Mr Speaker, hon. Members of the

House of Assembly, it has been my privilege to convey to you my Government's statement of policy for the coming year. This is always an important occasion; but my Speech today is of more than usual significance for it is the first Speech from the Throne in this Chamber made by a Nigerian and in a free Nigeria. A year ago, my predecessor expressed on behalf of his Government the faith that independent Nigeria would continue to follow the ideals of parliamentary democracy, that there would be unfettered discussions of honestly held opinions and that matters of major policy would be decided after full and free debate. The events of the past year have amply justified that faith.

It is now enshrined in our Constitution that every person shall be entitled under the Law to freedom of expression including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference. My Government will use its best endeavours to ensure that freedom, within a free Nigeria, remains a practical fact and not merely a pious aspiration.

Mr President, hon. Members of the House of Chiefs, Mr Speaker, hon. Members of the House of Assembly, I pray that Almighty God will guide you in all your deliberations.

His Excellency then retired from the Chamber.

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** Mr President, I beg to move that the Houses do now adjourn—the House of Chiefs until April the 18th and the House of Assembly until 9 a.m. Tomorrow.

**The Minister of Town Planning (Mr E. Emole):** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Adjourned, accordingly, at seventeen minutes past eleven o'clock a.m.*

*Eastern House of Chiefs Debates*

19 [Oath of Allegiance; Death of Members] 18 APRIL 1961

[Papers]

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EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

*The House observed two minutes silence*

Tuesday, 18th April, 1961

**The President:** May they rest in peace!

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

**PAPERS**

**PRAYERS**

(Mr President *in the Chair*)

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

The following Members took and subscribed the Oath required by law.

1. Dr Aaron Nwogu Obonna (Minister of Economic Planning).
2. Chief Okon Essien Okon (Uyo Division).

**DEATH OF MEMBERS**

**The President:** Hon. Members, I regret to inform the House of the death of Chief P. B. Okon, Second-class Chief, Uyo Division, and Chief James Okosi II, the Obi of Onitsha, and I desire on behalf of the House to express our sense of the loss we have sustained and our sympathy with the relatives of the hon. Chiefs.

On 12th July, 1960, a telegram was despatched to the District Officer, Uyo, in the following terms:—

“PRIORITY EXECUTIVE UYO

638 x YOURTEL 1757/1 x GRATEFUL CONVEY TO THE FAMILY OF LATE CHIEF PAUL BASSY OKON CLAN HEAD OF ETOI CLAN AND MEMBER HOUSE OF CHIEFS THE DEEP SENSE OF LOSS OF MEMBERS BOTH HOUSES OF LEGISLATURE

EASTCLERK”

On 13th March, 1961, the following telegram was sent to the District Officer, Onitsha:—

“EXECUTIVE ONITSHA

661 x I AM DIRECTED CONVEY THROUGH YOU TO MEMBERS OF OBI OKOSI FAMILY HIS HEIRS AND SUCCESSORS THE CONDOLENCES OF THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS HOUSE OF CHIEFS AND THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED ON THE SAD AND IRREPARABLE LOSS SUSTAINED BY THE FAMILY BY THE PASSING AWAY OF THE OBI OF ONITSHA

EASTCLERK”

Hon. Members, I have to ask this House to rise and observe two minutes silence.

**Presented:**

1. Recommendations regarding the Constituencies of Eastern Nigeria made by the Electoral Commission of Eastern Nigeria. (*The Minister of Finance*).
2. The Draft Estimates of Eastern Nigeria, 1961–62 together with the Memorandum thereon. (*The Minister of Finance*).
3. The Second Supplementary Estimates of Eastern Nigeria, March, 1961. (*The Minister of Finance*).
4. The Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government of Eastern Nigeria for the year ended the 31st March, 1960. (*The Minister of Finance*).
5. The Report of the Accountant-General with Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March, 1960. (*The Minister of Finance*).
6. The Audited Accounts of Eastern Nigeria Tourist Corporation, 31st March, 1959. (*The Minister of Commerce*).
7. The Fourth Annual Report of the Eastern Regional Marketing Board, 1st January, 1958 to 31st December, 1958. (*The Minister of Economic Planning*).
8. The Fourth Annual Report of the Eastern Region Development Corporation, 1958–59 and the Consolidated Accounts Dated 31st March, 1959. (*The Minister of Economic Planning*).
9. The Eastern Regional Marketing Board Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1959. (*The Minister of Economic Planning*).

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

**The President:** Hon. Members, during the recess a number of Papers were distributed to Members. A list of these Papers will be entered upon the Votes and Proceedings for today and under Standing Order 15 (3) they should be deemed to be presented and laid on the Table of the House. They are:—

1. Parliamentary Debates, Eastern House of Assembly, 4th Session, 1960–61, 15th March–14th April, 1960.
2. Parliamentary Debates—Joint Sitting, Eastern House of Chiefs and Eastern House of Assembly, 15th December, 1960.
3. Parliamentary Debates, Eastern House of Chiefs, Second Session, 1960–61, 15th March, 25th April–4th May, 1960.
4. Agriculture Division (Ministry of Agriculture)—Annual Report, 1959–60.
5. Parliamentary Debates—Joint Sitting, Eastern House of Chiefs and Eastern House of Assembly, 4th July, 1960.
6. Produce Inspection Division (Ministry of Agriculture), 1959–60 Annual Report.

#### REPORT FROM A SPECIAL COMMITTEE

**The Deputy Chairman of the Joint Public Accounts Committee (Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.):** I beg to lay upon the Table the Report of the Joint Public Accounts Committee No. 1 of 1961.

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

#### MESSAGES FROM THE EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(1) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

“The 1961–62 Eastern Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1961”, and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** Today.

(2) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

“The Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1961” and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Finance:** Today.

(3) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

“The Provincial Administration (Amendment) Bill, 1961” and asks for the agreement of the House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** Today.

(4) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

“The Legislative Houses (Amendment) Bill, 1961” and asks for the agreement of the House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** Today.

(5) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

“The 1959–60 Eastern Nigeria Excess Votes Appropriation Bill, 1961” and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second reading, what day?

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** Today.

*Eastern House of Chiefs Debates*

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[Messages from the

18 APRIL 1961

House of Assembly]

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(6) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The Loans Development Programmes (Amendment) Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the House of Chiefs thereto:

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Finance:** Today.

(7) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the House of Chiefs thereto:

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** Today.

(8) **The Clerk of the House:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The Public Service Commission, Eastern Nigeria Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** Today.

(9) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The Road Traffic Ordinance (Amendment) Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** Today.

(10) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The Eastern Nigeria Housing Corporation Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** Today.

(11) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The Premiers' (Pensions) Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** Today.

(12) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The High Court (Amendment) Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** Today.

(13) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The Revised Edition (Laws of Eastern Nigeria) Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** Today.

(14) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The Education (Amendment) Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Education:** Today.

(15) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The 1960-61 Eastern Nigeria Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Finance:** Today.

(16) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board (Amendment) Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Agriculture:** Today.

(17) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The Elections (House of Assembly) Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** Today.

(18) **The Clerk of the Legislature:** The Eastern House of Assembly has passed a Bill entitled:

"The Administrator-General Bill, 1961" and asks for the agreement of the Eastern House of Chiefs thereto.

**The President:** Second Reading, what day?

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** Today.

## GOVERNOR'S SPEECH DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS

**The Provincial Commissioner for Owerri Province (Chief S. E. Onukogu):** It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to move: That this hon. House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency's most gracious speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature from the Throne.

Mr President, it is pleasant and historical to note that this most interesting speech is the first to be made by an indigenous Governor of Eastern Nigeria. His predecessors would not finish such a speech without loss of voice and the consequent sipping of water, but he ably concluded it without a break.

Should we not pride ourselves of the fact that we have not only attained Independence during the Premiership of Dr M. I. Okpara, but have also achieved much progress in the general development of this Region? Nothing is more desirable in this part of the country than progress in education, communication, agriculture and industry. Our achievement in these fields is being acknowledged by our people who believe more in action than in words.

Unlike what was achieved during the colonial era, I venture to be categorical in asserting that every Division or clan in this Region is now benefitted by the building of new roads and bridges, and the improvement of old ones, as well as by the award of scholarships of various types and also by medical facilities. Industrial and Technical scholarships have been awarded to our sons who are chosen from the twelve Provinces in the Region to study overseas, and to return with the technical know-how necessary for the production and manufacture of essential commodities required for home consumption and for sale in the world market.

Owing to cautions and warnings by the Ministry of Education to Schools, teachers no longer do their private study during school hours to the detriment of their pupils. As a result more attention is now being paid to school work. That education in the Region has taken a new and encouraging shape is a fact to which the result of the last Standard VI examination bears testimony.

[CHIEF ONUKOGU]

By January 1962, this Region will be boasting of 173 Secondary Grammar Schools. The number of such educational institutions as Teachers' Training Colleges and Industrial Schools has increased, and their work tremendously improved. The University of Nigeria, Nsukka, an Institution which people who lacked foresight vigorously criticised, is another mark of progress. Today, it is a model which other Governments in the Federation are emulating. Furthermore, it brings university education nearer the home and with the least possible expense. The amount used for training a student overseas, could now be used for training not less than three students here. It is no exaggeration to say that, in the Federation, Eastern Nigeria leads in education.

It will be interesting to mention that during the period of Colonial Government in Nigeria, this Region had at most only twenty hospitals, and many souls died for lack of medical attention. Today, we have no less than forty-six hospitals, over 300 maternity homes and about sixty dispensaries.

The rate of Africanisation in the civil service is increasing and Nigerians are creditably holding key posts much better than expected.

Before I conclude, I wish to pay tribute to our young but experienced and dynamic Premier, Dr and Chief M. I. Okpara. I thank and praise him for the able way he runs the Government of Eastern Nigeria. I am glad that his Government, which is run by consultation and with due regard to public opinion, is acceptable to all, including the Opposition. My congratulations also go to all the hon. Ministers and their lieutenants, the Deputy Governor, Mr Urquhart, for his good services to the country, and civil servants for their cordial co-operation which enhances the smooth and efficient running of the Eastern Nigeria Government.

I would also like to thank His Excellency the Governor-General the Right Honourable Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, for the training he gave to each and everyone of us here, and to emphasise to you hon. Chiefs that with the training thus received from that able Director we should be very useful citizens capable of leading our people.

Mr President, may I take this opportunity to inform the hon. Premier, that whatever the Eastern Chiefs Conference has to put forward as suggestion to the Government shall be done constitutionally and not through the Press. Any statement or claim made by the Press in regard thereto should, therefore, be ignored.

Mr President, on behalf of this House, I once more congratulate our Christian Governor for his able speech and for his meritorious past and present services to Nigeria.

I would also like to express our heart-felt sympathy at the announcement made in this House this morning regarding some of our hon. Chiefs: Chief Obi Okosi of Onitsha and the other Chief from Uyo Division. It is barely one year now since the Eastern House of Chiefs was established. I regret to say that during this period we have lost three prominent Chiefs. Our sympathy also goes to the members of the bereaved families and we pray God that such incidents do not happen again.

**Chief J. Mpi** (Port Harcourt Province):  
I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*And pursuant to Standing Order 29 (2) the debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed upon Thursday the 20th of April, 1961.*

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### (1) Appropriation Bill (1961-62)

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):**  
I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

Hon. Chiefs will, I am sure, not wish me to repeat everything which I said when I opened my Budget early last month but it is now customary for me to recapitulate rather more briefly the main features of the Estimates for the coming year and to place them in perspective against those of the year which has just closed.

I estimate the total revenue of the Region for 1961-62 at £17,753,000. This is no less

than £1,479,000 more than the estimated out-turn in 1960-61. Our share of statutory revenues paid to us through the Federal Government will increase by some £720,000 to £10,831,000 and that increase is to be ascribed largely to the yield of new taxes and duties imposed by the Federal Government late last year and also to the continued expansion of the oil industry. Our Regional revenue also will increase by £759,000.

Expenditure in the coming year as proposed in the Draft Estimates now before this House is put at £17,650,000 on recurrent account, which leaves an estimated recurrent surplus of £103,000. Capital expenditure is estimated at £10,114,110. According to the best estimate which I can make at this stage, the out-turn of expenditure in 1960-61 will be £16,200,000. This is £430,000 short of the total provision made in the Original and the Supplementary Estimates for the past year and it leaves us with a realised overall surplus of £70,000 in place of the surplus of £115,000 for which I budgeted a year ago.

The increase in recurrent expenditure over last year's out-turn is therefore £1,450,000. Various causes have contributed to this. In the first place, personal emoluments which will increase by approximately £650,000 have risen partly because of normal increments but also because the full cost of implementing the Mbanefo Award could not be reflected in last year's Approved Estimates. Then again Other Charges will increase by £1,150,000 under a number of Heads of expenditure but in particular under the Heads of the Ministries of Agriculture and Works where the exigencies of our Development Programme are now creating fresh tasks and responsibilities for the provision of services and the maintenance of buildings, roads and water supplies. The Ministry of Finance also shows an increase partly because of the rising cost of common services which the Ministry pays for on behalf of all other Departments but also because of special provision which I have thought it proper to make to improve the efficiency of our Revenue Service with a view to stepping up the yield of taxes.

I have already sounded a warning about excessive annual increases in the cost of the social services which will undermine our

financial strength at a time when the growing pace of economic development is imposing fresh burdens upon the Recurrent as well as the Capital Budget. This Government intends that whatever happens productive economic development shall have the first call upon the funds that are available.

The House will observe that the Capital Budget shows a further increase this year from £6,673,000 in 1960-61 to £10,114,110. The effort needed to raise the productivity and the standard of living of our people calls for no less and I expect that the new Development Plan which will cover the five years from 1962 to 1967 and will be announced later this year, will continue this trend. The provision made for the coming year already reflects some of the features of that Plan as they are now emerging. Hon. Chiefs will observe that under Heads 804 and 805 of the Capital Budget provision on a considerably increased scale has been made for Government participation in industrial and commercial development and for various new projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, notably the Farm Settlement Schemes and a Farm Institute for the training of extension workers. The building of new roads and bridges and the improvement of existing ones is also to be pressed ahead and provision for these under Head 802 has been increased by £1 million in addition to the authorisation of commitments of up to £1,500,000 against Road Construction and £200,000 for Rural Water Supply in the new Development Plan starting in 1962-63.

The House will appreciate that with the rising tide of expenditure on capital account the problem of finding finance now becomes acute. The Capital Development Fund which was created two years ago for the purpose of mobilising the reserves of the Region which could be made available for economic development has received replenishment from various quarters as soon as it was created. Page E 123 of the Draft Estimates shows that up to the 31st of March, 1961 some £9,500,000 have been found. But I have pointed out in my Budget Speech that the rising scale of capital expenditure will, by that date, have run down the balance in the Fund to a rather low level; and that the receipts amounting to some £3 million which are expected to accrue in 1961-62 will not suffice to make up what is required to cover the provision made in this year's Estimates at the level of £10 million.

[DR IMOKE]

To reinforce the Capital Development Fund, therefore, Government has decided, firstly, that £2 million should be transferred from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, which is our general reserve against revenue fluctuations, and that a further £4 million should be transferred to the Fund from the reserves of the Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board. This will see us through 1961-62 and leave a small balance in hand at the end of the financial year.

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

*Question proposed and under paragraph (2) of Standing Order 77—Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Bills—the Debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed on Thursday, 20th April, 1961.*

## (2) The Finance (Amendment) Bill

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to move that the Bill be now read a Second time. The Bill in its present form is essentially a temporary measure intended to cover the period until a completely new Finance Law is prepared and eventually passed by the Legislature; this, as I shall explain, cannot be done until the Federal Legislature has finally passed an Income Tax Management Law which will apply throughout Nigeria.

The subject of Income Tax Legislation is an extremely complex one, and the provisions of our Federal Constitution do not make the matter any simpler. As briefly as possible, the present position is as follows: The Fiscal Commission recognised the rights of Regional Governments to prescribe income tax rates and to decide upon their own methods of tax assessment and collection, but pointed out that the Governments must work together as far as possible in the general tax policy. The Commission thought that the Federal Government might draft an Income Tax Management Bill which the Regional Governments could use as a model in conformity with which they could enact their own Laws.

The Commission realised, however, that the Regional Governments might disagree with the Federal Government over certain important

matters; in such an event, the Commission felt the Federal Government should have the right to enact overriding legislation, and, in fact, this right is embodied in the Constitution. The Federal Government has drafted the Management Bill, but the Legislature has not yet passed the Bill into law, hence the necessity for the present Bill for a Law to fill the gap. Before long there will have to be further legislation conceived in the light of the Management Law.

One very important provision of the Federal Management Bill, however, is dealt with in my present Bill. This is the transfer to Regional jurisdiction of the power to impose income tax on non-Nigerians, who have hitherto paid tax to the Federal Government. From 1st April, 1961, if the Federal Management Bill becomes law, non-Nigerians will cease to be taxed by the Federal Government, and the Regional Governments must therefore be empowered to impose their own taxation.

The other main feature of this Bill, as hon. Members will have noticed from the Schedules before them, is the considerable revision of the Income Tax rates which this Government proposes. The taxes proposed on incomes under £60 remain unchanged at a flat rate of £1 7s 6d and there is no change in the tax on incomes between £60 and £110. All higher incomes, however, will now be taxed at a somewhat lower rate than hitherto, and a notable feature is the greater relief afforded to single persons, who have until now been charged at a disproportionately heavy rate. Reductions are also made in the charges imposed on married persons, although in the case of married persons with three or more children these adjustments start only on incomes of £500 and over.

The total effect is to bring the charges on higher incomes nearer to the present Federal rates. It is still this Government's view that the other Governments of the Federation, should take steps to raise their rates in the higher income groups in order to reduce the present disparity existing between the Regions, and it is our intention to press for further consultations with a view to achieving as much uniformity as possible.

Hon. Members may rest assured that these tax reductions should not lead to a loss of



revenue provided that the tax-paying public co-operate with the Revenue service.

This Bill introduces various other minor amendments which are mainly of a technical nature and on which I do not propose to dwell. I feel sure that hon. Members will not regard this Bill as being controversial. I wish that the reductions in tax rates could have been greater, but the proposed rates make the minimum provision necessary to permit our expanded tax jurisdiction to operate until we are able to make a more comprehensive review.

(See Appendix at the end of Hansard for First, Fourth and Fifth Schedules).

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

**Chief J. Mpi** (Port Harcourt Province): Mr President, though the mover of the Motion said it is entirely temporary and within a short time this tax arrangement will be amended again, I appreciate that although of interim nature the present arrangement is better than the former. From what I gather here, going through the whole arrangement, there is a bit more encouragement in our present arrangement and so I have to congratulate the Government. It shows that our Government has been very busy going through our tax arrangement and has now come to know where it should be improved. So I do not think there is anything to fear from the present arrangement and I commend it to the House to accept pending the time of future revision.

**Chief C. E. Amobi** (Special Member): I rise to support the Bill. In fact, the Bill speaks for itself. It may be seen that in 1960-61, estimated revenue was about £6 million but in the current estimates for 1961-62 consolidated revenue is £10 million which shows that the Government has more projects in hand and to accomplish these projects a bigger amount should be voted. Secondly, the tax arrangement that is being made shows that the Government is thinking more of the masses, that is, the ordinary people in the streets unlike some other Governments. For instance, a man who is earning about £60 will have to pay only about £1 10s tax. You can see that the arrangement is so nice that

there will be no discouragement in the Region and I do not think that anybody will have to quarrel with the Government in this matter.

*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—Bill accordingly read the Third time forthwith and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

### (3) The Provincial Administration (Amendment) Bill

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** Mr President, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a law to amend the Provincial Administration Law, 1959, on behalf of the hon. Premier.

As will be seen from the Objects and Reasons, this Bill is to make certain amendments to the Provincial Assemblies Law, 1959.

One amendment is to allow the appointment by the Minister of Special Members of the House of Chiefs to be Special Members of the Provincial Assemblies.

Secondly, to give the Minister power to dissolve an Assembly not later than five years after the commencement of this amending Law.

Thirdly, to enable the Minister to give directions to an Assembly as to the exercise of its functions under section 13 (1).

Clause 9 of the Bill brings the disqualifications for membership into line with those under section 20 of the Eastern Nigeria Local Government Law, 1960. It will now not be the holding of an office of profit under the Crown which will disqualify a member but the holding, or acting, in an office of emolument in the Public Service of the Federation or of a Region.

[MR AJEGBO]

Clause 11 is concerned with notification of vacancies occurring in the membership of a Provincial Assembly and the remaining clause with necessary or incidental matters.

The Bill is not controversial, Mr President, and I beg to move.

**The Minister of Commerce (Chief J. U. Nwodo):** 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 1-14 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(The 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) The Legislative Houses (Amendment) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajebo):** I beg to move that the Bill be now read a Second time. I am moving the Second Reading on behalf of the hon. Premier.

In the Estimates of the Eastern Region for the financial year 1960-61 at page E 39, Head 425, Eastern Nigeria Legislature, the following provisions were made:

- “1 Speaker—£3,000 per annum salary.
- 1 President—£2,000.
- 1 Deputy Speaker—£1,680.
- 1 Deputy President, House of Chiefs—£1,000.
- 1 Government Chief Whip—£1,680.
- 1 Leader of the Opposition—£1,680.
- 1 Deputy Chief Whip—£1,260.
- 1 Government Whip—£1,000.
- Salaries of Members—£840 each.”

Legislative approval was given to these provisions at the Budget Session of the Legislative Houses and Members have been drawing these salaries from the 1st of April, 1960. The whole idea was to bring the salaries of Members of the Legislative Houses of Eastern Nigeria in line with those obtaining in other Regions of the Federation. For example, I refer hon. Members to Western Region Estimates for 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61 where provisions of a similar nature were made. The salaries of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Government Chief Whip, Leader of the Opposition and the Clerk of the House of Assembly were made statutory but those of the President of the House of Chiefs and his Deputy were not.

All that the Legislative Houses (Amendment) Bill now before the House seeks to achieve is to amend, among other things, the Schedule of salaries in the Legislative Houses Law No. 16 of 1959 in order to bring the Law up to date, to remove from the 1st of April, 1961, the salaries of the Government Chief Whip and the Leader of the Opposition from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and to charge the salaries of the President and Deputy President of the House of Chiefs on the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

As a result of the Mbanefo Award the salary of the Clerk to the Legislature has risen from £2,220 which was provided for in section 3 of the Legislative Houses Law, to £2,500. The new Schedule of salaries reflects this change.

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

**Chief Zumoh Efeke V (Yenagoa Province):** I think that there is nothing wrong in this Bill because we do not want to be beaten by the other Regions. If the salaries of those men in the other Regions are paid at that rate, it is quite necessary for the Government to increase the salaries of their counterparts in this Region.

There is, however, one word I would like to say. The salary of the President of this hon. House is to me, not up to the salaries of his counterparts in the other Regions and I hereby request the Government to bring his salary in line with what exists in other Regions. That is the point I wish to make.

**Chief Ike Okoroafor (Bende Division):** Mr President, while Ministers, Chiefs and

Legislators enjoy these fat salaries, I think the Government should also think of the Civil Servants. We are blessed to be here—Chiefs and Parliamentarians and Ministers as well—and while enjoying ourselves we should remember the people outside who are perhaps less fortunate than we are. There are ways of helping them and I will make some suggestions. I know the Bill is non-contentious but we have several Second-class Chiefs recognised by the Government here and there. Some of these people have no work to do. I feel we should encourage them to live as Chiefs. So while we are enjoying our own salaries we should make money available to them so that they will also enjoy life.

Furthermore, there are people trained by the Government who are not considered for any work. I am thinking of the Customary Courts Registrars who, after undergoing training sponsored by Government, have no work to do. We must do something for them. Surely, we must not leave them alone. They have been trained with public funds and the Government should therefore find them some jobs to do. I remember what happened in 1957 when some Councils were dissolved and the staff of the Councils were absorbed into Government Departments. If the Government can do as they did in 1957, it will be a blessing to the people.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** I want to correct one impression, and that is the impression which I believe has been created that we are trying to increase the salaries of Members of the Legislature. This false impression was also published in some newspapers. There is no attempt at increasing any salaries this year. These salaries were already increased from the 1st of April, 1960. All we are trying to do is to bring the Law in line with the recommendation and approval which were made in this House in 1960.

If I may touch on the point made by an hon. Chief here, I think he made a fine point! I think it will be nice if the hon. Chief were to recommend that a bit of his salary be cut out and extended to his brother Chiefs outside. (*Laughter*).

*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 1–12 agreed to.*

*First and Second Schedules agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(The 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) The 1959–60 Eastern Nigeria Excess Votes Appropriation Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

Hon. Members are no doubt aware that a Committee of the Legislature known as the Joint Public Accounts Committee is required, as soon as the Accountant-General has closed the accounts after the end of a financial year, to examine in great detail all excess expenditure under the Heads and Sub-heads of the Estimates. This procedure involves calling for explanations from Ministries concerned and the personal appearance of officials before the Committee where this is considered necessary. All this has now been done by the Joint Public Accounts Committee in respect of the 1959–60 financial year and its report has been laid on the Table of this House.

Hon. Members will observe that this Bill seeks to appropriate the sum of six thousand, seven hundred and seventy-seven pounds under Head 424, Judicial. This is so because only under this Head was the total appropriated provision exceeded, and, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, it is necessary for this House to give this expenditure retrospective approval.

The Bill is not controversial and it is required, as I have explained, merely to give formal

[DR IMOKE]

approval for expenditure which has already been incurred. I therefore trust that hon. Members will support it.

**The Minister of Economic Planning (Dr A. N. Obonna):** 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—Bill accordingly read the Third time forthwith and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

**(6) The Loans (Development Programmes) (Amendment) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

Hon. Members are no doubt aware that by the Loans (Development Programmes) Law, No. 12 of 1959, this Government may raise a loan or loans from or through the Federal Government not exceeding a total of six million pounds. It appears now to be clear that, in order to carry out current and proposed Development Programmes, we must plan to borrow more than this; and it is not unlikely that more loan capital will become available as interest in Nigeria as a sound investment area increases. In consequence, it is necessary to amend the Loans (Development Programmes) Law by increasing the maximum permissible loan burden to ten million pounds in order that advantage may be taken of any offers received in excess of the present limit.

You will no doubt remember that last year this House passed the Loans Law, 1960, which was at the time considered necessary by the Secretary of State to enable this Government to take up direct from the United Kingdom Government an Exchequer Loan of one

million pounds. Later, the Secretary of State advised, with regret, that the Law was after all *ultra vires* this Government and that the Federal Government must invariably take up any available loan on behalf of all Nigerian Governments. I am happy to say that it has already done so with regard to the Exchequer Loan, and this Government has already received its share of one million pounds. The Bill now before you therefore seeks to repeal the Loans Law, 1960, which has become redundant.

I am sure that a long speech is not necessary in moving the Second reading of this Bill as its two objects are non-controversial and entirely justified. I hope, therefore, that it will receive the unanimous support of the House.

**The Minister of Economic Planning (Dr A. N. Obonna):** 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—Bill accordingly read the Third time forthwith and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

**(7) The Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

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

This Bill arises as a result of the repeal of the "Children and Young Persons Ordinance" (Cap. 32) and the "Native Children (Custody and Reformation) Ordinance" (Cap. 141) by the Eastern Nigeria Children and Young Persons Law, 1958. Prior to the repeal of these Ordinances a number of juvenile offenders were committed to Her Majesty's Approved School at Enugu under "Corrective Orders" or "Mandates" issued or made under these

Ordinances. Some of these Corrective Orders are about to expire, but it is felt that further care and training would be to the interest of the juveniles concerned and that their periods of committal should therefore be extended to allow for further care and training.

Section 25 (e) of the Children and Young Persons Law, 1958, which now operates in the Region gives the Minister for the time being charged with responsibility for this law power to vary "Committal Orders" made under this Law, but no such power is given to him in the cases of "Corrective Orders" or "Mandates" made under the former Children and Young Persons Ordinance (Cap. 32) and the Native Children (Custody and Reformation) Ordinance (Cap. 141). The effect is that under the current Law, the Minister cannot extend or alter "Committal Orders" or "Corrective Orders" made prior to the coming into operation of the Eastern Nigeria Children and Young Persons Law.

Clause 2 of this Bill defines the word "Minister" to bring it in line with constitutional changes.

Clause 3 implements the objects and is to have retroactive effect to the date of commencement of the principal Law.

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** 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 1-3 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

**(8) The Public Service Commission of Eastern Nigeria Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

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

The object of this Bill is to bring the law in line with the Constitution. Section 59 (1) of the Constitution of Eastern Nigeria empowers the Regional Legislature to prescribe the salaries of Members of the Public Service Commission. This Bill seeks to do that and to repeal the present Law which is now out of date.

The salary of the Chairman of the Public Service Commission before was £2,880 and those of Members £2,640. During the last Session this hon. House decided that super-scale officers should now have their salaries increased as the result of Mbanefo award. As a result, the salary of the Chairman went up to £3,180 and those of the Commissioners £2,880 each. This Bill seeks to regularise the salaries to bring them in line with what has been approved.

Clause 1 gives the Law retroactive effect to the 1st April, 1960 and clause 2 prescribes the salaries for the Chairman and Members. Clause 3 recites that the allowances are to be those prescribed by resolution of the Executive Council. As in the case of the salaries, the allowances are, by section 59 (2) of the Constitution, a charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

As I said before, the object of this Bill is to effect the changes brought about by Mbanefo Award.

**The Minister of Economic Planning (Dr A. N. Obonna):** 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—Bill accordingly read the Third time forthwith and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

**(9) The Road Traffic Ordinance (Amendment) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** Hon. Members, this is a short and straightforward Bill. It has become necessary to ask the House to pass this Bill because throughout Eastern Nigeria the number of traffic offenders on whom summonses have not been served is very high indeed. The number, I say, is very high indeed and this is due mainly to the fact that many offenders on being asked to state their addresses give fictitious or misleading addresses. The object of the Bill, therefore, is to enable police officers to retain an offender's licence if it is considered that difficulty is likely to arise in the service of a summons on that person until the offender reports to the Police Station to collect all the summonses prepared for him.

I must have to point out that all the Governments of the Federation have introduced similar Bills. Perhaps some hon. Members may have seen and read this in the *Federal Gazette*. The Bill for this will come up at this session of the Federal Parliament. The Bill, as I have already pointed out, is straightforward and I am sure Members will not find any difficulty in approving it unanimously.

I therefore beg to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

**The Minister of Economic Planning (Dr A. N. Obonna):** 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)

*Clause 1 agreed to.*

*Clause 2.*

**Chief J. Mpi (Port Harcourt Province):** Mr Chairman, I do not want to waste the time of the House but I only want to make one or two remarks. While supporting this Bill we want the Government to warn the police seriously not to take undue advantage of the increased powers given to them in this Law to harass and interfere with the freedom of people unnecessarily. Experience in the past has shown that when any power is given to the police some of them use it to obstruct and exploit the ignorance of innocent citizens. So we want the Government to warn the police seriously on this.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**Chief C. E. Amobi (Special Member):** Mr Chairman, I am grateful for the opportunity given me to speak on this Bill. I observe that some of the laid down procedures are getting out of hand. The Government should actually be congratulated for bringing this Bill because the number of accidents that occur on our roads is so high that for some time now, the steps to be taken to minimise these accidents have taken a lot of my time. Personally, I cannot think of what is really responsible: whether it is from the public themselves or a lust to kill people unduly in our drivers. Everyone here will agree with me that when these big lorry drivers see small cars or private cars on the road they are determined to smash them to pieces. And unless one is driving ones car by oneself or one has a good driver, they succeed at times and the owner of the car is killed outright. I am therefore suggesting that if it is possible it should be added in this law that any driver found guilty of killing a person should have his licence seized for five years. This will put some sense of human touch into these our reckless drivers who do not value life.

Another point I want to make is that the testing officers must be sure, and they must employ all possible means to get this, that before they give licence to any person he must be very competent all round. I am moved to say this because last week when I was coming here I was looking for a driver to drive my car; but out of three people who came, none of them was fit.

*Clause 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

**(10) The Eastern Nigeria Housing Corporation Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

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

For some time now, we have been exploring the possibility of setting up a Housing Corporation in order to make suitable houses available for purchase or hire by members of the public.

This Bill is designed to set up such a Corporation. There will be not less than four and not more than six members to hold office for three years or during the pleasure of the Minister.

The first objective of such a Corporation would be to meet the fast-growing needs of Port Harcourt. It would be empowered to enter into real estate business; that is to say, it would have power to erect houses, buildings and works of every description upon land acquired for that purpose. It would also have the power to sell, lease, let, mortgage or otherwise dispose of land, houses, buildings or other property.

It is intended that the Corporation should start operation with an initial Government loan of £½ million. It would also be empowered to borrow money up to the limit of £4 million.

As is the case with other Corporations established by Law, the Housing Corporation would be subject to general direction and control of a Minister—in this case, the hon. Minister of Commerce.

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to second.

**Chief Z. Efeke V (Yenagoa Province):** I have nothing to quarrel with in this Bill. It is a very very progressive Bill. But the only point I want to bring before the Government is that junior civil servants must be considered along with those in the senior sector, because we always get complaints from the junior civil servants. They are not provided with houses, so that when this Corporation is formed, Government should see that the junior civil servants are considered. Whenever those in the senior service go on transfer houses are always ready for them to occupy, but those in the junior service have always suffered, riding bicycles for miles and at times they are the people even doing the most important part of the work, and those in the senior sector are always signing papers which are ready. Therefore, those in the junior service must be considered along with those in the senior service.

**Chief J. Mpi (Port Harcourt Province):** The only point I would like to make is that Port Harcourt has been mentioned in the Bill about the acquiring of land. The people should be properly consulted. Already, they have been made scape-goats because they do not oppose the Government, and therefore Government should not take any measure which the Government know will be a heavy burden to the people. When they are not properly consulted and told the good in what the Government intends to do, well, whatever Government does becomes a punishment to them. Already, Government has been acquiring land here and there in that area and I do not know where they are heading to. So, at times, Government should bear in mind that the people of that area should always be consulted. When something like a Corporation is being established, the people of that area should be appointed to be the watch-dogs of that area and to advise their people on what Government is doing.

**Chief E. A. Egbara (Obubra Division):** It will be very good if the Government do not always concentrate their efforts in the municipalities. They should also consider the rural areas, because civil servants who are posted to work in the rural areas hardly get any living houses. So that if the Corporation can afford

[CHIEF EGBARA]

to put up houses in the rural areas for workers to live in there is no harm. We have in the rural areas vast areas of land for Government to acquire. I support the Bill *in toto* but I feel the rural areas should be taken into consideration.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** Chief Efeke has spoken about the need for including junior civil servants in the Housing Corporation. We appreciate the need for that. But this is an economic proposition. Conditions will be laid down, and if a junior civil servant fulfils the conditions, he will be considered. I have to point out that civil servants have a provision made for them whereby they obtain loans from the Building Society and Government has gone a step further to even pay part of the interest accruing from the loan. I think that is a generous effort on the part of the Government.

Hon. Mpi has spoken about consulting the people of Port Harcourt. I hope he will use his good offices to speak to his people when he goes back. And if they want board membership, one good turn deserves another; if they give us land, we will give them membership of corporations.

I do not think my hon. Friend who spoke about having Housing Corporations in the rural areas was really serious. The Housing Corporation ought to be centred in urban areas where there are concentrations of people who can afford to buy houses. I do not know what he means by rural area, but I can tell him that what we intend to do for the rural areas is to erect farm settlements for them.

*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 1-19 agreed to.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

*Sitting suspended at 12.00 noon.*

*Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.*

### (11) The Premiers' (Pensions) Bill

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time. The Governments of the Federation, that is the Governments of the North, West and East, feel that the time has come for provision to be made to enable ex-holders of the office of Premier to receive some remuneration by way of pension. The House will recall that the Federal Government as well as the Governments of the Western and Northern Nigeria have enacted similar Bill. As a matter of fact, we are the last in the field. It is the practice in a number of Commonwealth countries to have a thing of this nature and I have only to draw the attention of hon. Members to the practice in the United Kingdom where the Prime Minister is paid £2,000 yearly by way of pension. I think it is only reasonable that a person who had held a high office of Premier should be enabled to continue to live a fairly decent life after he has left office and I commend this Bill to the House.

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

**Chief J. Mpi** (Port Harcourt Province): I rise to support the Bill. It is a very good Bill especially as it has been passed in other Regions. But I would like to add one thing: minus the people, no Premier and so . . . (*Laughter*).

**Chief R. Oraelosi** (Onitsha Division): I support this Bill totally. The Bill is commended to everybody but my comment is that it should be extended to Ministers because all of them are working for the same Government and I am sure that when Ministers get theirs, legislators must be considered. Our



Government is a capable one and I am sure it must find money to augment this. So in supporting this Bill, I thank those people who made it possible to do the same thing as other Regions did.

**Mrs Margaret Ekpo** (Special Member): We all know the saying "What is good for the goose is also good for the gander." What other Regions of the Federation are doing why won't we do same? So I support this Bill. We know how our Premiers work and how often they run about. Therefore when they feel like retiring I feel that they should be made to live well. That is why I wholeheartedly support the Bill.

**Chief R. J. Onyeneho** (Okigwi Division): I am happy this Bill is acclaimed by everybody and I wish it were extended further. I want to point out to the House that it is maintenance that keeps an old house new. Old house when once it is maintained looks a new house. It would not be very good for anybody to rise so high and to fall to very low depth because he cannot maintain himself on leaving office. It will make him to look tattered. He must be maintained so that people who own him will be proud of him.

The provision for this pension to be paid to our ex-Premiers is a good one indeed. Some of us may come and go away from this House tomorrow or next. There is nothing too much for a legislator. I am therefore suggesting that the benefit be extended further.

**Chief C. E. Amobi** (Special Member): I am sorry that some Members are trying to deviate from the main point. What is required of us here is something that affects whosoever was the Leader of the Government or the Premier. This Bill, I can say, is long overdue, because as a Premier or a Leader of Government, one is not required to do one's own business. For instance, taking the present Premier for an example, he is a well qualified doctor, but since he took over the leadership of the Eastern Nigeria Government, he has had to forgo all his practices; so that after staying, say, for ten years or more, it would be very difficult for him to go back and make customers. It may even be difficult for him to give injections. He will even then begin to learn the job again after a

very long absence from the field. In my own opinion, I feel that it is proper that he be given such pension.

I have another point to suggest—Government should only have it in mind and not necessarily to execute it immediately—the question of the Ministers. The Minister is equally affected because a Minister cannot go about his own business. In the Ministries, there are teachers, doctors and businessmen and by law, they have to forgo their business and after having been doing their work there for the Region and after many years when they retire, you do not expect them to go and begin to ride on bicycles. I think Government should have this in mind. As far as we floor Members are concerned we are still doing our business. In the Parliament, there are some teachers having their salaries and businessmen doing their jobs and contractors going about their contracts. There is, therefore, a world of difference between the floor Members and the Ministers.

*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—Bill accordingly read the Third time forthwith and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

## (12) The High Court (Amendment) Bill

*Order for Second Reading read.*

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

Section 5 (a) (i) of the High Court Law, 1955, provides that the salary of the hon. Chief

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Justice shall be £3,500 a year and the salary of the Puisne Judge shall be £3,000 a year.

At the last meeting of this hon. House we took a decision that the salaries of super-scale officers should be increased in the light of awards made by the Mbanefo Commission. It became necessary therefore to increase the salaries of the Chief Justice and the Puisne Judge correspondingly. Section 59 of the Constitution of Eastern Nigeria provides that the Legislature may prescribe the salaries of the Chief Justice and other Judges of the High Court. The Bill satisfies this provision and amends the High Court Law of 1955 accordingly.

Advantage has also been taken to prescribe the retiring age of 62 years for the Chief Justice and also to remove from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the salaries of the Chief Registrar which was inadvertently made statutory under clause 66A of the High Court Law, 1955.

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):**  
I beg to second.

**Chief N. N. Anyika (Onitsha Province):**  
Mr President, I have something to say about our High Courts. I do not know who is in charge of the High Court list of cases. If you go to these Courts you will see that the poor tax-payers are suffering. When I was a Court Clerk for twenty-five years some officers in the District Offices used to be detailed to go to these Courts and see how the cases were heard. If some cases were not heard for a long time, the person in charge would be queried to explain why, but now nobody cares to do so again with the result that some cases are not heard for years. I think if this type of check is reintroduced, Court officials will be very careful in disposing of the cases lying for years. What happens now is that if you make an appeal against any case decided in a lower Court it will take years before the appeal is heard. I remember one case of motor accident that happened in 1950. Till today that case has not been heard. Government is like a father with many children: some are good and

others are bad. So I think it is necessary for the Government to carry out a regular check on what happens in these Courts to avoid any delays in hearing cases.

Now, if you get a Court Bailiff and give him particulars of what he should do, you find that after a few months, the notice for summons has not issued. And upon all these delays, you at last go to the Court only to hear that the case has been dismissed. Who is responsible? Let the Government do something about checking this anomaly.

**Chief Ike Okoroafor (Bende Division):**  
This Bill is non-controversial. (*An hon. Chief: Do you think so?*) Yes, it is, and I support it. But I seize this opportunity to appeal to the Government through the Minister of Justice that while considering the votes of the High Court Judges and staff, Customary Courts Judges should not be forgotten. The salary paid to these Judges is so small that temptation cannot be easily overcome.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** We are discussing High Court Bill, not Customary Courts Bill.

*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—Bill accordingly read the Third time forthwith and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

**(13) The Revised Edition (Laws of Eastern Nigeria) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time. This Bill seeks authority to revise the Laws of Eastern Nigeria which are now in a very chaotic state. Recently we were fortunate to

secure the services of Mr Justice Ames who was a former Judge in Nigeria and for a number of times acted as Chief Justice, and who is now the President of the Court of Appeal, Sierra Leone and Gambia, to come out and help in the revision of our Laws. As a matter of fact, we expect him any day now.

One of the results of the constitutional changes is that we have now Laws of the Federation and our own Eastern Nigeria Laws. When Mr Justice Ames comes out it will be his duty to sort out these Laws and prepare the Eastern Nigeria Laws so that when you take up your Laws to read you do not have to wade through the old Nigerian Ordinances and in doing so we are following the example set by Western Nigeria and the Federation.

The Bill is not controversial. It only seeks the necessary authority for the Commissioner to pursue the work and I shall not trouble hon. Chiefs with a lot of talk about the revision of the Laws. Anybody who picks up our Laws will see the formidable amendments made and will be convinced that it is time we had a law revision.

**The Minister of Economic Planning (Dr A. N. Obonna):** 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 1-14 agreed to.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

#### (14) The Education (Amendment) Bill

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Education (Mr G. E. Okeke):** I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

This Bill seeks primarily to amend the Education Law, 1956 by modifying the provisions relating to illegal institutions, including schools. As hon. Members may be aware, the number of illegal schools is on the increase and there can be no doubt that this flouting of the law is in large measure attributable to the inadequacy of the penalties laid down for its infringement. The main object of the proposed amendment is therefore to increase these penalties and also to widen their scope so as to make the way of the transgressor much harder than it is at present.

Under the existing law an offence is committed where a person establishes or opens a school or institution without the approval of the Minister in writing or where the proprietor or manager of a school or institution, which has been ordered to close by the Minister, fails to close the school or institution within a specified period. For such an offence the penalty is a fine of five pounds for each and every day that the school is opened.

The proposed amendment as contained in clause 5 of the Bill extends criminal liability to any person teaching in an illegal school or institution and also to any person who publishes an advertisement in connection with such a school or institution. For a principal offender, that is, a proprietor or manager, principal or headmaster the proposed penalty for contravening the law is imprisonment for one year or fine of £100. For other offenders, namely, teachers in illegal schools or institutions or persons who publish advertisements relating thereto, the penalty is a fine of £100.

The other amendments included in the Bill are of a relatively minor nature.

Clause 2 amends the definitions of "institution" and "school" so as to specially exclude a class or institution solely for the training of catechists, priests, or other ministers of religion. At the same time, the opportunity has been

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taken to omit the definition of "local government council" which is already defined in the Interpretation Ordinance without reference to any specifically named Local Government law.

Clause 3 amends section 26 (1) of the existing law by the addition of the words "or opened", which brings it into line with the offence created by section 30 (1) as amended.

Clause 4 is concerned with a minor amendment, paragraph (c) of section 29 of the principal Law being amended by capitalising the first letter of the word "Law".

Clause 6 is concerned with increasing penalties for a contravention of section 41 of the Law, which makes it an offence for anyone to teach in a school unless he has been enrolled in the Register of Teachers or after his name has been removed from the Register or during any period of suspension. The present penalty for such an offence is a fine of £5 with an additional fine of £1 in respect of each day during which the offence continues. It has been found by experience that the present penalty does not act as an adequate deterrent and it is therefore proposed that the penalty should be a fine of £50 and, on a second or subsequent conviction, imprisonment for six months or a fine of £50, or both.

**The Minister of Commerce (Chief J. U. Nwodo):** I beg to second.

**Chief Gregory N. Agbasiere (Orlu Division):** I rise to support the Bill introduced by the Minister of Education, and in doing so, I would first of all congratulate the Minister and his workers. If one looks into the Ministry of Education one will find out that there are the hearts of all men, women and children in the Eastern Nigeria. Mr President, without education there is no civilisation, and without education there is no progress. If there is no education in any province at all, or Region, or family there is no more progress.

If you look into the Ministry of Education you will find that all the departments are working marvellously. Another thing I want to say is that since the Minister was appointed we have seen improvement in our education all round. We have seen all round us many secondary schools, training schools and other

schools approved by the Minister. I pray God to spare him more wisdom and more knowledge to carry on this work. There is only one small thing I want the Minister to amend. In the Education Law is a clause proposing to close Infant I, that is young children who have not reached six years will not be allowed to go to school. I want the Minister not to compare our children with European children who from the age of two to three years learn everything in English and at the age of six understand much better than our children at that age. I want the Minister to see that next year Infant I is reintroduced.

**Chief J. J. Ogbulafor (Bende Division):** By the introduction of this Bill we are proud of this Region because others are trying to copy the Eastern Nigeria in what they are doing. I am supporting our able Ministers in the way they have been able to organise the education in this Region. I am grateful to them for the way and manner progress is proceeding in this Region. In conclusion I have to say that I support the Bill.

**Chief F. N. Ogudoro (Aba Division):** Nobody quarrels with this amendment of Education Law, but I feel that Government should consider those institutions falling within clause 2 of this Bill, that is, institutions solely for the training of catechists, priests or other ministers of religion, or class for religious instructions. I would appeal to the Minister of Education to consider those schools already operating. It would be most embarrassing to have them closed down now. I would like him to consider the effect of this law from this date of our meeting for it would be most harassing if you went back to close schools already operating. It would be as if the person is biting the finger that fed him.

*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 1-6 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

**(15) The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (1960-61)**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

The Bill seeks to appropriate the sum of £105,280 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and £7,290 from the Capital Development Fund. As hon. Members will observe from the draft Second Supplementary Estimates, almost all of this provision is required for the purpose of repaying advances made from the Contingencies Fund since the First Supplementary Estimates were approved. These advances were, of course, all approved by Executive Council and, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, must be retired before the end of the financial year.

The only other significant item of expenditure which calls for comment is the sum of £54,000 under the Ministry of Finance. This provision is required to meet the increased cost of postal, telegraph and telephone services during the year as well as certain outstanding charges in respect of 1959-60.

Hon. Members will no doubt agree with me that this Bill raises no controversial issues; it is largely of a routine nature and should consequently receive the unanimous support of all sides of the House.

**The Minister of Economic Planning (Dr A. N. Obonna):** I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*And pursuant to Standing Order 77—Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Bills—the Debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed on Wednesday, the 19th of April, 1961.*

**(16) The Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board (Amendment) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

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

The objects of this Bill to amend the Marketing Board Law are three-fold. The Bill first seeks to reflect present constitutional arrangements. With the revocation of various constitutional orders since 1954 by the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council 1960 the three Regions of Nigeria became known as Northern Nigeria, Western Nigeria, and Eastern Nigeria. Although the Constitutional Order itself gives legal sanction to this change, it is desirable also to take this opportunity of incorporating it in a specific amending Law. Similarly, the Bill recognises that we now have two Legislative Houses in the Region.

The Bill also gives power to the Minister to give directions without formal consultation with the Board. The authority of the Minister to give directions already exists, and the purpose of the amendment is merely to make more expeditious the normal relations between the Board and Government, which already apply. Finally, the Bill takes into account the replacement of the Central Marketing Board by a body called the Nigeria Produce Marketing Company Limited. With the coming into operation of the Export of Nigeria Produce Ordinance of 1958, the Central Marketing Board ceased to exist, and the Nigeria Produce Marketing Company Limited, incorporated in Nigeria, took over certain functions, primarily of a trading nature, formerly exercised by the Central Board. Other functions of this Board were either vested in the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry or abrogated, as the case may be, in accordance with the recommendations of an *ad hoc* meeting of the Nigerian Constitutional Conference. It is Government's intention that £4,000,000 of the Marketing Board Reserves be transferred to the Capital Development Fund. It is important that we should get on quickly with our development programme and that no mere formalities or technicalities should stand in the way of its execution. It is often very necessary that action should be taken by the Ministry at

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short notice without having to go through the formalities of formal consultation with the Board which meets infrequently. As you will see from the second section the main purpose is to enable the Marketing Board to make grants to the Eastern Nigerian Government, a body corporate established in Eastern Nigeria directly by a written law and a Local Government body in Eastern Nigeria.

The Bill is not contentious and I commend it to the House.

**The Minister of Economic Planning (Dr A. N. Obonna):** I beg to second.

**Chief Zumoh Efeke V (Yenagoa Province):** Mr President, I have nothing very serious to quarrel with in this Bill but I have to draw the attention of the Minister concerned that most of our produce are being sold in the Western Region. In my Province we have Western Region villages and towns living very near us. In the West the price of a bag of palm produce weighing 2 cwt. 2 qrt. 17 lb. is £2 6s but in the East it is £2 4s. As a result of this difference of 2s traders prefer to sell their goods in the West to doing so in the East. Now at Amassoma which used to be a big U.A.C. produce station one hardly finds any produce to buy. This is because most of the Western Region traders have opened up produce buying stations around Amassoma and pay higher for the produce they buy. As a result of this the Eastern Region is losing a lot of money. I am, therefore, appealing very seriously to the Minister to see to it that our prices here equal those paid in the Western Region so that we can retain the money which is now going to that Region.

**Chief F. O. J. Allagoa, M.B.E. (The Amanyanabo of Nembe):** I rise to support the last speaker. It is true that most of our produce are now sold in the Western Region. The clerk in charge of the U.A.C. produce station in Yenagoa was so much alarmed by this situation that he complained to me when I was there. I advised him to bring this to the attention of the Premier when the latter was on tour of our Province. I therefore join in appealing to the Minister to look into this serious matter and bring a stop to it.

**Chief Ako Okwoli II (Enugu Province):** Sir, I rise to support the last two speakers. In the whole Federation we in the Eastern Region have the pride of place in producing palm produce but yet it is very difficult for one to be a produce buyer here. A good example of the reason for this is that in the East here one pays 5s for an empty bag but in the Northern Region it is given free. This is not encouraging and the Government should see to it that our produce is sold without unnecessary difficulty. (*Long silence*).

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** The speaker is trying to refresh his memory. (*Laughter*).

**Chief Okwoli II:** In Nsukka Division the price of palm produce is £5 6s 3d per ton with £1 10s subsidy, bringing the total to £6 16s 3d. That of palm kernel is £2 14s 10d per bag; whereas in Iddah in the Northern Region the price of palm kernel is £29 10s per ton. That is, £2 7s 5d per bag.

Mr President, I am appealing to the Minister to look into this.

**The Minister of Agriculture:** Mr President, Chief Efeke spoke of higher producer prices being paid in the Western Region. I presume he means higher prices of palm produce because he was speaking of bags without mentioning the contents of the bags. I have got this information and my Ministry has been investigating the matter. This is a two-way traffic. Under our Constitution we cannot interfere with inter-Regional trade. In the same way as you complain of a difference of 2s in the price of palm produce we are now informed that a large quantity of the Western Region cocoa is being transported to the Eastern Region because of the higher producer prices. The differential is £48 per ton, but here it is 2s a bag. So you can appreciate the difficulty of the Ministry in dealing with these matters, because, as I said earlier on, under the Constitution you cannot interfere with inter-Regional trade. My Ministry has been investigating this matter, and we shall come to a solution either by finding this differential in the price or otherwise, in order to stop the flow of our produce to any other Region. I have the same answers for Chief Allagoa.

Chief Ako Okwoli II of Nsukka also complained of the same thing about palm produce. I have been to Nsukka personally and made investigations and saw the cause of the differential of 4s per bag of our palm produce. At times it happens with other Regions. There are some produce from other Regions that are sold in this Region, depending on the price offered by the Marketing Board of the Region. It has not been possible for all the Marketing Boards to agree on a common price for commodities. If that were possible then this question of transferring produce from one Region to another will not arise. However, the matter is under consideration. We are aware of this situation and are taking steps to remedy it.

*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 1-14 agreed to.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

### **(17) The Elections (House of Assembly) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

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

Section 15, subsection (1) of the Constitution of Eastern Nigeria empowers the Legislature, that is the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs, to prescribe the manner of direct election of Members to the House of Assembly of 146 Members to be established after the next

disolution of the House. It also empowers the Legislature to prescribe other matters such as additional qualifications of persons for membership and the power, practice and procedure of the High Court in relation to applications for the determination of questions as to disputed seats. The Bill is an enabling one. It proposes that the Legislature would delegate to the Governor power to make regulations out of these matters. Under the Bill these regulations will have to be laid on the Tables of the Legislative Houses during a session and that they may be disallowed in whole or in part by a resolution passed by this House.

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to second.

**Chief C. E. Amobi (Special Member):** This Bill is non-controversial, but in any case I have to mention that so long as this House will be extended, I am afraid whether this floor will contain the number of people that will come in after the next election. I know Government is contemplating to do something about it.

Here is a point I want to make, although elections are not coming very soon, I think we have to learn the good things from other Regions and reject the bad things from such Regions. There are some people with special positions in the House of Assembly, I do not want to mention names. We require people who have made extensive touring and known how to go about with the massive projects like, industry, agriculture, education and the rest which the Government has on hand. We need these people to complete the job they have begun. I am appealing to the Members of the House of Chiefs to take these things into consideration and know that we have ourselves to blame if we do not see that such people are returned to complete what they have in hand.

Another point on which I would like to congratulate the Government is the question of single member constituency. When I was a politician, I know the trouble people took to go over the whole Division pursuing only one seat or two. As the introduction of single member constituency makes the election issue easier for politicians, the Government should be congratulated,

**Chief J. N. Wachuku** (Umuahia Province): The matter of election is one which people should not get up in this House to advise Members. Elections are still far and when the time comes we know what to do. Those of them who have done well in the past will not be forgotten.

**Chief N. N. Anyika** (Onitsha Province): I feel there is some measure of injustice meted to some petitioners against the result of elections. Sometimes, such election petitions are dealt with finally in the Magistrate's Courts, with the petitioners being asked to pay costs to their dissatisfaction. Steps should be taken to see that such matters do not stop only with the Magistrate's Courts, but allowances made for them to go up to the High Courts.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** The Bill as it stands does not deal with the regulations. It only gives us power to make regulations. When we make the regulations the conditions under which petitions will go to Courts will be prescribed. What is before you now is the enabling Bill to empower the Government to submit regulations.

*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 1-5 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

**(18) The Administrator-General Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** I rise to move that the Bill be now read a Second time. This is a Bill which, if passed into Law, will enable this Region to have its own Administrator-General who will be in charge of Estate matters. Experience has shown that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to administer estates in this Region from Lagos. In any case, it works hardship on a thousand and one people every year.

There may be instances where the dependants of a deceased are aged and poor. In such cases, undue delay in winding up the estate will deepen their grief, bringing with it despair and penury. There are also distressing cases of dependants who happen to be school children and whose career hangs on a prompt administration of the estate. Delay in such cases is bound to produce disaster. Mr President, the most embarrassing situation arises in the case of an estate which is known to be substantial. The dependants themselves realise that they have a fortune; nevertheless, they are made to suffer in the midst of plenty simply because the process of administration engenders delay. The reason for this painful delay is threefold: one, the distance between the office of the Administrator-General in Lagos and the parties affected; two, the country's system of communication which is not yet at its best; three, the inevitable delay in the office of the Administrator-General, because administration is carried out mainly by correspondence and lacks personal touch. The parties, if they wish to interview the Administrator-General, will have to travel all the way to Lagos and this involves greater hardship and expense.

This Bill is non-contentious and will therefore raise no controversy. It is entitled to a warm reception in this hon. House, because it will enable the dead to rest in peace for ever without having to disturb the living from their graves, and it will also bring peace and relief to their dependants.

**The Minister of Education (G. E. Okeke):** I beg to second.

**Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.** (Owerri Province): I rise to support this important Bill. I thank our Ministers and the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General and our Premier



who have thought fit to introduce and establish the office of Administrator-General in the Eastern Region. I think the East will be one of the best Regions as our people are now trying to feel the trouble and inconveniences of the people whom they represent. Experience shows what our people have suffered and are still suffering. I know a case where it took more than five years for a family to receive equitable and final result on their father's estate. So I thank the Minister of Justice and I am sure the whole Region will be pleased and appreciative of this excellent service rendered to our people to free them from unnecessary expenses from here to Lagos.

**Chief J. N. Wachuku** (Umuahia Province): This is one of the best Bills because I remember very many people have suffered on account of that. The explanation given by the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General covered whatever I had wanted to say. I am immensely grateful to the Government for this excellent service.

**Chief F. O. J. Allagoa** (The Amanyanabo of Nembe): I rise to express my gratitude to the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General for this Bill. He has realised the sufferings of many people. It is a welcome Bill. It has been overdue and now that it has come the whole Region will be glad.

So I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1-65 agreed to.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(The President resumed the Chair)

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

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

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

EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Wednesday, 19th April, 1961

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

PRAYERS

(Mr President in the Chair)

**The President:** I propose to vary the numbers on the Order Paper thus: No. 2 (i) should read No. 1 and No. 1 should read No. 2; Nos. 2 (ii) and (iii) should read Nos. 3 and 4 respectively.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

**The Minister of Finance (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):—

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

The Committee of Selection shall consist of the Premier or his representative as Chairman and not more than two Ministers who are Members of the House to be nominated by the Executive Council. The two Members nominated by the Executive Council are hon. O. U. Affiah and Dr the hon. A. N. Obonna.

**The Minister of State (Establishments and Chieftaincies) (Mr O. U. Affiah):** I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

ORDER OF THE DAY

Supplementary Appropriation Bill (1960-61)

(FIRST AND ONLY ALLOTTED DAY)

*Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (18th April)—That the Bill be now read a Second time.*

*Question again proposed.*

**Chief Gordon Ascot Ikibah** (Brass Division): It is my view that there is nothing wrong with this Bill. The money has been well spent and I think nobody will quarrel with it. I am particularly happy that part of the money has been spent in my Division on one of the most difficult problems that is "rural water supply". I have noticed that a fairly large amount has been spent in that Division which I represent and I simply rise to thank the Government for considering us.

I support the Bill.

**Chief Ike Okoroafor** (Bende Division): I rise to support the Bill and to congratulate the Government for all it has done all over the Region. I belong to Bende Division where you have the worst roads. I congratulate the Government on the ground that the work between Umuahia-Uzuakoli-Alayi-Arochuku has been started. Though it has been started, it needs some amendment. The contractors are not hard working but I think they should be encouraged. Also, I appeal to the Government to see that the other road from Umuahia-Bende-Abam-Ohafia is attended to. Last year, I spoke about it but nothing has been done. Rain has started again and I appeal to the Government to see that something is done on that road. Throwing of laterite on the road is not enough. I appeal to the Minister of Works to make caterpillars or hand rollers available so that those working on the road can use them and push in stones or gravel into the soil. If this is done it will not be waste of Government revenue, rather it will be a saving.

**The Minister of Finance:** May I draw the attention of Members of the House to the fact that the Bill before the House now is Supplementary Appropriation Bill and most of these remarks should be made when debating the Appropriation Bill.

**Chief Zumoh Efeke V** (Yenagoa Province): I have a remark to make and to which I am drawing the attention of the Minister of Works. That is, the waterworks at Amassoma. We thank the Government very much for the good work done there—they are spending about £20,000. When the workers came to Amassoma, we directed them to a good site where they could build the reservoir, the well, etc., but unfortunately the P.W.D. Engineer who

was responsible put the reservoir and waterworks near the waterside where in about ten to twenty years it will be eroded and carried away to the river. Before they started the work hon. Apreala and myself with other people of Amassoma protested and we gave them a good site where the new college building was put up and the contractor Mr E. N. Mitcheletti and others acceded to our request and conveyed some of their materials to the site, but the Ministry of Works refused and put up the waterworks at a site where it would be eroded within a period of ten to twenty years.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** Point of Order, Standing Order 30 (2):

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

This is not Appropriation Bill.

**The President:** The point of Order raised by the hon. Minister is upheld.

**Chief C. E. Amobi** (Special Member): I rise to support the Bill. The money was well spent. Some Members may think that something had been over-spent. According to Government policy nothing was actually over-spent, but it was dependent on the time. For this sake, I am recommending that more money should be put into the Consolidated Fund so that it might not disturb the Ministers in doing their job because if money is not found in the Consolidated Fund, that might lead to the issuing of virement warrants and when this is done, the public seems to feel that a particular Ministry or Minister has over-spent, but actually nothing was over-spent.

*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—Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CONSTITUENCIES OF EASTERN NIGERIA

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** Mr President, I have been asked by the hon. Premier to move for him this Motion. I beg to move, That this House approves the Recommendations of the Electoral Commission of Eastern Nigeria with regard to the Constituencies of Eastern Nigeria with the following amendments:—

Constituency 38 after "Uziogbo" *leave out* "Awka" and *insert* "Akwa."

Constituency 102 *leave out* "Awka" and *insert* "Akwa."

Constituency 97 *insert* "Urban" after the word "Onitsha" in the title.

Constituency 101 *leave out* the title "Agbaja Atani" and *insert* the title "Anedo Atani."

When the Motion came before the House of Assembly the hon. Premier made a speech and I think it is necessary to reproduce that speech here and with your permission, Mr President, I quote the hon. Premier's speech when introducing the Motion:

"In order that the Motion now before the House may be viewed by hon. Members in its correct perspective, it is necessary to bring to mind the constitutional background to the recommendations which they are now asked to approve.

"At the 1958 Constitutional Conference, it was agreed that the House of Assembly of Eastern Nigeria should in future consist of 146 elected members. This agreement is now embodied in section 6 of the Constitution of Eastern Nigeria.

"It was agreed, also, that there should be single-member constituencies for the purpose of elections to the Regional Houses, and that, in the case of Eastern and Western Nigeria, these constituencies should be formed by dividing the Federal constituencies already established into two. The Conference further agreed that this division should be made by a Commission appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Premier.

"In accordance with these agreements the Governor of Eastern Nigeria duly appointed

[MR AJEGBO]

a Delimitation Commission under the Chairmanship of Colonel E. C. Alderton. This Commission, after detailed and careful investigation and an extensive tour of the Region, submitted its Report to the Governor in February, 1960.

"Hon. Members will appreciate that at the time the report of the Delimitation Commission was received, there was no urgency in the matter, since this House was then in its Fourth Session. But now, however, when we are in the Fifth and Final Session, it is necessary that action should be taken on the recommendations. Constitutional provision for the Conference agreements has now been made by section 14 of the Independence Constitution of Eastern Nigeria as follows:—

'The Region shall be divided into as many constituencies as there are Members of the House of Assembly in such manner as the competent authority, acting with the approval of each Legislative House of the Region signified by resolution, may prescribe'.

"Hon. Members will observe that this section requires that the determination of constituencies shall be prescribed by the Electoral Commission with the approval of the Legislature. The purpose of this Motion is to seek that approval.

"No one could describe the constituencies now recommended by the Electoral Commission as ideal. This, however, is quite inevitable, and is no reflection on the work either of the Delimitation Commission, the basis of the present recommendations, or of the Electoral Commission.

"Hon. Members will recall that both these bodies were bound by the decision of the Constitutional Conference to limit their recommendations to the division of existing Federal constituencies. The boundaries of the Federal constituencies could not be altered. It is this Government's view that, within this essential limitation, the present recommendations strike a fair and reasonable balance between equality of numbers and other important considerations, such as geographical features, transport facilities, existing Local Government organisation, and natural community of interest.

"Hon. Members will, I feel sure, agree with me that this is neither the time nor the place for criticisms of the recommendations on points of detail. They have been made by an impartial and non-political Commission: and if in any respect they require amendment, there is constitutional provision for the same Commission to review them. I can say, moreover, that it is intended to arrange for such a review as soon as practicable following the next population census to be held in 1962.

"Hon. Members will observe that the few amendments proposed in this Motion are merely verbal and do not affect the boundaries of the constituencies as delimited by the competent authority."

With these words of the hon. Premier, I beg to move.

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### STAMP DUTIES ORDINANCE, CAP. 209 OF THE LAWS OF NIGERIA, 1948

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to move that, pursuant to section 114 (2) of the Stamp Duties Ordinance, Cap. 209 of the Laws of Nigeria, 1948, this House resolves that the Schedule to the Ordinance shall, with effect from and including the 1st April, 1961, be amended, in respect of documents regarding which the Government of the Region is exclusively competent to make Laws, in the same manner as it is amended by the Federal Government with application to Lagos.

Hon. Members will recall that the House, at its last Session, resolved to increase Stamp Duties chargeable in respect of certain documents. Copies of the resolution concerned have been provided for the information of hon. Members. The Federal Government, however, shortly afterwards raised again the question of procedure in Stamp Duty legislation, and called a meeting of Ministers of Finance to discuss the problem. We agreed at the meeting that it would be desirable to increase all Stamp Duties (with certain very restricted exceptions) by 50 per cent, the increase to take

[DR IMOKE]

effect simultaneously throughout the Federation on as early a date as possible. In view of this agreement, the similar increases which had already been approved at the previous session were not gazetted, and the legislation implementing them will be superseded by the present resolution.

The effect of this resolution will be very similar to that of the previous one; almost all stamp duties will be increased by 50 per cent, and there will be a corresponding increase in revenue of about £8,000. The purpose of the resolution (and of the similar resolutions being moved by the Northern and Western Ministers of Finance in their respective Houses) is to secure uniformity in Stamp Duty legislation throughout the Federation of Nigeria, without abandoning our Constitutional right to legislate on matters of exclusively Regional competence.

**The Minister of Economic Planning (Dr A. N. Obonna):** I beg to second.

**Chief J. U. Okudare (Ogoja Province):** Mr President, I rise to support this motion because without money Government will not stand. Increasing Stamp Duties by 50 per cent will bring more money to this Region. So this is the sort of motion which we cannot help supporting.

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow. May I announce also that there will be a meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association here as soon as this House adjourns. After that there will also be a meeting of the Committee of Selection in the Committee Room.

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Adjourned, accordingly, at twenty-five minutes to eleven o'clock a.m.*

EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Thursday, 20th April, 1961

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

PRAYERS

(Mr President in the Chair)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE  
OF SELECTION

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):**

I have to report that the Committee of Selection met yesterday and made nominations to the various Committees of the House for the 1961-62 Session as follows:—

**(i) Standing Orders Committee:**

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

**(ii) House Committee:**

Minister of Internal Affairs (*Chairman*).  
Chief Angus Ilonze.  
Chief J. Mpi.  
Chief S. A. Essien.  
Chief J. E. Ikeogu.  
Chief Emmanuel Eze.

**(iii) Public Petitions Committee:**

Minister of Information (*Chairman*).  
Chief R. J. Onyeneho.  
Chief F. N. Ezerioha.  
Chief N. N. Anyika.  
Rev. and Chief Effiong Utit, M.B.E.  
Chief J. D. Agba.  
Chief G. A. Ikiabah.

**(iv) Committee of Privileges:**

Minister of State (Establishments and  
Chieftaincies) (*Chairman*).  
Chief Edward Nnaji.  
Chief D. Onuaguluchi.  
Chief Kanu Oji.  
Chief Sampson B. Maeba.  
Chief F. N. Ogunoro.  
Chief Akpan Enang.  
Chief Ogba Ekirigwe.  
Mrs J. N. Mokelu.

**(v) Statutory Corporations Committee:**

Minister of Commerce (*Chairman*).  
Chief N. U. Ofem.  
Chief J. U. U. Ebong.  
Chief W. Obassi.  
Chief Silas Ezenwa.  
Chief G. Agbasiere.  
Chief E. Ashirim-Unosi.

**(vi) Public Accounts Committee:**

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

**The President:** Chiefs and hon. Members, the report will lie on the Table. Pursuant to Standing Order 79—Public Accounts Committee—I nominate Chief J. N. Wachuku to be the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee for the Session 1961-62.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):**

I beg to move the motion standing in my name, That pursuant to Standing Order 81—Suspension of Standing Orders—paragraphs (2) and (3) of Standing Order 6—Sittings of the House—be suspended to enable this House to sit on Friday, 21st April, 1961, from 10 a.m. and beyond noon, and to sit on Saturday, 22nd April, 1961 from 10 a.m. until the completion of Government business for that day.

I understand that Members of the House have agreed amongst themselves to sit for longer hours tomorrow being Friday and to sit on Saturday the 22nd April, 1961, to enable them complete the Business of the House, so that they may return to their homes as early as possible thereafter. Normally the House sits on Friday from 9 a.m. to noon under Standing Order 6 (3), but Saturday is a *dies non*. Notwithstanding this fact, this House possesses the power to suspend its Standing Order by invoking the provisions of Standing Order 81 which reads as follows:—

“A question the object or effect of which may be to suspend any Standing Order of the House shall be proposed only with the consent of the President, either after notice

given or after the expression of the general assent of the House.”

Accordingly, this motion has been moved under Standing Order 81—Suspension of Standing Orders—so as to give effect to the wishes of the hon. Members. I am to add that as the Leader of the House and Minister of Finance, it receives my blessing because I am looking at it also from the economic angle.

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### (1) Governor's Speech (Debate on the Address)

(THIRD ALLOTTED DAY)

*Order read for resuming adjourned debate on Question (18th April):*

That this House expresses its loyal and dutiful thanks to His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature from the Throne.

*Question again proposed.*

**Chief J. Mpi (Port Harcourt Province):** Mr President, I thank you very much for seeing me. I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his Gracious Speech from the Throne. In doing this, I would first of all like to congratulate the Government of Eastern Nigeria for making it possible for somebody like the Governor, an African Governor for that matter, in the person of Sir Francis Ibiam, to be the Governor of Eastern Nigeria. Having gone through the Speech from the Throne, one will realise that the Speech is full of encouragement, future progress and plan for this Region.

My second point is that it is always good for people when making appointments to consider those who have the interests of Eastern Nigeria at heart. We should thank our Premier in particular and members of his Cabinet and others who joined in making the appointment of our present Governor a reality. It is a fitting appointment. Those of us who knew Sir Francis Ibiam in the old Legislative House when he was a Member and who used to know

the stand of hon. Members in those days of fighting for their own people, the people of Nigeria, the people of Africa—Eastern Nigeria in particular—will agree that the appointment is a most fitting one.

Now, let me turn to the Government of Eastern Nigeria. For all the Portfolios or Ministries, hon. Members will agree with me that we have more capable Ministers than any Government in the Federation. Our Government are always up and doing—they listen to advice and public opinion. However, let me say this: I remember I was a member of the Eyo Ita Government—between 1951 and 1952. (*An hon. Chief: One of the "sit-tight" members?*) I was never a "sit-tight" member. When I remember that we used to budget for only £3,000,000 and now the Government budgets for well over £27,000,000, it is, I think, a great mark of improvement. I am thanking the Government and I have this to say and I do not need to say that one by one: the whole Ministers have done their best and they deserve our praise but there is still room for improvement. Even a new road now under construction from Ahoada to Mbiama, Joinkrama and Akinima makes it necessary for me to praise the hon. Minister of Works. Of course, when I praise him, I do not mean he alone but the whole Government since they all need to agree in the Executive Council before any action could be taken: though he leads them as far as his Ministry is concerned. However, I do not want the road so far begun to end there, rather it should join Ahoada and Brass. The people of Mbiama in Akinima area want some changes and I hope the Government will take note of this. The people need oil mill in their area to change the old method of processing oil. They are still using the method of the native way of processing oil as in those days when Adam and Eve were still babies.

Another point is that we do not want any Minister to say that he would resign; now we want them to sit tight. None should think of his own interest but of the interest of the whole Region. We the whole Chiefs of this Region are behind the Ministers.

Another point is the question of our President—the President of this honourable and colourful House of Chiefs. It is a pity that up till now he has not got any quarters. It is not

[CHIEF MPI]

good that our President, as he is, should go about knocking from house to house only to be told "no room". A place should be found for him. We must consider his age and it is not good that he should be going from place to place as a beggar. We hope that Government will take note of this. There are so many things we do not want to say we want. We only leave Government to use their discretion.

**Chief J. N. Wachuku** (Umuahia Province): I associate myself with the remarks made by the last speaker about His Excellency's Speech. I do not want to repeat the whole thing because he has covered the points. Government has made an excellent selection in the appointment of our Governor. I have to go straight to the points and I have to thank the Government as a body for choosing Umuahia as one of the places where it is proposed to build an airport. I shall be grateful to Government if action is taken at once to see these airports at the respective places begun.

In the whole of Eastern Nigeria, about 2,734 tons of cocoa have been produced for the last season but out of this quantity, about 1,466 came from Bende Division alone. In fact, if we are given more roads, we promise to double this number in the next three years. Our difficulty lies in road development in the following areas:—

(a) Amawom-Okporoenyi	...	8 miles.
(b) Ndioru-Nkalunta	... ..	15 miles.
(c) Okporoenyi-Isinkpor	... ..	1 mile.
(d) Oloko-Ajatakiri	... ..	2 miles.
(e) Odoenyi-Isiugwu	... ..	11 miles.
(f) Bende-Ntalakwu	... ..	14 miles.

If you construct these roads for us, I promise you more production of cocoa from the area. When you talk about produce, please remember that a large proportion of this comes from Aba Division in Umuahia Province. Up to 31st January this year, total palm produce graded in Eastern Nigeria was 203,720 tons of kernels and 180,371 tons of oil. A grand total of 113,813 tons were graded within Umuahia Province. Aba Division produced 32,801 tons of kernels and 54,206 tons of oil. Bende Division produced 12,775 tons of kernels and 14,031 tons of oil. I promise to double this figure by producing more oil and kernels from my Province but I appeal to you for construction of roads from Mbawsi, Okpuala Ngwa Obikabia 6 miles, Mbawsi, Ekenta, Omoba, Aba 20 miles.

With availability of these roads both in Aba and Bende Divisions, I assure you of my people's ability to produce double of cocoa, oil and kernels already enumerated. The road through Umunkpeyi, Mbawsi, Okpualangwa and Obikabia—six miles long—is most important and should be constructed immediately and I am appealing to the Government to take the necessary action, because it is the road that leads to Ngwa headquarters. All of you have been there and you know the need for this road.

Whenever there is any distinguished visitor to Eastern Nigeria, what people ask is, "Where is Akwette cloth?" I want financial aid from Government to encourage this industry. (*Several hon. Members: We agree with you.*) I am appealing to the Government to take interest in this matter.

*The Ministry of Justice.*—There are some Provinces that divided their Native Courts in bits but in Aba Division we have about three or four Courts merged to form one Native Court. The purpose of introducing these Customary Courts is, I believe, to improve on what we already have. Reducing the "double benches" to "single bench" is to create a very bad record for the Chiefs because they will not be able to cope with the volume of work there. I suggest that the position of Abana-Ahaze, Nkwo-Udar, Awor and Owerinta Customary Courts be reviewed. These Courts require "double benches" because they had been having that before.

Again, I do not know whether what I have heard is true in connection with old Court Clerks. I hope that nothing will happen to these people. The rumour is that some of them will be retrenched. Think of a man with family being asked to go out of job now; it will mean sending the children out of school. Imagine the fate of these children!

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** This is a matter for the hon. Minister of Local Government.

**Chief Wachuku:** I am appealing to the Minister of Local Government then, to see that these people are retained in office because there is a lot of useful work that they can do with their experience.

Then to the Minister of Justice again. My people require Magistrate's Court Sessions at Mbawsi, twenty-four miles from Aba.



Representations have been made to the Chief Registrar concerning this but no reply has been received. I hope the Minister will kindly look into this matter himself. We have quarters to accommodate the Magistrate and his staff. It is only a question of his coming for a few days and going back after the Session. Now that the Minister of Works has provided water at Mbawsi there will be no difficulty for the Magistrates staying there.

The Police at Mbawsi require some attention too. A Bill was passed into law the other day regarding accidents here and there. The Police at Mbawsi need some land rovers to help them cope with the many motor accidents that occur in the area. This will help them carry out their work efficiently.

I am very grateful to the Government for the steps taken with regard to the recommendations of the Perkins Commission of Inquiry irrespective of who is found against. There is another thing I would like the Government to do. Let them take the same line of action regarding the Harcourt Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of the Afikpo County Council, because it is the wish of the public that anybody who soils his hands with corruption should be punished.

**The President:** Three minutes more please.

**Chief Wachuku:** I observe that in the Local Government Staff Regulations provisions are made for the increment of the staff, termination of appointment and dismissal. If a member of the staff commits a criminal offence, he is dismissed; if he is not efficient his appointment is terminated. I have also seen this in the General Orders. But there is no provision in the Staff Regulations for removal or demotion of any member of the staff who misconducts himself. I suggest that this provision be made in the Regulations.

*Provincial Administration.*—Provincial Assemblies have no job to do. I suggest that some of the powers given to Residents in those days should be passed on to them so that they will be able to treat local matters like appointments to local Boards, and disciplinary action on Local Government Staff.

My next point is this: some of the hon. Chiefs here are addressed only in the simple way as opposed to the way they are addressed in the Western and Northern Regions. Chiefs

should be addressed in this way: The hon. Chief so and so, the Obong of Okon. I do not know why our Chiefs should not be addressed as such. This is a very material point.

*Community effort.*—Through community effort we have been able to erect a Post Office in Umuahia Province. We have done this because we feel that community effort is very important and should not be despised. This Post Office serves Abiriba, Ohafia, Omoba and Owerrinta and we have asked that the Federal Government should take over this Post Office but this has not been done. I am therefore appealing to the Government to make it possible for this Post Office to be taken over by the Federal Government immediately and provided with full telecommunication facilities.

**The President:** Time, please.

**Chief Wachuku:** With these few points I support the Motion.

**Mrs Janet Moku (Special Member):** In supporting the Motion on the Speech from the Throne, I thank the Premier and his Government for the wise choice they made in choosing an able and the most fitting man in the person of Sir Francis Ibiem to be the Governor of Eastern Nigeria. I say Sir Francis is a most fitting man because his appointment received the approval of everybody in the Region. As a practical Christian of long experience, as we all know him to be, we have confidence that he will pilot the ship of state satisfactorily, and he has begun to do so.

I also pay tribute to Lady Ibiem through whose love, devotion, help, effort and influence Dr Ibiem was able to achieve all he achieved, and the climax of all his achievements is his appointment as the Governor of Eastern Nigeria.

The women of the Region are happy to have Lady Ibiem as their mother and the first Lady of the Region. They look on her to care and cater for their interests and welfare as a mother cares and caters for the interests and welfare of her children. May they administer over us for long.

Coming to the Speech from the Throne, His Excellency made a wonderful analysis of what is happening in the Region. Mention is made of intensified training programmes during the past year, and the continuation of

[MRS MOKELU]

the process. I congratulate the Government for this, as Independent Nigeria cannot work efficiently without trained and able men. I hope women are included in these training programmes. I would like to place on record the good services of faithful and Nigeria-loving expatriates who have devoted their lives to serve the country in the dual capacity of being, do I say, both staff and tutors. I hope Government will not forget their services in the end.

Coming to the Educational programme of the country, we cannot thank our Pilot and Great Leader, The Right Honourable Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Governor-General of Nigeria, too much for his achievement for bringing to being the University of Nigeria at Nsukka. Last Friday, the Festival of the Arts brought some of these students to Enugu, amongst them were some girls studying at the University, and they did wonderful performance, and when I saw them I envied their position. I wished I were in their position.

Their Excellencies, Dr and Lady Azikiwe, though above politics, will ever be remembered for their services and achievements in the Region. Long may they live to enjoy the fruits of their labour. (*Several hon. Members: Amen!*)

The general schemes of work as outlined in the Speech from the Throne are very encouraging. I would like to mention something about the Ministry of Education. I shall not forget to thank the Minister for lifting the embargo on the building of secondary schools. We are in Independent Nigeria and we cannot do without having education and we cannot do without educating our children. I know the Minister foresaw this and then gave approval that more secondary schools should be built next year. I thank him for that. I would like to connect him to the Ministry of Agriculture. Our Premier is now embarking upon the agricultural and industrial projects in the country. I would like to point out that the Ministry of Education should co-operate with the Ministry of Agriculture in that if we want our children to understand agriculture well we should begin it properly from school. In the school we call it rural science but though we do it in such outlined and simple method, the children are not interested. I would like the Minister of

Education to appoint really trained rural science masters to our schools. At present we have only few teachers on this subject in few schools and we term them Rural Science teachers, but it is unfortunate that these Rural Science teachers give part-time services, in the job, because they have their own classes to teach and look after, and as a result the teachers could not give their full time to the supervision of the work, and the children seeing this situation, do not take Rural Science lessons seriously. Only a few honest and duty-minded ones do the work, while other care-free ones hide away from the teacher, to return to the class when the period for the lesson is over. I therefore, implore the Government to take this matter of the teaching of agriculture in the primary school more serious. Equip the school with necessary tools, and make a teacher to be solely responsible without attaching the string of having a class to teach on other subjects. In a locality, a Rural Science Time-table should be made to suit some number of schools in the area, to enable the teacher to go round the schools and teach the lesson both written and practical, and also to supervise the work. I am not saying that each school should have a Rural Science teacher; we may not have money to pay them.

I would also like to bring to the notice of the Government another aspect of Nigerian culture which is dying away, though some few people who are interested are labouring to revive it, and that is African Arts. This enterprise, should receive the support of the Government. The last Festival of the Arts show was very poor. Many people who would have been interested lag behind because no attractive bargain or arrangement is made to make people clamour for the prize, which by so doing will bring the arts of our Region to stay. I feel that if the Government takes over the Festival of the Arts, establish it, and make it a Region-wide concern, without leaving it entirely to the mercy of a few individuals, at the sacrifice of their time, African Arts will grow and develop along with other developments in the Region. I thank the Ministry of Internal Affairs for what I may here call a help they rendered towards the Festival of the Arts of this year by making a gift of some pounds for use towards the celebration. I hope that in future Arts will be included in the portfolio of the said Ministry, good arrangement made to bring in people from all parts of

the Region to get interested and develop our Arts.

I am particularly interested in the section dealing with the Improved Maternal and Child Health Services in the Region. For if this section is improved, infantile mortality and the premature death of expectant and labouring mothers will be reduced a great deal. And here I thank the Government on behalf of the women.

Our Government has always been in the forefront in taking into consideration the matters affecting the women of the Region. My colleague and myself were appointed Special Members of this House. A lady has been appointed Chairman of the Local Government Service Board; another lady has been made Chairman of a Local Council, and another has been appointed into a Care-taker Council. These are the reasons why I conclude that our Government is fair to the fair sex, and we are grateful.

I observe with great pleasure the Government move to Nigerianise the key posts of the Region. Under this I have to mention the strengthening of the staff in the Legislature by appointing Mr Ekpe to work with the Clerk of the Legislature, Mr Eronini. The House is pleased with the appointment, and wish him good time. I would like to congratulate the staff of the Legislature who, during the sitting or Session of the House, make it possible for us to have copies of the *Hansard* the following day. This needs skill and effort. I would thank the Clerk and appeal to Government to recognise them. They should be encouraged.

About President's uniform; we all are in support of the idea that Government should provide a fitting uniform to the President of the House of Chiefs. I know we have our Minister here. I would like him to help us put forward our request to the Government because we would not like to look different when we meet with others.

The greatest service that the Premier, Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, has done the Region this season is the appointment of His Excellency Sir Francis Ibiyam as the Governor of the Region. I thank him also for the Industrial and Agricultural Projects proposed in the Region.

I shall not forget to mention Dr Okpara's activities in making the people of this Region

have hands in the management of the government by having, one or two times, meetings of the "Leaders of Thought". By this, he got important people interested in the management of the government's affairs. We are all happy about it and I thank all the Ministers for their untiring efforts. I have no time to call them here one by one, but I hope God will grant them long life to carry on the many activities which they have begun in the Region.

With these few remarks, I support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne.

**Chief C. E. Amobi** (Special Member): I rise to associate myself with the Motion of Thanks for his Excellency's Speech from the Throne. First of all, I have to thank the Premier and the members of his Cabinet for the nice appointment of a Christian, intelligent and unassuming Governor in the person of Sir Francis Ibiyam. I have always trusted the Eastern Nigeria Cabinet in making special appointments and the appointment of the Governor has been a very wise choice. Everything that is required in a leader is found in the person of the present holder of the post. I have to remind the Government that in due course there might be a vacant post of the Deputy Governor. I do not know when that will be but I hope that our Government in making such appointment would take the same course as they have taken in the appointment of the Governor. He must be an intelligent and unassuming personality who should from time to time help the Governor to do his work whenever he is away from the Region.

I have to mention the appointment of Provincial Commissioners in the twelve provinces of Eastern Nigeria. That arrangement has been a very wise one but I have to remark that in some cases there have been some conflicting issues which have not properly been settled between the Commissioner's Office, the D.O.'s Office and sometimes with the Council's Office. I learnt the other time, that Government has been able to give more powers to Provincial Commissioners and it is high time that these powers were very well stated so that there should be no conflict in future. I have to thank the Government for injecting Special Members into the Provincial Assemblies, because that will help the Special Members to know the day-to-day needs of the Provinces and the Divisions in which they serve.

[CHIEF AMOBI]

I shall recommend that in the near future Government might think of injecting some Special Members into District Councils and should make it clear that such members should have no pay of any kind. It is necessary that they should be there so as to acquaint themselves with the day-to-day running of the District Councils. Why I mentioned that there should be no pay for these Special Members to be injected into District Councils is that I do not want people to feel that these people recognised by Government want to be in everything and want to make money. That is my point and I want to make it quite clear. It will help the Government if these people are injected into District Councils so as to be able to know the needs of the Divisions.

Mr President, a statement was attributed to the Leader of the Opposition in which it was alleged he said that the Chiefs of Eastern Nigeria would prefer money to their Certificates of Recognition or Appointment. I want to make it clear that the Chiefs of Eastern Nigeria are proud of their recognition and not for the sake of money. I hope Members here share that view. I am afraid, Mr President, I am not supposed to play politics, otherwise I would have returned very fine words to the Leader of the Opposition, but I hope that from now we shall not have such irresponsible statement from anybody from the Lower House.

There is another point I want to make and that is about the N.P.C./N.C.N.C. coalition in the Federation of Nigeria. I feel that this friendship that exists between the two parties must be jealously guarded by the Members of this House. There have been cases to prove sincerity of purpose from the leaders of the N.P.C. to the leaders of the N.C.N.C. and as such, any member or any group of persons trying one way or the other to spoil that relationship must be shown the appropriate place to stay. I hope hon. Members of this House will agree with me in this respect.

Mr President, I have to thank the Government again, but though it is difficult to separate speeches on the Appropriation Bill from those on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor, I shall do my best to see that I separate them, because I have certain things to say on the Appropriation Bill. I have to thank the

Government for the wide expansion of agricultural system that has been introduced and wish that the Minister of Agriculture will make it known to all Provinces where sufficient lands have been acquired for agricultural developments. It should be advertised, said over the radios, our *Outlook* should be used for advertising such projects so that no Province shall in due course say that it has been slighted.

I have to thank the Government for all the industrial projects—the cement industry, iron and steel industry, soft drinks industry and so on. I have to mention the Universal Insurance Company, and shall recommend that Government should see to it that all cars and bicycles or anything that has been supported with Government money must be insured with this Universal Insurance Company.

I have to thank the Government for the recent arrangement that has been made for the Chiefs in the Catering Rest House. I do not want to go into details, but the Minister responsible for that and the new Chairman of the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation should be congratulated because in the past we have always found it difficult to go to the town. In a place where you stay, sometimes, in one room, you have about five people playing their radios at the same time and you may not be able to prepare your speech or relax. We are immensely grateful to Government for the present arrangement.

I hope the President will give me at least another five minutes.

**The President:** You have only three minutes more.

**Chief Amobi:** I have a newspaper publication here which supports my allegation. I must mention to the Government that there has been some religious hatred in the Region. I do not know whether or not Government has known about it, but if not, I would recommend that Intelligence Officers should be set throughout the twelve Provinces of Eastern Nigeria. If this is allowed to go on, one day, there will be trouble, but God forbid. In the *Nigerian Outlook* of April 1961, it is written, two Bishops condemn religious hatred. This justifies my allegation. I hope the machinery of Intelligence Officers of Eastern Nigeria will

be set to work. In the *Outlook* of September, 1952 is the headline "Guide to your Eastern Ministers and Legislators"; I would add "Guide to your Eastern Ministers, Legislators, Members of House of Chiefs and Senators". This supplement is so necessary. If you look into it, you will see the names and photographs of all the Members of the Legislature in the Eastern Region, whether in the Federal House, the Senate, House of Assembly or House of Chiefs. It is necessary for records, in case of impersonation, so that the Police will be able to detect, because there are many kinds of impersonations in the country now. This supplement should be revised from time to time, say three times a year, so that it might be available in every department in order to avoid impersonation.

I have to associate myself with the statements of my hon. Friend who has congratulated the workers in this Legislature. They are doing very good work; they are very polite and apart from their work they are ready to guide, and teach and help everyone by all means. I have one specific case to make: that is that there has been great difference in the salary of the Serjeant-at-Arms of this hon. House and other Regions. I do not want to go into details because I know the Government is everywhere—it is just a breeze—and they might be able to know better than I do, in finding out whether amendment should be made to bring up the salary of the Serjeant-at-Arms, if Government feels he has the necessary qualifications. As for me, in manpower, in outlook and personality, he is quite fit.

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

**Chief G. Agbasiere** (Orlu Division): I rise to support the Motion on the Governor's Speech from the Throne, and in doing so, I shall first congratulate all concerned for the appointment of Dr the Rt. hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe as the first Governor-General of Nigeria. I pray God Almighty to give him knowledge and wisdom. I pray that the Rt. hon. Governor-General of Nigeria will hand everything to God Almighty to see that whatever he is going to do, God will be his leader. I again congratulate the Government on the appointment of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Francis Ibiyam, as the Governor of Eastern

Nigeria. I say the same prayer to God Almighty to guide him and protect him. It is a good saying that "by their fruits you can know them". So by his fruit he was appointed, and I hope that other Africans will take the same example.

Another point I would like to mention is in the Governor's Speech, page 2. It is said that all major chieftaincy disputes have now been resolved and Second-class Chiefs throughout Eastern Nigeria have been selected and recognised. This is true.

I am thanking the Government for all they have done to the Chiefs of this Region. They should, however, know that we are not pleased with some actions which tend to show discrimination amongst the Chiefs. I have in mind the question of Staffs of Office. The Government should make it a duty as quickly as possible to see that all Chiefs in this hon. House are provided with Staffs of Office. There is no sense (and it does not look nice) to provide some Chiefs with Staffs and others are not provided with. Government should look into this matter and respect our views.

Again, Mr President, I pray that Government should give us the protection and right which are accorded to all other Chiefs in the other Regions.

Mr President, Nigeria has three Houses of Chiefs—Northern, Western and Eastern Houses of Chiefs. Really, the Eastern House of Chiefs was not long established, but this is no reason why our own House should be different from those of others. In a general sense, we are all called Chiefs of Nigeria but still, the Western and Northern Houses of Chiefs are better equipped than the Eastern House of Chiefs. Why should we be different from others? We are not happy about this sort of thing and I therefore beg the Government to give us better positions as their recognised Chiefs. We want the same rights and privileges as our counterparts of other Regions.

**Chief F. N. Ogodoro** (Aba Division): I rise to add a little bit to the contributions which my hon. colleagues have made in thanking the Governor for his Speech from the Throne. Indeed 2nd March, 1961, was a very wonderful and historic day for all of us in the Eastern Region but it was unfortunate that our Deputy

## [CHIEF OGUDORO]

President was not present. May his soul rest in peace! It is now the duty of Government, I am sure, to appoint another father for us who will fill his place in this House.

Another point is that Government should equip our President with uniform. Up to now it is disturbing that nothing has been done to this end.

*Agriculture.*—The Government of the East deserves special praise on the question of its agricultural project. This will certainly ease appreciably the alarming number of unemployed people and will help our sons and daughters to have something doing. To this end I have to ask the Government to see that these Farm Settlements are established in all Provinces, Divisions, Districts and County Council areas throughout the Region.

*Education.*—It is indeed very wrong for people to continue to allege that a lot of money has been unnecessarily wasted on Education. Such allegations portray ignorance and I urge the Minister of Education to give a deaf ear to such remarks. There are two things vital to happy living of human beings and these two things contribute to the progress of the Region. These two things are education and health. As our population grows higher the cost of education grows as well as the cost of living. We thank the Government and all the staff of the Ministry of Education for their efforts to see that education is provided throughout the Region. The Government should be congratulated for cutting off Class I and it is our hope that in the very near future Class II will be cut off too to raise our standard of education. The last Standard VI results show the progress we have already made. It was very encouraging and we congratulate the Minister of Education and his staff.

*Information.*—Another point is the question of newspapers and their staff. Our men in the Press and the N.B.C. should be encouraged. I call on the Government to nationalise all newspapers in the Region. This will minimise the number of libellous and false articles which we hear and read of so much.

I feel that these newspaper men and the N.B.C. should be encouraged because they have been championing the course of the Region.

*Justice.*—In his Speech from the Throne, the Governor told us that this Government is a Government by consultation. But during the appointment of Customary Court Judges which has now been completed all over the Region there was no consultation whatsoever. The result of this was that there were many wrong appointments. Another error is the question of appointing somebody who has no knowledge or experience of court procedure to be the President of a Customary Court. I think this is quite wrong.

While on this I have to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that in my area with a population of more than 73,821 there are only two Customary Courts. The result of this is that many people trek about fifteen to twenty miles to attend courts. So my people have therefore asked me to urge the Government to create more courts in Eastern Ngwa.

*Local Government.*—The Minister of Local Government has done a very good work in transferring some of the workers in the Local Government Service. In his speech in the Lower House he admitted that he has left out about seven or nine people untransferred. For the sake of efficiency and uniformity, he should see to it that these remaining seven or nine are transferred forthwith.

The Minister also announced that more powers were to be given to Local Government Councils. This is the right thing to do but I have to warn that such powers should be given to Councils which have proved efficient in all respects. If the transfer of power is effected arbitrarily it will weaken the more, Councils which hitherto had proved inefficient.

*Works.*—I have to thank the Minister of Works for tarring Aba-Umuahia road, although it looks too narrow. I am sorry to say that if the same measure is taken on Umuahia-Ubakala-Owerrinta road, we should be very grateful indeed. In any case, I am grateful to the Minister who has fulfilled his promise and may the Lord help him to continue to see that many more roads are tarred.

*Health.*—The programme drawn by the hon. Minister of Health is commendable. There is a passage in the Bible that says "Come over to Macedonia and help us". In that light, I feel that it would be better to build cottage hospitals in different County Council areas. It will help

in emergency cases to avoid a poor one who has not the means of transport to go to a General Hospital from suffering. Since this is the case, and this Government is a stable Government, I pray that cottage hospitals be attached to any of the County Council areas.

*Finance.*—The Minister of Finance is a man who has been doing his best to handle the finances of this Region. According to the Audit Report here for 1959-60, paragraph 30, "It came to light that a Tax Collector in the Brass Division deposited the sum of £698 15s 1d in the Treasury of a District Council for safe custody but he was not given a cheque in exchange for this deposit as required by instructions. Before he could collect the money at a later date to pay the amount into a Government Sub-Treasury, the Council made use of this cash to meet its own commitments". Well, I pray that the Minister of Finance should give strict warning against any other Council making wrong use of Government money. In addition, Government should see that some traders who have been evading tax payment are rounded up to pay their taxes.

Furthermore, it is proper that Chiefs be allowed to travel outside the Region in order to see what is happening in other places. We are not jealous of the Ministers or Members of the Lower House, but what we mean is that we should have exchange of views by travelling either to Western Nigeria or to Northern Nigeria, or even to the United Kingdom.

*Commerce.*—I pray that the Minister of Commerce should try to make use of our sons and daughters who returned from Overseas and see that they are provided with jobs that fall in line with what they learnt overseas. I feel that we have the men with brain and we should make use of them.

I beg to support.

**Chief J. U. U. Ebong** (Abak Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Gracious Speech from the Throne. In doing so I feel I should refer to certain points of interest in the Speech. Firstly, mention was made of Provincial Assemblies being the channel of relationship between the Government in Enugu and the people of Eastern Nigeria. In that case I am reminded

to refer to the Provincial Assembly building which is under construction at Abak at present and I feel I should on behalf of myself and the entire people of Abak Division convey our thanks to the Minister of Works for the magnificent building under construction. At the same time I wish to ask that to match such a beautiful building in the Division the tarring of the road from Abak Government Station to join the road from Aba-Opobo through Ekparakwa should be completed.

Secondly, I wish to refer to the mention made in the Speech about palm produce. I find that only the big farmers are given loans to carry on with their farming projects but at the same time I wish to ask the Government to encourage the smaller farmers by giving them loans in order to carry out the palm planting project because I understand that only those who plant palm seedlings covering areas of five acres are qualified to have loans. I wish to ask the Government to revise this policy in order that smaller farmers may be accommodated.

Thirdly, I find in the Speech that the number of secondary schools has been increased. While I am thanking the Minister of Education for that I feel that he should at the same time arrange to allow Standard III classes in all the primary schools.

The Government made a promise sometime ago that they would in future convert the present Government School at Ikot Ibritam to a secondary school, but up to the present nothing has been done. In view of the fact that the Minister of Education is trying to wipe out illiteracy in Eastern Nigeria I wish that that promise which is still outstanding could now be fulfilled.

I wish to refer to a certain point about tax collection in my Division which is Abak. I observe that people are appointed tax agents indiscriminately. I wish to suggest that before a man is appointed tax agent his financial position should be examined because that will help us to avoid loss of revenue and that will also help us to avoid the crime of embezzlement. Finally, I wish to express on behalf of myself and the people of Abak Division our happy congratulations for the bridge construction already completed at Ikot Okoro. At the same time, I wish to point out that that bridge

[CHIEF EBONG]

will not serve the desired purpose if the next small bridge at Obiokpa farm is not constructed because without that bridge the Ikot Okoro bridge will not be put into any useful purpose.

**Chief Zumoh Efeke V** (Yenagoa Province): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne. I want to be very brief and in supporting some of the sentiments expressed by Chief Mpi I wish to add only very few words of remarks. The Speech is a record of achievements, progress and programme of development and amenities squarely distributed to every Division. This shows that the Government is a very democratic one and run by the people for the people. Again, this shows that the words of some of the people outside that the Government does not love the people from the minority area does not arise; we are well treated.

I come to the Deputy Governor of the Region. This appointment is obsolete and therefore after the expiration of office of the present holder there should be no more Deputy Governor. We have Secretaries and Ministers who are helping the Governor to do the work.

I come now to give warning through this Government to the Shell-BP Petroleum Company of Nigeria for the danger to lives and property in the Rivers area. This Company is using very powerful tugs throughout the Rivers without taking care of other people who are using very small canoes loaded with goods. I have a lot of reports in my diary and unfortunately the lot fell on me when a very big canoe of mine loaded with gravels was capsized recently by Shell tug boat, despite signal and alarm given by my men, and everything she carried was lost. So many canoes and lives and property are now in danger and whenever reports are made the people are not prepared to pay reasonable compensation. If these people are still going on with these damages my people will not be prepared to co-operate with them for the exploration of oil in my Province.

Again, the Port Harcourt Municipal Council has done something very bad by forcing Mr Ambrose Allagoa, the Ex-Mayor of the Council, to resign without reasonable accusation but

simply because he did not indulge in bribery and corruption with them in the Council's affairs.

I congratulate the Government for its stand in support of the Ex-Mayor but he was forced to resign because he alone came from the Special Area and it is a challenge to the people of the Special Area. If Mr Allagoa had not resigned the Government might have taken action to dissolve the Council or appointed an independent inquiry into the complaint which might have automatically revealed some of their misdeeds.

*Provincial Assembly.*—This is a very good move by the Government because it brings the Government policies to the people in the rural area. Another thing we want the Government to establish is Loan Board such as the Scholarship Board for the Province of Yenagoa. Our communication is very difficult so that the people in my area will benefit if they have their own Loan Board. When loans were given out before no farmer from my area got the benefit.

*Water Supply.*—We are very thankful for what Government has done. This shows that the Government is that of the people. I want to remind the Minister of Works of the work at Amassoma which is almost completed but regret it will be eroded into the river after fifteen to twenty years time because it is built on a site near the river against our wish. Again we have some big towns like Odi, Nembe, Kulama, Ukubie, Yenagoa in the Province where drinking water is very difficult. I am now praying the Minister of Works that he should consider Yenagoa Province in providing water. Again the P.W.D. Zone Engineer at Port Harcourt promised to bring a very big engine and if the Minister of Works will be kind enough to have electricity generated in that engine, electricity will be supplied throughout the whole town. Therefore I am now praying the Minister responsible to communicate the E.C.N. for this matter and the people are prepared to contribute their quota of the cost.

**Chief A. U. Ukpa** (Eket Division): It is with much pleasure that I rise to support the Motion on the Governor's Speech from the Throne. The task of Government is not an



easy one. It is to inspire the people; to remove obstacles from their paths of progress, to provide equal opportunities for every citizen and to make the best use of the citizens' talents. But the people must help themselves too. A people that depend on Government to do everything must expect to find the citizens living in boiled and concentrated camps and consequently its human dignity violated.

The Financial Year which ended on 31st March, 1961, was eventful, great and of historic importance to Eastern Nigeria as well as the Federation in the following respects and others not mentioned here:—

Firstly, the attainment of National Independence on 1st October, 1960, which marked the end of colonial rule in Nigeria, this being the result of self sacrifice of our National Hero, now His Excellency Dr the Rt. hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria and his able lieutenants. He is one of the great African Leaders of the 20th century.

Secondly, the official opening of the University of Nigeria at Nsukka on the 7th of October, 1960, by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra of Kent with Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara as Premier.

Thirdly, within the same year under review, the first Nigerian Governor-General of the Federation was inaugurated in November. Also in this Chamber an Easterner in the person of Sir Francis Ibiem was installed the first Nigerian Governor of Eastern Nigeria and the credit goes to the Premier, Dr M. I. Okpara and his Executive Council, for the choice which has received public admiration and joy.

Fourthly, since His Excellency the Governor mentioned in His Speech and provision having been made, I pray the hon. Premier to encourage the smooth running of the Uyo Provincial Assembly by erecting the Provincial Hall and Offices; other Provinces that have not yet had theirs not excepted.

Fifthly, we remember also that 1960 brought the Eastern House of Chiefs into being with

Chief the hon. Nyong Essien the "Nsom" of Uruan as the first President. He has reaped the fruits of his labour. "Who planteth a vineyard and eateth not the fruit therein?"

*Chieftaincy.*—In order to complete the chieftaincy regime in this Region, we pray the able and active Minister of State charged with responsibility for Establishments and Chieftaincies to recognise Third and Fourth-class Chiefs. Very sincere and honest work has been going on in his Ministry.

*The Public Service.*—We hope and believe that the Nigerians holding key posts in Eastern Nigeria should be deemed mean to discriminate against fellow Nigerians in this great move of ours.

*University of Nigeria.*—It is very grave and an unprecedented attitude that of all the female students admitted into the University, despite the fact that many with requisite qualifications applied from Old Calabar Province, none of them had been considered. In this connection, I beg to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Education to call the attention of the Principal and the Registrar of the University. This observation which comes before this hon. House had received thorough investigation.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—I have to join others to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture for the new plantations all over the Region and still crave for more. In Eket Division, there are swamp lands similar to those of Burma for rice plantation. The erection of Catering Rest House at Uyo is a dire necessity of Uyo Province. We do know that agriculture is the backbone of this country. We thank the Eastern Nigeria Government for coming out with brave projects and development schemes in this matter.

*Ministry of Commerce.*—Under this Ministry, I have this to say: there are no Trade Officers in the Provinces; the one at Enugu is piloting foreign investment and at the same time seeks to establish business relationship with the Eastern Nigeria Government. But the rule is, no trade no nation; as no nation can exist without trade. I consider it of immense

[CHIEF UKPA]

benefit to this Region if the hon. Minister of Commerce will follow the steps of the Minister of Education, who has so well planned his Ministry by establishing Provincial Education Offices in all the Provinces in the Region. But the Minister of Commerce has by-passed Annang, Uyo, and Calabar Provinces in all his projects.

*Ministry of Economic Planning.*—Although this Ministry is new, we expect that the Minister would as soon as practicable extend his services to all parts of Eastern Nigeria.

*Ministry of Education.*—As already stated, the Minister and his Ministry are up and doing. It is necessary that some of the Grade III County Council T.T.C.s which do merit upgrading should be raised to Grade II in order to prepare for Senior Primary Section of our U.P.E. Scheme.

*Ministry of Finance.*—The progress made in this Ministry has been the result of the steady and conscientious work of the Minister and his staff. We wish he would continue in this Ministry for more years to come.

*Ministry of Health.*—It is usually said—"A sound mind in a sound body." Those areas without Government, Mission, Council, Cottage Hospitals or Rural Health Centres should be considered. Much improvement has been undertaken by this Ministry. Special attention should be given to Mission Hospitals which are making satisfactory progress. A Maternity Home built at Mkpok in Eket Division since 1950 has not yet received the approval of the Ministry for opening.

**The Minister of Health (Mr E. P. Okoya):** Have you applied?

**Chief Ukpa:** The Council concerned had applied and I appealed for attention.

*Ministry of Justice.*—The able Minister of Justice and Attorney-General has been running his Ministry with pomp and dignity but I wonder why no Customary Courts have been started in any Division in Uyo Province. We pray the hon. Minister to make it possible for us in Uyo Province to share with others the benefit of his services. Also for reconsideration is the question of all the courts in Eket

Division to stand as these courts had been separate identities from the origin.

In conclusion, we cannot recompense the ex-Premier, the present Premier and the Ministers of the Government, for their struggles, believing that they led, are leading, and will lead us along the right lines; I say to them "Thank you" and wish them God's guidance and blessings in discharging the onerous tasks lying ahead of them.

**Chief Michael Eze (Awka Division):** I rise to support the Motion, and at the same time to bring before the House and the Cabinet, my gratitude and congratulations to our Government for the able and excellent works done since they assumed office. They are the people who paved the way for us. They are the good shepherds who are leading us because if there is no good shepherd, the sheep will scatter. I thank the hon. Premier as the Head of the Government and also thank God for giving the Government the wisdom to run the affairs of this Region without trouble.

In doing so, however, I would like to add that there is a four-mile road leading from Abagana—fifteen miles—to Ukpo, Agba and Okuzu. This road requires tarring because it leads to Aguleri and is a sort of by-pass road which saves some distance. I am appealing to the Government to look into the matter because it is a very important road to the people of my Division.

The second point which I would like to raise is about water supply in Awka Division. There have been many applications for water supply to this Division but they have not received the attention of the Ministry of Works. The people of Awka Division are dying for lack of water. Most of the Chiefs here remember what happened during the past few months in Igbo Ukwu when many people from there went to Agukwu, a distance of about twenty miles, to fetch water which they sold to the people. I am bringing this to the notice of the Minister of Works for his kind and early attention because my people are suffering very much.

The next point is the matter of Second-class Chiefs. This Government created Second-class Chiefs and some of them were

only injected into their local Councils. I think it will be wise for the Government to give them a special function in regard to civil matters. Let the Government amend the laws of the Region to saddle the Second-class Chiefs with the responsibility of hearing some civil cases like disputes between husband and wife and petty land cases. This is important.

**Chief H. I. Akwitti** (Owerri Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature from the Throne. In doing so, I have a little suggestion to make about tax collection. Tax evasion is still a problem facing the Government. Another problem is the request from the Second-class Chiefs concerning some kind of allowances for their office. I suggest that Second-class Chiefs be made to help in the collection of taxes as Clan Heads. If this is done, tax evasion will be greatly reduced, while the Chiefs may be allowed commission. The Second-class Chiefs should be given powers to supervise the Tax Agents and the Agents should be directed to present their difficulties to the Chiefs. By this method I believe that the collection of taxes will become easier. The commission which the Chiefs will receive will be a kind of consolation until the Government considers their request for the proper allowances to be paid to them. This method of tax collection which I am suggesting is similar to what obtains in a sister Region, the Northern Region of Nigeria, and I believe that it will work well in our Region also.

The next point I have to make is just a word of thanks to the Government of Eastern Nigeria for their great scheme about the improvement of roads in the Region. In particular I thank the Government for their intention to improve the tarred road from Port Harcourt to Igrita, Okpuala, Mbaise, Nguru, Ahiara, Umuezeala in Owerri. My thanks would be greatly redoubled when this scheme is completed.

Mr President, I would like to mention here that Mbaise Clan in Owerri Division is greatly in need of water supply. I very much hope that the Government will give this its well deserved attention.

In conclusion, I must mention my appreciation of the programme and activities of the present Government. I have confidence in the Premier and his Ministers. I wish all of them continued stay in office in order to carry out all the good plans they are now making for our young Region.

*Sitting suspended at 12 noon.*

*Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.*

**Chief Eket Inyang-Udo** (Uyo Province): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne. I am glad at my present age of 59 to see the British leave this country. I am also glad to see an African Attorney-General in this House. I was glad to see during the Independence Celebrations one of our former Governors sitting there! Independence civilises a country a great deal. Colonial power! Colonial power! Colonisation by death or by conquest; but they did not conquer Nigeria.

His Excellency our present Governor of Eastern Nigeria: I am glad to see a black man reign, because people like myself who lived in the white man's country for about thirteen years suffered from white men. I am also very proud in this House to see my schoolmate when he sat here as the first Nigerian Governor of this Region and delivered the Speech from the Throne. Independence makes us happy with the appointment of that great African, the Right Honourable Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, as the first African Governor-General of this great nation. I am very proud of him. He has done much for my country and this nation.

About Chief Awolowo, if you read his book, you will see what he said about Easterners.

Mr President, I have got only ten minutes but I hope to do a little preaching. In the Lower House hon. Eyo requested Government to tar the roads Eket-Oron and Uyo-Eket, but during the last Federal election, Awolowo and Eyo promised the electorates that they would tar these roads and now they have come to ask this Government to tar the roads. I am glad they now feel where the shoe pinches.

I will now speak on the Ministries. The Ministry of Finance: I have nothing to say

[CHIEF EKET INYANG-UDO]

about this Ministry because my Chief collected the tax and that is how a Chief should govern his province.

I have no quarrel with the Attorney-General because he has done the thing I have seen done in America and Great Britain and that is to make laws and get a former Judge with experience to compare the laws of Eastern Nigeria with those of other parts of the world. Credit goes to you my son.

*The Ministry of Agriculture.*—The Minister of Agriculture is doing very well. His agricultural system and plantation projects are excellent and I say: my son, get on with your good work.

I have to call the attention of the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General to the fact that in Onitsha and Calabar we have a large number of moslems. I appeal to the hon. Attorney-General to include them in Customary Courts.

*Ministry of Commerce.*—They make more fuss than they do their work. It is what I call a "bye-pass Ministry". There should be trade commissioners in every Province of Eastern Nigeria. The hon. Minister should change his policy. The old Owerri Province, the old Calabar Province and the old Rivers Province had been noted for their palm produce. I was in the Marketing Board for many years. I was there since 1954 and I toured the interior and so I know the figures. When you want commerce you do not discriminate. If one does not vote for you, you should not discriminate against him; you trade with him and take his money. The Minister should kindly change his policy and stop this one way traffic.

Mr President, we had been told before that a black man could not rule himself. Now we see that black men can do as much as the white men. We accept any ruler whether Fulani, Hausa, Ibo or Yoruba provided he is the right type. We took over the entire management of this Region when the budget was only £3 million and now we have been able to work it up to £27 million. I do not want to hear that because you are this or that, therefore you cannot rule. The N.C.N.C., A.G. or N.P.C. should *sit tight* and rule this country. Some say that chiefs should not play politics. My father took active part in

politics as well as the grand father of the hon. President. The treaty of 1884 was all politics.

The Minister of Works and the Minister of Education have done their work well. I have nothing against them. But I would like the Minister of Works to tar Ikot Okoro road and build the bridge as it connects Opobo with Port Harcourt through which the produce of the area is conveyed to Port Harcourt.

Mr President, may I crave your indulgence to turn to the University of Nigeria. When I was in the Marketing Board, the hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe toured America for this project. There were many people who said that the black man could not run a University. That University is now running. I raised the motion for the loan of £2 million for the University and my throat was nearly cut for doing so. What I said about that University is now happening. The University is for our sons and daughters. I cannot be admitted. If I go there the authorities would say that I have not passed this or that. The Minister of Education should pass on this information that there should be no discrimination in the University. The second thing is about the food. Our children should be made to eat *fufu*. In America students take milk, cake and toast and go to school.

I would crave the indulgence of the President to ask the Attorney-General to provide law schools where our young lawyers should practise.

I have to thank the hon. Ministers of Town Planning and Economic Planning for their fine work.

**Chief N. N. Anyika** (Onitsha Province): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne, and in doing so, I have to congratulate the Premier and his Cabinet for the nice job they have done. In fact, every hon. Member in this House congratulates the present Governor. We know him well, and we pray God to help all the Ministers to be voted again when this House is dissolved, to resume their respective portfolios in the new Government.

I have to make a few remarks about some Ministries. Regarding the Ministry of Works, in Awka Division there are about 31 towns with

so many tax-payers. But people go as far as Eziagu, some to Awka Etiti in order to fetch water with pots. Some pots cost 2s. All the people are contributing efforts for a bore-hole water supply, and if the Minister of Works will help by sending a Water Engineer to any town that wants water supply, to survey where the bore-hole should be dug, I shall be very grateful.

There is a school in my area, which some years ago, when the Minister of Education was a member of the defunct Niger County Council, was approved by Government to become secondary school. When the school was approved, it was asked to provide more land. But now nobody knows what has become of that proposal. In 1952 I made a speech here about Ajalli Government School to be converted into a secondary school. Nothing has been done. I beg the Minister to travel and see these schools.

Another point is about telephone. In Aguata there is no telephone to be used in reporting any happenings to the D.O. at Awka. I know that Government has many children and before it can satisfy all its children it will take time. But I am requesting that these points be deeply considered.

**Chief S. O. Ezenwa** (Onitsha Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne. It was the first by an African Governor and it was the first to be made after Nigeria attained Independence. I would like to congratulate the Eastern Nigeria Government for the many aspects covered by the Speech and for the appointment of Sir Francis Ibiem as the first Nigerian Governor of this Region. The appointment has been well made and no one else would have been better. The Premier and the Ministers of this Region deserve our praise.

I have studied closely the Government's Road Programme. I am happy that so many important roads and bridges in Onitsha Province are included, and I wish to appeal to Government to include one important road bursting out at Nkpor, Umuoji, Nnobi, Nnokwa, Oraukwu and Adazi. This main road is seasonal and very important. No-body travels in that area, or uses a motor-car

or lorry during the rainy season. Because of this, people of that area, during the rainy season, do not bring out their crops to the market. Even students trek so many miles to get to their colleges.

I thank the Government for widening the Enugu-Onitsha road; and though it is a Federal matter, I should be grateful if Onitsha-Port Harcourt road is included in this scheme. It is overdue for widening to avoid motor accidents.

I appreciate the recent gesture of the Government to raise guarantee facilities for the Regional Co-operative Bank. This favours the Marketing Society but to the disadvantage of the Credit Society in the Region. In some areas there is no land to cultivate cocoa and rubber trees, and if there is provision made for this credit society to benefit from this loan, I think that those areas will be able to carry out their business successfully in order to pay their taxes and rates efficiently.

On behalf of all the people of Onitsha Division, I thank the Government for opening the Pepsi-Kola factory at Onitsha.

While on this, I have to call the attention of the Government to an ugly practice of big foreign firms. (*Interruptions*).

**Chief Agbasiere:** Point of Order, Mr President. Standing Order 32 (4) and (5):—

"During a sitting all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones.

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

**Chief Ezenwa:** Mr President, as I was saying, the ugly practice is that these big foreign firms will sell goods of thousands of pounds to traders. After this, they still take the remaining ones to retail from house to house at the wholesale prices. As a result of this the retail trader cannot finish selling a case or packet of goods for months and even when he is able to he does so at a big loss. So I am now calling on Government to check this ugly practice because it is bound, if it continues unchecked, to ruin our retail traders. Government should note that in a town where this

[CHIEF EZENWA]

sort of things happens, traders avoid living there and in a town where there are no traders, there is no progress.

Another point is that about four months ago I heard that a bakery industry is to be established in the Region. I do not know when this type of business has become so big and so profit-yielding that big business combines would like to compete in it. I have only to warn that Government should not allow big firms to compete in this small industry because it will wipe out the small businessmen who have bakery as their job. I think this is the sort of small industry which we should leave to the small businessmen to try their hands in, without competition from the big firms. Government should note that some of the small bakery industries are carrying on with loans from Government and if they allow the big firms to close down the work of these men it will not only put them out of business but Government's own money will get lost. So Government should look into this too.

**Chief J. U. Okudare** (Ogoja Province): I would like to thank His Excellency for his Speech from the Throne. Judging from the many developments already accomplished and envisaged as contained in the Speech, the Government deserves congratulations. The Government of Eastern Nigeria has done very well by appointing Sir Francis as the Governor of this Region. We all respect and thank the Premier and his colleagues in the Cabinet for this wise appointment which goes a long way to show the appreciation of the Government for the sincerity of the people of former Ogoja Province.

I have to draw the attention of the Minister of Justice to the fact that the establishment of Customary Courts in Ogoja Division has been very much delayed.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** You are not agreed among yourselves as to the members.

**Chief Okudare:** Many people who are capable and intelligent have been recommended to the Minister and he must act on that. The hon. J. A. Agba, Chief J. D. Agba, Chief O. L. Odu and myself, as the people's

representatives, called a meeting and selected people who are in all respects capable of holding this office and forwarded their names to the Minister but up to now he has done nothing. We do not want this matter to be delayed any longer. We do not know who else will give him the list on which he can rely. We shall be pleased if he acts on this matter now.

We thank the Minister of Works for the good work he has done in Ogoja Province. Before, roads there were very bad but now they are being improved and new ones are being built. The road from Yahe to Ikom is very bad and nothing is being done to improve it. The Minister of works should draw the Federal Government's attention to this.

There is no telephone in Obudu Post Office. We want telephone to be installed there and the Minister should please communicate the Federal Minister of Communications on this.

The question of electing a chairman for a Council every year appears wrong. My suggestion is that when a chairman is elected for the first time he should continue in office for the three years the Council's life is expected to last. When a chairman is elected every year as is done now, there is the tendency, in many cases due to jealousy and hatred and selfish ends, to bring in somebody who is not capable of running the Council. The Government should look into the question of making a Chairman hold office for three years.

The Minister of Finance has not given cause for any adverse comment. He is a very efficient Minister who pays attention to his job more than any other Minister. Since he assumed office there has never been any shortage. In fact, I am appealing to my fellow hon. Chiefs that when the two Houses are dissolved we shall lead a delegation to the constituencies of our Ministers to appeal to the people to return them unopposed. We do not want to lose them. They co-operate and work amicably and have given us a stable Government.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**Chief R. Oraelosi** (Onitsha Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His

Excellency for his Gracious Speech from the Throne. Before saying any thing else let me thank the Cabinet Ministers and all concerned for their constructive performances embodied in His Excellency's Speech from the Throne. This hon. House will join me to thank our Premier for his recommendation to Her Majesty of the appointment of our first Nigerian as Governor of Eastern Nigeria, Sir Francis Ibiam. This appointment, in my opinion, is endorsed by everybody in the Region.

The opening of Provincial Assemblies within a short time will tell the critics from the so-called C.O.R. area that our Government is going according to plan in the interest of the masses. What we do not know yet is what the members of the Provincial Assemblies will be called. Whether they will answer hon. Members or what.

As all major disputes in the appointment of Second-class Chiefs have been resolved, according to His Excellency's Speech, I hope it will not be long when the Government will start the selection of Third-class Chiefs, in order to complete the grading of Chiefs in the Eastern Region.

You will remember last time when I made mention that Government should Nigerianise all key posts in the Region. I think Government have fulfilled their plan in this respect. Now all the important posts in the Government have been Nigerianised. The Cabinet deserves praise in this respect.

I appreciate our Government policy in the Ministry of Agriculture. I hope sufficient loans will be given to competent farmers in order to raise the standard of living in the Region. I have forwarded my application to the Government informing them that I will offer land for scientific agriculture where important crops will be grown.

The Ministry of Education is noted for its progressive policy; it listens to public criticisms. I remember last year there were about 180 applications for secondary schools which were not approved, but now Government has considered it appropriate to open about sixty new secondary schools during the year. So

I am grateful to the Ministry. While on this subject I wish to appeal to the Government for more Technical Schools and the granting of Technical Scholarships to worthy sons and daughters of the Region. Our girls must be considered along with men in the employment of Science Teachers. I am sure that it is time for our teachers to concentrate in their teaching job instead of doing part-time politics.

Last year, I mentioned the need for an aerodrome at Onitsha. Onitsha is a big centre of trade and deserves encouragement by the provision of means of communication like aerodrome. Although aerodrome does not come within the competence of this Regional Government, it is hoped that this Government will do its best to see that aerodrome is built at Onitsha as soon as possible.

I refer the Minister of Health to certain irregularities in the Mission Hospitals. In the Mission Hospitals exorbitant charges are being made and I do not know how the poor people can meet up such high charges without suffering. The Minister of Health should look into this matter.

Our Chiefs are now injected into the County Councils and there they are to look into the workings of the Councils. I hope the Chiefs will see that what happened in the Enugu Municipal Council does not happen elsewhere.

**Chief G. O. Ihenacho, M.B.E.** (Owerri Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne. In doing so, I would like to align myself with the remarks made by previous speakers with reference to our Cabinet and our Premier about the appointment of Sir Francis Ibiam as the first Nigerian Governor of Eastern Nigeria. I think our hon. Ministers will agree that a little good turn done is better than showering a lot of praises by everybody. For that reason I do not intend to repeat what other people have said.

I would like to say this, that the people of Owerri Division, in fact Owerri Province as well, have repeatedly asked the Minister of Justice to establish a High Court for the Owerri Province and from what has happened since yesterday at Onitsha, it seems that the chances of establishing this Court in the near future are far remote.

[CHIEF IHENACHO]

I am given to understand that yesterday all the cases pending in the Onitsha High Court have been transferred to Umuahia. It leaves us to think whether the promises or the answers we have hitherto received were not merely diplomatically evasive. In fact, just this very month we heard an hon. Minister telling us that it was true the necessity to have a High Court at Owerri had been seen but that when it would materialise he did not know. I think it is the intention of the people of Owerri Division in particular and Owerri Province in general that something should be done as soon as possible to relieve us of this situation. I am referring to the Ministry of Justice.

A lot of plans have been made out for agricultural purposes. It is very nice to lay down policies in black and white but it is another thing to put them actually into practice. What I am saying is that in the opinion of those of us who live in the rural areas, it will be over feeding a child when there are others who are very hungry. By that I mean that the people who live in congested areas have no lands left for them to cultivate. I am suggesting that it is in those areas where the lands are less abundant and very poor that experiments to improve such lands should be concentrated.

It is during this debate that we have the opportunity of voicing out the feelings of our people whom we represent and I have instruction from my people of Ogwa in Mbaitoli County area to express thanks to this Government. The pipe borne water system has been started but it has not been completed and I am asked to thank the Government for what they have done so far and to ask the Minister of Works to please hurry these people up particularly this time they are in dry season.

In the area where I come from a lot of palm produce do pass from there to Oguta. This palm produce also come from part of Okigwi Division and Ikeduru area through Mbaitoli to Oguta. At the moment the road from Okigwi to Owerri has been tarred and the road from Awka-Owerri-Orlu has been tarred. There is a link which has been missed out and that is from the main Owerri-Okigwi road to the main Owerri-Orlu road. It is hoped that this road will also be tarred to connect other important roads of the area.

I would also like to thank this Government for having approved the Health Centre in my County area of Mbaitoli. This project has been started. It is, of course, sponsored by the Ministry of Local Government and I am asking that the Ministry be requested to hurry up the work to completion.

A lot of things have been said by a lot of people and it never used to be my intention to use up other people's time and therefore I like to say something about the position of other Chiefs who are recognised as Second-class Chiefs. I am asking this House to entreat the Government of this Region to consider their position and see what is possible to be done to make their recognition known and respected by people of the villages.

I would also like to say that in the whole of the Governor's Speech every stone has been turned. But nothing has been said about codifying our native laws and customs now that our Customary Court cases go as far up as the High Court. I think something should be done so that when it goes to the hands of non-natives they may have something to guide them to interpret the custom. Most of the people who should give the information are more or less going away—they are dying.

**Chief J. Johnson Ogbulafor** (Bende Division): I rise to support the Motion and in doing so, I would like to congratulate the Premier and his Cabinet for the wise selection they have made of Sir Ibiam as the Governor of this Region. In fact, such selection has placed this Region in the world's record today and it reminds me of what we read in the Bible that the three wise men actually came from the East. I am very proud to be an Easterner. Going further, I have this chance to congratulate or thank the Prime Minister of the Federation of Nigeria, Sir Abubakar, the Premier of the North, Sir Ahmadu Bello, and Chief S. L. Akintola and those distinguished visitors for their attendance which graced the installation of Sir Ibiam.

Turning to the Speech from the Throne, I will have this chance to congratulate Sir Francis Ibiam for his achievement and also the way and manner he made his Speech. It



true that no human being going through the speech will not know that it contains a great message. I will take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Works for all he has been doing but we should like it the more if he could erect a Catering Rest House at Umuahia and the Umuahia—Abiriba—Ohaflia—Arochuku road.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—This is an important Ministry and the hon. Minister is new there but I would like him to pay attention seriously to this Ministry as we Easterners are proud of our produce and if anything happens to it we must know that something serious has happened. The hon. Minister is doing his best and I wish him luck to do more.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind this hon. House that during the last budget meeting I mentioned something about the 40,000 labourers staying at the Fernando Po. With the three-man delegation going there, I think the problem will be solved. May I extend my request to the Federal Government. It is understood they are sending a delegation to Fernando Po, to include our Minister of Education, to find out the position of education as far as our children over there are concerned. I say this because where we have about 40,000 labourers, obviously there must be some children. I will be happy if this hon. House will make it a point of duty and solve this problem.

*Ministry of Justice.*—If one goes through the whole Governor's Speech, there is one thing in the nature of advice which will impress any conscientious person. It was meant for us to carry this advice to our people in the rural areas and this is that we should try our best to avoid or abolish bribery and corruption and if we can maintain this honest advice we will build a great nation. Because of this, I would like the Ministry of Justice to consider the salary of customary Court Judges. In as much as we do not want to be involved in this game of bribery and corruption something must be done for this class of people.

but we still require him to extend further help to us by building a Central Stadium for Umuahia. It is clear that Government is doing its best but we ask for this in addition.

It is not all very necessary that Government should be well-mentioned every time especially when they are doing their best but what is required is prayer that God may help and spare them to reap the fruits of their labour. Everyone knows that the year 1960 was a historic year not only for Nigeria but for West Africa. It was the year the man who had always shown the light was appointed Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria. It is a thing we all should be proud of.

**Chief F. N. Ezerioha** (Orlu Division): I rise to support the Motion on the Speech from the Throne. In doing that, I would like to say this: we all here know that we are no politicians and have not come here as such but as recognised Chiefs of our respective areas. It would appear we do not realise the aim of our presence here. We have come here to ratify the laws of our Region as is required of us. This we should go straight to do and not criticising unnecessarily. Once we have this idea in our minds we shall have done half our job.

The appointment of Sir Francis Ibiem is well received in all quarters and from his Speech, we have every belief that he will do his best at all times. He has acquired a wealth of experience sufficient to guide him through.

May I say that with our experience not only as Chiefs but also as elders we will always endeavour to allow the spirit of goodwill and friendliness to prevail in this hon. House and throughout the whole Region.

We must remember that our Ministers are not foreigners, so they know what is right and wrong for our people. During the days of imperialism, Nigeria had no indigenous Attorney-General, but now what is the position? Look at our hon. the Attorney-General. Formerly the highest appointments our

positions. Who were responsible for this change? Dr Azikiwe and his lieutenants, of course. And now we have the privilege of becoming Members of the local House of Lords, and indeed we should pride ourselves in that, and give praise to those who are responsible for building up the present Nigeria.

As a father does to his son, so should we, the Members of the Upper House, do to the people who run our Government and anything we discover not going on well, it is our duty to point that out and I am sure the Government will accept that in good faith. We are responsible to the Government and the Government is responsible to us and it is therefore our place to advise the Government when necessary. If there is any trouble at home, that is our Divisions, we should come here and tell the Government: "Look, this is what we are hearing; what are we going to do to arrest the situation?" I believe that this type of approach will encourage the Government to look into the matter and solve our problems. The hon. Gentlemen on the Government are not children; in fact they are also fathers, and a father knows what is good for his children!

I am sure the Government knows what amenities are good for every Division but I would like to remind them that Orlu Division needs good water supply and they should do their best to help us.

I would not conclude without saying a word about His Excellency the Governor, Sir Francis Ibiyam. He is a man of the world and somebody whose good life has won him the respect of the people. I wish him God's guidance in his office. I am very glad that he is heading the Regional Government which can only be described as government of the people. Government of the small man, government of the big man, government of peace and tranquility.

Nigeria is one nation and should not be split. The idea of people being called "Kobokobo" or "Nyamiri" in some parts of the country should now be forgotten. After all, was it not Zik who led Nigeria to this freedom we are all enjoying?

Many Chiefs have been paying glorious tributes to our Governor for his Most Gracious Speech. The Ministers have as well been praised. But we should not all the time expect praises to pour down from all corners. Too much praise tends to make a man unable to do more work. When any criticism is levelled against the Government I hope they will take it in good faith.

First of all, I must congratulate the Government on the appointment of Sir Francis Ibiyam as Governor of the Region. I must also congratulate the Governor himself who is religiously, socially and medically inclined. In fact there are much more to be said about him. His appointment is befitting.

Without wasting the time of the House, I feel it is our place to give our Government some advice when necessary, in order that they may continue their good work. We are all proud that we have Enugu as our Headquarters. We receive our visitors here, but unfortunately something is wrong with the town and that thing has never been pointed out. Enugu is fast becoming a centre of mosquitoes. We bring our visitors to Enugu and some of them leave before the scheduled time because of mosquitoes. Some of the visitors who were here in the galleries a few days ago have disappeared because of the mosquito nuisance in this town. I do not know if the Minister of Health is aware of this. I think he should do something about it because it is even affecting our educational institutions. Go to the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, to Queen's School or to the Women's Training College—it is appalling what mosquitoes do in those institutions.

If you come to the town you will find that mosquitoes do not allow people to sleep. Something should be done. I am suggesting to the Minister of Health to launch an anti-mosquito campaign. We have many Standard VI school leavers who go about without jobs. These boys can help in forming such a campaign team. With the little money the Government will pay them they will be very happy. Those of us from the rural areas do not suffer from the bites of mosquitoes in our villages, but when we come to Enugu, t

ital of Eastern Nigeria, we suffer from the  
es of mosquitoes. This is time for some  
ion in this respect.

ast year, I spoke about lepers who go about  
he town to receive presents. I am appealing  
he Government to launch what is called anti-  
ectious disease campaign. Apart from  
ers, there are other people suffering from  
er diseases lying about, sitting here and  
re. Step should be taken to see that when  
h persons are found they are taken to the  
ropriate centres. In Uzuakoli we have  
er Police who arrest lepers lying about and  
atriate them to appropriate places.

Again, we should launch what we call anti-  
ident campaign. With the co-operation of  
Police, the Medical Unit and some of the  
cond-class Chiefs parading the roads in  
s and trying to check drivers driving reck-  
sly, accidents can be reduced to the lowest  
imum.

**Chief Joseph Onwudiwe** (Onitsha Divi-  
n): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks  
His Excellency's most Gracious Speech  
m the Throne.

The speech was highly intelligent and  
icative. It covers all aspects and facts of all  
it was necessary and worth knowing in the  
ning of good Government. His Excellency  
ened his speech by saying: "The past year  
s eventful in the history of Eastern Nigeria".  
is needless to enumerate all that made it  
entful and historical.

In like manner I would say that the Joint  
eeting of the 2nd of March, was as well  
entful in the history of the Eastern House  
Chiefs and the House of Assembly in that  
was the first Budget Session after the attain-  
ent of Independence that the Speech from the  
rone was delivered by an Easterner. The  
pointment of Sir Francis Ibiem was well  
plauded not only in the East but throughout  
e Federation of Nigeria. I have to register  
appreciation to the hon. Premier and his

Going through His Excellency's Speech I  
have few remarks to make about Agricultural  
Department. I have to register my happy  
appreciation to the Eastern Government for  
planning to raise the standard of living in  
Eastern Nigeria. It is proposed in the near  
future to develop a Region-wide scheme here.  
I hope all classes of farmers will be benefited.  
I am especially happy to learn that the local  
people will also be helped in using their  
materials which will be improved. I trust the  
Minister responsible for fostering the scheme  
will not concentrate his activities only on major  
farm products like cocoa, palm produce and the  
like. Equal attention should also be given  
to staple food like yam, cassava, cocoa yam and  
other cash crops.

*Loan.*—It is highly interesting to know that  
Government has estimated a large sum of  
money for loan to farmers. That will indeed  
encourage many farmers to take farming as a  
business and not as a hobby. I must, however,  
warn that the would-be borrowers should be  
warned that it is a loan and not grant and must  
be repaid at the stipulated time. It is very  
interesting to know that our Government  
has many projects of industries; many are  
already in progress. I shall take this opportu-  
nity to appeal once again to the Government  
of Eastern Nigeria to remember my area, the  
Anambra District which was newly created.  
As many of our Ministers know, Anambra is  
composed of fourteen towns. It has good  
soil but it has not been developed. I appeal  
to Government to come to our help. We are  
just like a child in hand. We want care and  
help. I must, however, take this opportunity  
also to mention to the Minister of Agriculture  
that there are many towns, particularly  
Igbariam in Anambra area, which have vast  
areas of land, rich and fertile. They are  
prepared to offer to the departments any acre  
that may be required for industrial or experi-  
mental farming.

Talking about Education, I have to associate  
myself with what many others have said. I  
appreciate the activity of our present Minister  
of Education. I disassociate myself in one  
particular point and that is the abolition of

nothing like foundation. It is in Infant Class I that proper foundation is laid. It is true that we want to quicken education but I do not think that it is so good that we should be very fast. Slow and steady wins the race. I should have preferred that Standard VI is scrapped off instead of Infant Class I. We are losing in foundation by abolishing Infant Class I. Education, as many of us know, requires strong and solid foundation and that can only be done in Infant Class I. Thousands of parents of school children in this Region are totally illiterates and they cannot at any time prepare their children against the school age, which is supposed to be home training. I think we should not at present try to compare ourselves with the civilisation in the Western World. We should try to change our school curricula so as to lay strong foundation at the beginning. I remember when the Voluntary Agencies were in charge of schools, pupils in Infant Class II, Standard I and Standard II wrote letters. Many are living in my town who read only Standard II but who write good letters. But is it not a funny thing that nowadays Standard VI pupils cannot write good English? We should, now that we have attained Independence, go back and lay good foundation for our school children.

One more point, and that is Language.

Ask a boy in Standard VI to write in Ibo and he can hardly do that; ask a Calabar boy in Standard VI to write Efik and he can hardly do so just because they have not the time to concentrate on their own languages. I shall appeal to the Minister of Education to see that native languages are made compulsory subjects in examinations.

**Chief Egbe Araghe Egbara** (Obubra Division): I am grateful that I have been given time to say something. In the first place there is something which actually beats my imagination and that is that Members have forgotten that we are present here to make for the unity of Nigeria. To stand on the floor of this House and to say that we are wise men from the East and that without us there would be no Nigeria, I think, rebounds on us. So I would like hon. Members to desist from trying to make other people in

is a budget meeting and I actually feel that what we are doing now is a review of the past activities of all the Ministries and their programmes for the future.

There is nothing more I am going to say. So many people have been harping on the appointment of Sir Francis Ibiem; to continue how good he has been or how Dr Azikiwe became the first Governor-General would be a waste of time. We have known all the things and they are all fine.

I would like to begin my own review of the Provincial Assemblies. I think it is proper not to make the Provincial Assemblies impotent. More powers should be given to them.

The creation of Organisation and Method Unit headed by a consultant provided by the Ford Foundation is really something that has been enhancing the efficiency of the civil service of Eastern Nigeria and it is hoped that within a very short time we shall be having greater efficiency in our civil service. I am happy to note that all key posts in our civil service are now being held by Nigerians, but this must not be at all costs. We should not sacrifice efficiency at the altar of mere desire to have our own men. Also Government should make legislation so that workers should be made to contribute to their different trade unions because trade unionism is another way of helping the employer. It makes people to produce more and on the other hand it helps the employee to get more amenities from the employer. The Government cannot arrange for this and even though it is the duty of the Regional Government to do it, the Federal Government should be called upon to make legislation to make it possible for employees to contribute to their various trade unions.

The Governor's Speech from the Throne laid emphasis on agriculture which he called the basis of this Region's economy. Farm settlements in Obubra Division cannot be too far from being a necessity especially as it is the duty of the Government to bring Obubra closer contact with the rest of the Region. We know, and everybody understands, that Obu-

on the other side of the Cross River and that makes it most difficult for people to come over the river continually because they have to cross the river in a ferry at Itigidi. These farm settlements will in due course induce the Government to consider the possibility of putting a bridge across that river. Now that it is the Government's aim to link Calabar with Ikom, a road from Enugu via Obubra will no doubt be the shortest way to get to Calabar.

I have got to thank the Minister of Health for the plan to review the condition of the Obubra hospital but an ambulance service is badly needed. I raised this point last year because if a doctor is out on tour and there is a sick patient the nearest hospital is at Abakaliki, but how can a patient be taken to Abakaliki when there is no ambulance service to convey him?

The establishment of Customary Courts in the Ogoja Division is a welcome measure. Where Customary Courts are established and the various customs are not taken into consideration before making appointments, it makes somebody feel that he cannot get any justice in the Courts. For example, we have certain clans with quite a diverse culture or custom, but they have not got representatives in the Customary Courts in their areas. The people murmur because they do not know how to interpret their own customs when they go to Courts. So that if the Minister of Justice can see that something is done about this, it will be very much appreciated.

Another very important matter about this Ministry is that councillors agreed that Adon and Okum should be unified because when commendations were made it was intended that these two clans should be in one Court, but unfortunately, when the Courts were established, they were two separate Courts. And later on, the Minister having discovered the right thing to do, suspended the Courts. My only plea is that the Minister should ask the members of any other district court to be trying cases because a lot of revenue is thrown out. Arrangements to appoint recognised chiefs as Presidents of their different Councils

We were told that preliminary survey has been done on the Calabar-Ikom road. I think it is time now that real work should be started. One will agree with me that Abakaliki-Obubra road via Ovekpe forms a very short link with Enugu. Now that the tarring of the Obubra-Ediba road is going on and that of Ediba-Abaomege-Itigidi almost completed, I feel Government's attention should be directed to the tarring of the Ogoja Junction-Obubra road via Ovekpe. This is really very important.

On Education, the county secondary school was about to be established and Government had actually given indication that they were going to give us grant, but nothing has been heard about it again. I am sorry to say that Obubra Division is the most unlucky Division on this issue because nearly all the Divisions in this Region have got county secondary schools or secondary schools built by the Government. Since plans are on, I see no reason why Government cannot help Obubra, because educationally, we feel that we are still under-developed. The Obubra station requires water supply. We are badly in need of water.

*And it being 2.15 p.m. the President interrupted the business, and the debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed Tomorrow.*

(2) The 1961-62 Eastern Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1961—Second Reading—(First Allotted Day)—(Adjourned Debate on Question (18th April)—That the Bill be now read a Second time. *Deferred until Tomorrow.*

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** Mr President, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 10 o'clock a.m. tomorrow, 21st April, 1961.

**The Minister of State (Establishments and Chieftaincies) (Mr O. U. Affiah):** I beg to second.

**The President:** This morning this hon

sittings on both Friday and Saturday, namely:

- (1) Friday, 21st April, 1961—The House sits from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. (This will enable hon. Members invited to the parade to attend and return in time for the meeting of the House). 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.; and, if the business is not concluded then from 8.00 p.m. until the completion of the business of the House.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Eastern House of Chiefs Debates*

[Papers]

21 APRIL 1961

[Governor's Speech—Debate on the Address] 126

EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

*Friday, 21st April, 1961*

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

PRAYERS

(Mr President *in the Chair*)

PAPERS

**The President:** During the current meeting, a number of Papers has been distributed to members and will be deemed to have been read on the Table, and will be entered upon Votes and Proceedings of today. They are:

1. Annual Report of the Leprosy Research Unit, Uzuakoli, 1959.
2. Annual Report of the Produce Inspection Division, Ministry of Agriculture, 1959-60.
3. Annual Report of the Agricultural Division, Ministry of Agriculture, 1959-60.
4. Parliamentary Debates, Eastern House of Assembly, 2nd Session, 1959-60, 9th-12th March, 1959.
5. Perkins Report of the Inquiry into the Administration of the Affairs of the Enugu Municipal Council, 1960 (Two Volumes).
6. Staff Development, Eastern Nigeria Public Service, Official Document No. 7 of 1961.
7. Parliamentary Debates, Eastern House of Assembly, 3rd Session (1959-60), Fourth Meeting, 7th and 8th January, 1960.
8. Report of the Conference of Leading Personalities of Eastern Nigeria Origin, 30th and 31st December, 1960.
9. Parliamentary Debates, Eastern House of Assembly, 4th Session, (1960-61), Second Meeting, 6th and 8th October, 1960.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Governor's Speech (Debate on the Address)**

(FOURTH ALLOTTED DAY)

for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature from the Throne.

*Question again proposed.*

**Chief Festus Brown Nduka** (Okigwi Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne. In doing so I rejoice over this excellent maiden speech of our first Nigerian Governor which really marks much desire for the end of imperialism in this Region. The Speech really awakened our spirit of nationalism which for some time appeared a bit drowsy. It has also evoked a higher zeal in us for a quick development of our dear Region. We are all grateful for His Excellency's Speech.

While on this I have to congratulate our Governor, Sir Francis Ibiam, on this very noble achievement. I also thank our Premier, Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, for recommending this great personality to this office.

The Speech from the Throne embodies the past and intending activities of Government and I take this opportunity to make some observations.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—Page 4 of the Speech from the Throne informs us of the establishment of an Agricultural Information Unit. We are all very happy to note this. It also informs us that the International Co-operation Administration has sent three experts to this Region to work on agricultural scheme in the field of poultry, livestock and extension research. It further informs us of the return to this Region of six senior officers after their training in extension and research work under the I.C.A. We have to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture to please see that these senior officers are placed at the disposal of those areas in the Region that really need their services. Okigwi Division will be very grateful to have some of these officers placed at their disposal. We are greatly in need of people like them to advise us. I would also like to see the Soil Survey Team in the farm area of Okigwi Division.

vigorously pursued. I would like an even distribution in the establishment of industries so that each division should have an industry in its area. This will help to solve our great problem of unemployment as it is to be remembered that labour is not completely mobile. The poultry industry in Okigwi Division does not appear to be progressive. I wish a bigger industry should replace it. I think the many acres of land now offered by Uturu people in Okigwi Division to the Government will provide a very suitable site for a bigger industry. The establishment of such industries will in fact increase the amount of tax Government collects.

*Provincial Assembly.*—Government deserves congratulation on the establishment of Provincial Assemblies all over the Region. The people's needs can now be brought to the Government quicker by the Provincial Commissioners. I, however, noticed that Owerri Province is too large in its present size. I therefore join others who have suggested to Government to split this particular Province into two. The split will have Owerri and Mbaise with a population of 500,000 as a Province, Okigwi and Orlu with a population of 805,000 as another Province.

*Chieftaincy.*—I am happy that Government has shown to Nigeria and the outside world that Chiefs are both recognised and highly respected in Eastern Nigeria. I am referring to the establishment of this House of Chiefs and to the Government recognition of Chiefs. I am very grateful for Government action on this.

It is stated in the Speech from the Throne that all chieftaincy matters have been settled in the Region. I take this opportunity to point out that disputes are never settled until they are settled well. Government is still to think of Second-class Chiefs who are not privileged to become Members of the House of Chiefs. I pray that Government will do well to assign them the duties that will befit their position. I hope Government will also do well to consider payment of salary or allowance to Second-class Chiefs. It is also to be remembered that there are clan heads.

Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne. I say with care-free happiness because this is the first Speech from the Throne in this Chamber delivered by a Nigerian. The Speech is a masterpiece because it conveyed to us Government's achievements in the past year and also responsibilities for the current financial year.

Before making further observations I have to thank our energetic Premier, Dr M. Okpara for his foresightedness in recommending the appointment of Sir Francis Ibiama Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Governor of Eastern Nigeria, which appointment has been welcomed by all sections of our communities in Nigeria. To this end may I pray that our Lord may guide and guard these two statesmen to pilot safely the ship of Eastern Nigeria to its destination.

My thanks also go to the Ministers whose desire it is that the Government of Eastern Nigeria should be a Government by consultation, whereby our professional, business and intelligent men will have a say in the running of our Government. I was happy when I learnt that two such meetings called by the Premier were successful. This is true democracy in practice.

The Government of Eastern Nigeria has shown great respect for chieftaincy institution. To this end, I am making humble suggestions which I have no shadow of doubt that the Executive Council of Eastern Nigeria will meet. My humble suggestions are these: I pray that three major roads in the Independence Layout should be earmarked and named after the following personalities: The President of the House of Chiefs, Chief Nyong Essien; Deputy President of the House of Chiefs, His Highness James Okosi II, the late Obi of Onitsha, may his soul rest in peace; Chief S. E. Onukogwu, Provincial Commissioner, Owerri Province. I hope hon. Chiefs will join to see that this humble request may have a desired effect.

**Chief S. I. Adoki** (Degema Province): I rise to thank His Excellency the Governor, Sir Francis Ibiama, for his Most Gracious Speech from the Throne on the 2nd of March 1961. In this connection, I also thank t



emier, Dr M. I. Okpara, because he made the best selection for the appointment of His Excellency Sir Francis Ibiam.

Another point which I want to bring before this House concerns the Ministers. I want to thank them for their performances because they did not do well we could not have depended here today in this august Assembly. I shall not call their individual names but when I say Ministers I hope all hon. Chiefs know what I mean.

The final thing I want to bring before this House is that in my area there is no good girls' school. I want the Government to establish a girls' school in that area. If we get more women the country will be well run. I also want the Government to help us establish a hospital in Okrika.

Another thing is that for a long time now we have been crying for water in Okrika. Okrika is an island; and the water available here is not good enough with the result that everybody suffers from diarrhoea. I thank the Minister of Works for the supply of water to that area. I also appeal to the Government for one particular thing. Okrika is only a small place not far from the mainland. If the Government will agree to build a bridge there it will help us to attach ourselves to the mainland. We are the only people in the Rivers State near to the land; so if Government build a bridge for us we shall be very grateful. I am making this request because if a Minister is coming to Okrika he now goes to Port Harcourt first before travelling by launch to Okrika but if the bridge is built the Minister can travel straight to that island. I do not want to talk too much because too much talk does not make a man wiser. And so I support the motion.

**Chief Prince Eugene William Dappa Appelle** (The Amanyanabo of Bonny): Mr President, in supporting the Motion of Thanks for the Governor's Speech from the Throne I have this very few remarks to make. I have to associate myself with the views of many of the speakers in this hon. House in congratulating

is one thing which I feel I should point out and that is that the present Governor is a Governor of our own, a native of this Eastern Region and I think it is something that we all should appreciate and I think without any exaggeration the House appreciates this. I render my thanks to the Government for making this appointment.

The Speech from the Throne is such that it portrays the activities of the Government in the past year and has revealed to this hon. House the intention of the Government over activities for the current year. We are very grateful for the amenities distributed almost in all the parts of the Region but I would like to say that there are certain amenities which unfortunately have not been properly extended to certain parts of the Region. Last year in this hon. House I mentioned certain things relating to amenities and promises were made by the Government in relation to Government schools being converted into secondary schools. Unfortunately, till the present moment, I do not think the Government has been able to convert any of these schools into secondary school. It is quite appalling to observe that in the whole Rivers area there is no single secondary school owned by the Government and, of course, I know, according to the Government, that it is their intention to do that but the question is how soon will that be done? Nobody knows. However, I still have the confidence that as far as the Government of Eastern Nigeria is concerned it will do its best to see that these schools are converted into secondary schools.

Apart from that, I have at the moment some difficulties which are confronting my people. I have also made my people to realise that their redeemer from these difficulties will not come from anywhere else other than from the Government of the East. This difficulty is, as you all know, that my people's main economy is in fishery. Unfortunately, there is a type of trap which is being planted in the rivers and which actually obstructs navigation and from that it has been observed that many lives have been lost and the fishermen are finding it difficult to fish in the rivers. There was a time we took this matter up but unfortunately

transferred from the Federal Government to the Regional Government and in turn transfer those powers to Bonny County Council which will be in a position then to control the two banks of the Bonny River down into the mid-water. It will, thus, be possible for the Council to legislate and make bye-laws to cover these banks and possibly it may be in a position to check the people who put this type of dangerous things into the river.

This is a very important point because I know that last year about eighteen lives were lost and a year before last some canoes capsized and only very few were rescued. All these lives going away are from one area and it means a lot and I think Government is there to rescue people when in difficulty. Considering all these, I hope Government will continue to help us out of these difficulties. I know that we are more or less like prodigal sons and if I can be allowed to say, our people have now realised that it will do them no good doing things otherwise.

Another important point is the question of Rest House in Bonny. We have an old Rest House there and from time to time people occupy it or some officials come to stay there while on tour; but the main unfortunate thing is that this Rest House is not a modern one. I am asking Government to do something about this Rest House.

Another point I would like to register is my appreciation to the hon. Premier of this Region for his wisdom in getting round all indigenous members of the Region to contribute to the upliftment of the Region. But unfortunately the fishermen were not included. The people of my area major in fishing and their inclusion would have at least added something. I regarded it as an oversight and I know that when next Government intends to embark on such major plan the situation would be rectified.

There is one very important point I would like to add and that is about the Reporters of this hon. House. Ten years ago when I came here to watch the proceedings of the House I observed that the Reporters were sitting in the middle of the House which made it easy for the Reporters to hear every hon. Member clearly, and obviated the difficulty of not hearing and

I say this because when last I was making a speech I was told that I was not loud enough and after my speech the Reporters concerned came to me and asked me to repeat all that I said as they did not hear me from the corner where their seats are. What I am now suggesting to meet the situation is to transfer the seats of the Reporters to the middle of the House in order that they may be in a better position to hear and understand hon. Members speaking. This is very necessary as the Reporters form the media through which the standard of debate in this hon. House is conveyed to the public. If they have not the opportunity to execute this job well, it will reflect on our speeches, and the blame is not theirs.

**Chief F. O. J. Allagoa, M.B.E.** (The Amanyanabo of Nembe): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne. The Speech was an excellent one. Very many people are as proud as I am about the appointment of the new Governor of Eastern Nigeria—Sir Francis Ibiem. I am proud because I knew him when he was a young man and I contributed to the idea of his going abroad for further education as his brother was my friend then. The wisdom in the appointment of Sir Francis Ibiem is well appreciated and I pray to God Almighty to guide him all through.

Yesterday, somebody raised an objection to the idea of praising people from the East. I consider that wisdom comes from the East. If you walk from one place to another and see how our Ministers do their work you will be satisfied, because each vies with the other in order to present a good work for record purposes. They are doing the work well and may God bless them and give them more wisdom to enable them execute their duties with more efficiency. I would even say that these Ministers should be returned unopposed

May I add, as my next point, that Nembe is a place that needs police protection. By this I do not mean a police detachment but a police post to be built there.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Minister in charge of Chieftaincy for the excellent work he has done. He made u

understand that immediately Government through with the appointment of First and Second-class Chiefs, he would embark on the appointment of Third and Fourth-class Chiefs. His appointment is now overdue in Nembe and if Government could create this class, recognise them and give them some duties, there would be less trouble in that area. If Chiefs are placed in their proper places, say Second, Third or Fourth-class, no doubt, they will be happy.

I think one way of helping them is to give them certificates and some sort of insignia so that they will be distinguished from ordinary men and will be known as Chiefs. I am sure they are very anxious about this.

I do not know what the Government will do for these Chiefs. Formerly, all Chiefs were members of Native Courts. Although I agree with the Government that not all Chiefs should be judges yet I feel that those of them who, despite the fact that they are illiterates, possess some sound commonsense, should be encouraged by making them judges. That will make them realise that the Government is not forgetting them.

And now to the Ministry of Works. Until a road is given to Nembe I will keep on talking about this because, having travelled vast in the region and elsewhere, I know the importance of good roads to the community. When I came to Enugu through Umuahia the other way, I was very pleased. So was I when I travelled Enugu through Ahoada. But it is a pity that I cannot travel from Nembe to Enugu by road without first travelling by a hired boat to Port Harcourt. I am again appealing to the Government to come to the rescue of my people and construct a road from Nembe. Let the Government please note this very important request.

Yesterday, I think, my Friend, Chief Okeke, was talking about Shell people who with their vessels and transport knock people down from time to time. I think I must say something to ameliorate the position. I have travelled in Shell transport, especially in their motor boats and I have discovered that they always slowed down whenever they sighted

Shell-BP and after due consideration, the claimants were paid. In fact people are always saying that all the vessels belong to the Shell Company but this is not true. The riverine transport owners have theirs and so are other people, all operating in the waters. I think the Shell-BP are doing very good work in this Region and they should be encouraged. I do not say that what an hon. Chief has said is not true, but I think the fault belongs chiefly to our people.

**The President:** Three minutes more.

**Chief Allagoa:** Then to water supply. I have seen the Minister of Works about this and I am sure he will come to our rescue because we are suffering very much in our area. Although whatever difficulties come my way in the question of water supply I take it as a punishment for myself, yet I am appealing to the Government to do something to save the situation.

My next request is for telephone services to connect Brass, Nembe and other places and I ask that the Government should look into the matter and quicken their pace in the installation of telephones in the area.

Some two or three years ago, it was mentioned that Catering Rest Houses will be built at Brass. Brass is a very good holiday resort near the sea, and if these Rest Houses are built you will find that a lot of people will always take trips to Brass during week-ends and holidays to enjoy themselves. This is very important indeed.

My hon. Friend and brother, the Amanyanabo of Bonny, was talking here about fishermen. The same complaint that he made also applies to Nembe. When you go to the sea to fish you will discover that the whole place has been covered by people from outside and there is no chance for you. The ordinary citizens who have no chance to fish are then left with no alternative but to migrate to Tiko and some other places to earn their livelihood, with the result that the population of Nembe is always too small. These usurpers catch a lot of fish from the waters and even dig the ground to bury them while the poor natives are left to

nets and fishing instruments. This is a very appalling state of affairs in our area.

Our Serjeant-at-Arms here is a man whose duty is very pleasing to all; his stature and gait and the way and manner he carries out his work are all qualities that belong to him. I think he should be placed on the same conditions of service as his counterparts in the Western, Northern and Federal Governments.

**Mrs Margaret Ekpo** (Special Member): Mr President, in rising to support the Speech from the Throne I would very much like to join others in giving thanks to the Governor, Sir Francis Ibiam, for his master Speech. When Sir Francis was appointed Governor of Eastern Nigeria all of us showered praises on him and on the people who made it possible for him to be appointed. During his recent tour of the Region, all will agree with me that he is living up to his inaugural speech, as he has already started to campaign against bribery and corruption, the cankerworm disease which is eating into our flesh today in the country. He is already living up to expectations and I hereby reaffirm my confidence in him and his amiable wife who is already projecting the stature of Nigerian women all over the world.

I would like to comment briefly on some of the various Ministries, starting with the Ministry of Health. I noticed from the Speech from the Throne that the U.A.C. have generously donated the sum of £25,000 for a Child Health Centre in Aba. This is very much welcome, because the state in which I saw the orphans in the Aba hospital was very much pathetic. I inquired from the Nursing Sister in charge what was wrong with these children who looked very sickly and thin. She replied that they were not sick but hungry. She revealed that the vote for their milk had long exhausted and that the only people who came to their rescue were the Association for Motherless Children who got a present of £25 from the Nigerian Brewery, Aba, and thereby bought over a hundred tins of Cow and Gate milk for these unfortunate children. My visit on this occasion was under the auspices of the Association for Motherless Children. Nobody knows what these children will grow up to be in

Association for Motherless Children in the course to help them continue the good work they are doing. Furthermore, the Government should give the building of this Child Health Centre at Aba the urgency that it requires.

Now to the Ministry of Agriculture. The hon. the Premier, Dr M. I. Okpara, has always been laying emphasis on agriculture and I congratulate him and his Government on this noble course. I hope that the projects will soon come into effect in order that some of the thousands of school-leavers who have just obtained their Standard V Certificates can be absorbed, and by so doing I am sure, the present unemployment problem sweeping into the Region, will be minimised.

I have to thank the Minister of Education for the Bill we passed here a few days ago. It is alright for the Government to say that they are giving free primary education but I am telling them that there is no free primary education when they go to see in the private schools what children contribute. I took my girl to a certain school, I do not want to mention the name of the school. She is on Standard I and I was asked to pay £2 2s and I paid. Secondly, this Bill which has been passed will help us a great deal as people instead of going to the farm or to the market or to do something else, try to open their own private schools so that they may exploit the parents of the children because we are crying for education. So I thank the Minister of Education for that Bill.

I would like to suggest that the Minister of Education should think deeply because of late we heard of this secondary school going on strike and that secondary school going on strike. What is wrong with these strikes? What are the causes? I would suggest that inquiry be set up to investigate the cause of these things. The students themselves are taking laws into their hands. Whatever might have been the cause they should not be so aggressive to strike. In some schools they break furnitures, windows and even threaten the lives of the staff of the schools. If the Minister of Education will be very good to look into this it will help us. It will help us much.

that when these students might have finished their education they will be good citizens and wild citizens.

I hope the Minister of Information will continue to do his good job. Of late the *Nigerian Outlook*, the Government mouth-piece, is having a very prompt distribution. It wakes up very early in the morning to do it.

**Haji Chief Umoru Yushau** (Special Member): I rise to support the motion to thank His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne addressed to the Houses of the Legislature. In doing so I congratulate the Premier of Eastern Nigeria and his Cabinet.

I would like to make some remarks. The first concerns the Minister of Health. According to our religion and customs when a man dies he is buried at once. I suggest to the Minister to allow the Moslems in the Eastern Region to bury a person immediately he dies. In Enugu here when a man dies it will take four to five hours before burial. It is alleged that they get permit before burial. I would like the Minister to allow the Moslem to bury a person after they have obtained the permit.

I would like to suggest to the Minister of Justice to appoint Hausa men as interpreters in the Magistrate Courts or Customary Courts, etc., you see Hausas who do not understand English or Ibo languages.

I would like to suggest again to the Minister of Justice to appoint Hausas to the Customary Courts. In Onitsha the Moslems there are denied seats in the Customary Court.

I would like to suggest to our Government to provide Moslem Law Courts in Eastern Nigeria to which Moslems should be appointed judges to try cases for the Moslems.

I would like to suggest to our good Government to recognise the Hausa Chief in the Eastern Nigeria because we have been in the

I would like to remind the Minister of Transport of the cattle dealers in Onitsha and Asaba. These cattle dealers have been carrying their cattle from Asaba to Onitsha by canoes and on several occasions these canoes capsized and their cattle lost. We would like Government to provide a boat which will be carrying these cattle from Asaba to Onitsha.

I wish to say something to our Chiefs here because many Chiefs have thanked the Ministers for what they have done in Eastern Nigeria. If these thanks are genuine it is good for our Chiefs here to show it during the forthcoming elections. During the Western election we saw something. The Chiefs there supported the Government. They used to join the Government in campaigning from house to house. All our Chiefs here should do so when the election time comes.

**Chief S. A. Essien** (Annang Province): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne. I consider the Speech very impressive and laudable. It is worthy to note that since the nationalists took over the Government of Eastern Nigeria several bridges and roads have been built everywhere in the Region. I have to thank the Government from the bottom of my heart for building Ikot Okoro bridge in Abak Division.

I also observe with great appreciation the agricultural policy which now tends to depart from the experimental stage to actual farming system. I therefore appeal to the Minister of Agriculture that farm settlements should find their places either in Ikot Ekpene or Abak in Annang Province.

The decision to telescope the primary school course from eight to seven years is acceptable to the people of this Region. I would like to point out that in implementing the policy of the Government several classes which existed last year in some primary schools were ordered to be cut down, especially in Annang Province. For example, in Abat Town in Abak from where I come, the Local School Manager sent a letter informing the local school community that the

the policy to telescope the primary school course that particular school should have six classes in the junior primary, but instead the Manager said that it should be five classes. The local Manager went further to order the school community to deposit money for the payment of teachers' salaries. All the six classes in the junior primary should be allowed to continue or the existing children from one of the six classes in the junior primary should be sent away to find schools in other places. Similar letters have been sent to several local school communities in that area asking the school community to dis-assemble and their children who are affected, in some cases, are refused admission even though they have sufficient number of pupils to make up a class. I shall therefore call upon the Minister of Education to look into this matter so that those children who had been in the school last year and received instructions should not be debarred since they are willing to continue this year.

Coming back to communication, I strongly appeal to the Minister of Works to see to it that while awarding contracts for mail the contractors should be directed to change their course from Ikot Ekpene to Uyo direct; rather they should pass through Abak to Uyo. In doing so, several institutions and Religious organisations on the Ikot Ekpene-Abak road would be served. Again about the proposed electricity to Oron, I would ask the Minister of Works to consider adopting the same suggestion that I have made for mail.

**Chief J. D. Agba (Obudu Division):** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne. In doing so, I have to make the following observations. Firstly, I wish to speak on the unemployment problem. Our children have been able to finish up at post-primary and primary school levels but they have got no employment. This entails much on the Region at large and on the rural areas in particular. It is just of recent that our people have been made to realise the significance of sending their children to school. They have complied with that light and their children have completed their school careers but can get no employment. We are the

of sending our children to school. Some of them that if they had gone with them to the farm they would have been able to benefit much more. If you look into the newspapers you find that the Standard VI results this year have been a beat more favourable and most of these people, there are hundreds of them from Obudu Division, have been without any employment. There are other ones like the probationary teachers who have no hope of finding themselves places in the teacher training institution.

I would be really grateful if we have to do something to help these children particularly those from the rural areas who have not at all enjoyed anything from the Government and whose problems we should have most in our hearts. We should provide for them something to do. And for that reason, I should say, as I said before in this House during the last Budget Session, that the Ministry of Agriculture should see into the case of granting loans to farmers irrespective of their class, so that it might enable them to set up their farms and in setting up their farms, they can also absorb these young children who have left school. In absorbing them eventually they will cease yawning.

I overheard certain Members asking who will sign surety for farmers. If this is the question I will say that money should be given to farmers according to their own classes. It is no use giving to a young farmer one or two thousand pounds. Fifty pounds is quite enough for them to start off their farms in cocoa. If you give people in the rural areas fifty pounds or a hundred pounds it will help them more than giving them nothing at all. The people pay their taxes into the Headquarters. These taxes could be returned to them in one way or the other. There is no point at all when the people have paid the taxes they are given no amenities; their children are not employed; no facilities are provided for them. Therefore, I am asking that unless loans are given to these poor farmers according to their classes to enable them absorb these unfortunate brothers and sisters of ours who have been turned out from schools so that they can also find something for themselves, you will find that the state of the country will be nothing better than the state of Rome, when the Roman

feated many empires and had very many soldiers unemployed. And what will be the result—roving and the rest of other crimes will be committed in the Region. Now, many of these children go about stealing because they have nothing to do to enable them earn their livelihood. What is the Government thinking about it, at least for the sake of those who are in the countryside?

As a result of this unemployment, I am asking the Government also to check the case of many of those under-aged children being removed to white and other estates. These children are quite under-age and the treatment given them is really very appalling. They should be stopped from being carried to Owo to suffer. In the case of the Ministry of Education, the people in the rural areas have just of recent begun to realise the need for girls' education. And since the Government has resolved not to open more schools again, at least they should consider opening schools for girls. A place like Obudu Division with over 57,000 people has only one convent school for the girls. That is very very poor. They should be considerate at least for more Convent schools to be opened. At least the Voluntary Agencies should be allowed to open a few more Convent schools to make possible the training of the girls.

*Water supply.*—It was intended that there would be a mass work on water supply all over the Division, but in Obudu nothing has been done about it. Sometime ago, a team went up to Obudu and wanted to start sinking wells there; yet it is only one well which has been sunk and it is in operation for the whole Division of 57,000—I say so again.

In the case of Customary Courts, I would be grateful also if the people of Obudu will have their Customary Courts established. I could see that Ogoja where they formerly had eight Customary Courts; that number has now increased to thirteen. But if you check on the revenue accruing from these courts monthly you will find that we are not functioning at all but at a loss.

Regarding Local Government, I would be

(An hon. Member: *Increase your rates*). I overheard sometime ago that the post of interpreter would be abandoned and I highly appreciate and support the idea. I will be grateful if most of these interpreters who have served for so many years, and from the point of view of their long experience, should be absorbed as Administrative Officers.

**The President:** Three minutes more.

**Chief Agba:** I still say that there are many promises made by Ministers during their tours of many areas which have not been fulfilled. I feel it is high time they should be fulfilled to enable them to pave their ways during the elections. I am also associating myself with other Members who have appealed to the Ministry concerned to see to the selection and recognition of Second-class Chiefs.

**Reverend and Chief E. Utit, M.B.E.** (Enyong Division): I am very thankful to the President for giving me this opportunity to speak. I am also happy that this Government has many experienced people at the head. I thank His Excellency for his Most Gracious Speech from the Throne. I also thank the Premier and the Ministers who make up this Government for their good works.

When I spoke on the Speech from the Throne last year I urged the Government to take industries to the rural areas rather than concentrate big things in big towns. In Ibiono, Biase, Itu-Itam and Eastern Ibibio Ikono County Council areas of Enyong Division there are vast virgin lands which can be profitably cultivated and exploited. Government should take advantage of these fertile lands for its agricultural development. Also this type of fertile land exists in Use, Aman and other areas and they are lying unused. We have read of and have been shown Government's agricultural proposals in this Region and I appeal to the Government through the Minister of Agriculture to give an urgent thought to the question of establishing farm settlements in Enyong Division. I can assure the Government that the question of land should present no problem as I can personally guarantee as many acres as the Government may need.

*Itu?*) The Mission hospital at Itu is far too small and far too remote for any effective use by the people of the Division. Enyong Division is much larger in many respects than some other Divisions in this Region that have even more than one Government hospital. Owing to this lack of Government hospital the people fall victims to diseases and evil practices of native doctors. I am therefore appealing to the Minister of Health to give an urgent and serious consideration to this matter—it is vital to us as it touches the life of my people. Our lives are at stake and Government should come to our aid.

I now come to the question of township development. Itu which is our Divisional capital is a disgraceful sight. Many of us here who may not have been to Itu cannot appreciate what I am saying. Its physical features are such that it will be very difficult if not impossible to develop to a modern township. Some years ago it was the proposal of Government, and this was rumoured for a long time, that the capital of the Division will be removed from Itu to either Itu-Itam or Ibiono where development of a modern township is possible. Up to now nothing has been done. Government knows that there can be no progress in a Division that has no developed township. I therefore appeal to the Government to look into this matter also.

Again, I have to draw the attention of the Minister of Works to the fact that there is no water supply in Enyong Division. It is indeed very sad to know that a Division as big as Enyong is denied such vital amenity as modern water supply. I am seriously appealing to this our good Government to look into the question of providing all the many vital amenities which this big Division is lacking.

**Chief Akam Iteshi (Abakaliki Division):** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne. I think it a great pleasure and opportunity to render my sincere thanks to the hon. Premier for recommending Sir Francis Ibiem to the high and coveted office of Governor of Eastern Nigeria. In making this recommendation the Premier has created an indelibly favourable impression in the minds of the people of the

people of old Ogoja Province shall live to respect and love the Premier and his Ministers and give them our whole-hearted support. (*An hon. Chief: You have no other alternative. They brought you here.*) I have to seize this opportunity to remind my hon. Friends in this House that this is the House of Chiefs where we come to hear and respect our Government and give them our solid support and also remind our Ministers that we are behind them in their activities.

I am to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Premier and his Ministers for their achievements and the good work which they have been doing and also for the elaborate plans for the year ahead. All these plans are a great challenge to the other Regions and they will copy from us. For instance, in the Eastern House of Chiefs we have women representatives. I do not think it is so in other Regions. The women in this Region will ever live to give their support to this Government.

Now let me make a few comments on agriculture. His Excellency stated that before the end of the current financial year courses in agriculture would be started in all schools including primary and secondary schools and teacher training colleges. The people in Abakaliki have been doing well in agriculture and I am happy the Minister of Agriculture is here. We have all the time been appealing to Government to help us financially to bring up farming in Abakaliki Division. I hope the hon. Minister of Agriculture is having us in mind. I will not go too far in reminding him what he should do for he knows that the best crops are from Abakaliki Division.

The next point is on Forestry. His Excellency the Governor informed us in his Speech that exploitation of the Region's forest resources continues. The work of regenerating exploited forest and developing new plantation has been maintained. During the coming year it is anticipated that Exploitation Agreements will be drawn. In all these things I think avenues of employment will be found for our teachers terminated this year.

Now to the Minister of Commerce. I am happy that the Minister of Commerce has



started many industries in the Region and has many projects in hand for the establishment of new ones and I am congratulating the Minister for this. May I once more remind the Minister that in my speech during the last Budget meeting I reminded the hon. Premier of the Nigeria Lead and Zinc Mining Company Limited, Nyebe in Abakaliki Division. I think my people have been inviting the Minister, and I have been asking the Minister to help our people to open this mine because when the Government opens the mine it is another way of lessening unemployment.

*Ministry of Works.*—Last Budget meeting, I mentioned something about water supply to the rural areas. There was a delegation from Abakaliki to the Minister of Works and I am glad that there was a satisfactory answer from the Minister. In Abakaliki Division there are some people who travel more than five miles to get water. I am only begging the Minister to kindly supply even well water to such rural areas. Many people in the township when they are enjoying good water supply do not consider the people in the rural areas but the hon. Minister, I know, knows his work: he is an able Minister and he will consider Abakaliki provided the people are ready to co-operate with the Government.

I have to congratulate the Minister of Education for the progressive arrangement made in the field of education about the proposed award of secondary technical scholarships and post-secondary scholarships. In this, Mr President, we the people of Abakaliki who are still under-developed would wish to be considered for more secondary than post-secondary scholarships. In this respect I am appealing to the Minister of Education to see that instead of awarding post-secondary scholarships, more secondary schools should be given to us. I have so many things to ask the Minister of Education but I think my people will put them in writing.

*Ministry of Justice.*—It has taken a long time that many people have started to enjoy their Customary Courts and I am only appealing to the Minister of Justice to get the Abakaliki Customary Court to function. I will be so happy if the Minister acts on this.

**Chief M. O. Kanu** (Okigwi Division): I rise to thank His Excellency the Governor for his Most Gracious Speech from the Throne. I need not make any repetition of what other Members have said on the appointment of our Governor. I align myself with the remarks made by other Members.

Now, I have a little remark to make on some points contained in the Speech. I wish to seize this chance to congratulate the Minister of Health for the able way he has opened so many maternities in this Region, because health and education work together. But there are still other places without maternities or dispensaries and I hope that the Government will do all it can to supply these things to those areas.

It is needless as I deem it, telling the Government to create more Third-class and Fourth-class Chiefs when Second-class Chiefs have not secured their chances.

I congratulate the Minister of Works for the speedy work on Umuahia-Ahaba-Abam road but I will make a little remark about that road. The road is not very solid. He should send an Engineer to inspect that road. I have to say something again about Okigwi. My Division is the largest Division of the five big Divisions in the Region, yet it has no amenities at all. In the township the people have no good water or electricity and now that we have achieved our Independence every Division needs industry in its area. Without electricity I do not think it is possible for the area to get any industry and if you go to Okigwi you find all their sons and daughters scattered about seeking for appointments because there is nothing for them to do in the Division. (*An hon. Member: Let them go back to the land*).

I have to say something about the Ihube-Isoochi-Mbala road which connects Achi. Government is having a plantation in that area and therefore the roads need greater attention. They are in very poor state. It is better to see that the roads are tarred.

I now turn to the Ministry of Health. Okigwi with a population of about 442,000 is having only one doctor in the general hospital.

[CHIEF KANU]

It gives a lot of trouble to the people. Some come to the hospital and remain until four o'clock before they can get their treatment. The hospital needs two doctors.

*Ministry of Local Government.*—Okigwi Division with a population of 442,645 needs to be divided into about five District Council areas of say—Etit, Mbala, Okigwi Central Isiukwuato and Umuchieze and Isuochi. That will help development and amenities to reach every part of that Division.

*Ministry of Justice.*—I have a little remark to make on that Ministry. It is about the Customary Court Judges' salaries. The messengers in that Court are having more salaries than the Judges and it seems that a servant is now greater than his master. The Minister will please look into it and see how he will solve that problem.

Finally, I want to say this to the Government and the Ministry concerned: that all the Provinces should stand by themselves, have all powers within them and independent authorities in such things as licensing and giving permits for arms.

**Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.** (Owerri Province): I know the time is limited to ten minutes and I appeal to you that so long as I did not make any speech yesterday I wish to kill two birds with one stone and therefore to extend my time a little bit. (*Several hon. Members. No!*) Mr President, it is my greatest pleasure to comment on the appointment of our beloved Governor. I saw this morning when the soldiers lined up and an African, a Nigerian appeared to inspect the regiment. This is what nobody ever expected—that a Nigerian will one day receive the Royal Salute. It is a great honour especially to that great man whom God has given to the people of Nigeria, the true son of Nigeria that is now made Governor-General. During the opening of the Parliament in Lagos last time, he appeared in full Field Marshall dress with sword which gave us much admiration. It always pays and is good for a man to reap what he has sown. Now the appointment of our present Governor received great applause throughout the Eastern Region. When the ex-Governor left here you yourself, Mr

President, saw the local papers and how the East was being watched with every eagerness as to whether our competent Premier and his colleagues would make a mistake. As God would have it, they did not make that mistake. They selected a man who is in the heart of the people, a religious man and an honest man. I know Sir Francis before he left for Scotland to do medicine when his late brother was interpreter at Aba and I was the Chief Inspector of Police.

And I now say again that the sun rises from the East. I remember in 1922 one Commissioner of Police at Port Harcourt, who had expected in vain for promotion, was transferred to Lagos and from there he wrote me saying that the salvation of Nigeria will come from the East and from the Ibos in particular. Therefore, without fear or favour, I say again that the sun rises from the East.

I now want to register my gratitude to the colleagues and Cabinet Members of our able Premier. These men are doing their very best. As we all know a tree cannot make a forest. Without these people he cannot do much. I go further to narrate of a man who held an important post—a key post of finance. When it was rumoured that he was about to retire, it gave everyone who knew his ability not the ordinary worry but a chronic headache. But I am happy to say, at last, the retirement was withdrawn. The Eastern Nigeria is not for one person; it is for all people and anybody who renders his service efficiently without any "but" must be rewarded for his stewardship. With regard to this, I am appealing to all the present Ministers that none of them should attempt to resign. We appreciate their services and they should be rewarded for same.

Referring to the Minister of Education, I say hearty congratulations to him. The last results of the various examinations in Secondary and Training Schools demonstrated that his tour to United Kingdom, Asia, India and other places in search of qualified teachers for the various posts proved itself worthwhile. We had never shared such successful demonstration before. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the various Principals of the various Colleges and the Teachers in Owerri Province for the hardwork they have done.

Now, I refer to the Minister of Works. I thank him for all that he has done for Owerri Province for the supply of water. Water is so important, so essential that even the devil cannot do without it. However, I would suggest that in future the Minister should exercise every effort to find the correct centre of any place before supplying water. I say this because, in a place like Okigwi there are many groups of villages in dire need of water supply, but distance has been the pressing difficulty. I am saying that it is not always proper to regard a market place as the centre of any village. Next time, it will be necessary to send a surveyor to survey the whole place before centralising the sinking of wells or bore-holes. In the case of pipe-borne water, that is different. I am asking that where a village contributes money enough, pipe-borne water should be extended to that village. It will be a good thing to have one for one village rather than for a village to be going to another village to get water.

As regards the Ministry of Justice, one hon. Member yesterday remarked about the inadequacy of courts to effect easy trials. It used to be that people from Orlu Division, as narrated on the floor of this House yesterday, and that was one example, usually take their cases very far to obtain trial. In the instance mentioned, the people took their case to Onitsha and on getting there, they were instructed to go back to Umuahia. Imagine the inconvenience and waste of money involved in going from Orlu to Onitsha and from Onitsha to Umuahia. We appeal to the Minister to provide us with a High Court in Owerri. If it is at Umuahia or anywhere, we are not worried, but we require one in Owerri Province.

On my next point, I hope the Minister who represents the hon. Premier is here, and as such, I continue to say this in that connection. I am sorry that the Premier is not here. All I am asking for Owerri Province is for a Catering Rest House. I remember that a place was sometime selected, surveyed and approved but till date nothing has happened. For a long time, Owerri Province applied for an aerodrome, nothing came out of it. We applied for a High Court, nothing has come out of it as well. They always say "there is no money; wait until money is available" and when money is available Owerri is never

remembered. Is this plea of no money only meant for Owerri Province?

I am calling the attention of the Government to this question: why is Owerri so neglected? Is it because we do not make trouble? We are always loyal to our Government and will always remain so. I personally assured Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, our leader, that I shall not let him down. We shall not decline from the N.C.N.C. Since the N.C.N.C. came to power, how many Owerri people...

**Chief J. Mpi** (Port Harcourt Province): Mr President, I request that about five minutes be given to the hon. Chief to wind up?

**Chief Njemanze:** Ever since the N.C.N.C. came into power how many people from Owerri Division have you found on the Opposition Bench? None, I am sure. We have always given N.C.N.C. 100 per cent vote. I remember when Chief Awolowo wanted to come to Owerri in his helicopter, I told the District Officer that if Chief Awolowo was allowed to land at Owerri, there would be bloodshed. What happened? He ran away! When the hon. the Premier visited Owerri I gave him the assurance that we have always given to his predecessor, that Owerri would always support the N.C.N.C. Now we are crying for help; so let the Government come over and help us.

Now the Shell-BP have left Owerri and do you know what I hear? I read from the *Nigerian Outlook* that Owerri will have an industry to bottle *tombo*. Imagine that! (*Some hon. Members: Tombo is all right*). That is very very annoying.

**The Minister of Commerce (Chief J. U. Nwodo):** There is no proposal in my Ministry to establish *tombo* industry in the Shell-BP Estate in Owerri.

**Chief Njemanze:** I am appealing to the Government to help us and not make us fall into temptation because this is temptation. We will never leave them but they should not provoke us. There are certain things... (*An hon. Member: Are you still speaking?*). Yes, I was not given the chance yesterday.

[CHIEF NJEMANZE]

*The Ministry of Works.*—May I once again thank the Minister of Works for the excellent tarring of the Owerri–Okigwi road. The work is very good indeed and it is one of the best tarring jobs done in the Region. But there is one fault. I think probably Government did it purposely. The snag is that the road is very narrow. (*The Minister of Works: Usual complaint*). Perhaps they will do something about it in future. We appreciate it very much and we thank the Minister. There is, however, one other thing. Owerri–Umuahia road: when is it going to be tarred? (*The Minister of Works: This year*). Very good, that is a very good answer to my question.

**Chief Angus Ilonze** (Awka Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Francis Ibiam, for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne. While doing so, I would like to congratulate the hon. the Premier, Dr M. I. Okpara, for the wisdom he exercised in recommending the appointment of Sir Francis as the first indigenous Governor of Eastern Nigeria. I must say that the appointment is very befitting to him; and he has the popular support.

Coming to agricultural and industrial developments, I feel the Government has embarked upon a very good plan. It must be understood that agriculture is the main basis of economy in any great nation and our Government should be congratulated on the efforts made to introduce a very good system of agriculture in the Region. The Minister of Agriculture also deserves congratulations for the efforts he is making in this direction.

I would like, however, to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the fact that in the vast area of Awka Division, including Achara, Nanka and Ezinihite, Orumba and Umuawulu areas, there is enormous expanse of fertile land that will be very useful for purposes of agriculture and I would like the hon. Minister to take note of these areas and remember them in his agricultural projects.

Coming to industry, the hon. Minister of Commerce should be congratulated on his efforts towards industrialising the Region. I would like to say that it will be the pleasure of Awka people to have one industry sited in

Awka. It is a well known fact that the people of Awka are craftsmen: they make revolvers, trunk boxes, iron gates and so on and when any distinguished visitors come to the Region, they are at times presented with the products of the Awka carvers. There is no reason therefore why they should not be encouraged by Government to improve their skill. I wish the Government, democratic as it is, will do something to encourage these people.

*Education.*—I thank the Hon. Minister of Education and our Government for all efforts made to improve the standard of education in this Region. I must have to say that the standard of education in Eastern Nigeria stands second to none throughout the Federation.

*Ministry of Works.*—I have to thank the Ministry of Works for all the improvements made on the roads throughout the Region: bridges, rural water supplies, etc. While I do so, I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Works that there are some places in Awka Division like Orumba, Igboo, Nanka and Adazi that are suffering in an independent Nigeria today. They drink flood water—they have no water. As can be seen there are no hospitals in those areas, and some of them can drink this bad water and die. It would be our pleasure that improvements are made to provide these people with water bore-holes.

Turning to Nigerianisation policy, I have to congratulate the Government for the entire effort to Nigerianise the public service. While I do this, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that there is the need to put Nigerians to man some offices like the office of the Regional Architect in Enugu. I say this out of experience. This office is composed of expatriates. These people can tamper with the future of indigenous contractors in the way of under-valuing jobs that they regard as going to the hands of indigenous contractors. I have to quote an instance of this. We have some places in Eastern Nigeria where building materials cannot be purchased, for instance, in the Rivers Province nobody can get building materials there unless he buys them from places like Port Harcourt, Onitsha, or Aba and he has to carry them from there to the Rivers area, and of course, pay transport

charges. At least, I have a contractor doing the Commissioner's House in Yenagoa, who last month lost his materials worth about £1,000 in the river. I consider that when this office will be valuing jobs they should take into consideration and make for allowances to cover such losses that are not prevalent in other places. For instance, the Provincial Assembly Hall built in Yenagoa and in all other Provinces are just built at the same price. Whereas in places like Yenagoa you have to allow for handling of materials to that place. You have to allow for what the British people call inducement allowance. You have to induce the workers to leave here and go there to work. Though they may not like to go there and work it is imperative that the job must be done, and therefore, it is necessary to allow them all these. I want our Government to look into this. I know these things are technical in nature and that everybody will not know. The Government may not know unless they are advised in the way I am doing now.

**Chieftaincy.**—I thank the Government for recognising the Chiefs of the Eastern Region. We are grateful. I have to say, I do not know whether it will be a sort of committing the Government or anybody, that we have so many Chiefs around the Region. For instance in the Awka Division we have seventeen Second-class Chiefs and we have only two of them in the House. I want the Government to assign something to these people: something for them to live on. As Chiefs they will not stay for nothing. They can be made even Principal Tax Agencies to collect taxes for the Government and they can be given commissions. They can even be made to represent the Government properly as it is done in other Regions, like in the North.

Finally, I thank the Government for all the efforts they have been making to improve this Region.

**Chief Ako Okwoli II** (Enugu Province): I rise to support the Motion of thanks for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne.

I congratulate the Premier and his Government for the able work they have done for the Region. In doing so, I have some comments to make.

In the first place, I congratulate the Minister of Justice for the able way he has established Customary Courts and I have a suggestion to make to the Minister in order to help poor people in the Customary Courts. I remember that in the old days Administrative Officers had the power to review cases of appeal from the Native Courts. At that time it seemed somehow to help poor people. But since the establishment of the Customary Courts, such people, when they have a case in the court and they have no money to appeal against any judgments, go to prison. I would ask the Minister to empower the County Courts of Appeal to take such power as Administrative Officers had in the past.

I want the Minister of Works to realise that Nsukka Division has no water. I would suggest to the Minister that where boreholes have not reached, it would be a good thing if Government would build tanks and wells so that the people would share in the water supply. I would like to remind the Minister of Works about the three bridges in Nsukka Division. I mentioned those bridges last year during the Budget Session; they are Iyiakuru, Aboni and Itigidi. Many people have lost their lives on these bridges because of their bad condition.

I also congratulate the Minister of Health for building more hospitals and maternities in the Region. I would, however, suggest to the hon. Minister to direct the District Councils to attach dispensaries to the maternities so that pregnant women could get treatment more easily in cases of necessity.

I congratulate the Minister of Agriculture for the able way he is trying to help farmers, but I would suggest to the Minister not to be thinking only of those cultivating plantation farms and cashew nuts. It would be a good thing if the Government thinks also of those planting yams, rice and cassava. Some of us here will bear me witness that Nsukka Division is the main source of food supply for the Region. The people living in these areas would like to get loans to establish their farms.

**Chief Richard Jones Onyeneho** (Okigwi Division): I am happy that I am now allowed to talk. Before I go on with my remarks on the Speech from the Throne, I have to tell Members that I am immensely happy to have been

[CHIEF ONYENEHO]

born in the Eastern Region that produced the first African Governor-General of Nigeria. Eastern Nigeria did not stop there but also produced the first Governor of Eastern Nigeria and many other sons and daughters who are qualified for other high posts. In fact a Member was saying yesterday that we should not be proud or tell people that we are from Eastern Nigeria. We have got our Independence and we must be proud of it. If salt has lost its flavour wherefore shall it be salted; so if we do not rejoice because of the good things we have got what is the need to struggle for something good. I am therefore happy for what we have achieved and I hope hon. Members are equally happy.

Mr President, I have the following remarks to make on the Speech from the Throne. One is on the reconstituted House of Assembly. I have gone through the arrangements to see how the thing has been divided. It appears the Government has been brought nearer home but if you look at the arrangements you will see that some areas are not properly represented. For instance, you have in the list some areas with twenty-eight, thirty and forty thousands with one man to represent them in the House while some areas with seventy-seven, eighty or ninety thousands have only one person to represent them. It boils down to saying that following the Federal constitution these areas are not properly represented. I was very happy when the Premier made the statement that the matter should be reconsidered when the next census is taken. I would like it to be on record that I want the Minister charged with constituency affairs to look into the arrangements again and to know those places that are not well placed now.

Mr President, I also align myself with those who said that Owerri Provincial Assembly is too unwieldy. The Minister of Finance will bear me out that when he came to open that Provincial Assembly, what he saw in the Hall was like what could be seen in a Church Cathedral, with the result that the meeting was so rowdy. Imagine a hall with over five to six hundred members and everybody trying to speak. In fact the essence of Provincial Assembly is defeated. I am calling on the Minister to look into the question of constituting Okigwi and Orlu into one province.

The Minister has been empowered by section 4 of the amendment Law to re-constitute, to change or to form a new province so that since the Minister has got this power I am appealing to him to reconsider carving Okigwi and Orlu into a separate Province for the purpose of Provincial Assembly. There has been a song developed along Port Harcourt-Aba-Umuahia road to the effect that all other towns in the Region have been developed leaving out Okigwi and Orlu. This is because their representatives are not recognised. (*Several hon. Members: Sing the song and let us hear*). If you have not heard it, you better go with me into the villages and you will hear it. I am appealing to the Minister to see that Okigwi and Orlu have a province of their own. Owerri is too large for one Provincial Assembly and if we continue with the present arrangement, the essence of Provincial Assembly is defeated.

On chieftaincy matters, I want to appeal to the Minister in charge to realise that it would appear Chiefs are given a living snake. The position of Chiefs as at present constituted is not properly clarified; part of our functions goes to the Minister of Justice and another part goes to the Minister of Local Government, with the result that we do not know where to go. On the question of Customary Courts we are asked to go to the Minister of Justice and on the injection of traditional members we are asked to go to the Minister of Local Government. In Udi here as you will see, a traditional member has been injected into the Council, but the Government is thinking of appointing an elected member as the President of that Council. Mr President, I think the Government will do well to lump our functions in one Ministry.

Another thing is that in the Western Region, a Council was dissolved because the Council passed a vote of no confidence in the King. But look at what happens in the Eastern Region, a club—an association—has passed a no-confidence vote in recognised Chiefs and I do not know what the Minister in charge of Chieftaincy matters is doing about the resolution. (*Laughter*).

Chiefs, if you are not serious, I am very serious about this! (*Several hon. Members: We are serious*).

The question of appointing the President of the Council—The Chiefs are appointed into the Council to be the watchdogs of the Government and to direct the elected members of the Council. Then you are telling those people again to contest the presidency of the Council. How do you think the man whom you asked to give you his vote will recognise you as the higher man? If I have to get my presidency from the members of the council it means I am going to their houses one by one to campaign to elect me. And that is wrong. I can see it goes on in the Provinces, that many hon. Chiefs who want to become presidents of Councils go to the elected councillors to ask them to recommend them to become presidents. That is belittling the Chiefs. I am telling the Ministers that it will be proper if it will be possible to get the recommendation from the injected Chiefs of that council and then the Minister to appoint the president and not for Chiefs to go to the houses of the elected people. (*Several hon. Members: We concur.*)

The Minister of Local Government is not here. (*Several hon. Members: He is here.*) I know the real Minister of Local Government is not here but the man acting for him is here, and I know he understands what I am saying. I do not want to hear that Chiefs are going to councillors to ask to be presidents. They are not the right people you recognise. If you the Government—a big thing—recognise me as Chief I do not see why I should go to a small man to ask to be recognised again.

With regard to the Ministry of Education, there are no Grade III Teacher-training colleges in some Provinces. It will be necessary for Government to plan for Local Government teachers to be trained because the Missions do not admit all other Local Government teachers for training. Something must therefore be done to see that provision is made for the building of more colleges in the Region.

Again to the Ministry of Works. 31st January ended the advertisement for the tarring of Owerri-Emekuku-Obowo-Umuahia road. I do not know who are sorting the tenders. Up till now the contract has not been awarded. The Minister of Works will remember that I praised him last year. I am now calling on him to speed up the people who

are sorting tenders to award the contract. People who pass that road are crying because the road is too bad. Let the work be started please, Mr Minister.

Mr. President, I do not want to waste your time because the people responsible did not put down my name on the list of those to speak and I have discovered it. I wonder who did it; I thank him or her!

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**Chief P. U. Obodoeze** (Nsukka Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne. In supporting it, I am begging you, Mr President, to allow me to say something about this statement. I do not know whether I will be allowed to read it. You know I have many remarks to make, but I will first of all start with this because it is of particular importance to me. The statement is:

I wish, with your permission to raise a matter of great concern to Eastern Nigeria as a whole. This is no other than the important issue of the maintenance of law and order in this part of the Federation of Nigeria...

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** Point of Order: I am not sure if the last speaker wants to raise a point which concerns the public of this Region or whether he is going to speak to the Motion before the House. If he is going to raise any issue outside the Motion, I think it is out of order.

**Chief Obodoeze:** The maintenance of law and order here is the joint responsibility of both the Eastern Government and the Government of the Federation. It is therefore on this score that I am determined to call the attention of our Government to this aspect of its responsibility.

On a number of occasions in Eastern Nigeria since our Independence on 1st October, 1960, there have been serious threats to breaches of law and order. In a number of them, public officers of the Government had fallen victims to these threats to constituted authority resulting in the loss of these officers' lives.

[CHIEF OBODOEZE]

In the years before our Independence, instances of this nature were few and far between. On the few occasions that they arose, the Government had been very stern and firm in dealing with those concerned.

If there is any time that Government must show its full authority and utmost severity on any persons or groups of people who constitute themselves a challenge to law and order, it is now. It is at this time, when we are all anxious to nurture our newly-won freedom, a time when we are all anxious to avoid the recurrence of the Congo situation in Nigeria.

Mr President, I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Eastern Nigeria Government and the Federal Government for the prompt action taken so far in the worst of those recent attempts to challenge constituted authority. It is well-known that in November, 1960, a young dutiful Administrative Officer, native of my constituency, Nsukka Division, was murdered in cold blood in the course of carrying out his official duties.

Mr Crescent Ugwu, the victim of this unprecedented atrocity, was a fine example of the type of public-spirited Nigerians one would like to see in our public service.

It is unfortunate that the perpetrators of this crime have yet to be found out. Recently three natives of Obosi who were charged with the murder of Mr Ugwu, were acquitted by the court of law. I have no doubt that the court has done its painful duty.

**The President:** Your time is up. Sit down, please.

**Chief M. I. Asinobi (Special Member):** I rise to support the Motion. We all are very glad for the wisdom and sense of responsibility which our good Government has shown by recommending Sir Francis as our Governor. Sir Francis is a man who commands the respect of all of us and we assure him of our loyalty and wish him happy tenure of office.

I also pay tribute to our beloved son, Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, who has brought us the Independence we are all enjoying now.

We respect our hon. Premier, Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, and his Ministers and assure them of our support. They have been doing very good work and it is our hope that they will continue to be a model of team work in Government administration to the other Regions.

Last year when I was speaking I complained bitterly of the bad water supply at Port Harcourt. It is my pleasure to note that Government has given us very fine water now. The water supply at Port Harcourt is excellent. I invite those people who used to laugh and mock at us who live at Port Harcourt because we had no good water supply to visit Port Harcourt now. On behalf of Port Harcourt community I thank the Eastern Nigeria Government.

I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that Owerri-Port Harcourt road should be widened. We want the Government to get caterpillars to fell down the oil bean trees on both sides of this road. They constitute a big danger to motorists and other road users. Government should look into this.

Another point is that although Government has done a lot of good on the Owerri-Okigwi road this road needs to be widened. Government should take a serious consideration of this.

Another point is that at Port Harcourt Magistrates' Courts many cases are left untried for months. Cases continue to be adjourned for months: at times it takes up to a year to try a simple case just because it is always adjourned. So we are appealing to the Government to send more Magistrates to Port Harcourt.

**Chief E. Ashirim-Unosi (Ahoada Division):** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne. I feel every honest man in the Region should join me in congratulating the Eastern Nigeria Government for its activities and progress during the past year. I associate myself with those previous speakers who had expressed their appreciation of our Hon. Premier, Dr M. I. Okpara's wise selection of a man with an exemplary character, Sir Francis Akanu Ibiam as Governor of Eastern Nigeria.



It is said that the past year has been an eventful period in the history of Eastern Nigeria. It is the year during which the Eastern House of Chiefs was established and Second-class Chiefs were selected, appointed, recognised. We the Second-class Chiefs who are in this hon. House are fortunate for there are a great number of Second-class Chiefs who are outside the House and who are anxious to come to this House. The situation here is turning out to be a problem for which the Government must find the solution.

*Ministry of Finance.*—I should like to express my appreciation of the good works of the Ministry of Finance which I may describe as the live-wire of the Government, particularly of the efficient and effective systems formulated by the Hon. Minister of Finance, Dr S. E. Imoke, for the collection of Government revenue. A previous speaker, Hon. Chief Mpi, had told the House of the scanty Regional Budget of £3 million in 1953 and which has now risen to £27 million this year. That is a credit to the Hon. Minister of Finance in particular and to the Government in general.

*Ministry of Works.*—I have to congratulate the hon. Minister of Works for the work which is going on on the Mbiama-Yenagoa road in Western Ahoada and on the Degema Hulk-Oguta road in Western Ahoada as well. During the recent visit of His Excellency the Governor to Ahoada Division the people of Ahoada Division expressed their gratitude to the Government for the good works which are being done on the roads.

*Ministry of Local Government.*—This is one of the busiest Ministries flooded with public and personal complaints because of its concern with the administration of Local Government throughout the Region. The Hon. Minister of Local Government, Mr P. O. Nwoga, is known to be a hard-working gentleman and is ever ready to attend to all complaints and to give impartial advice or decision. His Ministry deserves public praise for its recent arduous work of modifying the Local Government Constitutions to permit representation of Second-class Chiefs and other traditional Chiefs on the Local Government Councils.

*Ministry of Education.*—The Ministry of Education is one of the Ministries that deserve our praise for their achievements. We need more primary and secondary schools and we are happy to learn that the embargo which was placed on the opening of new secondary schools has been removed. We are now a self-supporting people and must build the primary and secondary schools through our own initiative and from our own resources. In many cases the activities of the promoters did not conform with the regulation. We thought that the hon. Minister will view their mistakes with sympathy and allow them the opportunity of adjustment before using the building.

**Chief J. N. Orizu** (Onitsha Division) rose and sent a sheet of paper purporting to contain his speech, to the Clerk of the Legislature. (*But as this speech was never in fact delivered by the Chief in the House, its publication is not permitted*).

**Chief S. Wabara** (Aba Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne. In doing so I associate myself with other speakers in congratulating the Eastern Government for appointing Sir Francis Ibiam as Governor of Eastern Nigeria. I have to congratulate the Eastern Nigeria Government and our Ministers for their good works in the Region. What impresses me very much is the way they handle smoothly the work of running the Government. It is always hard for one to do good things. Bad things are easily done.

In the Estimates for 1962-63, I appeal to this Government to make provisions for a bridge at Akwete-Umuagba river, tarring of Obigbo-Afam road to Ndoki. Ndoki is an economic zone in the Division because it produces the crude oil being shipped from Nigeria for which the Federal and Regional Governments get up to £2 million royalty in a year. It also produces natural gas in commercial quantity which is now being tapped to supply electricity to the whole of Eastern Nigeria.

In fairness to Ndoki people, I will appeal to this Government to consider Asa and Ndoki for amenities in the Region. The whole of Ndoki and Asa should be supplied with electricity from Afam.

[CHIEF WABARA]

Another point is that the people of Asa are crying for water supply. They are prepared to pay  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the cost of water supply according to Government policy if water can be supplied to them. There have been a lot of petitions about this and nothing has been done as yet. I hope the Eastern Government will give this matter favourable consideration in a short time.

Ndoki and Asa are rural areas and they have plenty of land to spare and they still require industries to develop the areas. I therefore appeal to the Eastern Government to include Ndoki and Asa in the proposed farm settlement.

The Minister of Works has started the bridge at Azumini-Asa, but I have to say that the work is very slow. At present they have only completed a temporary bridge, with the main bridge not yet touched. I think our Minister will find a way to speed up the business.

As far as Regional scholarships are concerned Ndoki and Asa are neglected. They earnestly request that Government should be fair enough to award secondary and university scholarships to them.

On the question of Customary Courts, I feel that an area with a population of 7,000 people should have more than one Customary Court and I am appealing to the Government to consider Asa for more Customary Courts.

*Sitting suspended at 1.00 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed at 3.00 p.m.*

**Chief J. E. Ikeogu** (Bende Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for His Speech from the Throne. The Speech was a masterpiece both politically and economically and the first of its kind made by an African Governor. I think all hon. Members of this House will agree with me that we are very proud of being Members of this House. Mr President, the past year is a great year in this country because it was that year we all knew the value of self-government with the appointments of the Right Honourable Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Sir Adesoji Aderemi and Sir Francis Ibiem as Governor-General and Governors respectively. These

three noble sons have proved to the world that we Africans can rule ourselves. Mr President, there is one warning I want to give our Government. That is about the way our Region is publicised. There was a photograph published in a newspaper about the labourers in Fernando Po which the Leader of the Opposition in the Federal House used as a propaganda just to belittle this Government. Now in Southern Cameroons our men are being persecuted. They want to drive them all away. This Government should always guard against things of this nature.

I have to thank the Minister of Agriculture for all his good work done at Umuahia-Umudike School of Agriculture and the Rural Education Centre. Yet there is plenty of work to be done. If we really want to tackle the agricultural work of this country I think it is good that we produce more suitable boys who will man this work and there is no way to do it other than by improving our School of Agriculture and Rural Education Centre.

I want to bring to the notice of this House some few important things which are happening in this Region about our native guns. In 1959 there were fifty cases, in 1960 more than thirty cases and in 1961 there are more than twenty cases although the year has not finished. There was a man who was happy that his wife had a new child and he fired a gun to show his happiness and when this gun was fired it exploded and his right hand was cut off. In Umuahia hospital there are cases of people with half hands and deplorably deformed faces. Can't something be done to get these old worn-out dane guns replaced?

We have to thank the Government for creating Provincial Assemblies and I seize this opportunity to thank our Provincial Commissioner for all his good works but he knows that our problem in Bende is roads. It costs farmers about £1 10s to carry a bag of cocoa to Umuahia—a distance of less than twelve miles. The Eastern Region Marketing Board spent £16,000 to construct this road and it was later left to Ikwuano County Council to maintain but they did not maintain it because it is a seasonal road. Even the Council has asked for loans for the maintenance which I know the farmers are ready to pay instead of suffering undue hardship but nothing was heard.

The point is that if we the people in the rural areas do not survive I do not think the people in the townships will survive because all the good things in the townships come from the rural areas. That is why we always lay emphasis on the people in the rural areas. Now to the question of chieftaincy. It is not a thing that we should quarrel about. The Government has done very well to create the House of Chiefs and in every way in this Eastern Region the Chiefs are respected. We do not ask for too much money but what we want is just an entertainment allowance because I know that in my house I spend about 5s everyday for kolanuts for those who come to visit me.

What we want is a small entertainment allowance which I know the Local Councils will agree to and this will enable Chiefs to receive important people in keeping with their dignity. It will be foolish if an hon. Minister comes into the house of a Chief only to find the Chief running about looking for a glass of water for the Minister. We all are not rich and will not be rich. We are not agitators in any sense but all we want is a small amount in the form of entertainment allowance to keep up the dignity of Chiefs in this Region.

I heard one of the speakers yesterday saying something about the appointment of Presidents into the Local Councils. In my own area this has presented no difficulty because it was in a way regarded as a matter for Chiefs, depending, of course, on how the Chiefs stand with the people.

Another important point I would like to make is connected with tax-evaders in this Region. It is alarming always to hear reports from the Minister of Finance of how people evade payment of tax, despite all the efforts of the Minister. The other day a newspaper made it clear that the practice is high at Onitsha. In my own area nobody evades tax payment. We have made it absolutely impossible for people to indulge in such practice. The trouble lies with townships where people who ride in their cars could not be stopped easily to check their tax receipts, with the result that so many of them often do not pay any tax at all for the year or years. I am appealing to the hon. Minister of Finance to see to it that stronger laws are enacted to make it impossible for people—whether or not they are car owners—

to evade tax. We need money badly now and every effort should be made to get every penny that should come into the purse of Government through tax.

**Chief M. O. Okongwu** (Udi Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for the able Speech from the Throne and to lay emphasis on a few points.

*Education.*—I have to thank the Government for approving among other secondary schools, the Ezeagu Secondary Grammar School to be situated at Isiagu Umana in Udi Division. I would be highly grateful to see that the college is well equipped to teach Science subjects as the country has more need now for people with scientific knowledge.

*Agriculture.*—The whole country hails the steps adopted by the hon. Premier, Dr M. I. Okpara, to raise the agricultural standards of the people of the Eastern Region. I hope that the Government will keep a vigilant eye on the plans already set and see that they materialise especially the giving of loans for the improvement of plantations, live-stock, poultry, fishery, etc. The increasing population demands these so that there will be enough food for people to enjoy their lives.

I wish to make it clear and emphatic that arrangements should be made by the Minister of Agriculture for the people of Enugu Province to have a centre for holding Agricultural Shows within the Province instead of holding the shows in Onitsha Province as has been the case in the past. I must point out that many farmers in the Province fail to go because of the distance.

*Health.*—It is the dire need of my people that the Government should convert the Ezeagu Health Centre into a Cottage Hospital and to give grants to the Ezeagu County Council to complete the Health Centre at Obinofia, the building of which has been withheld for five years due to lack of funds. The Minister of Health praised the Ezeagu Health Centre when it was opened. He remarked that it is one of the best and that he would give consideration to its conversion into a Hospital. Let the hon. Minister redeem his promise.

[CHIEF OKONGWU]

*Rural Amenities: Water.*—There is unbearable scarcity of water throughout Ezeagu County Council area. The Government should see to it that thickly populated areas like Owa and Umana towns should have bore-hole water supply. During the dry season my people are ashamed of receiving strangers into our areas because of no water.

*Tarred Roads.*—The non-existence of tarred roads in Udi Division and particularly in Ezeagu County Council area is very deplorable. The area has a population of seventy-seven thousand people and it is disturbing to note that they have not been blessed with even one tarred road.

The amount of amenities lacking in the area can never be over-stressed.

Another point I would like to mention here is the apparent wave of lawlessness raging in this Region. When I say this I have in mind such incidents as the murder of Mrs Onyia, Mr Crescent Ugwu, an Administrative Officer; the shooting of Police officers in the old Calabar Province while carrying out their lawful investigation into cases of theft; and the attempts by some District Councils to beat up Administrative Officers for daring to attend their Council meetings. One interesting thing about these cases is the inability of the Police to track the perpetrators of the crimes in question.

In view of this situation, I would like to call for a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the activities of those who organised and participated in the rioting at Otu Obosi last November during which Crescent Ugwu was killed and into the conduct of all the officers during and after the riot.

In conclusion, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the mistake of asserting, as a defence for failure to spread amenities in Udi Division, that Enugu Municipality, which is also in Udi Division, is given many amenities. The fact is that the developments in Enugu should not be cited as being among the developments in Udi Division since the people in the rural areas surrounding Enugu are not benefitted in any way from the amenities in the Regional capital. This view has been the sole reason for the under-development of the rural areas in Enugu Province.

**Chief James Nwosu** (Orlu Division): Mr President, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. I know that I am one of the youngest Members of this House and that's why I am one of the last to speak.

I wish to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for His Gracious Speech from the Throne and to congratulate the Government for the appointment of Sir Francis Ibiem as the first indigenous Governor of the Region. The appointment is a very marvellous one. I say this because since the appointment was announced, I have been watching both the Press and the Radio for any criticism that people might make. I am very happy to say that nobody has seen anything to criticise in this appointment.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our Ministers on the wonderful work they are doing in the Region and I wish them to continue the good work.

Before I take my seat, I must make a few observations. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Works to the state of a bridge known as Nwangele Bridge. This bridge connects many roads; for example, Owerri, Port Harcourt, Umuahia, Aba and Onitsha roads. (*The Minister of Works: Only one bridge?*) Yes, if you travel to this bridge you will see that what I am saying is correct. When the Minister of Works visited Orlu his attention was drawn to this important bridge and I would like the Government to view this request seriously and construct the bridge in a solid way because it carries a heavy traffic.

Secondly, I have to draw the attention of the Minister of Health to a very good hospital built at Amaigbo. It is called the Amaigbo Joint Hospital. The hospital is doing well but we are anxious to have facilities for x-ray and telephone, so that work in the hospital will be improved. We also need Senior Staff Quarters to be built; we have vast expanse of land for this purpose for it causes a lot of inconvenience for the staff in charge of the hospital to live very far away in the village and expect the hospital work to run smoothly always. This is very important indeed and I want the Government to look into it seriously. I would also like more doctors to be posted to the hospital—

either Europeans or Africans—to cope with the increasing volume of work in the hospital, and thus enable work to run smoothly.

*The Ministry of Justice.*—It is a pity to observe that where members of the Customary Courts are lost by death, no prompt action is taken to fill the vacancies. This delay also occurs when a Second-class Chief becomes a Member of this House and leaves a seat vacant. I am appealing to the Government to see that such vacancies as occur from time to time are filled without delay.

I would not like to waste the time of the House repeating what other Chiefs have said. So with these remarks, I beg to support.

**Chief Gordon Ascot Ikibah** (Brass Division): I am very happy to be here to hear the Speech from the Throne and I am rising to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne. I believe everybody here is as happy as myself to contribute to this Motion of Thanks to the Governor for the Speech from the Throne. In associating myself with the previous speakers I say I am confirming my telegram both to the Governor and the Premier on behalf of my people that the wisest choice has been made by the Government in appointing the present Governor of Eastern Nigeria. A lot has been said by the previous speakers and I do not want to repeat them. I will simply make mention of my few observations.

*Agriculture.*—In the Speech from the Throne, much was said about agriculture which is very good. I am glad that agriculture will become a compulsory subject in the schools. When that is done this question of migration of our boys and girls when they leave school to other places definitely will be minimised. When they have something to do at home nobody will like to leave home. After all, there is no place like home.

*Education.*—I notice from the Speech that £652,000 has been voted for science teaching in the secondary schools. This is very encouraging. As I stated on the floor of this House during the last Budget Session, one of our handicaps in some of the secondary schools is science and I would particularly make mention of our own Institution which is

the Yenagoa Grammar School in my Division. The first batch of the boys passed out last year. Now unfortunately the boys did not take science subjects in their West African School Certificate Examination, although the number of passes there was encouraging; all of them passed only in Grade III; and all what they say is because they did not study science subjects. Now that the chance has come I am appealing to the Government to take into consideration and make a fair distribution of this sum to all secondary schools including the Yenagoa Grammar School. I beg you. You know that Division is an under-developed Division, and it needs assistance.

The Speech also talked about post-secondary scholarships for the Region. That is very encouraging and it is very good. I would like to say that the awards should not be only to the University level but they should also be extended to those who are able to pass out from secondary schools and have got access into other secondary schools in which they are to be taught science subjects. For instance, those boys who have passed out, some of them are now in other approved secondary schools as Class VI students; that is the beginning of post secondary: they should be considered. I am happy to mention that we have one of the boys who is now at St. Augustine's Secondary School, Nkwere. I know such people have not entered University, but I think that this award of scholarship should be extended to people in this grade. That will be an encouragement to them.

*Ministry of Health.*—I thank the Minister and the Cabinet as a whole for not forgetting the rural areas in the distribution of amenities as far as health is concerned. We have, in my Division, got many health centres. That is very good but that is not all. I think I am not asking too much if I say that by the end of this year we want cottage hospitals too to be attached to that area in addition to the already existing General Hospital at Yenagoa. We shall be grateful to the Government. I am very happy and my people are very happy and they have asked me to thank the Government for extending health facilities to them.

I also seize this opportunity to thank the U.A.C. for the gift it has given this Region. £25,000 is not a small amount of money and I

[CHIEF IKIBAH]

believe that good use of this money will be made by this Government in the usual fair way it has been doing.

I now come to communications. The most difficult problem in my Division is one of communication. When I say communications I mean roads, post offices, very high frequencies, boats, etc. I know that post office is a Federal matter but I believe that with strong persuasion by this Government the Federal Government will be able to come and open post offices in our area. I also thank the Government for supplying boats to all the four County Council areas there but we want more. This transport difficulty has made us to miss a lot of tax money in that Division. From what I can gather the authorities did not get sufficient transport to visit the various County Council areas more frequently as they are doing now to check up. For that reason there has been a loss of over £1,000 tax money. I am appealing to the Government to supply at least two flying boats in addition to the existing launches. I think that will be able to assist in saving the situation.

I think I am not out of the way if I mention this. I am sorry but I cannot just help it because many people have asked me this and I tried to explain to them. Some of the Provincial Representative First-class Chiefs have gone round to misrepresent the intention of our good Government by going round to tell the people that their position is permanent, that it is hereditary, and that when they die their children will take over from them; but that is wrong and is not Government's view. It is good for the Government to try and bring this sort of people to order.

**Chief Joseph Wobo** (Port Harcourt Division): Mr President, I have only very few words to contribute to this Debate. Many of the Members here did not know each other until we came to this place and we have grown as brothers of the same parents working for the unity of the country. It is appreciated that most of us do not understand well the language used, but there is one thing I have been hearing many Members advocate. That is schools. We shall try to see that we have the best schools for our children because schools give us light. If it were not schools most of us

would have been in the dark now. So I am appealing to the Government to do everything possible to see that our children are given the best possible education.

Another point is about a certain market in Port Harcourt. It is called No. 1 Market. It is a very small market but it is expanding rapidly. I am therefore appealing to the Government to make more land available to allow for the expansion of this market. The people of Port Harcourt would appreciate this gesture from the Government.

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

**Chief Solomon Chima Nkwor** (Afikpo Division): I rise to congratulate the Government for the appointment of Sir Francis Akanu Ibiam as the Governor of Eastern Nigeria. I mention this because I know the man personally. I had been his houseboy. I am not here to tell his history. If it comes to telling history about him I am the best man qualified for that in this House. I am grateful to the Government for the wise decision it has taken in appointing him for he is a Christian-minded person. I extend congratulation to another son in my Division in the person of the hon. Minister of Finance. He has been holding the portfolio of the Ministry of Finance for many years now and he has held it creditably. It is very rare to see somebody of his calibre. I am, however, not accusing other Ministers that they cannot discharge the function if so appointed, but will agree that the present holder has held the portfolio well for these years and therefore deserves congratulations.

I am now appealing to Government which has honoured the sons of Afikpo to see fit to give Afikpo a Catering Rest House so that when the Governor tours Afikpo Division with his team we would be able to entertain them in the Catering Rest House. This is one thing I am appealing to the Government.

Turning to the Ministry of Works, last Budget Session I raised the point about Ozara-Agbani-Amake-Udi road; Idah-Ohafia and Arochuku road. It is going to five years since these road projects had been included in the Estimates. They are short

roads from our Headquarters here in Enugu to other parts of the Region. If the Government will tar those roads they will be short cuts for Members from Arochuku and Umuahia coming to Enugu. I have to dissociate myself from those who had been praising the Government for the amenities provided in their areas. In Afikpo Division we have got no amenities. It is shameful for me to stand before hon. Ministers to say that there is no road in Afikpo.

*Water Supply.*—Some hon. Members here do not know what is called guineaworm. Some read it only from books. If you go to Abakaliki you will know guineaworms. I am appealing to the Government to see what can be done to provide people in the rural areas with good water. If you go to Abakaliki you will see that the people are in dire need of water supply. It will even help Government to collect arrears of tax. How can you collect tax from people suffering from the attack of guineaworms? You go into the villages and you find them sick. The messenger you send cannot carry somebody sick. I am appealing to the Government to see what can be done for these people.

I am also appealing to the Government to amend its road programme to read Awgu-Ndeaboh-Okposi road. If this is done I have to assure the Government that we will return all our Members unopposed.

I wish the Minister can take immediate steps about the roads in Afikpo Division because it is a very shameful thing. If any member travelling to Afikpo, takes Okigwi he will not go three miles without voting £40 to maintain his car. If he takes Abakaliki road, from there before reaching Afikpo boundary, it is most wonderful. The Costain workers changed hands and started rough work. If he takes Agbani or Okposi-Afikpo he cannot enter Afikpo. In fact there are no amenities in the form of roads. The same thing, if he takes Bende he cannot enter Afikpo.

I am to ask the Minister of Health to give more attention to the lives of the people of Afikpo Division than he has hitherto done. I hope the Minister of Health can come to Uguru Hospital and see the conditions of people of that area, to save them. I remember I saw somebody who was attacked by guineaworm and he suffered for over two months. I

am appealing to the Government to take over the Uguru Hospital. It was one of the most famous hospitals in the Region but now if you go there there is no staff and no bed in the hospital.

Now I have to raise the point I mentioned before about Police Post at Okposi. I am appealing to the Minister of Justice that quarters should be provided for the Police at Okposi. It is waste of Government revenue for allowing the Police to pay rents or the Government to pay rents while the money was voted since two years ago, and there is land to build Police quarters.

**Chief R. A. Ukwu** (Ahoada Division): I rise to support the Motion and in doing so I will first of all thank the Governor for his Gracious Speech from the Throne. Also I thank our Premier Dr M. I. Okpara and his Ministers for the able way they have run the affairs of the Region generally during the past year.

One point I want to raise is that my place Aboah is very much remote from Health Centres. From Aboah to Degema, in Degema Province, minus the distance of a very wide and rough river, is ten miles and from Aboah to Elele County hospital is twenty-two miles and it is a great burden to take a sick man all the distance. So my constituency and I have resolved to agree to whatever is the policy of Government in order to establish a hospital at Aboah. And we also ask the Minister of Health to visit the area and see conditions of things.

Another point is that we thank the Minister of Works for the help he rendered by granting us the construction of the Oguta-Ahoada-Aboah-Degema road; but there is one thing more to save us from swimming up to Ahoada before we can get easy transport. We wish the Minister of Works will ask the contractors concerned to divide the workers into two sections: one section doing the Ahoada-Aboah-Degema road, and another section does the road from Ahoada to Ogba Okute road. That will make us free ourselves from the trouble. I thank the Minister of Works again. However, he has done the work, but he should visit the place and see the conditions.

[CHIEF UKWU]

As I know my remarks will be taken into effect, I beg to support.

**Chief J. N. Nwansi** (Owerri Division): I rise to thank and congratulate His Excellency the Governor for the able way he has delivered the Speech from the Throne. On the day of his installation, he made a remark that he is to govern and not to rule, which means, we the Chiefs are to rule but he is to govern.

I know the late brother of Sir Francis Ibiam as far back as 1919. He was my friend. In a conversation one day he mentioned that he didn't read up as he would have wished, but he would endeavour by the grace of God to bring up his brother the present Governor, Sir Francis Ibiam, then in the King's College, Lagos, and he did. His prophesy has come to reality and I hope that his bones in the grave are rejoicing because what he did has come to reality.

People have said much about agriculture. Yes, it is true and I ally myself with them that we have so many children roving about in the townships with their Standard VI certificates unemployed.

Government should establish enough farm settlements to absorb these boys. There is no point in asking them to go back to their fathers' lands. Will they go back to their fathers' lands and begin to farm in the primitive way? These boys have Standard VI Certificates and it is unfair to ask them to do this.

Before, there was a Rural Science Centre established jointly at Anwai in Asaba Division by the Eastern and Western Nigeria Governments. Now, unlike before, our own boys are denied admission into this school. I want to know the reason for this. If the Western Government is justified in this their action why should our Government not consider establishing a similar institution for our own boys? In my Division there are boys who were trained and had their Diplomas in Rural Science from that centre. Most of them have now got land but have not got the money to put their learning into practice. So I am asking the Government to see to it that such boys, when they apply for loans with reliable guarantors, are considered.

I associate myself with what Chief Njemanze said about Owerri Division but I want to add one point. In my speech last year I embodied the fact that we lack water in my constituency. Now a reservoir has been built to supply Owerri urban with water. This reservoir is built only three miles from my home town, Akabo in Ikeduru. From October of one year to the June of the following year my people suffer because of lack of water: our stream, Okitankwo, gets dried up. So I am appealing to the Government through the Minister of Works to extend this water facility from the reservoir to my town to ease my people's suffering. My people will be very grateful if this is done.

Finally, I have to congratulate the Premier and his Ministerial colleagues for the good work they have done during the year. I hope they will continue in the same way.

**Chief D. E. Onuaguluchi** (Awgu Division): I rise to support the Motion to thank His Excellency for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne. In the first place I have to thank the Premier for his wisdom in selecting a person of Sir Francis' calibre to fill the important post of Governor of this Region. He is a man of wide experience: he was a medical officer under the Presbyterian Mission, a Member of the old Legislative Council and later became the Principal of the Hope Waddell Institute at Calabar. So with his wide experience there can be no better choice. I thank the Government for choosing him.

I pay tribute to the hon. Minister of Works for the work being done by Dumez on the Awgu-Enugu road but I have to draw his attention to the fact that the wooden bridges have become so rotten and old that they are now death-traps. Government should please look into this.

I also invite the attention of the hon. Minister of Works to the Umuabia-Achi-Inyi-Okigwi road. As we all know, this road is important because it is the only way through which people travel to Onitsha and other important towns in the Region and even to the West whenever Ugwuoba stream becomes flooded. So I am asking the Minister to put this road on the priority list. The road from Umuabia to Achi is now closed because of lack of maintenance. I hope the Minister will look into this.



May I also call the attention of the Minister to the Achi water scheme. He announced last year that this scheme had been completed and that all Achi people could get water as much as they needed. Although the first part of this scheme has been completed it serves only four villages, namely, Nkpokoro, Isikwe, Agbadani and Umuoli in Umunba. These are the only villages served. So apart from these four villages all other villages in Achi are suffering terribly and I am calling on the Minister to save us.

I would ask the Minister of Works to extend the present water supply so that other remaining villages will get good water. There used to be shortage of water in the area for some three to four days. This is mostly caused by the bursting of pipes as a result of the inexperienced staff managing the existing water supply. Government should see that trained staff are sent to look after the water supply scheme.

Under the Ministry of Local Government, I am appealing that the Minister should endeavour to see that honest people are injected into the Council.

**Chief O. L. Odu** (Ogoja Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne. The appointment of Sir Francis Ibiām as the first Nigerian Governor of Eastern Nigeria is a welcome news to everybody.

In as much as I have to praise the Minister of Works for all the good work done in this Region, I wish to appeal that he extends his activities to most of the roads in my area. I have to thank the Minister for having started the tarring of the Ufom Junction to Ogoja road. It would be appreciated if Government could see that the P.W.D. takes over the maintenance of the following roads: North Okoli to Idoma, Yachekabo to Munshin boundary in the Northern Region, Ogoja to Okundi and the road from Ogoja to Obudu which is about thirty-seven miles. Also the Ogoja-Okundi-Ikom Junction Oil Mill road—a distance of twenty-nine miles. Okoli bridge should be built as well.

I have also to thank the Minister of Health for the extension of the hospital in Ogoja.

The Government should see that more Police posts are built in Ogoja area and I believe by this there will be more jobs for the unemployed.

I wish to request the Minister of Agriculture to see that he establishes farm settlement in Ogoja Division. We have enough land for this purpose. The establishment of farm settlement no doubt will provide jobs for school leavers who are at present doing nothing.

Other amenities like water supply and electricity should be given to Ogoja. Award of scholarships is essential for the lower and higher elementary certificate holders because Ogoja has not enough educated people.

Finally, consideration should be given to improve the status of other Second-class Chiefs and Village Heads.

**Chief J. A. Anigor** (Abakaliki Division): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne, and in doing so I have to associate myself with other hon. Members who have spoken in favour of the appointment. We appreciate his appointment very much, and we have taken note of the fact that the Speech from the Throne was made by one of our distinguished Nigerians in the person of Sir Francis Ibiām. We from the old Ogoja Province have cause to be very grateful to the Government for this appointment. We are grateful to the Premier and his Cabinet for their wise choice of Sir Francis Ibiām as the first Nigerian Governor of Eastern Nigeria. His appointment has really brought home to us the fact that this Government is the Government of the people by the people.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—We are aware that the Government has plans to establish farm settlements in parts of the Region. This is a step in the right direction and we like it. We in Abakaliki Division do desire farm settlements to be established in every County Council area. We have the land and we will be grateful if Government will help us to establish farm settlements where we can employ our school leavers instead of leaving them idle in the villages. In addition we want assistance in order to grow and develop our food crops—yams and rice. I know

[CHIEF ANIGOR]

many hon. Members here do eat rice and rice comes from Abakaliki and so we want more money to grow rice. We should be grateful if Government could advise the people in the rural areas on how to form co-operative clubs because they will help us to get the money for the developments we want. It is not enough for us to grow yams and rice. After all rice was not a native crop in our division but today it is doing very well there. We shall be grateful if the Government can experiment other crops there as well. Such crops as cocoa, coffee may do well in the Division too. Why not give them a trial? Perhaps these crops may flourish in the new farm settlements when they are established.

*Ministry of Works.*—We are grateful to Government for the Bailey bridges we have got and we thank Government for the work but we still need more amenities from our Government. We would like it very much if the Government would undertake the construction and tarring of Onuabonyi-Iboko-Nwofe-Iziogo road for it to form a link with Effium-Mgbo road project and so give us facility to carry our crops to the market centres where they can be sold.

Now, I come to the Ministry of Justice. I hope you will permit me to read from a newspaper. It is written that Mr Justice Palmer said: "I feel bound to say that from the evidence I have heard the handling of the case by the Police is very far from satisfactory." Now we feel very insecure if there is so much lawlessness in the country and we want Government to do something to bring about punishment to evil doers because our lives are not safe without adequate protection. We also want the establishment of Customary Courts in our area. It is even surprising that hon. Members are requesting for increase in salary for Customary Court Judges whereas we have none yet in our area. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** I am rising to speak very briefly on behalf of the hon. Premier who is unavoidably absent at this sitting of the House of Chiefs. Members are no doubt aware of, and approve the reason for his absence. It is to represent all of us at the celebration of the Independence of Sierra Leone, our sister State which has

succeeded in less than a year after us to shake off the shackles of imperialism, and we hope will join the happy comity of Independent African States on 27th April, 1961—just six days from now. I have no doubt that this is a very glad news to all of us here in this House.

I wish to thank all hon. Members for their excellent contributions and the way they have comported themselves with decorum not only at the sitting of this House but since the inauguration of this House of Chiefs. I hope that the standard which is now set will be maintained throughout the life of the House. My colleagues and I have noted with satisfaction all the sentiments expressed by each and everyone who spoke on this Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his gracious and excellent Speech from the Throne. These expressions tantamount to a vote of confidence in the Government both collectively and individually. In this connection, I wish to say that I am particularly grateful for the kind things said about me by some hon. Members of this House whose names I need not mention. It is true that I had declared sometime that it was not my intention to continue in active politics after the life of the present House. My reason then was, as you all know, to enable me go back to run an hospital which I had started building in my village to serve the people of the area where medical facilities were very lacking. Since I made this declaration very many friends both inside the Legislature and outside have approached me appealing that I should reconsider my intention and I must say that even the hon. Premier himself has approached me on the same lines and as that is the case I must say that I am now bound to rethink. My colleagues are aware that my only concern had been this hospital and I have no doubt that they will co-operate with me to see that arrangements are made for this hospital to function.

Now, as the Minister of Finance, I would like just to reply to one or two remarks made about my Ministry. There was mention of a report—the Audit Report of 1959-60—of a case that the sum of £698 15s 1d was paid into a Council by tax collectors and a cheque was not issued and it appeared the Council made use of the money. This is not true. It is true that this money was paid into that Council because the tax collector was afraid

that if he kept the money in his house it might be stolen. The Council inadvertently applied the money in carrying out some Council project. The money was later paid back. This is only a very rare case. It is not a thing that happens always; so I would like to wipe that fear from the minds of Members.

Many Members have spoken of the system of tax assessment and tax collection. Some have suggested that Chiefs should be made to play some active part as Agents in tax collection and that councillors should also be used. Well, I want to make it clear that this already happens. The tax collectors are the Divisional Officers. They are directly responsible to the Commissioner who in turn is responsible to me for the collection of tax and these Divisional Officers are instructed to use their own discretion to either engage the Councils as such or councillors or influential people in the villages for the collection of tax. If this is not being done all over the Region and Chiefs feel it will be better to apply it generally, I shall give the matter consideration; but I will assure you that there are some Chiefs who would like to be tax agents or tax collectors but may not have the time.

As I said before, I intend only to make a brief speech on behalf of the Premier. The other points raised during the various speeches will be replied by those of my colleagues that are here. With these few words, I join in support of the Motion.

**The Minister of Works (Mr P. O. Ururuka):** I rise to thank all the hon. Chiefs who have ably and generally contributed to the debate on the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne and particularly to those who have praised my Ministry for our little efforts in meeting the demands and the needs of the people of the Region. We are encouraged by such gesture. I appreciate that we have not met the needs of all the people in the Region and the needs of all the communities but I must say that we are still on the road towards meeting the different needs. I know quite well that there is no particular section of the community that cannot say that it needs some roads or water supply or telephone communication or some such other

amenities. But I have one thing to say in this connection and perhaps if I say that it may help you to understand that the Government is thinking seriously about giving all the necessary amenities but the only handicap is one thing and that thing is finance; but then we are trying one way or the other to see what we can do in order to meet these needs. I will emphasise that we are just on the last lap of our development programme which started in 1958 and about to end in 1962. Now, those areas that have been fortunate enough to be accommodated in this development programme may say that they are lucky to have all the amenities given to them but there are some other areas that have not been accommodated. This does not mean that Government has forgotten those areas or are not going to do something. We have not even accomplished all that we require to do and may be towards the end of 1962 we may go so far or it may be that anything that remains to be done will be shifted to the next development programme. It will gratify hon. Chiefs to note that from 1962 to 1967 there will be another development programme which I say will be a gigantic programme and which goes far enough to meet nearly all their needs; Government is working very seriously towards this.

The hon. Minister of Economic Planning is doing everything possible in order to compile this development programme in such a way as to accommodate all the sections of the community in Eastern Nigeria; so that those of them that have not been properly accommodated or who have not had all their necessary amenities which they require in this present development programme which is nearing completion, will not be forgotten during the next one.

May I say a few words in answer to some of the points raised by some hon. Chiefs in their speeches; but I really did not want to dwell too lengthily on this case since I have said earlier that if they are not accommodated in the present development programme they will be so accommodated in the next one. It stands to reason that my different points which I make in connection with the answers to the different hon. Chiefs may find solution or answers in my remark about this development programme, but nevertheless I will point out few things.

[MR URURUKA]

Chief the hon. Wachuku had said something about aerodrome at Umuahia or Aba and he would want this to be done as early as possible. He wishes us to push it to the Federal Government whose responsibility it is to see this constructed.

I wish to say that this has been carefully noted and we have already started the ball rolling in this respect.

In the case of roads, the hon. Chief's request about the road through Umunkpeyi, Mbawsi Okpualangwa and Obikabia is also noted and I wish to say that I have asked my Ministry to list these roads in order that when the opportunity time comes we will be able to consider them and give them the attention they deserve.

*Water Supply.*—I appreciate the hon. Chief's gesture of thanks in connection with the pipe borne water project now nearing completion at Mbawsi. This is encouraging because when one does something and is thanked for it, it gives one some heart to try more in future.

Chief the hon. Ogudoro wants the road from Aba to Umuaro to Umuahia to be wider than it is at present. I wish to say here that we are having a certain standard width for our Regional roads. Nearly all our roads are twelve feet wide and this is, as it were, cutting our coats according to our size. It is true that the Federal roads are wider than ours. In fact they are about twenty-two feet and some fourteen feet wide but when you compare the price paid for a mile of these roads with the price that we pay here for ours you find that the Federal roads are very expensive indeed, and we cannot easily afford to pay these high costs without sacrificing the amenities which we ought to give to other Divisions. In this case instead of constructing two or three roads we use the money in constructing only one road. I agree it is something very good if we can widen our roads to the extent of about twenty-two feet but at the moment I think it will be sufficient for us to have twelve feet roads and provision made so that in future it will be possible to widen them as funds become available. The only reason why we are constructing only twelve feet roads is finance.

The hon. Chief Efeke from Brass complained that the location of the engine house and tank for the water project in Amassoma in Yenagoa was wrongly made by the Engineers of the Ministry of Works on the ground that the installation would most probably be washed out in a very short time and he felt that the advice given to the Ministry should be adhered to. When this matter was brought to my notice I invited the Engineer in charge and discussed it very closely with him. I was advised professionally that there was no cause for alarm and that the place where the location was made would be good enough for the engine house as well as pump house to be built without any fear of erosion. However, the people ought to be told that so far as this advice has been given professionally by the Government Engineer it stands to reason that they must not be afraid in case anything happened in future, say ten or twenty years hence; the responsibility will be that of the Government to rebuild the house. I do not hope that this will happen but the people should be satisfied with the work being done instead of causing it to be dismantled or broken down. I assure them that the Government is taking care of this matter.

The hon. Chief from Abak wants the road from Aba to Opobo to be completed. I wish to say that this particular road has been in the Development Programme and the Government is thinking seriously of doing something about it when we have the money to do so. We cannot embark upon all the projects at the moment. We have undertaken and completed the Ikot Ekpene to Abak road also in the Development Programme. The road from Abak to Uyo is under construction. This road that the hon. Chief wants us to complete is in the Development Programme and we cannot start work on it at the same time because it will not be possible for us to do so at the present time.

The hon. Chief from Okrika wants a bridge to be built between the mainland of Okrika and Okrika island. I would like to assure him that before his speech on this, my Ministry has been looking into the possibility of constructing a bridge or having something that will facilitate transport between the mainland and the island. Either a bridge or a sort of ferry to connect the two places will be embarked upon. We are

thinking seriously about this but the result of our survey has not been out. I hope that in future it will be possible for us to announce what we have decided to do in this respect.

The hon. Chief, the Amanyano of Nembe, has spoken very seriously about the need for water in his own area. He has expressed how it is impossible for his people to get good and sufficient water supply in the area. I am fully in sympathy and my Ministry is also in sympathy about this and we are looking into the difficulties concerning that particular area. The same fact holds in the case of the complaint about road from Oloibiri to Nembe. We are also looking into that.

Chief Iteshi from Abakaliki has said something about the rural water supply at Abakaliki and he expressed the plight of the people of that area. I must say that I am also in sympathy with the situation in Abakaliki area especially in the rural areas. We are doing everything possible in order to help the people out of this plight but our difficulty has been the geological structure of the area. It is not easy to get water from the soil in that area. Before you get water, you have to dig very deep and it is not economical and sometimes it is not even practicable because of the nature of the soil. The soil is not such where you can get water very easily as in other places around here, or places near water. But nevertheless we have not left out this problem and we are still trying to find a solution. My Engineers are still surveying the area in order to find a solution to the problem.

Chief Njemanze of Owerri complained about the narrowness of Umuna-Owerri road. I think what I said to hon. Chief Ogudoro holds in his own case here; and the hon. Chief too wanted to know when Owerri-Emekuku-Umuahia road would be started. I wish to say that as far as my Ministry is concerned we have done everything in connection with this road and it is out for tender and I understand all the people tendering for the road have sent in their comments and it will be only a few days probably when the man in charge of Tenders Board is back that the contract will be awarded. Everything in connection with this road has been done by my Ministry so that in a short time the work on this road will be started.

I am quite sure that hon. Members will not wish me to answer every hon. Chief one after the other on different points because if I do, you will find that it will sometimes be a repetition of what I have answered before. In general I wish to say that we appreciate the difficulties surrounding our people with regards to roads, bridges and water supply and I wish to say that the Government is alive to the difficulties in this connection. As I have said before, our next Development Programme will be such that you will be proud of if we are able to secure as much money as we want, because you have all been asked in your different areas to bring all your needs and many of them are now in the Ministry so that you will be accommodated in the matter of roads, water supply and bridges; and if we cannot deal with all these at the same time, at least you will see that the amenities will be so distributed that you have some claim of one kind or the other before the expiration of that programme.

So with these, I think the hon. Chiefs will be satisfied that their interests are being looked after.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** I want to thank all the Chiefs who have spoken in connection with the Ministry of Justice.

The hon. J. N. Wachuku wanted a double-panel system introduced in courts in Aba Division. His request is similar to a number of requests I have got about double-panel system in some of our courts. But he will realise that this is a question of money. Local Government Councils pay the salaries of members of these courts and it is very essential that before we make any increase in the number or establish double-panel courts they have to be consulted because they pay. I want to correct one impression that hon. Members have. It is not the Government that pays the members of Customary Courts. It is the Local Government Councils and any increase in their pay or in their number means automatically an increase in the rates you pay, and this is what we want to avoid. I will be very willing to introduce a double-panel system in our courts. Onitsha wants it; Owerri wants it. But I have always to bear in mind that ultimately it is the Councils that pay and many of them have not

[MR AJEGBO]

got the money. If Chief Wachuku persists in his request, I shall ask him to go back to his Council, get their consent, and I shall be willing to introduce two panels in his area.

Chief Okudare accused me of appointing Presidents who have no previous knowledge of the courts. The Customary Courts Law does not enjoin upon me to appoint only people who have had previous knowledge of the courts. All it says is that I should appoint a person who is literate in English language, and that I do. You will realise that quite a number of lawyers who become Magistrates do not have previous experience of presiding in courts; all that they require is intelligence. If Presidents are capable of reading the Customary Courts Law and understanding it, and they are good—when I say “good” I mean they are upright, honest and are men of integrity, I think they are qualified to be Presidents in the courts, previous experience notwithstanding.

I have been misquoted in what I said when Chief Okudare spoke yesterday. I was put down as saying “You have not got the people to be appointed”. That was not what I said. What I said was that they were not agreed among themselves. So I want to say that the statement attributed to me is wrong. I did not say so. What I said and I still say, is that the people were not agreed and that that withheld the appointment. I am happy to say that perhaps by the end of the month or next, we shall have Customary Court established in Obudu.

Chief Ukpa quite rightly said that no Customary Courts have been established in Uyo. I am doing something about that, but he appreciates as much as I do that it is impossible to establish Customary Courts all over the Region at once. I have to take them one by one. At times one has to wait for the reaction of the people to what has been done, check up the complaints before going into the next one. It is not a thing one has to do in a hurry. In fact people are so interested in these Customary Courts that one has to be very careful of what one does. There is much rumour about bribery and corruption and I want to be very careful.

Alhaji Chief Umoru Yushau mentioned that there is no Hausa member in the Onitsha District Court. That is so but he knows as much as I do that for a number of years there has been no Hausa member in that court and the court is one of the best Customary Courts in Eastern Nigeria. I am talking from experience for I know the people. Even when I was practising I had a hand in appointing some of them and they are doing very good work. But the Hausa community in Onitsha is not suffering because there are no Hausas in the District Court. If, however, a vacancy arises there, I shall perhaps think of appointing a Hausa man. It is not right to say that we have not been appointing Hausa people to our Customary Courts; there is one in Owerri and I was delighted at seeing him the other day. There is one in Ogoja and wherever we find a suitable Hausa and he is popular among the people, we normally take him. But the hon. Member does not expect us to flock the courts with Hausa people. He also asked me to establish a Moslem Court. This is a matter of high policy, whether in this Region we ought to establish a Moslem Court. I will hesitate to do that because I think that our Customary Courts are serving the people well. On top of that we have the Magistrates Courts and the High Courts. I think we ought not to have too many courts all around us. I do not think a Moslem Court is really necessary in Eastern Nigeria, but this is a matter about which my colleagues may perhaps like to have a say.

Chief Ozurigbo II came back on this question of High Court in Owerri Province. When I was on tour of Owerri a few days ago, this matter featured in one of the addresses submitted to me. I did say that Government realises the need for a High Court at Owerri. The Chief Justice will, of course, have to determine the priority of these needs, but there can be no doubt that we are going to have a High Court at Owerri. When, as I said in my reply, I do not know. It will be as soon as funds are available, but there is no doubt that we are going to have a High Court there. It will not, however, be one of the first to be established soon. I think we have one or two in mind; after those two, we shall come to Owerri. This is my promise. My answer is that we are going to have a High Court at Owerri as soon as funds are available but I

cannot tell you the time. This will have to be done in consultation with the Chief Justice.

On the question of Police, I would like to say that it is not entirely the matter for the Regional Government. Police is partly Federal and partly Regional and I am not assigned with responsibility for the Police. It is the responsibility of the hon. Premier and he also has the responsibility for maintaining law and order. I am as much agitated as hon. Members of this House over the lawlessness in the Region and Government is very much aware of it. I will refer speeches of hon. Members to the hon. Premier when he returns and I can assure hon. Members that he will do something about it.

A number of Members mentioned that I established more courts in Ogoja Division than are really necessary. I am looking into the matter and promise that if I find that I established more courts than really necessary in Ogoja Division and Councils are not prepared to pay, I will close them down at once. On the matter of Customary Courts generally, I would like to say that I quite appreciate the feelings of Members especially those in whose areas Customary Courts have not been established. I am doing my best to see that Customary Courts are established as soon as practicable, but as I said before, these cannot be all at once. I hope that hon. Chiefs will encourage their people to do their work well because sometimes when we hear reports of what is going on in some of the Customary Courts about the appointment of members, one gets a bit disturbed and I feel like holding up things until the atmosphere is cleared. However, I promise that I will do my best to see that Customary Courts are established in all parts of the Region.

About the delay in Magistrate Courts, quite a number of Members in the House of Assembly spoke about it and that is receiving the attention of the Chief Justice.

About the pay of Customary Court Judges, I think, that I have already given an indication that if hon. Members want to pay them higher, that would mean more burden on the taxpayers. I do not mean to discourage them. If hon. Chiefs feel that their Councils are rich enough and can maintain these courts and they want me to enlarge the numbers, all they have

to do is to get the consent of the Councils and the consent of the Ministry of Local Government that controls the Councils. If they forward the names to me and I am satisfied, I will definitely establish more Customary Courts in those areas that need them.

I think I have answered quite broadly points raised by hon. Members. With these few remarks, Mr President, I support the Motion.

**The Minister of Commerce (Chief J. U. Nwodo):** I do not think Members would expect me to reply at length as Ministers who have specific functions scattered all over the Region. I will first of all thank those who have showered praises and commendations on my Ministry for the way we have been able to set up the tempo of industrial development in this Region. Several points arose from Members' speeches one of which is about the siting of industries in certain localities.

I want to say here again as I have always said in the House of Assembly, that the siting of an industry is governed more by economic than political considerations. This is the most important factor that has always wavered in the minds of industrial entrepreneurs or businessmen wanting to establish business or industry in a particular locality. The first thing that occurs to the minds of these promoters is whether the industry will eventually be viable. And it can only be viable if it is sited in a place where it commands the market, where it is accessible, where it has all the necessary facilities that will accelerate its growth in that particular locality. That is why I want to reiterate here that it is not possible to set industries like hospitals, like schools, in every nook and corner in the Region or to distribute them like other Government amenities on the basis of divisional units and District Council levels.

A similar example to which I may like to draw the attention of Members is that it is a common factor (or a well advanced knowledge) here that businessmen in this country wanting to establish business usually set up their business in most of the large towns, say places like Onitsha, Aba, Calabar, Port Harcourt and Enugu. (*Chief Eket Inyang-Udo—“Uyo”!*) I will come to you later,

[CHIEF NWODO]

I have my hon. Friend at my left hand here who was a reputable businessman before taking up appointment as Minister of Agriculture, and I know the hon. Chief will accept the views I am projecting before the House. We can only site these big businesses in towns where we have the overall picture of the markets, where the industry or the commerce can sell to the people.

A number of Members, in particular Chief Angus Ilonze, the Igwe of Abagana, made reference to the Iron Foundry going on in Awka Division. I know that this Region in particular will be very much happy to see that in certain places, some people are able to build some rifles and some guns. I think they are industries which all of us would like to cherish, because as Nigeria becomes independent, one of the important things the Government thinks of is the security and the maintenance of law and order in the country. But the establishment of a factory of the magnitude, which, perhaps, my hon. Friend has in mind, is one which is usually governed by regulations and ordinances passed by higher Houses. This is a field in which I think the hon. Attorney-General is more learned to dictate the tune than I can say. It is this that I want to say in reply to this very important proposal.

I know of the wood carving in Awka which has always depicted our tradition and custom; and Government has held this craft in very high esteem. What I have done in my Ministry is that I have given grants to this particular industry, and it will interest hon. Members to know that about a month ago we made a grant of £100 to this particular local handicraft.

The hon. Chief Ozurigo of Owerri has made a point that my Ministry wants to establish a "Tombo" (palm wine) industry in the Shell-BP buildings at Owerri. I think we have not in my Ministry talked of bottling palm wine in the old Shell-BP houses at Owerri. What we hope is that the Shell-BP will be kind enough (and I hope they will, having a lot of money) to give Government these buildings free. Perhaps, that has not been made clear to him, but for all I know it is my intention that where it is possible in the Region to establish a

particular industry and the industry will be viable, I will not hesitate to establish it in that particular location.

Now, the hon. Member for Uyo who was wanting to hear what I will say, made certain points in relation to my Ministry. He said my Ministry is now a "bye-pass" Ministry. I could not understand what that means. (*Chief Inyang-Udo: It is an American slang*). It is an American slang, yes, I know; and he has spent a lot of time in America and likes to talk slangs.

He has suggested in his speech that we should have Trade Officers in every Province in the Region. This is very welcome. But I think this is rather at this moment, a utopian plan. You have to go round and get the Ministry of Finance—and that may be a little bit of some hectic job—to convince our people that more tax will have to be paid to appoint Trade Officers in every Province. Actually, I will be the happiest man to see that, like in America, there is a Governor in every Province.

He made one other point, which I think is most unpalatable and would not expect that in the House of Chiefs composed of more mature leaders of the country, we will come to speak as members of opposite camp, crossing swords on political philosophy. I could not reconcile this statement of the Chief with the policy of the Government that, quoting the Chief correctly from the *Hansard*, he did say: "If one does not vote for you, you should not discriminate against him."

This statement has not been substantiated, that this Government has been discriminatory in its method of distributing amenities to the people of this Region. The hon. Chief incidentally comes from Uyo Division, and if some members from Uyo Division take delight in indicting this Government and making unwarranted and flimsy attacks on the Government with a view to achieving their ends, I think the time has come that a stop should be made to it. This Government—and the only Government in the Federation—was at one time subjected to a Royal Commission of Inquiry as a result of the machination of a Member of Uyo in the House of Assembly; and I do not think it is a credit for a Chief in this House to begin to propound another political



philosophy in this Upper House in a way to antagonise the relations of the Government with the people of the Region. (*Interruptions*)

I have been able to reply briefly to most of the points made by the Member. If he says that this Ministry has not done anything for the people of Uyo I want to say that the Ministry of Commerce has the largest Co-operative Bank sited at Uyo.

Recently, Government guaranteed an overdraft of £150,000 to Co-operative Societies in the Region. The headquarters of these Co-operative Societies is in Uyo.

If it is that the Ministry of Commerce has not done anything for the people of Uyo that has brought in the statement that "if one does not vote for you, you should not discriminate against him", the hon. Chief is . . .

**Chief Inyang-Udo:** I did not say so; give me the page.

**The Minister of Commerce:** The page is 117 of *Hansard* of 20th April, 1961. I am reading from the *Hansard*.

**Chief Inyang-Udo:** I never said that "If one does not vote for you . . .". I never said so. I am not a politician. (*An hon. Chief: Withdraw your statement*). Withdraw what? Did I make that statement?

**The President:** If the Chief denies that statement, the proper thing is to withdraw it or to correct it.

The hon. Chief is at liberty to get the speech corrected. That is why it is necessary for Members to read their speeches.

**Chief Inyang-Udo:** Mr President, I am old enough to know what is right and what is wrong. Nobody here is a better N.C.N.Cer than myself. Although I attacked that Ministry because it by-passes the whole of Calabar Province in its activities, I did not attack the Eastern Government as such.

**Many hon. Members:** The hon. Member should withdraw the statement at once.

**Chief Inyang-Udo:** Mr President, I withdraw.

**The Minister of Commerce:** That is very magnanimous of the hon. Member.

**The President:** There is a difference between not making a statement and withdrawing a statement. If the hon. Member did not make the statement as he is at present claiming, then there is no point in withdrawing it.

**Chief Inyang-Udo:** Mr President, I maintain that I never made this statement.

**The Minister of Commerce:** I do not want to argue on this point now because this is not the place to enter into such controversy but I would like some hon. Members to know that most of us here are Chiefs like themselves. I am a Chief by custom and tradition and I am also recognised by Government.

I would like to wind up by announcing that Government has entered into contract with many large overseas enterprises with a view to setting up huge industries in this Region. Government has wisely decided that men of substance like you all and good businessmen all over the Region should be called upon to participate in some of these industries. One of them will soon be set up at Port Harcourt. This is a tyre factory in which this Government with an overseas interest has invested a large sum of money to the tune of £3 million. I hope that when Government makes a call officially there will be a spontaneous response from all over the Region.

**The Minister of Agriculture (Mr P. N. Okeke):** I seize this opportunity to thank all hon. Members who have spoken on the Head of my Ministry. I am really very grateful to them. It is not my intention to inflict Members of this hon. House with a long speech similar to what I made during the debate on the Appropriation Bill during the Budget Session of the House of Assembly. The answers to most of the criticisms made by Members of this hon. House are contained in my speech during the Appropriation Bill in the House of Assembly. However, I would like to touch in brief some of the points.

[MR P. N. OKEKE]

Chief Mpi from Ahoada has assured me that there is plenty of land in his Division which they would like the Government to take over and also he wanted oil mills to be established in his Division. As hon. Members may be aware, on the 17th or 18th of this month my Ministry advertised for land for the establishment of farm settlements and plantations throughout the Region. I have instructed that wide publicity should be given to this advertisement and I hope the people of Ahoada will come forward with their offer of land for these farm plantations and settlements. (*An hon. Member: What of oil mills?*). The establishment of pioneer oil mills is the responsibility of the E.N.D.C. As my hon. colleague, the Minister of Commerce, has said, the siting of some of these things is not at all guided by political considerations. It is guided by economic factors. I am sure that if there is need for oil mills to be established in Ahoada, private individuals or the E.N.D.C. should have established one long before now. However, we are going over the whole policy of siting of pioneer oil mills in this Region because we have noticed that there is a tendency for competition in the siting of these mills with the result that when many are sited close together they become uneconomical. At present, there are some mills which we regard in my Ministry as being uneconomical and we are considering transferring them to other places where they are likely to be economical.

I am very happy at the point which Chief (Mrs) Mokelu has made about the teaching of rural science in primary schools. I share her anxiety about this subject. I was a school-master myself for eight years and I had the opportunity of teaching in Teacher Training Colleges and so do appreciate the sentiments she has expressed. Rural science has never been a popular subject in our schools and so something must be done to create a radical change in the minds of our people about this subject. This is what my Ministry is out to do in our new policy on farm settlements and plantation development in this Region. We have now decided that we must have to change emphasis from other subjects to agricultural development and if you read through my speech during the Budget Session of the Lower House in the *Hansard* of the 15th and 16th March you will see the clear and comprehensive

picture or plan of my Ministry for solving this problem. We have decided to set up what is called Farm Institutes because we realise that most of our children leave elementary school at the age of twelve or thirteen and cannot therefore assimilate properly the rudiments of rural science. We are setting up three Farm Institutes for these school leavers to be trained. Agriculture is a science, and being a science, people must be taught the rudiments of agriculture before they go back to the land. So I assure the House that Government is taking proper care of this problem.

Chief C. E. Amobi, Special Member from Onitsha Division, wants us to give full publicity of our intention to acquire some lands for our agricultural schemes in order to avoid charges of partiality. I think what I said earlier about advertisements for Farm Settlements and Plantations answers this. Realising that most of the local newspapers where this advertisement was inserted are not circulated in the remote and rural areas, I have directed that the advertisement should be sent to all County Council areas and if possible to Local Council areas so that those who have land to offer may have the opportunity of doing so. I have only to warn Members that Government is not bound to acquire land offered to it. As I said earlier, and the Minister of Commerce said this too, only economic factors determine the siting of projects like this. When these offers of land are made, we are going to examine the soil; we shall also examine the topography of the land and see whether there are gulfs or erosions, etc., in the area, the nature of the soil and what crop is likely to grow well in it.

Therefore, our stand will depend on these factors taken together before we decide on which offer to accept. In that respect, we have experts in my Ministry who, after we have received an offer, will go round and decide eventually whether we are going to set up this farm settlement for plantation.

Chief Ebong of Abak wanted loans to be given to small farmers and Chief Efeke also wanted loans to be given to small farmers and even went further to say that Loan Boards should be set up in every Division. I do not agree. It is not the policy of my Ministry to set up Loan Boards in every Division. Already it is not an easy thing to operate the

Loan Board set up in the E.N.D.C. It will be much more difficult if we scatter Loan Boards all over the Region. The division of Loan Board in the Western Region has been used as political machinery and built in order to attract political supporters. We are not doing that in this Region. The E.N.D.C. is the main channel through which at present we make loans available to farmers and only farmers who are qualified should apply to the E.N.D.C. for loans. I must have to add here that we are now more critical in the giving out of these loans than we have been in the past. Up till today, hon. Chiefs may learn for their information that we have about £½ million loans granted to farmers and businessmen in this Region outstanding. Some of them are due for repayment and it has not been easy to collect because the loans were given out so recklessly by the Corporation in those days, and we are determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past. That is why I announced during this Budget Session that I have directed the E.N.D.C. to make available to farmers the sum of £1 million. I want to assure the House that not a penny of this money has been given out to any farmer because we are determined to scrutinise and investigate properly the schemes or agricultural project of any borrower before we can part with the tax-payers money.

Chief Ihenacho of Owerri hoped that we would carry out this plan which was presented to the House of Assembly. I want to assure him that we are determined to implement this programme. Already advertisement has gone out. In fact, senior officials in my Ministry have followed up this advertisement by going all over the Region to investigate, so that even in areas where land has not been offered and they find that the land there is suitable, they will request the people there to make an offer. Some of the Chiefs have heard the statement made by the Premier that the political battle is over; soap box politics is over; we are not bent to revive the politics of the stomach. We are determined to create an agrarian revolution in this Region. I am very happy to be the Minister of Agriculture of this hour when agriculture is dearest in the heart of the Premier. We know what that means; it demands our support. As I have said in my Budget Speech, even the Minister of

Finance finds it difficult to release money. In fact, every time we have to battle with him in the Executive Council to release money for this and that project. He has been very kind to my Ministry this year and with the support of the Premier, the support of the Minister of Finance and my other colleagues, I want to assure our hon. Members that we are going all out to create an agrarian revolution in this Region and I expect that within a year or two, they will notice my ideas being translated into action.

I am happy to notice that many Chiefs have made offers of land; Chief Onwudiwe of Anambra has offered land in Anambra. Well, I hope that he will tell the people of Anambra to make their offer and we shall come to investigate.

The Amanyanabo of Bonny wants a Catering Rest House for Bonny. I want to be frank in my replies to Members. The time has passed when we spent every penny we earned in this Region on luxuries. We are bent now on productive projects. Catering Rest Houses can be a luxury in certain areas, and as I have said before Catering Rest Houses are controlled by E.N.D.C. which is a commercial venture. We do not have to site these Catering Rest Houses merely because they are a luxury to some people. We want to make sure that every penny we have now in the Ministry should be directed towards finding employment for thousands of school leavers who leave primary schools every year. This year, we have turned out 7,000 primary school leavers and I am informed by the Minister of Education that in the next three years we shall turn out 38,000 when the first batch of our Universal Primary Education school leavers will get to Standard VI. All can appreciate what problem that is. We are now faced with the problem of finding employment for 7,000 primary school leavers in a year. You can appreciate what the problem will be in the next three years when we turn out 38,000 primary school leavers.

**The President:** The question on this Motion will be put at 5.55 p.m., so the hon. Minister of Agriculture will take note of the time.

**The Minister of Agriculture:** Well, it is impossible for me now with the time at my disposal to have to reply to everyone, but I would like to refer to sections of my speech in this Budget Session. I said in my speech:

“I want to say a word about Farm Settlements. Hon. Members will recall that in opening my speech, I said that in this first year of our national independence, subsistence farming is not enough, and that we must make the land provide more attractive and lucrative employment. We must, in short, Mr Chairman, restore dignity to farming and ensure that those who are engaged in this occupation enjoy a greater return for their labours. This is very important if our young boys who are now leaving school in ever-increasing numbers are going to be attracted back to farming.” I went further somewhere.

“The intention is that Government, in the first instance, should acquire the land, and after an agricultural survey, have the settlement area laid out on a planned basis. In this connection, I think I should make it plain that we will not tolerate either interminable negotiations with land owners, or protracted disputes and bickering over title, which will merely serve to hamper and frustrate development. In the event of such disputes, we shall turn our backs on those areas and go where the social climate is more favourable.”

I think this should be sufficient warning to areas where it is likely we shall have difficulties in acquiring land; if that happens, we shall have to go to other areas where the social climate is more favourable.

Well, I am sorry, that I have not time at my disposal to go at length to reply fully to the points raised by Members. I thank the hon. Chiefs for their kind suggestions. I want to assure them that we require their co-operation so that this scheme will be a success.

**The Minister of State (Establishments and Chieftaincies) (Mr O. U. Affiah):** I wish to reply briefly to some of the points which have been raised by the hon. Members of this House. Before doing so, I would like to thank the Chiefs for the kind words they have said about the Government, and to congratulate all those who have contributed to the debates, for

their constructive, fatherly and wise suggestions and advice made in the different speeches. I hardly need to reassure the hon. Members that Government has always taken whatever advice and suggestions are made in this House very seriously.

Mr President, may I now reply to some of the points raised during the debate. First, there is the question of the appointment of Third and Fourth-class Chiefs. I want to assure hon. Members that this matter has not been lost sight of. But it is definitely something which cannot be rushed. I want to say that it will be looked into as soon as possible. I did not quite follow the point made by one hon. Member about making the recognition of Second-class Chiefs who are not Members of this House known. Almost all those selected and recognised have been publicly awarded certificates, in most cases by me personally. In many areas these Second-class Chiefs have been appointed Presidents of their County Councils. I know that in some areas these Chiefs are exercising healthy leadership and making an impressive impact on their people.

Coming to the question of giving more powers to the Chiefs I think this is one of the matters which is receiving due consideration in my office but experience alone will determine whether, and to what extent, any additional powers should be given to the Chiefs.

Some of the hon. Members have suggested that the Government should provide for the remuneration of those Second-class Chiefs who are not Members of this House. This question has been brought to me on several occasions before. To implement this suggestion, will, I think, mean increasing tax or not tarring some of our roads. I hope everyone will agree with me that at the moment, it is not advisable to do any of these things. This being a matter which is very much directly connected with money I appeal to Members that they will be satisfied with the advice and answer I have given them in the past and that is that this proposition is at the moment not financially possible.

Chief Agbasiere expressed the view that there is difference between this House and its counterparts in the other two Regions of the Federation. With due respect, I wish to disagree with the hon. Chief. It is not so at all.

There is no difference whatsoever between this House and the other two Houses of Chiefs. They are the same in status and the salary of Members are just the same.

The Amanyanabo of Nembe wishes that Third and Fourth-class Chiefs should, after recognition, be given staffs of office so as to distinguish them from commoners. While I am not promising on behalf of Government to provide these classes of Chiefs with staffs of office I think the Government will not be opposed to Chiefs providing themselves with staffs of office if they find it necessary.

As regards the other points made—for example the visit of Chiefs to other Regions and outside Nigeria, the issue of staffs of office to the Second-class Chiefs, a dress and residence for the President of this House, I can say that the Government has noted the views expressed and each of them will be considered in due course.

Finally, I now touch on the important question of Nigerianisation. Government statements on this issue have been made quite frequently and I do not want to add to them here. But this much I can assure the House:

We are doing our best, and are succeeding, to ensure that our rapid Nigerianisation programme does not lead to an undue sacrifice of efficiency.

*Question put and agreed to nemine contradicente.*

Resolved: That this House expresses its loyal and dutiful Thanks to His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature from the Throne.

**The Address to be presented by Members of the Eastern Nigeria Executive Council.**

(2) The 1961-62 Eastern Nigeria Appropriation Bill, 1961—Second Reading—Adjourned Debate on Question (18th April)—That the Bill be now read a Second time. *Further deferred until Tomorrow.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

*Adjourned, accordingly, at fourteen minutes to six o'clock p.m.*

EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Saturday, 22nd April, 1961

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

PRAYERS

(Mr President in the Chair)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Adjournment sine die

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

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

Resolved: That this House at its rising Today do adjourn *sine die*.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Appropriation Bill (1961-62)

(FIRST ALLOTTED DAY)

*Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (18th April)*—That the Bill be now read a Second time.

*Question again proposed.*

**Chief J. Mpi (Port Harcourt Province):** I rise to support the Appropriation Bill for 1961-62 and in doing so I have to congratulate the Government of Eastern Nigeria on the hard work put in towards the preparation of this Budget which we are now considering.

I have also to say that the Government is an able Government and we are very happy—I am sorry to be personal—about the pronouncement of the hon. Minister of Finance, Dr S. E. Imoke, to reconsider his previous announcement regarding withdrawing from active politics. This is the Government of able men who are ready to take useful advice and respect public opinion.

We have seen so many things in the Estimates and I am convinced that the Government is doing very well. The Speech from the Throne and the Budget Speech were both prepared in a masterly way that one finds little or nothing to criticise. Already a lot of things has been said on the Speech from the Throne and I think it is a waste of time starting all over again. That will be mere repetition. We must try and make short observations in order not to take the time of this hon. House and perhaps be branded people who are full of criticisms.

I am sorry that some of the Ministers are not here but their colleagues, I am sure, can always call their attention to what we are talking here. So many Members have said something about roads and I hope the Minister will not think that we are saying this for saying sake. Something must be done about the appalling state of some of our roads. There are so many roads requiring development and other schemes in our area, the rural areas. When we say "rural areas" we all realise that some of the Ministers also come from these areas. There is no doubt about it and I think they will help the people in these areas and make them realise that Independence has really come to stay.

There is one other thing I would like to talk about. It is regrettable to note that both in the Federal and the Regional Cabinets, there is not a single man from my Province. I am not forcing it on the Government but I am trying to point out to them what is true.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** Point of information. I do not agree with the hon. Chief. What of Chief Nwuke who is Commissioner for Port Harcourt Province?

**Chief Mpi:** Chief Nwuke is only a Provincial Commissioner and not a Minister.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** According to our Constitution a Commissioner is a Minister.

**Chief Mpi:** Mr President, I am not arguing with the Government but I must say that the spelling of "Commissioner" is different from the spelling of "Minister". We want a Minister.

Whatever happens, I only want to let the Government know my view. They know what is right.

May I take this opportunity to repeat what I said before about Oil Mill in Ahoada Division. This is a necessity and the Government should build at least one Oil Mill in this Division. I am repeating this because the Stenographers or the *Hansard* Reporters misquoted me the other time when I said something about Oil Mill in Ahoada Division. I think they should do their work properly.

Without taking much of other people's time I think the whole Budget is well prepared and I hope this hon. House will give it approval.

**Chief C. E. Amobi** (Special Member): In supporting the 1961-62 Appropriation Bill, I want to mention that I am very happy that Eastern Nigeria which started its Budget with a little over £3 million just in the early fifties, has been able in a question of about seven years, to budget this huge amount of £27 million, which shows an increase of about £4 million every year. My congratulations go to the Minister of Finance who, I describe as the darling of this hon. House.

Mine is to praise when it is necessary and to make recommendations when I am in a position to do so. I have to thank the Minister of Finance once more for the introduction of "Pay As You Earn". That, on behalf of the workers in Eastern Nigeria is a big help because if that "cut" had never come to the brains of the leaders of this House I wonder what could have been the position of the workers. I am saying this because, as a worker myself, I do not know when I pay my tax. That has been a very commendable aspect of our Finance Law. Going straight to tax evaders, I would recommend to the Minister of Finance that something should be introduced and that is inter-provincial transfers of tax assessment officers; it should be temporary transfer of say one month to check tax evaders. I am going to explain how that will work. I suggest that checking of tax defaulters should be started in the twelve provinces of Eastern Nigeria on the same day because there has been the tendency that when there is a check in Onitsha most of these tax evaders may sneak

to Enugu, Abakaliki and other places. If this recommendation is taken into consideration I am sure reasonable amount of money must be recovered. If any Member can rise here and tell me that there are no tax defaulters in his area, I will not agree with him.

*Premier's Office.*—Our acceptable leader, Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, should be congratulated in the way he is leading this Region.

**Chief Eket Inyang-Udo** (Uyo Province): I support.

**Chief Amobi:** *Leadership by consultation.*—Dr Okpara as I know him is somebody who does not believe in gossiping. He is a man, if he has anything against you will not hesitate to send for you, and immediately you come he will discuss the points with you and, finally, will advise you. So he should be congratulated for that and I thank Government for appointing a Nigerian as the Chief Secretary to the Government.

Another point I want to make on the Premier's Office is that retiring age of the civil servants should be increased to sixty years. I say this because there are people who are so fortunate that they started in the Civil Service with good salaries and there are still people in the Civil Service who started with very poor salaries. The result is that every year they go to swear affidavits reducing their ages. If Government will consider and make a law that anybody who wishes to work up to sixty years will be allowed to work if he has the stamina to do it, I think that will be good.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—I will say that the arrangements as they are now are commendable and when they are put into practice I know within five years' time nobody will quarrel with his stomach. I want to add that many people were given loans by E.R.D.C. now Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation; but these loans are not being repaid. My recommendation is that Government should take a firm stand about these people. Some people take money for specified projects but instead of using it for those particular projects they go and buy big cars, deceiving people in the street. These loans should be recovered if they have not been repaid. If they are not repaid the borrowers should be put to court. I am

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[CHIEF AMOBI]

suggesting that the poor farmers scattered all around the Region be encouraged by giving them loans ranging from £50 to £500 as the case may be.

*Ministry of Education.*—I have to thank the Minister of Education for introducing a law about illegal schools. These illegal schools are doing great harm in the Region. Some of them are wearing uniforms now. This matter should be pursued.

In the matter of education, I would suggest that before the words "University of Nigeria, Nsukka" three other words should be added. They are "Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe". (*Interruptions*).

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** Point of Order—Standing Order 32 (5)

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

We have a President in this House and it will be out of order for hon. Chiefs to be heckling like school children.

**Chief Amobi:** I am saying that to the "University of Nigeria" should be added some other names. I am suggesting that that University should from henceforth be called "Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe University of Nigeria, Nsukka". I know that monuments have been erected and streets named after Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, but that man, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, has done so much for us, the Africans generally and Nigerians in particular. His name must be made to be immortal, a name which will be ageless in the annals of Nigerian history. I am also recommending that some other projects like the Iron and Steel Industry of Enugu which has been provided by the present Premier should bear the name "Dr M. I. Okpara Steel and Iron Industry Project, Enugu".

I have to thank our Minister of Justice for all he is doing to revise the laws of Eastern Nigeria. It is not a small thing. It is not a small thing to be at the head where you have many lawyers and to be responsible for all their doings, postings and all the rest of it. I am suggesting that in the Ministry of Justice more Magistrates

should be provided so as to liquidate the outstanding cases in many courts.

Mr President, I stand here to disassociate myself from the sentiments made by some hon. Members in the Lower House accusing all the Magistrates in the Eastern Region of bribery and corruption. I feel that was too wild. The Police is there. This hon. House is not a place where people should come to attack and damage the reputation of workers who have no chance of replying! If anybody is found to be corrupt the Police is there. Why not take the case to the Police and see that the man is arrested? Nobody is above the law. I was so much ashamed that a Barrister-at-Law on the floor of that House joined to attack Magistrates. It was too bad.

*Ministry of Local Government.*—I must associate myself with the way the Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of the Enugu Municipal Council was conducted by Mr Perkins. I should add that no County Council or District Council should eat its cake and have it merely because it happened to be an N.C.N.C. Council and therefore tries to do whatever it likes. Whenever a Council is suspected corrupt an expert inquiry should be set up to find out the facts. I deplore very vehemently what happened in Port Harcourt quite recently. There is a tendency in our people these days to mar the reputation of the real supporters of this Government. There is a clique trying to mar the reputation of every supporter of the Government. I am not happy at what happened to the Mayor of Port Harcourt. That man is trying to live a decent life and for that sake he has been voted out of office. Those people who gave him vote of confidence have not found him corrupt, they have not found him delinquent in his duties, but because he is trying to live a decent life some find it fit that he must be voted out. I know the family of Allagoa very well. They have had long association with the Amobi family and I know them to be decent people all the time. On this point I have to ask the Minister of Local Government to see that no worker in that Department stays more than three years in a station. That is my suggestion.

*The Ministry of Works.*—Everybody yesterday congratulated the Minister of Works for all he is trying to do. I do not blame the Minister; the former Colonial Government, the



Imperialist Government did nothing pertaining to roads and I am suggesting that some of the bridges like the one we have near the Police Station at Awka should not be destroyed after constructing the new one so that our children would see what the Imperialist Government did for us, the sort of bridge they built on our roads. It is only now the Government is of our people that we have good roads. The Minister should be congratulated for all he is doing. I do know that some of the works are done from Federal funds but whatever happens the Minister must be congratulated. I would, however, remind the Minister of a Public Notice in the *Nigerian Spokesman* of 17th April, 1961 and I quote:

#### "Public Notice

The Public is hereby informed that the following bridges collapsed and are closed to all traffic with effect from the 15th April, 1961, until further notice.

1. Ofilifo bridge on Aguleri-Nkem-Nando road.
2. Nengo bridge on Nteje-Umunya road.
3. Omelebude bridge and Oyi bridge on Awkuzu-Nando road.
4. Mmili Nwarriene No. 2 bridge on Abube Nando-Nando Agbudu road.
5. Nkisi bridge on Umudioka-Ogbunike-Umunya road junction.
6. Okpoloko bridge and Oyi bridge on Awkuzu-Igbariam-Aguleri road.
7. Opoko bridge on Afama Umuleri-Nenyi-Nsugbe road.
8. Okpokili bridge on Igwebike-Nkwelle road.
9. Nkisi bridge on Azu-Ogbunike-Ozeh Nkwelle road.

V. E. OGOLO  
Acting Secretary  
Anambra County Council"

I am not saying that these people are neglected. I am suggesting that all bridges which are to be constructed throughout the Region, not in a particular Division or Province, should be all made of concrete cement and efforts should be made to see that the bridges are repaired before they get out of hand especially now that the rainy season is setting in.

*Ministry of Economic Planning.*—I have to thank the Government for providing the

Ministry of Economic Planning. Some Members have never touched that Ministry in their speeches because they do not actually know what the Ministry is. But I am assuring this hon. House that this Ministry is one of the best and strongest which co-ordinates the work of other Ministries and should therefore be encouraged. In a question of two years many of us will be able to know what the Ministry stands for. I would like to add that the Permanent Secretary to that Ministry should be somebody who knows business.

*The Ministry of Health.*—There is nothing like health. Give me health and I will find my wealth. I have to thank the Government for the way it is trying to increase quantities of medicines in all our hospitals. But I have to make a particular mention about the Onitsha General Hospital. At present that hospital has only three doctors, two chemists and a few ward servants. Efforts should be made to see that this hospital is being supplied with more doctors. I am to add that sanitation in Onitsha is getting below the average. I know it is the work of the Local Council but I have made several attempts to get them do their work. I do not know whether the Sanitary Inspectors are still functioning. I take one instance. Now in Onitsha we have swarms of mosquitoes from January to December. Formerly there used to be some people carrying drums of disinfectants disinfecting all the bad areas; but now these things are not done, with the result that no matter where one is one cannot sleep even though one is in a tent. I am suggesting that now we are in the age of machinery, there should be some anti-mosquito campaign provided with an automobile and used in disinfecting all the bad areas in the towns.

Onitsha is such an important place in the Region that it attracts many strangers from the outside world. That place must be made attractive.

On this point about health, I can see that the Government is very anxious on the improvement of sports in the Eastern Region. I remember last year that I said something about building an Orthopaedic Hospital anywhere in the Eastern Region. It is only to Igbobi in Lagos that people send their children

[CHIEF AMOBI]

or relatives when they have accidents while playing games. I hope Government will make a statement on this.

Coming to the question of Chieftaincy, I have to congratulate the Minister responsible for Chieftaincy. And I have to congratulate him . . .

**The President:** Order! Order! Standing Order 36 (1):

“Unless the Standing Orders otherwise allow and subject to paragraph 2 of this Standing Order, no Member shall be entitled to address the House or a Committee of the Whole House for more than 30 minutes on any subject.”

**Chief Amobi:** Thank you, Mr President. If you can only allow me to finish with this matter of Chieftaincy, I shall be grateful.

There are efforts by some people in this Region to bring the name of this Government to ridicule. I remember the Premier of this Region abundantly said that the Government does not create Chiefs. The people create Chiefs and the Government recognises them. So that anybody sending petition to the Minister should remember this. There has been effort to discredit some Chiefs who were unanimously elected by their people. This club will go and pass a vote of no confidence in their local Chief today, and tomorrow they pass a vote of no confidence in another Chief simply because they happen to disagree with a particular person or a particular club.

I am sorry my time is up. I beg to support.

**Chief D. O. Njoku** (Aba Division): I rise to support the Motion. In doing so, I seize this opportunity in thanking you. Many Members have spoken more than twice. This is my first opportunity. The first thing I wish to say is this, that I am so happy about the appointment of the Governor, Sir Francis Ibiam. Everybody in the Eastern Region and even in the whole of Nigeria, welcomes the appointment. Many have said that he is a Christian and indeed he is a real Christian. But I am suggesting that the Members of this House and the Members

of the House of Assembly should be converted to Christians. Since we have got a Governor who is a Christian the Members of our Legislature must be Christians as well.

The first thing I want to bring to your notice is that I am afraid whether it would be possible for a child to leave her mother's kitchen and jump up to Class II at once without reading ABC or Class I. I am afraid what will be the position of that child. This is the first time I am hearing of such a system. I quite agree that the Minister in charge is there. Of course, a parable says: “He who wears the shoe knows where it pinches him.”

Secondly, a strong warning should be given to Aba General Hospital. About a week ago, some people, especially pregnant women, have been put to death through bad treatment and bad operation. So that I am appealing to the Minister in charge to take a great care and give strong warning to the staff in Aba General Hospital. Moreover, you want to see the skins of people from that hospital, the skins of hunting dogs are better than the skins of the people from the hospital, because of mosquitoes. Therefore, I am asking the Minister concerned to take immediate steps to provide them with medicines.

So many people have congratulated the Minister of Works. The Minister of Works is a man from my own constituency. And some time ago, this month, people who are reading might have read where vote of confidence was passed in him and other people passed vote of no confidence, because people of his own area are suffering while other parts of the Region have got amenities like bridges and tarred roads. What could be the cause? The poor innocent Minister has been badly attacked by his people whereas he has done no wrong to them. It is only when the people hear that such and such a road and bridge have been constructed in another place, but not in our own area—a section of Northern Ngwa, Owerrinta with five Local Councils comprising Owerrinta—that they get annoyed. Since the introduction of Local Government we have not got any amenity. Go and see the Owerrinta bridge, it is lying untouched. The contractor who undertook the contract is a lazy folk. I

can say he has not done the business, and it is over a year and a half now. We are still riding on that bridge which makes awful noise. A strong warning should be given to the contractor working that bridge, because rainy season will soon come and the river will overflow the bridge.

The Minister of Justice has done a nice work. There is one thing now which is of importance. There is no difference between Customary Courts and Native Courts at present. It is still as it was in the old days. There are no forms. The only change is that the memberships have been reduced. Apart from that there is nothing to differentiate the Native Court from the Customary Court. So that I am appealing to the Minister of Justice to take immediate steps and see that forms are given to the Customary Courts.

**Mrs Janet Mokelu (Special Member):** In supporting the Appropriation Bill, I would like to make some observations. The sum of £25,124 has been voted for work in Enugu Municipality. I do not consider this is enough, seeing that Enugu, the Headquarters of Eastern Nigeria is a young and growing town, attracting many people for settlement for one thing or the other. To develop it to be what it should be, much more money is needed to help building and maintaining the roads, supplying electricity and water and developing the market. Provision of such amenity as swimming pools to the public should also be considered so that people who come from riverine and other places where swimming is practised may have the opportunity of swimming and teaching their children to do so, as it is part and parcel of their lives. I should point out here that the roads to Iva Valley, Ogui Urban Area and Abakpa should be tarred and electricity should be installed on the roads and extended to the people who live in these areas. I hope the Minister of Local Government under whose portfolio these developments come will take note as I shall not allow him to rest until these things are done. Parks, Play Grounds and Youth Centres are also needed for helping the youths develop in different forms of activities.

Here I register my appreciation to the Government for the recognition given to the

youths by appointing Youth Organisers to help build up healthy youths for the country.

I have also to register my thanks and appreciation to the Minister of Health for the health services rendered to school children in the form of general medical examination, free medical treatment and general care given to them. However, I appeal to the Government to take immediate steps to look into the following which concern people in Enugu:—

- (a) Mosquito bites in Enugu have become very unbearable now. It was not the case so many years back and I think it is the result of general insanitary condition. I call on the Minister to remedy the situation.
- (b) The health of the general public is subjected to danger by lepers who are left to roam about in market places, big shops and other public places to look for alms. It is unfortunate that the people mentioned are affected by this deadly disease for which they have my sympathy; nevertheless, right from the beginning of this world, these people were not accepted in human habitations because of the deadliness of the disease. I strongly appeal to the Minister to see what he can do to remove these people from the public, and cater and provide some comfort for them somewhere.

I give thanks to the Government through the Minister of Commerce under whose portfolio the setting up of big industries comes. These big industries carry with them huge benefits such as:—

- (a) Employment is found by the Government for the unemployed.
- (b) We have the pleasure of enjoying the articles of our make.
- (c) We buy those articles cheaper and by so doing those articles of our make get within the reach of almost everybody.
- (d) Our Region gets rich by the establishment of these industries, and as a result our debts will be reduced or paid off; and as we go on we shall be in a position to lend money on interests to other countries who may need help from us. I look forward to the establishment of glass industry as I happen to know that that would provide employment for girls as clerks and office managers.

[MRS MOKELU]

I thank the Minister of Finance for the able way he handles the finances of the Region as evidenced by his ability to produce these estimates we are now debating.

I have no time to call on other Ministers but I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Works to the bad conditions of roads and bridges in all parts of the Region. The conditions of these roads and bridges are very discouraging to the tax-payers. I therefore appeal to him to look into these roads and bridges and also to see that good water supply is provided to all who need them in the Region so that people who pay taxes may benefit by them.

**Chief A. U. Ukpa** (Eket Division): I rise to support the 1961-62 Eastern Nigeria Appropriation Bill. I have only a few remarks to make. I was very much shocked yesterday when hon. Chief J. O. Njemanze of Owerri rose in this hon. House to make a statement. In that speech he laid emphasis on the nationality of our Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria and the Governor of Eastern Nigeria. As we all know, all of us in Nigeria have respect and admiration for these our able sons and have always regarded Zik as Zik of Africa in general and Zik of Nigeria in particular. I wonder what will happen to this country and where we are drifting to if only seven months after Independence a responsible person will stand up to make a statement and discriminatingly stresses on the nationality of our leaders. We must all be very careful. This is not the time for this type of thing.

I join other hon. Members who have already spoken on the efficiency and good work of the staff of this Legislature but I would like to see that the salary of the Serjeant-at-Arms is equated to that of his counterparts in the North and West. We are told that he receives much less than the people who hold the same office in those two Regions. I can see no reason for this. There is no justification for not applying the well-known maxim "Equal pay for equal work" in this case.

I associate myself completely with the remarks of Chief the hon. C. E. Amobi (Special Member) condemning the statement of most hon. Members in the Lower House in respect

of our Magistrates. I have to add that we have only one Magistrate for Uyo, Eket, Opobo and Oron. This is not enough and I call on the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General to supply us one more Magistrate to serve these four stations.

What boys can do girls can do too and what men can do women can do. So I am appealing to the Minister of Education to open more secondary schools for girls. Compared with the population of girls in this Region, the number of secondary schools is very inadequate and the Minister should know that the situation has now reached an alarming stage. I would suggest that more secondary schools should be built for girls.

If you study the 1961-62 Estimates conjointly with its Memorandum, you will find that the Budget Speech is very explanatory. Many hon. Members have praised and congratulated the Minister of Finance. He has left nothing undone and to this end I have nothing to regret.

*Ministry of Local Government.*—Many hon. Members spoke yesterday on the appointments of Presidents of Councils. The former Local Government Law provided for Councils to make recommendations, but I am sure the present Local Government Law has provided that the Presidents of Councils will be appointed by the Minister of Local Government and they will serve at the pleasure of the Minister, so that to have Councils sitting down to make recommendations to the Ministry after the new law has come into operation is an absurd.

*Transfers of Local Government Staff.*—It is noted with regret that in some Councils members of the Local Government staff will be given letters of transfer and such staff will go down to Enugu and on their return they celebrate that they are no more going on transfer. So I am appealing to the Minister of Local Government that when once a staff is on transfer the transfer should not be cancelled. In some respects it affects the public. When the public is dissatisfied with somebody's work and he continues to remain, collection of rates and taxes becomes very difficult. Mr President with these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Chief F. B. Nduka** (Okigwi Division): Before supporting the Appropriation Bill, I

have to make these remarks on the following Heads.

*Head 435—Ministry of Health.*—I am happy to note that the Ministry has become more and more aware of the health problems existing in this Region. Many hospitals have been built in many areas. This is a step along the right direction. The increase of £184,170 on Health in the 1961–62 Budget is very encouraging. It is clearly understood that we have more health problems than can possibly be met with the little money available. The Ministry should therefore be very prudent in allocating funds. Unfortunately, the Region does not have any Lunatic Asylum. Frequently, mad men roam about either in the middle of townships or in the market places. This is in fact one of the health problems. I therefore suggest that in every Province at least one General Hospital should have provision for housing and caring for lunatics.

May I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Health to the Mbano Hospital built long ago. This hospital does not fall in line with similar hospitals in other areas that are joint-concerns. Many of Mbano people still feel strongly that the Mbano hospital should be a joint-concern.

*Head 422—Ministry of Works.*—Many people yesterday had showered blessings on the Ministry of Works. I join myself with them especially for the nice work done by the Ministry to my people in Nsu Clan in Okigwi Division. My people are grateful to this Government for the installation of water supply. I should seize this opportunity to remind the Ministry that some of the villagers who contributed their share in the cost of this scheme were not given water supply. They were told that the money is not available and they were asked to pay extra money. This, they have since paid but up till now no action has been taken. I pray the Minister of Works to take action on this. I would like to point out that there is provision made out in the Water Division for three Senior Water Supply Superintendents, twenty-four Water Supply Superintendents and eighteen Assistant Water Supply Superintendents. If one of these officers is posted at Mbano in Okigwi Division it will go a long way in solving many of the irregularities in the supply of water and other

routine matters. It is noted that there are irregularities in some of the places where the water supply system have been completed. I therefore say that if this arrangement is made this will solve the problem.

*Head 431—Ministry of Education.*—The Government has to be congratulated for granting Voluntary Agency Teachers the Mbanefo Salary increase. Such uniform treatment will reduce the movement of school teachers within the Government and private institutions. The result of the last Standard VI examination was very encouraging. We hope that the improvement in the performance last year was on account of marked improvement in the standard of work done by the teachers as well as the pupils.

We are deeply indebted to the Minister of Education for his effort in trying to recruit sixty Expatriate Science Teachers to teach science in the secondary schools. It is regretted that this had to be done because salaries paid to such officers should by right go to Nigerians who are more in need of employment than the Expatriate officers. There are in the Region today scores of Nigerian Science Graduates who do not want to have anything to do with teaching. This is so because there is no attraction in the teaching profession. Many graduates prefer to do administrative work. I do not need to remind the Ministry that the growth of the country, economically, socially, politically and spiritually largely depends on the standard of education. Employing Expatriate Officers is really shifting the problem and not solving it. I strongly suggest that strong moves be made so as to make the teaching profession more attractive. There is an increase of £444,000 in this Budget of the 1961–62 fiscal year. I doubt if this would meet the various needs of this Ministry. The Government of this Region should build more Government schools. In fact, every Province in this Region should have a Government secondary school. In a large Province such as Owerri there should be not less than two.

By right of location, population and need, Okigwi should have a school of that nature. Before I sit down, I should tell the Minister of Works that Okigwi people are still looking

[CHIEF NDUKA]

forward to when his arrangement for supplying electricity will be exercised. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Mrs Margret Ekpo** (Special Member): Rising to support this Appropriation Bill, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs for the bold step he has taken in establishing the instrument for Fire fighting services in Eastern Nigeria. This, in addition to the expansion of welfare services envisaged, will put this part of the country well on the way to a welfare state. I am sure the Minister is not unaware of the still greater problem facing the Region in the number of disabled and deformed beggars and lunatics roaming our streets; not to mention the greater number of juvenile waifs and strays who hunt not only the streets of our big cities but who are now creating our suburban areas into their veritable hide-outs where hardened criminals reside and use them for their own benefit in robbing peoples houses and snatching handbags. It is doubtless that all the Members of this hon. House feel a great sense of responsibility to these hundreds of unfortunate, maimed, handicapped, mal-adjusted and neglected population who have no one to fight their cause. Is it not regrettable that in the midst of plenty, in this beautiful land of sunshine, our own paradise of tall palm trees, we, in this House live in plenty and comfort of modern amenities, drive past these unfortunate homeless and hungry brothers and sisters without the least thought of how to come to their aid?

It has come to my notice that the Eastern Government has no Approved School for its delinquent children and that the one sighted in Enugu is on the verge of being converted to a Borstal (a school for older boys and the more hardened). Quite a number of offending juveniles in the last year sent before the Magistrate Courts has been denied admission in the school and the Magistrates have no alternative but to release the delinquents who may develop to our social problems of the future.

I would like to place on record that the Minister of Commerce should not look only to the big industries. He should go round the Region. I have visited so many native small industries. There is one at Aba and another

at Onitsha. If they give these small little industries some grants it will help them because they are doing a lot of work by giving job to our jobless boys and girls.

Coming to the Ministry of Education, I have noticed that for 1960-61 we have on our Budget here 100 post-secondary, 510 secondary, and 102 technical scholarships. Mr President, I would like the Minister of Education to know that we are now in an independent Nigeria and that time has gone when they placed boys before girls. If you look round today there is a woman Magistrate here doing very well. If the parents did not educate her well she could not have been doing very well. So I am asking that when scholarships are to be distributed, they must be distributed equally to boys and girls.

A few days ago, we passed a Housing Scheme Law here. Now what I want to ask the Government is: has time not come when a Housing Scheme should be introduced in the Eastern Region so that most of our boys and girls who are working may be able to build houses and pay the Government a few pounds each month as is being done in Lagos and elsewhere? When you talk of Housing Corporation it is only the Senior Service people who will be able to live up to the expectation of the Housing Corporation Board by being able to buy the plot and then applying for money to build the house, but the lower income people will not be able to do that. That is why while we are thinking of this Housing Corporation let the Government think seriously about a Housing Scheme for the lower income group.

Many people talked about mosquitoes. I notice in the Appropriation Bill that £33,000 have been voted for anti-malaria. When the Minister of Health talks about anti-malaria, he should know that it is mosquitoes that cause malaria. I have forgotten where it was stated that the Shell-BP were approached and they spread anti-mosquito medicine and that they killed quite a lot in that area. I wonder whether it will not be advisable for the Minister of Health to approach them so that they may get up with helicopter and spray the whole of this Region. If you know what is happening in Aba, and Enugu and everywhere, it is terrible. And the worse of all is in the hospitals

where they have no mosquito nets so that if you enter into the hospital with one illness you come out with another—malaria.

Another thing is that we are short of doctors. I wonder whether the Scholarship Board will not take it upon themselves. It costs a lot of money to train doctors and that is why we are short of doctors. I feel that with the teeming population in Nigeria today, it is high time our Government should send our boys and girls overseas to go and study medicine and come back to help us. You will be very much in sympathy with housewives who leave their houses early in the morning for hospitals and who do not come back until about 6 p.m. because there are no doctors. Some of the doctors we have will not even go to work in time.

I have got that experience three weeks ago. I do not want to mention names of the people concerned but I would like the Minister to take it upon himself to introduce measures, after going through the series of complaints, so that this unhealthy situation could be put right. I know that we have Hospital Visitors Board and I do not know whether they do render reports of what they usually experience; if they do not—as it is necessary that our complaints should be proved or disproved—they should be sacked and replaced with more careful set of Hospital Visitors.

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

**Chief J. U. U. Ebong** (Abak Division): I am happy to support this Bill and to express my thanks to the Minister concerned, especially for the pain and patience he sustained in the compilation of the Estimates for the Government of Eastern Nigeria. I have gone through the Estimates and I have discovered some potential increases made. In that respect, I feel I should refer to certain improvements made in my Division, Abak, and also certain items which still require improvement there.

In the first place, I have to thank the Minister concerned for the modern system of water-supply recently constructed at Abak and also for the decent Treasury building completed there. These two amenities, in my own

opinion, will ever remain the most important ornamental assets in the history of Abak Division. At the same time, I feel I should refer to some other items which still require improvement. It is natural that people should get something upon which they should live and if a careful survey of my Division is made it will be seen that people there live mostly on palm produce. Last year, I made a complaint in this hon. House in connection with the testing and grading of our palm produce now. In view of the fact that increases have been made in nearly all the Ministries, I hope my complaint should now be attended to and my complaint or what I should now term request, is that the Produce Inspection Division should be arranged to supervise the testing and grading of our palm oil at the interior stations in Abak Division, because I have received several complaints from the palm oil producers that they are being cheated by the middlemen. As increases have now been made in the Estimates, I think the instruction should be given and thorough supervision effected in all parts of the Division. This will help the people and encourage them to produce more oil. It is clear that palm oil forms the most important background of the Region's economy. On the other hand, if this advice is not taken or is neglected, well the Region will have to suffer.

**Chief J. J. Ogbulafor** (Bende Division): I rise to support this Appropriation Bill and in doing that, I have only one question to ask this hon. House and I would like to refer this question to the Minister of Finance: If this hon. House is the Upper House, is it not correct that our President should have an official uniform which compares with the dignity of this House? I appeal to the Minister of Finance to convey this question to the hon. Premier or to the Cabinet to look into it. In other words, during the next Budget Session when we all will turn up, we would like to see our President in a very good uniform.

Before going further, I have to refer to some other points affecting the Minister of Commerce. We all have spoken a lot about the opening up of industries in this Region but there is one thing we seem to forget; industries, if established, in what way can we observe what we manufacture? I have seen that we have only one Trade Officer and three assistants provided for. I am putting it to this

[CHIEF OGBULAFOR]

hon. House that one Trade Officer is not sufficient for this Region to educate our traders all over the Region. I am saying this from experience. I know what was the position of my business before—that is about three years ago—but now that a Trade Officer has put me through, if one examines my books one will be satisfied. So I am appealing to the Minister to employ more Trade Officers to go round the Region to educate our traders to keep books of accounts and no doubt, this will also help the Government to know the financial standing of some, if not all, of our traders in connection with tax assessment. This system will also help the Region. When people at times hear that somebody is a trader they feel that the person concerned has millions of pounds not knowing that it is a business of profit and loss.

Referring to the Ministry of Agriculture, we have learnt that a special amount has been voted for the purpose of giving loans to the farmers but it seems that the traders have been forgotten. I am appealing to the Government to extend that loan to the indigenous traders so that they will be able to do well in this Region.

Another point I would like to put before the Minister of Commerce is the question of empty bags which we use to evacuate our palm kernels and the price of which has gone up from £29 to £72. This is a very big point and I would like the Minister to treat it with all the seriousness it deserves. Government should take immediate steps or erect one industry for empty bags. If the Region cannot establish an industry for empty bags, I am appealing to the Government to refer our request to the Federal Government. It is true that some Expatriates want to undo us as they have seen that some indigenes are allowed to come into the show, so these people have devised another means whereby it would be impossible for us to be getting the empty bags with which we can easily evacuate our palm kernels. I am, therefore, asking the Minister to do what he can to see that, as a way out, we get our bags back after sifting the kernels so that we can use them again until an industry, as requested, is established.

Referring to the Ministry of Works, I should say that much, so far, has been said about that Ministry but I have only one point to make and

that is that we sometime led a delegation demanding the siting of a Central Stadium at Umuahia. As I do not need to waste your time further, as a word is sufficient for the wise, I support the Appropriation Bill.

**Chief J. E. Ikeogu** (Bende Division): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. Before I go on I have a few observations to make on matters which are very important to this Region.

The first is Trade Centre. It has now been agreed that not all our boys coming out from school will go to offices to work as clerks. Some of them should learn trades. And I am appealing to the Government to realise that Trade Centre is very important to this Region. I do not want to mention names, but other Regions that produce less number of school-leavers than we do every year, have three or four Technical Schools whereas in this Region we have only one. I therefore appeal to the Government to build more Trade Centres to accommodate the growing number of our children who leave the elementary schools every year without anything to do.

I want to stress one thing again. This is about what we call Man O' War Bay in the Southern Cameroons. Now that the Southern Cameroons are going it is very important that this useful place of learning be introduced in the Region. If you have never gone to any of their Courses you will not know what I am saying here. I remember sometime ago when I was in my town, I saw our Governor, Sir Francis Akanu Ibiam, passing through the place in his car. This great man stopped by the way side to enter a rural maternity home. I was highly touched and I asked him from where he came. He told me he was returning from Man O' War Bay and revealed to me that his visit there was a very successful one. I would like to ask the Government, now that the Southern Cameroons are going French, is it not possible for us to have one Man O' War Bay in the Eastern Region? I am appealing to the Government to consider this seriously.

*The Ministry of Information.*—I made mention of a point yesterday and I would like to repeat it here because there was not time enough to elaborate it. That is about a picture taken and published in newspapers in



this country which the Leader of the Opposition used as a propaganda against this Government, to portray this Region as a poor one. It has now been tried in the Court of Law and that picture was found to be false. Since then, the Minister of Information has never made any move to tell the world that the picture used to make propaganda was a false one. Nothing was heard. It is bad. I think that when somebody tries to portray you as a liar it is your work to prove to the world that what the person is saying is false.

There is one other point I want to talk about. This is about a library for Umuahia. Library is very important because education is one of the most important things that all of us are craving for. It is therefore the wish of the people of Umuahia to have a library established in the town. We have so many educational institutions to use this library, and also the ordinary public. We have the Umuahia Government College, we have the Queen Elizabeth Nursing School, then Uzuakoli College and so on. I think it is high time we had a library in Umuahia to be able to cater for our children who are anxious to read.

In conclusion, I must say that I am very happy to observe that since our Ministers took up control of the Government in this country, we have been enjoying life more abundant and we are very happy and grateful for what our Ministers have done for us. My only prayer is that they should continue their good work and do more for the people.

**Chief J. O. Njemanze, M.B.E.** (Owerri Province): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill and to congratulate the Government for this well prepared Budget. In fact, there is nothing to criticise there; some of the items only call for our comments and nothing more. I thank the Ministers who are responsible for the preparation of this Budget and particularly the Minister of Finance. I was very happy yesterday when our able Minister of Finance made that statement of his regarding his reconsidering his former stand in active politics. I take it to be that he has now withdrawn his former decision and has accepted to continue to work for the Region as an active politician. I am very happy and I hope everybody here is also happy.

I have again to thank him most sincerely for increasing the Stamp Duties. There is a well-known saying that a rich dish means money. If you want development we must find ways and means of getting the money. And I thank our able Ministers for exploring revenue-yielding avenues. Whatever they have already done for us has helped to increase our confidence in them. Congratulations are also due to our hon. the Premier. Although he is not here there is someone standing for him, and I must say that his visit to Sierra Leone is on our behalf and he has the spirit of all of us with him.

I now come to the Minister of Health. I appeal to him to take serious step about Owerri General Hospital. The hospital is congested both with in and out patients. There are only two Doctors and it is impossible for them to cope with the increasing number of patients that come to the hospital everyday. We want an extra Doctor and a Dispenser and if a Dispenser is not available please give us a third Doctor and an Assistant Dispenser for the work is too much for one man to do.

I am very happy and grateful to Chief the hon. Mrs Ekpo for a certain statement she made here. There are cases of alleged malpractice in the Hospital but I do not want to disclose these now because before I say anything I must investigate; I mean what I say and say what I mean. Unfortunately, I was not able to confer with the Senior Medical Officer before coming and therefore I do not want to say anything about it now. I shall raise the matter only when I have investigated and am not satisfied. I shall bring it to the notice of this House or the hon. Minister of Health.

Once again, I come to our able Minister of Education. I wish to comment on the craft school given to Owerri. During the hon. Minister's visit to Owerri to open this school I told him plainly that that was not our expectation. The craft school is not helping the people much. In fact it offers no good at all. I am therefore appealing to the hon. Minister to see whether there is any possibility of raising the school to a technical school to help our young boys who have passed their Standard VI, and have nothing to do.

Mr President, I do not know whether some of the hon. Members of this House know

[CHIEF NJEMANZE]

what we are here for. They come here, praise our Premier, his Ministers for taking no notice of gossip and back-door talk. If a man enters your house through the back-door or through the window you drive him away. But if he enters through the right way you welcome him. We are here to support the Government and to give every necessary help to our worthy N.C.N.C. Party whose ideology is the best in the whole of the Federation.

They are people who practise fundamental human right. We are not here to criticise the statements made in the Lower House. I will never be personal, but if anybody goes outside and hears all amount of gossiping, he should not bring them to this hon. House. We are not Magistrates. If we start to criticise the statements made by hon. Members in the Lower House, they will return same to us. Divided we fall united we stand. We have able legal men. We have Attorney-General, Solicitor-General, Crown Counsel, etc. If anybody feels that there is something wrong let him approach them. We do not come here to criticise our Councils. If a Council has committed itself and took a wrong decision, I do not think that it is within our jurisdiction to correct them. We should not adopt the idea of coming here to defend some friends or people. We come here to place before the House—our Government—the needs of our people with regard to the development of our areas and to show interest in ourselves. We do not come here to defend or attack people.

One of the hon. Members said that he was shocked by somebody's statement yesterday. I think that the statement in question was made by me, when I praised the Right Hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria; and our present Regional Governor, Sir Francis Ibiyam. I said yesterday that the Governor-General is from the East. Wise men always come from the East. If I say that he is an Ibo man I do not think that word is offensive. If I say that Dr Imoke whom we are proud of today is from Itigidi in Ogoja Province I do not think that is bad. The people of Ogoja can justly be proud of him. I think the hon. Member who attacked me was under some misapprehension.

One other thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is the question of

religious discrimination. I think our Government should do something to check it. Prevention is better than cure. In the Owerri Division with the exception of urban area there is a great amount of discrimination. If you are a Roman Catholic and you stand election you will never be through. This sort of thing will harm us. Why should our people indulge in religious discrimination! Roman Catholics, Protestants, etc.—we all are one. We have only one God. If Nigeria can form one church in which we shall worship God in our native way, I think that will be better still!

**The President:** Time, please.

**Chief Njemanze:** Allow me, hon. Chiefs, some minutes more.

**An hon. Member:** Mr President, please allow the hon. Chief five more minutes to wind up.

**Chief Inyang-Udo:** I support.

**Chief Njemanze:** The Minister of Health would be surprised to hear that Owerri hospital has no ambulance. If a man is sick in the rural area, before you can go to the urban area and find a taxi and back the poor sick man must have died. We want an ambulance in the Owerri hospital. There was an X-ray Department in Owerri, but now that Department has been removed. Every patient that a doctor requires to be x-rayed has to go to Shell, and I understood before I left that since the Shell started to pack up they do not accept all cases of X-ray. I do not know the intention of the Government and the Shell with regard to that gigantic equipment; it is in fact second to none.

I come to the question of drugs in that hospital. All the Chemists in Owerri town have become millionaires. If you go to the hospital you find no drugs, but if you go to town you find the drugs that were not available. People instead of getting their drugs from hospital are forced to buy them dearly in the Chemist shops. What is the use of having a hospital, which the Minister is trying to develop and make more suitable when there are no drugs? We learnt that great sums of money had been allocated for drugs in Owerri

hospital. If so, why is there lack of drugs in that hospital. I am therefore calling the Minister to come to our help.

I come to the Ministry of Works again. I have to inform the Minister that the road from Port Harcourt to Owerri is very narrow. If you see two cars coming in the opposite directions, unless one halts and draws near to the bush there is bound to be a collision. I heard that the Federal Government has cut down all the oil bean trees on the Owerri—Aba—Port Harcourt road which had been the cause of loss of many lives. I am really very grateful to the Minister for this.

*The Ministry of Justice.*—We heard what the Minister said yesterday regarding the Customary Courts. I would like to appeal to him to consider Mbaitoli and Ikeduru regarding the establishment of more Customary Courts. I know he is a responsible Minister and has been doing his work efficiently. Look at Mbaitoli with over seventy-six thousand population having only a single court; I hope the Minister would allow it if the people could financially establish a double stream court. That would lessen the burden of work. Formerly, before the introduction of Customary Courts, there were two Court Clerks there, one for criminal and the other for civil cases. The same thing applies to Ikeduru with over sixty-five thousand population having only one court.

*The Ministry of Local Government.*—I have to thank the Minister of Local Government for his assistance to all the various County Council Courts in Owerri Division, particularly the urban, by way of the allocation of money for the improvement of markets and drains. We appeal again for further monetary assistance.

I shall not forget the Minister of Town Planning. I thank him most heartily. I am one of the members of the Owerri Town Planning Authority and know what financial support he has given us. I hope that he will not be surprised to hear more demands from us to him and I thank him for all he has done for the replanning of Owerri and the improvement of the urban area. I thank the Government for establishing the Town Planning Authority, not only in Owerri but also in various parts of

Eastern Nigeria. I do thank Government for all the good work it has carried out. Mr President, I do not want to waste more time. With these few words, I beg to support the Bill.

**Chief J. N. Wachuku** (Umuahia Province): I am very grateful to you, Mr President, for allowing me to speak. We have already poured praises on our Ministers and I have no intention to repeat all that we have said before.

I feel that the amount of money granted to Local Government bodies is not sufficient. We have only voted about a million pounds. That is not sufficient because the Local Government bodies have taken over most of the duties formerly performed by Administrative Officers. Therefore, they must be given more grants in order to enable them to maintain the roads and other performances. I know there have been some tax difficulties elsewhere, but in the old Owerri Province I do not think Administrative Officers suffer difficulties in tax collections. Therefore, I am appealing that the grant be augmented to enable the Local Councils to perform their job.

I am suggesting that large pictures of the hon. Premier and the Governor be made and distributed to all Local Councils in the Region so that the boys will know who are their leaders as they have no access to come into easy contact with them.

The joint statement issued on the 19th of this month by two Bishops at Onitsha is welcome. They warned their followers to be very careful and to vote for those who practise Christianity. I associate myself with these remarks. But I see no reason why these people should issue statements on the election which is forthcoming. They have something at the back of their minds for having started this earlier. I must say that the priests from these two bodies should take note of this warning. Some of them go about inciting their followers against the priests of other denominations. The post of ministers of religion is a very responsible and dignified one which must be maintained. But what we are seeing now in the rural areas is that some of the priests incite their followers against constituted local authorities. A strong warning should be issued to these religious bodies that

[CHIEF WACHUKU]

interference would not be tolerated. They come here for specific purposes about religious matters and nothing more. If they should say who should be voted for or not they are going contrary to their own belief and will be strongly opposed. They must remember that they have come to this country to establish schools and preach the gospel and not to incite their followers against constituted authorities. Of course, they know what will happen to them for incitement: the Law is there; we have three Governments, the Federal, the Regional and Local Authorities. And the Missionaries should confine themselves to their specific activities. They are not politicians to issue statements. In issuing statements, they know that it means they have engaged in active politics.

The Minister of Health, I know, has a lot to do, but I am suggesting that Hospital Advisory Boards be established in all the Divisions in order to check irregularities in the hospitals; because without that, complaints will continue.

I remember recently a doctor gave prescriptions to a patient and the dispenser gave another thing, and the girl was involved in a very serious illness and nearly died at Aba hospital; so she had to be removed to Ikot Ekpen hospital for treatment.

My hon. Friend, Chief I. U. Akpabio (Minister of Internal Affairs) said sometime ago that the Government was considering the possibility of having County Police established throughout the Eastern Region. I do not know what is happening now, whether the proposal has been dropped because of Nigeria Police posts dotted here and there. This is not enough. We must have County Police. 85 per cent of the present court messengers now serving are educated. What is required now is to get them trained, and this can be done at Awgu. A period of training lasting for three or four months will make them efficient in their jobs.

Self-government has been achieved and we should leave the maintenance of peace and order in the hands of Local Authorities and not depend on the Nigeria Police all the time. We must have our own men to go out to do something when so required.

We have one Nigeria now. I do not see any reason why the Federal Government should not prepare telephone directories covering the whole Federation so that any body who wishes to telephone to the North or the West could do so without difficulty.

We have talked a lot about able Ministers, but what about the staff? The staff have done good work and they deserve our commendations.

There is one thing to which I have to invite the attention of the Minister of Works. That is, there are certain areas in Northern Ngwa in Aba Division, namely: Okporo-Ahaba, Mbutu, Umuha clans which require pumped and pipe-borne water supply. They are prepared to pay one-eighth of the cost, and I strongly suggest that a survey should be conducted.

I remember my old days in Ogoja Province, when many people got their salt from Uburu. I see no reason why the Minister of Commerce should not develop a salt industry there. From that place the whole of this area used to get their salt before. There is no justification for us to continue to import salt from the outside when we have salt locally here.

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

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):** Mr President, I only rise to make a point of information. The last speaker made mention of £440,000 estimated as grants to Local Government Councils, but in the estimates we have £1,410,200. I only want to correct the impression this statement has created.

**Chief F. N. Ogodoro (Aba Division):** I rise to support the 1961-62 Appropriation Bill which was prepared with a free and fair mind. In doing that, I beg to submit the needs of my people through this hon. House.

**Ministry of Education.**—The entire people of Eastern Ngwa want a secondary school opened for their girls. At one time they sent an application to see the Inspector of Education. When they met him he advised them to collect a part of the money. This

money has been collected and Government knows this. But up to now this House will be surprised to hear that nothing has been done by Government. Every year, as a result of lack of secondary schools our children who pass Standard VI have no secondary schools to enter. As I mentioned once the population of this area is very large and I pray that Government should now look into the question of opening secondary schools for our children.

*Ministry of Health.*—The people of Eastern Ngwa are denied all sorts of medical facilities. Eastern Ngwa is at the extreme end of Aba. Just because it is in Aba Division some people in authority do not really know that it is very far away from Aba township. For instance, places like Umuopara, Egbelu, are about twenty miles from Aba. Because of this lack of hospital many lives which would have been saved were there an hospital have been lost. A recent example is a man whose wife died last week because she was very ill and could not sit on a bicycle. Before the husband could be able to arrange for a lorry the woman died. So apart from the long distance we have no hospital and my people have asked me to bring this anomaly to the attention of Government.

*Ministry of Justice.*—The Minister challenged me yesterday because he said I was accusing him. No, I was not accusing him but I only made a statement on point of observation. That was all. I now come to him directly for assistance. My area is very large and populous and I have to repeat that the two Customary Courts created in my area are not enough. My people will be prepared to contribute in whatever way possible to see that more courts are created for the convenience of all of them. If the Minister wants them, I will be very pleased to make some suggestions to him.

*Ministry of Works.*—I beg the Minister of Works to see that the Umuahia-Umuoba-Aba road is tarred. This road is very important and he knows very well that it is one of the important roads so far as commerce is concerned. He should look into it.

*The Legislature.*—I join all who have paid tribute to the good work of the staff of this

House. Several Members have spoken disapprovingly of the disparity in the salary of the Serjeant-at Arms here and that of other Regions. The Government should realise that it is our wish that this man's salary should be made the same as those of his counterparts. I associate myself completely with those who made this suggestion.

**Chief William A. Obassy** (Owerri Division): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill and in doing so I have some suggestions to make.

I feel that the position of Chiefs is not secure. Chiefs have no defined work that they do in the Eastern Region. They must not only be recognised by the Government but also by the people of their clans. The Government should keep the Chiefs busy in their different clans. To this effect, all the tax agents should be responsible to them, so that they can know the number of taxable adults in the clans. Through the Chiefs' influence prompt payment of taxes will be easy. Embezzlement of collected taxes will come to a stop for the Chiefs could inform the Government of such people guilty of the crime.

The certificate of recognition as a Second-class Chief is not carried about, and so I suggest that the Government should give staffs of office and a recognition cap to Second-class Chiefs. The Government should pay the Chiefs some money from the "homages" paid by their subjects. This "homage" could be from one shilling to three shillings according to the Government's wish. This will then stand as the remuneration requested by the Chiefs.

Mbaise is a populous area in Owerri, having many secondary schools, Teacher Training Institutions, a Technical Institution, the county headquarters and many influential people, therefore I strongly ask for a Telephone Exchange. The Government will lose nothing by doing it.

The whole of Owerri has many colleges, schools, hospitals, and maternity homes that are really in need of water. Government should pity poor mothers who cannot provide water to wash and bathe their babies. No water rate will be too heavy for the people of Owerri.

[CHIEF OBASSY]

Lastly, I should ask the Government to make a Nigerian Constitution and not to follow the British Constitution rigidly.

**Chief O. Essien Okon** (Uyo Division): It is indeed a privilege for me to rise and support the Appropriation Bill and to thank the Government for the good work done in this Region. I have to thank the Minister of Finance for his efforts and all the achievements he has made in a short space of time, for, it is this Ministry that holds the finances of the Region.

In any case, I have a message from my people in Uyo. They have asked me to thank the Government for making money available for the construction of Uyo Motor Park and for the water-borne pipe now constructed at Oron. I wish to impress on Government that we are prepared to appreciate their effort and to co-operate with them. We need more of these amenities in Uyo. I know people will say that Uyo is a difficult place but I can assure them that in their effort to expand any Ministry at Uyo, they will surely get the co-operation of Uyo people.

I have to thank the Government for the progress that has been made within this short period it has taken over from the foreign rule. This rapid progress has given us a hope for a practical and stable Government in the Eastern Region. It proves that Eastern Nigeria Government has taken the lead in the Federation of Nigeria. This reminds me of the struggle of the sons and daughters of the Eastern Region to get freedom for this country. This country was suppressed and crippled down and refused any chance for life because the white man thought that the black man was for no other thing than to serve him. The delegation of 1947 to the United Kingdom which asked for freedom for this country has been the foundation of our Independence and I am proud to say it was an Easterner in the person of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe who led that delegation to the United Kingdom to pray the then gods of Great Britain to give us freedom and in fact the President of this House was among the delegation and he was called the father of that delegation.

Furthermore, I have to thank the Government of Eastern Nigeria for the appointment

of Sir Francis Ibiam. As a matter of fact this is one of the first appointments that has received the acclamation of the whole Nigeria and this shows that our Government is more considerate in doing its duties.

I am sure that this House will agree with me that the success thus achieved is actually due to the way and manner the Premier has directed his activities towards all sections of the Region. I fully congratulate him on the friendly attitude directed towards all sections of this Region even though some sections are not loyal to his Government.

I have to thank the Minister of Finance again so that when he is distributing money Uyo should be given first consideration.

**The Minister of Finance:** I hope there will be a change of heart in Uyo.

**Chief Okon: Ministry of Internal Affairs—** I feel that this Ministry should try to check the recruitment of our people to Fernando Po because I happen to live in the area from where people are recruited nearly monthly for work in Fernando Po. There is a lot of suffering there and as the Eastern Nigeria Government is now suggesting the establishment of Farm Settlements, I hope Government will make provision for the repatriation of these people from Fernando Po Island.

I have to congratulate the Minister of Works for his success in expanding his activities all over the Region but I do not know what might be the cause of delay in tarring Uyo-Abak road, Uyo-Eket road and Uyo-Etinan-Opobo road. There has been, from time to time, a token figure put in the Estimates for this job and we were sure that this work was going to commence in 1958 but up till this time nothing has been done. So I am appealing to the Minister of Works to consider us. The more you help the more you have a change of heart of our people.

I wish to appeal to the Minister of Agriculture to extend his activities to Uyo Province. We have plenty of land and in fact we can boast of so many acres of land to accommodate the scheme which is now on hand. We thank him for extending his office to our Province.

**Ministry of Health.**—I cannot close without making two remarks about this Ministry. We

have been told that Uyo is blessed with several hospitals but I am telling you that our people are dying of lack of medical service because our poor people cannot pay the bills of the mission hospitals. I am told the Government is paying grants to these mission hospitals but the Government is doing nothing to control the charges for treatment. Our people now go to Ikot Ekpene for treatment—a distance of twenty miles—and I am telling you that even at Ikot Ekpene the Government hospital is understaffed. That place needs at least more than five doctors because all the surrounding areas without medical facilities are making themselves available there.

I would appeal to the Government about the fate of nurses in the Region. Other Regions have given promotions to their nurses but I am sorry to say that most of the nurses have put in several years of service yet they are being denied this privilege.

Before I take my seat, I have to congratulate the Minister of State charged with the responsibility for Chieftaincy and Establishment matters because that Ministry has given me the impression of a hard-working Ministry. The question of appointment of Chiefs is a very complicated matter and for him to have so quickly attended to several complaints and then accorded recognition to Chiefs is a marvellous work. So we thank him very much and wish him to extend the service to the other classes of Chiefs.

*Ministry of Justice.*—I have to thank the Minister for his Ministry is seeing to it that honest people are recruited to courts where justice is to be administered. But I will appeal to him that where no Customary Court has been established he should be very careful in appointing people without consulting the honest and important people of the area.

With these little remarks of thanks to the Government I have to place my loyalty to the Government and therefore I support.

**Chief Eket Inyang-Udo** (Uyo Province): I rise to support the Bill. Before I say anything, Mr President, I will ask that if those who are recording my speech do not understand English let them go back to school. They

have blackmailed me and that is quite unfair to my work. You know I am an *old timer* in Nigeria. If they do not know my history, they should read the Aba Commission of Inquiry page 105. My name is there. I am a red-blooded African.

Mr President, my first address will be to the Premier who was in the former Government. I knew when he was fighting in this field and for him to be the Premier of this Region now is a credit to Nigeria as a whole. I will take another section in the Premier's Office, that of the Minister of State for Chieftaincies. That job is a difficult one. It is like the job of the Attorney-General because it is difficult to know who will be a Chief and also to know who will preside in the Native Court and therefore all praises go to him for he has done a good job.

Now I come to the administration of Government in the Premier's Office. I know that gentleman, Mr Udoji, very well. This young able African has done his job to the satisfaction of Nigeria and therefore credit goes to him for his good government.

I will then go to the Ministry of Agriculture. The Minister has done a good job but one thing remains. He must remember some of our boys who helped us during the fight against imperialism in 1953. Now I want the Minister of Agriculture to settle with them.

Now coming to the Ministry of Education, the Minister is to be given credit because I asked him for a secondary school which he has given to me.

Now I come to the Ministry of Health. Anua Hospital is known throughout the whole of this Region or Nigeria for that matter. I went there a few weeks ago to get my information. The head Physician told me that there is a building there put up as a Nursing School. The Government, I understood, gave only £1,000 for that building whereas it costs about £25,000 and that hospital can take about 3,000 beds but they are only allowed 250 beds. So I would ask the Minister of Health to know that it is only a Missionary Hospital and is bound to be expensive. They have a dentist centre, they have an eye clinic and all that is under the Missionary work and you know this hospital serves this Region and they have well trained nurses.

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[CHIEF INYANG-UDO]

I now come to the Ministry of Information. I have nothing to quarrel with the Minister because as I said before the young man is doing his best.

There are about one million Ibibio people and about two million Annangs. Nobody is grumbling with my appointment so far, but if there is anyone, well that is his own business.

Regarding the Ministry of Justice, I quarrelled with the Minister last year but to my surprise, the Minister has quite changed; he has even maintained the same standard as observed in the United Kingdom or the United States of America. This he has done by bringing into this House a new law in the light of my point of argument. It is a disgrace that our people come here to insult our lawyers. People may say that I am bribed but it is not so. Get the Commissioner of Police or the Administrative Officer to recommend the sort of people to be appointed Customary Court Judges. I am for Uyo and Uyo is like Paris and we feel we are in Paris and every civilised man knows what it is. One of my junior Chiefs had said something in this connection that we need Magistrates. So, I am appealing to the Minister to do his best.

With regard to the Ministry of Works, I would like to say that we want our roads to be tarred, because what is good for the goose is good for the gander. Last year, he had £2,000 for tarring Eket roads and this year he has £2,000 for the same thing, but what is the position still? He has given us water in Uyo but that is not sufficient because I normally stand and see young boys and girls fighting for water. Once some help is further extended in this wise, I shall have nothing to grumble with the Ministry.

I now come to the Minister of Local Government. He is not here and it is not fair to hit somebody in his absence. While I have nothing to quarrel with him, I may say that I think it is stated that "power is given to the Minister of Local Government to appoint the President of a Council". But the Minister has not done this—maybe something is wrong. As for me, I do not want to be appointed a President; everyone knows me and what I am.

My next point concerns the Ministry of Welfare. This Ministry must be careful.

People will come and say they have this or that, give them this or that; and if care is not taken, they will have their way. This is what is going on in some areas.

May I refer to the Ministry of Commerce. We want the Ministry to develop Salt Industry. This will be of assistance to the Region. In addition, there should be developed an industry for piassava. A ton of piassava, f.o.b. costs £50. With this industry it will be possible for us to produce from this section of the country brush and there will be something like Brush Factory to make this item of commerce. This type of brush is used everywhere in the world. One ton of piassava turned into factory use will produce several brushes. The Minister should try his best. But he should mind some people who will come and say they have got a hundred pounds but they need about that or twice that amount for some business. They do not even have the hundred pounds and no doubt this type of game never makes anybody wealthy.

Mr President, when I go home after this Session of the House, my Third and Fourth-class Chiefs will say welcome to me and the next thing they would like to hear is about their Certificates of Recognition. If none is given to them they will say that I went to Enugu to cater for my own good without caring for them. So I am appealing to the Minister in charge of Chieftaincy to see that Certificates are distributed to these Chiefs.

Before I close—Mr President, this is going to be my last remark. I wish to pay tribute to the hon. Minister of Finance whom I know as a genius in this House. In spite of the fact that he is a Doctor of Medicine, he has seen fit to work with his colleagues all the time to make this Government a success. My thanks are due to him especially for the fact that he has been able, within a short space of time, to raise the Budget from £3 million to £27 million.

The hon. Minister of Finance, once announced his intention to retire from active politics. We do not want him to go. He has been doing very good work and he should continue to reap the fruit of his endeavours. He must stay with us. We have now won our freedom and we are proud of being Nigerian citizens



because there is nothing greater than somebody becoming free in the world. We do not want "Lumumba" in this country, nor do we want "Kassavubu" or "Tshombe", or "Mobutu". We are a peaceful people.

When our Independence came and I learnt that Dr Azikiwe was to be made Governor-General I was very happy for he is a man who has been suffering for many years for the liberation of this country. I have travelled extensively in America and elsewhere and I know what it is to be free and we must value our freedom very much. Great thanks are also due to the people who have made us free and turned our land into a paradise. Mr President, we want to be one in Nigeria. We do not want to hear of tribal discrimination. Let us live as they do in America—live in harmony. We do not want discrimination in our Government. We are all one and should remain one. We are all citizens of Nigeria.

**Chief R. Oraelosi (Onitsha Division):** Thank you very much, Mr President, for calling on me early to speak. I am going to speak on what my colleague Chief C. E. Amobi left when he spoke this morning. This is on tax defaulters. Mr President, I have to tell you that these tax defaulters at Onitsha are mainly people who are prominent men in the town. So it is good for the Minister of Finance to find a way in order to punish these people.

Another question is that in the recent past, there were some traders who were carrying on business as single persons but immediately this income tax was introduced, so many of them changed into Companies—so and so Companies—only to deceive the people and cheat the Government. I am asking the Minister of Finance to look into the matter and find out exactly who are registered as a Company or not. If you come to Onitsha today, you see that so many of them have changed their sign boards to read Companies whereas in the past, it was a one-man business. They do this to take advantage of the provision in the Finance Law. This must be investigated to make sure that nobody is cheating the Government.

The next point is the job which is being done by NEMCO from Ozubulu to Atani. I feel

it is good to give contract to Africans who have materials to do the job instead of giving to the people who cannot do it properly but ask the Government for work. In my opinion, it is better to give the job to the people who can do it better. While speaking about this road from Ozubulu to Atani, I remember when the Prime Minister of the Federation was going from Enugu to Onitsha he was pleased to see the job done by Dumez Company Limited. The good job done on the road there seems to make Onitsha a stone's throw from Enugu and in fact travelling becomes enjoyable and comfortable. But if you pass through Onitsha—Oguta road or Onitsha—Port Harcourt road, it is appalling. The job done there is very bad indeed. For example, let me mention only two bridges in that section: the Idemmili—Obosi bridge and the bridge at Okija. These two bridges need reconstruction because I am sure that if the Niger bridge is started the heavy machinery required for the construction must pass through these bridges from Port Harcourt and if they are not strong enough it follows that they cannot resist heavy loads.

There is another point to be mentioned in the Ministry of Works. There is a road starting from Okija across Ihiala—Idemmili. There is a bridge on that road. The bridge was started by the old Niger County Council and they were not able to complete it. If that bridge is constructed it will lessen the mileage from Onitsha to Oguta by eight miles. It would be appreciated if the Ministry of Works could take up that bridge and thereby lessen the journey from Onitsha to Oguta by eight miles.

**Ministry of Information.**—So many speakers did not touch the good work this Ministry is doing. The publication of *Nigerian Outlook* is very good and the circulation goes as quickly as possible to all corners of the Region and I should suggest, if it would be possible, to add a column in vernacular in order that some illiterates may enjoy the paper as educated people do.

**Telephone Installation.**—This is a Federal subject but I think it is good for our Government to get in touch with the Federal Government and tell them that we want telephones installed in all important centres in order to check these criminals who are roaming about in the Region.

[CHIEF ORAELOSI]

I should ask the Minister of Health to approve the application sent by my people of Okija for Health Centre. Before we sent this application, we collected a certain amount of money which could be shown to the Ministry if they so desire. We need a hospital as quickly as possible.

*Water supply.*—I think it should be appropriate as water supply is being given to Ihiala, being a stone's throw to Okija, if this could be extended to Okija. We are prepared to pay whatever amount if required to do so.

There are people in certain areas who pay tax for nothing: for example the Osomari area in my constituency. This constituency, if any Minister wants to visit that place, he cannot get to the place. Some of them do not live near the Niger.

*Sitting suspended at 1.00 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed at 3.00 p.m.*

**Chief Francis O. Joseph Allagoa, M.B.E.** (The Amanyanabo of Nembe): I rise to support the motion on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for the financial year 1961-62. I said yesterday that each Minister is doing his utmost to make this Government a satisfactory Government. I repeat the same thing and I am glad that everybody in this hon. House is of the same opinion. I repeat that wisdom comes from the East and before we start the business of the House every morning we pray for God's guidance. God has been working with us and I pray to Him for the best health, wisdom and guidance to enable our Ministers continue with their efficient work.

I have to call on the Minister of Works. I quite appreciate all he is doing, but I want to remind him that it is over five years now since £2,000 was earmarked for a bridge between Ogbolomabiri and Bassamabiri. The sum was too small to get a contractor. So many contractors came but said that the money was too small. Each time a Minister visits Nembe we call his attention to it and I think it is high time something was done about this bridge.

A maternity home has been built in Nembe but I am asking for a Cottage Hospital to be

provided for Nembe. We have two hospitals, one in Yenagoa and one in the neighbouring Province of Degema. All these are too far from Nembe, which is the capital of Brass Division, and there is no Government hospital there. We want Government hospital at Nembe. It is true that our people are herbalists, but herbalists can only guess. It will be appreciated if a hospital is provided for us at Nembe.

I ask for a Co-operative Society to be established in the Province. It will help us.

I have an appeal to make to the Minister in charge of Customary Courts. I know that something is being done, but I want to tell him that if an adviser, a man who really knows more than some of these Administrative Officers were sent to advise our Customary Court Judges on the method and procedure in court, they would reap immensely.

I support Chief Amobi when he spoke about the retiring age of civil servants that it should be made sixty years. I think that the longer one stays in a job the more experienced and efficient he becomes. I therefore support extending retiring age to sixty years if possible.

*Loans.*—Government has given large sums of money as loans to people and is prepared to do more but it is not good to Government that those who took the loans, signed agreements to repay at a given time have failed to do so. They are handicapping other people who want loans, because Government cannot continue to give loans when those given have not honoured their agreements. I think something must be done. Promise is a gentleman's word and when one does not fulfil one's promise, one makes other people suffer.

I will also speak about the Ministry of Town Planning. Many people want to come to our area to put up buildings. They must not be allowed to build them helter-skelter. There should be well planned roads and streets along which the people could build according to plans. I ask that something be done in that regard so that in future we do not suffer. Everybody wants to build now.

I contribute to what Chief Amobi has said about mosquitoes. I hope the Minister of

Health will see that something is done, because more people now suffer from malaria and jaundice.

I said yesterday that new rules are being made about the Niger Delta Development Board. There has been a lot of controversy about the Headquarters. There are suggestions that Port Harcourt should be the Headquarters. I am praying that the Headquarters should be in the centre of the area instead of Port Harcourt. I am not saying that it should necessarily be in Nembe. We all are asking that this Board which is a boon to us should be built in the heart of the area so that it can serve the people.

The fishermen in our area have all migrated to Tiko. I have said this often and again. That is why the numerical strength of my place has reduced. If they are encouraged by giving them loans of about £50 or £100 with security as some people have said, I think this should help them to return home.

**Chief R. O. Orem, M.B.E. (Ikom Division):** I am now glad that chance has been given to me to speak in this hon. House of Chiefs. I rise to support the Appropriation Bill for 1961-62. But in doing that I have got some observations to make. First of all, I have to thank all the Ministers concerned and pray God that we should try our best not only to praise them but to get the areas from where they come to return them to come and complete their work because the work they have in hand has not been completed. They should be returned unopposed.

Now I want to say that especially in the area that I come from, that is Ikom Division, under the old Ogoja Province, nothing has been done like providing roads. There is only one road from Enugu to Ikom to Ogoja. We pay the same tax as the big townships, and even here I can assure you that there is no proper assessment because the population is too wide. But in my own area we do our work quite all right and income tax there is more than what people here in the townships are paying. They pay less tax than the people at Ikom who have gained nothing practically. I can mention the villages who help to pay taxes but they have no roads at all. All the women from that

area suffer. After getting a tin of oil they have no good roads to bring it to the market centres to sell because there are no good roads. The villages are Okosoma, Abraba, Ukanadi Owa, Ndisi, Okana Kpansi, Esofa, Ululumo, Nsofa, Abigan, Ogbotau, Okorowa, Itara. In all these villages there is not a single road; not even a bicycle road before we can talk about motorable roads. And even I was more than surprised to hear yesterday, and today, from Members thanking the Minister of Works for having tarred their roads while some parts of this Region have not got even bicycle tracks. I cannot see why Government should not turn their eyes to these parts of the Region, because they do equal work as the people of the other side. Therefore, I am appealing to the Minister of Works that he should consider the poor people of my area who have suffered to pay taxes—in my own area they pay income tax not minding that they are poor farmers growing some stalks of yam this year, and next year they hardly get the same number of stalks in their farms. Yet there is no income tax in my area below £5, instead it is from £5 to £18 and £20, and we are not getting the amenities which others enjoy. So I beg the Minister of Works to try and do something for my people, because they are the sons and daughters of the Region too. It is no use getting three or four children and then you choose to feed two or three and let one die of starvation.

Then I come to thank the Minister of Education. I thank him very much for having given my people a secondary school which happened on the 15th of this month. So, I thank him for that.

Then I come back to the Minister of Works. There is this question of water supply.

I am now appealing to the Minister of Works to try and save the lives of the many men and women there.

I now come to the Minister of Finance. I am really very proud of this man especially when yesterday I listened to many Members express satisfaction and pride about his work. Without him we cannot get the money to carry on the many developments both envisaged and those already done. I know him for a very long time, right from the time he was doing private practice. He was a very good man.

[CHIEF OREM]

But when he was given this post which has nothing to do with his profession I was very much afraid. But now, I am very proud that he has carried out his duties to the satisfaction of the whole people of this Region and has earned their admiration and confidence. (*An hon. Member: It is time*). Yes, it is time but we have only today here. In any case I have an advice to give him. While a member of Government he should not forget that he comes from old Ogoja Province which the old Government denied amenities and left to be very backward. He should use his influence to get his Ministerial colleagues to see that Ogoja Province (I mean old Ogoja Province) has its share of amenities.

**The President:** Time please.

**Chief Orem:** Yes, Mr President, but I beg for five minutes more. (*Several hon. Members: No! No!*).

I want to thank the Minister of Health for the good General Hospital he has given us. In the whole of new Ogoja Province it is the best hospital. People from Onitsha, Nnewi, Mamfe and other places go there because the staff there are very kind. But there is just one thing remaining for him. People who go to the hospital to take care of those who are ill are made to stay in the verandahs. Whenever it rains people suffer from cold, from the wind blowing here and there. They really suffer and I am taking this opportunity of appealing to the Minister to see that more wards are built and houses erected for visitors so that people may not continue to suffer outside.

**Chief Mpi:** Mr President, we were told that this House will adjourn at 1 o'clock in the afternoon but that time has passed and we are still talking. I am, therefore, moving that the Ministers should start now to reply.

**Chief N. N. Anyika** (Onitsha Province): I just want to point out one fact. In the morning, some of us spoke and they have now left the House. Those of us who did not have the chance to speak were told that we would have the opportunity of doing so this afternoon. Now we have not been called upon to speak but my hon. Friend is moving this sort of motion. I just want to point out that it is very unfair because many of us have something to say. I

can see no reason for rushing things in this manner. This is the sort of thing that should have been debated in the Parliamentary Committee meeting and not on the floor of this House. We should be allowed to express our views.

**The President:** But the Motion was not seconded.

**Chief Obassy:** I beg to second.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** It is against the Standing Orders to move Motions in this manner. If he wanted the House to rise early he should have given notice of it very much earlier than now. It is wrong to move such a Motion here now.

**The President:** Is it the wish of Members that Ministers be now asked to reply?

**Some hon. Members:** Aye.

**Several hon. Members:** No.

**The President:** I think the "Noes" have it.

**Chief S. A. Essien** (Annang Province): I rise to support the 1961-62 Appropriation Bill and in doing so I ask the Minister of Justice to see that a resident Magistrate is posted to Abak. This is just a reminder because when the Minister visited Abak last the people made this request and he promised to look into it. Judging from the number of court cases, the Division really deserves a resident Magistrate. We have two Police Stations there and a third one will soon be opened, all for handling cases. We are tired of waiting. The Minister should act now.

*The Ministry of Education.*—I want to suggest to the Minister of Education that he should send a directive to all schools in the Region through Managers and Provincial Education Officers so that they will instruct their teachers to teach our children to be proud of being citizens of Nigeria and at the same time to stand still and pay attention when our National Anthem is sung. It appears that in some parts of the Region teachers tend to forget their work. When I was a pupil my teachers taught me to pay attention when the National Anthem of another country was played and I

can see no reason why our teachers cannot teach our children the significance of our National Anthem so that they can pay attention whenever it is played. We should try to shed our old colonial mentality now that we are a free nation.

My next point goes to the Minister of Local Government. I suggest that it is high time the Minister made arrangements to establish a Local Government Department. Such a Department will have many things to do. At least in each Province there should be a Local Government Police.

During the last Independence Celebration Police in some Provinces were drafted to the Headquarters for ceremonial parade and to keep order. As a result of this, Police parade was not had in the Division and the natives were doubting whether we are really independent. I am appealing to the Government to establish Police units in the Local Government centres. The existence of such units will solve many problems. Local Government Police can assist in rounding up tax evaders and will also assist in checking up criminals. Many areas are far away from Government Police posts and the establishment of Local Government Police units will be a great assistance.

*Ministry of Works.*—I am appealing to the Minister of Works to help the people of Ikot Ekpene to put up a bridge that connects Abak and Ikot Ekpene. This bridge links the people of Western Etinan, Northern Etinan, the largest area in Abak Division, and leads to Udo Akpan hospital. For many years my people have been familiar with this hospital and since its break-down it has not been possible for us to send patients to far off hospitals.

I had during the last Budget meeting before this called upon the Minister of Education to try to revise the schedule under which retirement benefits are paid to the staff of Local Government. Such benefits are still worked out from the old schedule. A new Local Government Regulation has been prepared and I do not see why a new schedule for the calculation of retirement benefits should not be prepared. I now call upon the Minister to consider this matter and not allow it to remain like this.

**Chief Anyika:** In supporting the Appropriation Bill I have few remarks to make. I have noticed that some questions put by several Members of the House of Chiefs and House of Assembly have not been answered. I wonder why they are not answered.

Another point is that many cases are known to be lying for a long time in the Magistrate's Court, Onitsha. New Magistrates should be appointed so that cases could be disposed off quickly. An efficient officer should handle the listing of these cases and bringing them up in time for disposal. I am appealing to the Minister of Justice for action.

I have to refer the Minister of Works to the bad condition of some bridges in Awka Division. Three important bridges are required: a bridge linking Aguluezechuku, Ogboji and Orumba. This bridge is costing the Council very heavily. Alomiri-Umuchu-Ibuhubu-Nkwo Umunze bridge and Umuamaku-Ezira bridge are the two other ones. These bridges are very important to the economic life of the people living around. The road from Nnewi to Akokwa passing through Amechi-Amuri-Ekwuri is a very heavy traffic road and requires maintenance. It is costing the Council very much to maintain this road and without Government assistance the Council will be raising its rates all the time and the people will not like it. I beg the Government to see about this road because it connects Okigwi with Umuahia road.

Another point is that I want to know why the Members of this House who lodge in the township here and attend meetings from their places of lodging are not paid transport for the local trip they make from either Uwani or Ogbete to the House. Members waste a lot of money in feeding when they attend meetings in Enugu and therefore Government should do something to pay them mileage for local running.

Some of us have spoken about the Third and Fourth-class Chiefs. I am not going to repeat what they said but it is better that these Third and Fourth-class Chiefs should be recognised so as to enable the Government to achieve many things in the Divisions.

**Chief N. U. Ofem** (Abakaliki Province): I rise to support the 1961-62 Appropriation

[CHIEF OFEM]

Bill of Eastern Nigeria. In doing so I have to thank the hon. Minister of Finance and his staff for the elaborate work they have done in preparing the Bill. I am happy to see that going through the Estimates and after deducting all the capital expenditure, the balance is still very much encouraging. This is very creditable. I am also very thankful to the Government for considering both the Senior and the Junior servants by awarding them the Mbanefo Award. After all, it is said that those who preach the gospel live by the gospel.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—It is pleasing to note that our Government and the Premier are giving greater attention to agriculture.

I am wondering whether the Minister of Local Government should consider it fitting to do something for our recognised Second-class Chiefs who are not Members of this hon. House. It is unfair for most of these Second-class Chiefs who are recognised by the Government to receive only 10s allowance as councillors. We are all aware that today no Government can work very well without recognising the people; so that to fit in with the essence of independence and good government these people who are the elderly men of the Council should be paid special salary. The Eastern Nigeria Government is a pattern of Yorkshire Government and so I see no reason why our injected recognised Chiefs in the Councils should be made to draw only allowances as elected councillors.

*Ministry of Works.*—I posed a question before, I do not know when it will be answered, to know when the Ugep-Adim-Ndaliche road will be surveyed as contained in the Estimates. I also posed a question to know why the only approved County Council Secondary School in Obubra has not been built when the Council has contributed its own share and the buildings started and advertisements put up in local papers and in the Clan Headquarters in the Division. I also want to know why the work was not carried out.

*Ministry of Information.*—Information Services should be expanded to all the Divisions in Abakaliki and Ogoja Provinces because that is the only way we can get our news every time.

I have to say that the E.N.I.S. have posted cars to all the Divisions but none has been posted to Ogoja.

I have also to bring to the understanding of the Minister of Works that the road from Obaonege to Okigwi is very much a disappointment especially now that the heavy rains are approaching. This work was done by Costains but the road shall not be used throughout this season. Two major bridges have collapsed. I happen to pass through there last month and I think after May the bridge shall not be used again.

**Chief Angus Ilonze** (Awka Division): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. In doing that I have to congratulate the Government of Eastern Nigeria in general for their equitable distribution of all amenities. I have gone through the list and I can see that there is no place left—no Province or District that is not covered in this Bill. I have also listened while some hon. Members were making their speeches but did not hear one say that his own place has been forgotten.

As we have no time I think it better to go to the place where the thing is itching me. It is about the Ministry of Works. Everybody knows that this Ministry is one that has much to do for the people of this Region mostly in the award of contracts. So many hon. Members have made speeches about indigenous contractors not doing their work well. I must say that these allegations are not very true because some of the works, as everybody knows, were very well done by African contractors who are just starters. These people have no better way of assistance. They are people who are just gambling to bring themselves up as businessmen in other parts of the civilised world. I do not think it is fair to continue criticising them. It will not help this country because we are now politically free and I think it is better for us to secure the economic freedom of this country.

I well remember that as far back as 1946 when we had only Micheletti, our African contractors were riding in cars while all the expatriate contractors were riding on bicycles. Now expatriates move about in limousines. However, African contractors are doing their best now and it will be a nice thing if when

Government wants to award any contract provision be made whereby a reasonable sum is given out to the contractor—at least 25 per cent of the amount—to enable him carry on with the contract job. This is necessary because when any contract is awarded and there is no sufficient money these people go to money-lenders to get the money and this normally divides their attention. They will be thinking of the contract work and at the same time thinking of the money borrowed from money-lenders. Take, for instance, the case of the contract of the University of Nigeria. None of us can ever agree that that work could ever be well done by any indigenous contractors; but our able ex-Premier thought fit that it should be given to them. To start with, they were given an advance of £700,000 with which to face the work and they gave a date when the work would be completed and they really completed the work at the correct time. This advance is always very necessary and helpful because these indigenous contractors do not get the money they require even from the bank and this makes it very difficult for them.

I also want to refer to the Government House which was given to Micheletti at about £180,000 or £190,000. I wish to say that such a contract ought to have been given to our indigenous contractors because it is a house for our Head of State and therefore should not go to a non-indigenous contractor. Even though this is already done, I would like it if when the palace of our Premier will be built, the job should be given to our indigenous contractors. I say this because we must think of so many things when such a building is to be put up as so many things may well happen. We do not know who are our enemies and it may well happen that if such a contract is given to them, they may put in a dynamite which may explode any time and harm our Premier. We should not joke with the life of our Premier.

During the last Session, there was an allegation by a handful of people that this Government was trying to maltreat the African contractors and that the Ministers have interest in foreign firms. This is very discouraging and it is absolutely false. Our Ministers are so good, so generous; they protect our interests. The only people responsible for

these things as far as the awards of contracts are concerned are the office people—the office of the Architect. The Ministers do not know anything about the award until it is made; they do not know the necessary quantities required or the measurements; they rely on their advisers who would normally say this or that. This is why I said it is necessary to put a Nigerian there to protect the interest of African contractors and as soon as this is done, I think things will be very good. This country is an independent country and we cannot keep on depending on foreign firms, like Costains, Micheletti, Taylor Woodrow and other Firms. We have to encourage our people and give them the scope to do their best. I believe there will be a change to enable these people to recover. I say that I regret that a Government like the Government of Eastern Nigeria, which every other Government tries to emulate, is being put into this position by some people coming forward to embarrass the Government, even the Premier who has too much to think of. He will not know all these things.

**Chief M. O. Kanu** (Okigwi Division): I rise to support the 1961–62 Appropriation Bill. I congratulate the Minister of Finance for his good work.

I have to make a little remark on his speech yesterday. I would advise him to have patience because the rest of the Ministers all want him to stay and team up with them in the good work they are doing. If he leaves the Ministry now it will give the Eastern Region some headache. His work is very satisfactory. And we know it is a hard job because without finance no job can be done.

Another point I would like to make is about the Ministry of Health. There is a lot of quack doctors roaming about in the towns and villages. I think the only way to dissuade people from patronising these fake doctors is by building maternity homes and dispensaries in all parts of the Region. This will help the people more than allowing them to be exploited by these dangerous fellows.

May I take this opportunity to bring out my former question which I do not know whether it will be answered or not: that is about the Ministry of Works. Last year, I made

[CHIEF KANU]

mention of Okigwi-Isiukwuato-Ahaba road which links Umuahia-Abiriba road. It is just a fifteen-mile road and that road is very important and requires the attention of Government. After all, there are not many bridges there; perhaps just a few culverts are there and therefore there will not be much work on it. The people living in this area always find it difficult to transport their goods from Umuahia because of the bad state of the road. I remember when the Ministers visited Abiriba, the road was the shortest one they took. In fact, it is a by-pass to Umuahia which makes the distance only thirty-three miles, whereas if you take the roundabout way the whole distance is forty-seven miles.

The next point I would like to make is about the Ministry of Education. I do not know if the Minister is aware of what happens at Ovim Girls' School. Many Members have spoken of boys' schools in their areas. You know that in Nigeria we even have more girls than boys and we must provide schools for them to attend. Ovim Girls' School was opened about the year 1930 as a Modern School. I feel it is high time the school be changed to a Secondary School, and I am appealing to the Minister of Education to do something in this direction.

My next point is that communication is too difficult in some parts of my Division, especially along Ahaba, Abiriba and Ohafia. The people there are trying to do a lot of things by community effort. They have built a Post Office but they have not got telephones and their mail does not go quickly. These are people living in the rural areas and the Government must help them to develop.

I would like to say something about some of our sons who go overseas to study. I think the best thing to do is when these people return the Government should give them appointments on the type of courses they have undertaken in order to give them an opportunity of proving their skill and thereby give our sons and daughters a chance of benefiting from their knowledge.

In Isiukwuato area there is no Police post. I was told that it has been approved since last year but up till now I have heard no more from the authorities nor has the work been

started. Land is available for this and the Government should consider this sympathetically.

Without wasting time—they say time is flying—I must stop so far. And I think if other Chiefs do the same we shall be saving the time of this hon. House. Some hon. Members who rise to speak are verbous in their speeches. That is not good. We are all Chiefs and we should behave as such.

**Chief G. O. Ihenacho, M.B.E.** (Owerri Division): I rise to support the 1961-62 Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to say this: that my congratulations go to the Cabinet as a whole. I hope when I say "Cabinet" it embraces all the Ministers. (*Some hon. Ministers: Yes, you are right.*) I will only mention any particular Ministry if I would attack the Ministry or praise it or request it to do something.

In this respect, I have to draw the attention of the Minister of Education to this: In view of the denominational differences all over the Region, I wonder if the Minister would consider it possible to establish some non-denominational schools so that this difficulty may disappear. There are secondary institutions all over the country but these belong to either this or that denomination. If you belong to one denomination and cannot find room in the schools of that particular denomination, you will find it very difficult to enter the schools which belong to the other denominations, even if you satisfy the conditions. Some reasons must be found to disqualify you and this is very deplorable. I am speaking from experience, and I am appealing to the hon. Minister to look into the matter.

My next point about that Ministry is that I have seen from the Estimates that nearly £16,000 have been budgeted for Grants-in-Aid to assist Voluntary Agencies, but if you live in the rural area—I do not think this obtains in townships—you will find that most of the teachers go aborrowing because the money does not get to them when it should. I am therefore requesting the hon. Minister of Education to investigate what becomes of this money when it is paid in lump sum to the Agencies concerned. Why does the money not get into the hands of the people when they need it?



*Ministry of Works.*—We talk much about agriculture. In my Division, that is Owerri Division, the only agriculture that we carry on is farming. When we produce what we are able to get out of our farms in those areas we need means of getting them out to other places where they are needed. In this respect I am referring to the Mbaise area and parts of Okigwi neighbouring villages. They always need foodstuff from Ngor Okpala County area and I am happy to know that the Owerri-Emekuku-Umuahia road will be tarred in the near future. I am requesting that the Minister of Works will kindly include the Ulakwo-Ngwoma-Enyiogugu road. It is a road through which a lot of our people from Okigwi Division go to Ngor Okpala area where foodstuff is made available to them. It will be a relief to the people if that road is done properly. I am, therefore, asking Government to do something about this road. If it is not possible to tar it this time I would like it included in the next Development Programme.

I would like to associate myself with what Chief the hon. Njemanze of Owerri said about Owerri hospital and the Customary Court at Mbaitoli. I associate myself with the sentiment. I also share the same view as Chief the hon. A. U. Ukpa, I think he is from Eket, about the salary of the Serjeant-at-Arms.

**Chief Paul U. Obodoeze** (Nsukka Division): I am very happy that I am allowed to speak on this Motion on the Appropriation Bill. In supporting this Bill, I have some remarks to make. You will notice that some Members who have already spoken have asked for more Doctors for their hospitals, more tutors in their colleges, more roads to be tarred and some to be constructed, etc. Well, as you see me standing you will never hear me say that we want this and that road; we want more Doctors in our hospitals, more tutors in our schools, etc. But I am telling the Government of the present day that my area known as Uzo-Uwani in Nsukka Division is entirely neglected.

Coming to the Minister of Works, I am just appealing to this Minister to know whether he could do some favourable work in this forgotten area—Uzo-Uwani. I have seen where they show in the Estimates that a road will

pass from 9th mile Corner-Olo-Umulokpa-Nkpologu. I do not know whether the Minister will take it from me that if at all this comes through and the road will pass through that way, then it will continue to look as if the people of my area are still forgotten. I am appealing to the Minister to take note that the road should pass from Umulokpa-Umumbo-Omor-Ifiteogwari-Adani where the population is thick, instead of passing the other way where nobody lives. If that could be done by the Minister of Works, we should be very grateful.

At the last Budget Session I remember that I asked this Minister whether he could make time to tour our area at least once to see things for himself. We shall be pleased if the Minister still bears this in mind. We shall be grateful if he comes to see things for himself.

Coming to the Minister of Justice, I have nothing more to say than to let him know that Nsukka is up to the standard of having a permanent Magistrate. I do not know whether this will be done or not.

Coming to the Ministry of Education, Uzo-Uwani is a forgotten area. They have no Government Secondary School and if Government can build one secondary school for this area it will be very good. They are backward in education. If this is done the people of this area will appreciate the fact that they are enjoying the tax they pay. I do not know whether Government do remember this area only when looking for people who are to pay income tax or flat rates but forget the people when all these amenities are being shared to other rural areas.

I will be very happy if the Minister concerned will take note.

*Ministry of Health.*—It is of great importance that people of different areas in this Region who do not get their share of hospital services do get their share in maternity or even common dispensary services. Why is it not possible for at least one of these services to be provided in this area. We want only one, not two. The people will be very happy if their wives are taken to maternity to deliver, than to deliver under mango trees. If in the distribution

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of these maternities in Government Estimates this area is remembered, the people will be very happy.

I have to talk a little about the Minister in charge of Chieftaincy and Establishment matters. This Minister does a great work for us Chiefs as everybody knows.

It is only fair if the question of Presidents of Local Councils should be treated well as many people said yesterday. It is not good to allow hon. Members of this House to go to Councils knocking their heads together, fighting who will be the President of the Council. It is very disgraceful. I have no more to say than to let the Government know that my area is forgotten wholly and entirely. The area is crying for amenities that have been shared to other parts of the Region.

*Ministry of Works.*—The water bore-hole which is being erected at Umubo is becoming dangerous. Since digging the water bore-hole nothing has been done and people are fearing to fetch water from it. The water is hot and not only that, there is no good construction with the result that people fear to fetch water lest they would sustain some injury. I will be very happy if the Minister will send some of his staff to go and inspect the work and see what can be done.

**Chief Ike Okoroafor** (Bende Division): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. I wish to congratulate the Government for the nice jobs it has been doing all over the Region. I wish to appeal to the Government to take into consideration the following suggestions and observations which I am making. They will help the Government to carry on the useful work it has been doing. Many Members have spoken about female education and I am suggesting that if the existing girls' modern schools were converted into secondary schools they would help the Government. They will attract many girls who wander from rural areas to the townships and are seen in the hotels. This tends to lower the moral of Eastern Nigeria and that of Nigeria as a whole. If the present trend continues the population of Eastern Nigeria will be decreased. By establishing modern schools and secondary schools many of these girls would be absorbed. In Ohafia, there were quite recently some 260

girls who passed Standard VI but when they came to be admitted into Modern Class I they were refused admission because the Ministry of Education refused second stream for Modern Class I. I am appealing to the Minister that when he receives such an application he should give adequate consideration to it as this would help to get most of these girls into schools instead of allowing them to roam about the streets of townships.

I am appealing to the Government to build another Approved School in Eastern Nigeria, the one at Enugu is a bit removed from people in different areas of the Region. If the old Government buildings at Bende can be used they will help the Government until there is sufficient money to build new schools. Likewise, the buildings of the old girls schools in Ohafia, Ovim, Ederly, etc. etc., can be used until new schools are built.

I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance for he made funds available to some communities which have enabled people in Eastern and Northern Bende to have Bailey bridges. The people of Bende East have learned to help themselves before asking the Government to help them. The people of Abam and Ohafia have collected among themselves £2,080 to build the bridge connecting Isiugwu Ohafia to Ndi Oji Abam. The people of Amuru Abam have collected £1,600; the people of Ndi Ebe Abam £2,600 for a road to Abiriba; Idima Abam £2,100; Okon Ohafia to Ana £1,600; Igbera to Elu Elu Federation £1,700.

If all the sections of the Eastern Region can help themselves as these people it will help the Government greatly. These are people who have constructed roads by themselves, built bridges but unfortunately cannot make use of them because of the hilly nature of the area. That area is hilly and we have many rivers. If the Government could loan them bulldozers and caterpillars on 50/50 basis as obtains in Community Development to enable these people make use of the roads, it would be appreciated. The people are prepared to contribute 50 per cent, so let the Minister take note.

**Chief J. U. Okudare** (Ogoja Province): I rise to support the 1961-62 Appropriation Bill. In doing that I have to call upon the Minister of Health that the Catholic Hospital

at Obudu is very bad and I want the Government to step in and make it a Joint Hospital and so help the people, since many people from the North go there. The hospital is run in two shifts; people from Obudu from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and people from other parts from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and every time you see patients lying outside. I therefore call upon the Minister to take immediate steps to see that the hospital is made a Joint Hospital. The Ogoja Hospital is very narrow. I want the Minister to expand it and provide electricity. When the Premier last toured the area he said that electricity would be provided but up till now nothing has been done.

Now, several hon. Members have complained about Second-class Chiefs who are not Members of this House. I suggest that Government should inject these Chiefs into their various Local Councils through which they can earn their daily bread. I feel that if this is done, there will be no more complaint, and the matter will be settled once and for all.

In the year 1960 you all know Obudu and Tiv disturbances which resulted in certain members of Obudu community being sentenced to life imprisonment. It is reported that the two prisoners missing are now dead there, leaving eleven still serving the sentence. I am appealing to the Minister in charge if he can do a good work here to have these people released because this imprisonment was during the colonial days. Now that we have got our freedom I think these people should be released and thereby increase tax yields in the Eastern Region.

**Chief M. I. Asinobi** (Special Member): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill for 1961-62. Port Harcourt is in need of Doctors and Dispensers. If you reach the hospital area about 8 o'clock in the morning and see the people there, you will wonder. For that reason people go to the hospital at 8 o'clock in the morning and up till 12 o'clock nobody returns due to lack of Doctors. I therefore appeal to Government to provide more Doctors and Dispensers.

**Chief J. A. Onwudiwe** (Onitsha Division): It has been my lot always to speak at the nick of odd hours. I am so happy, however, that I shall have to speak. I rise to support

the Appropriation Bill. I cannot easily find appropriate expressions adequate and fitting enough, to express my gratitude to the Minister of Finance and his colleagues for the pains and troubles they encountered in preparing the Estimates of Eastern Nigeria. I do not think I need to waste the time of this hon. House of Chiefs again because many of my fellow hon. Chiefs have said all that I would have said about all the good work done by our Ministers, and repeating their glories or praises will not pay. However, I ally myself with all the good words that other Chiefs have said about our Ministers.

I shall take this opportunity to repeat what I said about my area. I have said previously that I am not ashamed to say that my area is very remote. My own town is just ten miles from Onitsha. But it will not be sounding proper if I say that the fourteen towns comprising the Anambra County Council have been denied amenities since Nigeria began to rule itself. Many Ministers know the towns that I am talking about and know my reasons for saying that we are denied amenities. We are law-abiding people who have no schools, no hospitals, no teacher training colleges, and some of you might have heard the sympathetic expression when Special Member Chief Amobi mentioned the collapse of nine bridges in one particular area. This will indicate that things are not going on well there. If these bridges were properly built I do not see why nine bridges should collapse at a time when it is not yet rainy season. And that is why I have always appealed to the Government to come to our aid.

As many know, we are nick-named "Igbo Adagbe" and that means "people that are contented with what they have" in olden times but in modern times we want development and we want Government to help us. It is often said that Government has no money, but I do not agree that Government has no money if they really want to help in the building of ordinary maternity with £500 to £700; unless Government does not want to help people in the rural areas. Before a man could be taught to do things he should first be taught to understand what he is going to do.

Anambra people have not a single post office in their area. If they have registered letters to transact they have to travel to Onitsha. The

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only good Government can boast of doing for Anambra is that they tarred the road from Abagana to Aguleri, which even is not a popular road. The popular road is the Nteje-Umunya-Ogbunike-Ogidi road, because traders generally go to Onitsha and they do not go to Abagana except they want to come to Enugu. Ministers here can bear me out. I therefore ask the Minister responsible to please help us in Anambra. As I said, give us one college either Teacher Training College or Secondary School before we know that it is our duty to maintain it.

My town, which I said is only ten miles from Onitsha, started to build a Health Centre and we applied for grant when we were under the O.N.D.C. and it was approved that only £300 should be given us and when we seceded from the O.N.D.C., that amount was not given us again. Therefore, I am again appealing to our Government to help us. It is said that "he who wears the shoe knows where it pinches him". We have nobody in the Other House to represent us, and it appears we have been forgotten. I am really asking that all should come to our aid.

Another point I want to touch is on Customary Courts which many Members have spoken about. In my constituency I was made to understand that oath-taking is forbidden in their court. As a result of this people go to the court to tell lies with impunity. Whether that was an order from the Headquarters or was formulated by court members to suit themselves, I cannot say. In any case, whoever abolished this procedure should know that people fear oath taking in my constituency more than Christians fear God. So to abolish it, especially in courts where justice is expected to be done and one is expected to tell the truth, is just to give people the authority to come to the court and tell lies without fear because they have nothing to fear. If it is an order from the Headquarters it should be rescinded if people are expected to say the truth in the courts in my area.

Another point is about a disease which has eaten deep into every corner of Eastern Nigeria. This disease is land dispute. Land dispute, as you all know, is a big and deadly disease which although we have efficient doctors can never be cured unless Government makes a definite policy about it. It has

created enmity between town and town, village and village and even brother and brother. Although we have good Magistrates and Judges I do not think that a case will be fairly tried when the object in dispute is 50 miles away from the place of judgment. I therefore suggest to Government that it will be a good thing to make it a policy that whenever there is a land dispute a commission of inquiry or arbitration should be set up. (*An hon. Member: Your time is up*). My good Friend, you have made your speech without interruptions; why tell me that my time is up? I cannot have it from you. I have my time piece here and there is a clock in the Chamber here. You are not the President. Why worry me about time?

**The President:** You should address the President, please.

**Chief Onwudiwe:** As I was saying, Mr President, Government should look into this matter and make a firm policy about it. I had arranged to say much on this point but I think the Minister concerned understands what I mean.

I have to associate myself with what my hon. Friend said about our National Anthem. I jotted it as one of the points I was to speak on. I have witnessed four or five occasions when people, even those who are expected to know, moved about unconcerned when our National Anthem was being played. It is the duty of our Government to use the radio and other means of dissemination of news and even by Ministerial tours to educate our people on the significance of our National Anthem.

The next thing is about Local Government Councils. I remember that during the last Budget Session I suggested that Government should create the post of Local Government Inspector. His duty should be to go round our Councils and educate the councillors and staff on Local Government procedure.

**Chief Njemanze:** We have appointed you to that post.

**Chief Onwudiwe:** My Friend, if you appoint me, I can do it.

**Chief Njemanze:** We will not make the mistake to appoint you.

**Chief Onwudiwe:** Why say that you have appointed me then? Since some Chiefs have been injected into Councils I do not know what they are doing. Most of them do not even know their right from their left and they show complete ignorance of the purpose of sending them to Councils. So I am repeating my suggestion that a Local Government Inspector should be appointed.

My next comment concerns the Minister responsible for Chieftaincies. I wish to take this opportunity to suggest to him that the duty and responsibility of our Chiefs should be defined. Under our present set-up, two or three towns are lumped together and given one Chief. In such a case, the other towns from where the Chief does not come, have no respect or recognition for the Chief simply because he comes from another town. For instance, the clan in which I am a Chief is made up of two towns. I know a bit of my duty as their Chief but many of them do not know their own duty or mine. The same applies to many other clans. So I am appealing to the Minister to go on a tour, gather the people and introduce their Chiefs to them. At that juncture, he should define the Chief's functions and the functions of the community. In the olden days we used to have much respect for our Chiefs but under the present system of lumping towns together, that respect tends to be forgotten. Most of us in this House now know our duty and although we are lucky to be here we may not all be here after the forthcoming election. Also most of the Chiefs outside the House are completely ignorant of what they are expected to do. The Minister should tour to explain to the people as I have suggested.

Mr President, it would appear I have taken a lot of your time but I have not wasted it. With these, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

**Chief Ako Okwoli II (Enugu Province):** I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. I see nothing bad in the Bill to comment on. It clearly shows the administrative ability and able statesmanship of Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, the Premier, and his colleagues. I have also to congratulate the Minister of Local Government for injecting Chiefs into Councils. I appeal to him to see that loans are given to Councils to enable them to carry out their

development programmes for their respective areas.

**Ministry of Works.**—I am appealing to the Minister to see that Nkpologu road in Nsukka is tarred.

I congratulate the Minister of Agriculture for the proposed establishment of Farm Settlements. We in Nsukka Division are ready to offer our lands for farm settlements.

I congratulate the Minister in-charge of Chieftaincy matters for the able way he has selected the Chiefs and for the presentation of Certificates of Recognition to the Chiefs. I pray that the Minister should try to consider the recognition of other unfortunate Chiefs.

**The Minister of State (Establishments and Chieftaincies) (Mr O. U. Affiah):** In rising to support the Appropriation Bill, I am happy to say that my task is a very simple one. I just want to answer to some of the points raised during the course of the debates. Hon. Amobi in the morning referred to the many petitions which are being sent to my office almost daily by trouble-mongers with a view to withdrawing Certificates of Recognition from duly selected and recognised Chiefs. I want to say that this point is really a serious one and is something which has been bothering the staff of my office everyday. All that I can say to our Chiefs throughout the whole Region, including those of you here and those outside, right down to those Chiefs who have not yet been recognised, is that everyone of them should continue to live up to expectation. It is my ardent duty to see to it that they are not molested by trouble-mongers. As long as they do their work well, and continue to see to the maintenance of law and order in their respective areas, I can assure them that this Government will not withdraw recognition from anyone of them. I want to use this opportunity also to warn the mischief-makers that they should desist from worrying our Chiefs in order to allow them to settle down and perform their arduous task. I would like to draw attention to that portion of the Chieftaincy Law which makes it punishable for anybody who keeps on worrying duly recognised Chiefs unduly. I can say emphatically that if they will not desist from worrying our

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Chiefs Government might be compelled to enforce that portion of the law. We must, in my opinion, put a stop to these petty squabbles that do nobody any good.

The second point is the point made about the method of appointing Chiefs into the County Councils. As a matter of fact, when Members were speaking on this particular issue they were referring their remarks to me. I just want to say that it is the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Local Government, to inject Chiefs into the Councils and to appoint Presidents. All that I want to say on this issue is that all the points made will be listed and referred to my hon. Colleague, who unavoidably is not here now.

So many people made some points yesterday that Third and Fourth-class Chiefs should be selected. I think I answered to these points yesterday, so the very answer which I gave yesterday still holds good for today.

Chief Onwudiwe has asked me to define the duties of Chiefs. I must say now that the principal work of any Chief is to see that law and order is being maintained in his own area. That is his principal work. That has been the duty of Chiefs from time immemorial, long before the advent of the British people into this country.

I am sorry to hear him say that some Chiefs were selected from "unexpected places". All that I have got to say is that it is the responsibility of any particular clan who selected a Chief from such places. All that I know is that we have done everything possible to see that we have respected the wishes of every clan in the Region on this matter.

Finally, I want to thank all those Chiefs who have praised the efforts which we have made to select the Chiefs in the best way possible. I want to promise them that this will have to be our criterion in selecting future Chiefs to see that justice is done to every-one concerned.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** Before answering to a few points made by hon. Chiefs today, I would like to seize this oppor-

tunity to thank them for the great tribute paid to the Government, and especially to the Premier. We are grateful to all for saying good things about us and we shall endeavour to do our best to satisfy the needs of the Region.

Chief Allagoa, the Amanyambo of Nembe, wanted me to appoint an Adviser for Customary Courts. We have already appointed a Customary Courts Adviser and we are now posting Crown Counsel to Port Harcourt, Uyo and Umuahia in order to be able to supervise the work of Customary Courts in those places. I hope that they will help the courts and also help the Judges in their work, and in this regard they will be doing the work which Administrative Officers had been doing before. We will empower them to review some cases; where there is a manifest miscarriage of justice they can apply remedy on the spot. I hope that will satisfy the Amanyambo of Nembe.

Chief Okongwu spoke about delay in filling vacancies in the membership of Customary Courts.

A Customary Court normally has a total of seven members. If I have my way I will make every Customary Court three or five members. In a court of seven members, if there is a vacancy I do not think it is an urgent thing at all to have it filled provided the members remaining can form a quorum. If there is a vacancy in a court I normally take my time to have it filled. I think the greater need is to make sure that there are Customary Courts all over the Region. I pay more regard to that than to filling vacancies which do not really affect the court at all. The courts sit quite all right and if they form quorum I do not think there is any urgency about filling vacancies.

Chief Ako Okwoli II made a very important point when he said that we should try to encourage poor people who have no money to go on appeal. As a matter of fact, the law provides that the Customary Courts Adviser will at all times have access to the records of the courts and if there is a manifest injustice on the face of the record and if a poor man is involved, he can always, on the spot, correct that injustice and it will be the duties of the new Crown Counsel who are being posted out and the

Customary Courts Adviser to see that where a poor man is wronged or where he has not received justice and cannot appeal, that he reviews the case of the court and if possible refer the case to me. I shall only appeal to hon. Members that if they find that a poor man does not obtain justice in a Customary Court just because he happens to be poor they should endeavour to write to me personally and I will see that justice is done in his case. I do not like to see a poor man robbed of justice just because he is poor. If I am satisfied that there is a case to be made and that his obstacle is money, I will see that justice is done.

I am afraid that I must have to disappoint my hon. Friend, Chief Wachuku about Magistrate Court for Nbwasi. I think the Magistrate Courts already existing are expensive and the court at Aba is near enough. After all, Nbwasi has not got many cases and they can continue to go to Aba for their cases. The same applies to Abak. I do not think there is need for a resident Magistrate there. I was in consultation with the Chief Justice after my tour to Abak and he feels that there is no need for posting a Magistrate permanently there. I am sorry this sounds so unhelpful but these Magistrate Courts cost money and we do not have to spend the Region's money frivolously. Abak is only fifteen miles from Ikot Ekpene and ten miles from Uyo. The people can go to those places for their cases.

Chief Anyika spoke about the need for the increase in the number of Magistrates. That we have done. If you look into the Estimates you will find we have already increased the number by two and I hope to increase the number again in due course. I appreciate the need for more Magistrates in the Region and it is the concern of the Chief Justice and myself that the arrears of cases are cleared.

The time is far spent and from the looks on the faces of hon. Members, I do not think I need waste your time. I therefore support the Bill.

**The Minister of Works (Mr P. O. Ururuka):** I wish to answer to a few specific points made about my Ministry. Before doing this may I thank all the hon. Chiefs who have again praised this particular Ministry and the Government for the efforts we have put in to give them many amenities in different areas.

I will now refer to the hon. Chief from Achi who made this remark yesterday but unfortunately I was not able to answer his point. He complained in the first place that some untrained workers connected with the rural water supply in Achi Division used to bargain to collect money from people in order to put taps for them. If I understood him well, I wish to say that my Ministry will look into this because it appears to me a very serious complaint and if there is any truth in this, we will try to deal with the culprit in the manner that he deserves. He also said that there are some villages that collected money as their own contribution but unfortunately they have not been supplied with water. I wish to say in this respect that my Ministry will look into that and see that these people who have raised some money in connection with the rural water supply must have it. I hope Members understand that our policy in connection with rural water supply is that every village with a population of 500 people will have a tap. This is based on our policy and this we are trying to keep.

Chief Amobi complained many times about the nine bridges spoilt in Anambra which the hon. Member from Anambra in his last speech has emphasised. I wish to say that my Ministry will look into this but one thing is certain—not all the bridges are the responsibility of the Regional Government. There are some bridges and roads that are the responsibility of the Local Government Councils. Although we have taken upon ourselves to look into all the bridges and roads in the area with a view to seeing which ones will be taken over by the Government, it does not mean that on the whole, every bridge and every road will be normally shouldered by the Government. However, we will look into this and see what can be done. Those ones that will be done by the Regional Government and those ones that are above the Local Authorities or Local Councils will perhaps be seen into as to whether the Government will do something about them. We are quite in sympathy with the situation. If nine bridges are bad in an area it will certainly dislocate the economy in that area.

Chief the hon. Njoku from Aba, my own constituency, complained that his area has not got any amenities. I would say that this is not 100 per cent correct. He also said that all sides of this House did shower praises on

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the Ministry but in my own area I have done nothing at all to give them amenities. To some extent, it may be that the Minister is a little bit modest and that he tackles the problems of others first and self last. I wish to say that there are certain things which my Ministry has done for that area. I would like him to understand that he should not confine his observations on his particular area. If anything is done in the division, whether a person belongs to a particular area or not, that person should recognise that as something done for his own area. It may not be in his own particular village.

For instance, at the moment we are constructing a road from Aba to Azumini and from Aba to Umuahia. We have also water supply—though in a very small scale—at Nbawsi and Omoba. We have also electricity at Omoba; so, it would not be quite correct to say that that area has been neglected. I do agree that I have not first of all put my own area first before the others. I did not want to do that and perhaps if I did so you might know what that would mean. There is one particular bridge which he has spoken about and that is Owerinta bridge. He said that that has been given out to some contractors and up till now it has not been completed. I did tell him that the bridge is the responsibility of the Federal Government and not that of the Regional Government. We have no power over them. We cannot tell them to do this or order them to do that. All we can do is to ask the Federal Government to expedite work. We are trying to negotiate with that Government but we have no authority over that body at all and therefore he should not lay this blame on the Ministry of Works or the Regional Government.

Chief Anyika from Awka enumerated a number of bridges and roads which he would like the Government to consider. May I say that I have taken note of this and perhaps it may help me if he may come to my office or write to me giving all these names of bridges and roads as I have not got all of them, so that we will be able to put them on the list we are compiling at the moment. I think this answer applies to all other Members who have mentioned one bridge or the other or one road or the other. It may be we get some of them

in the *Hansard* but I think it will facilitate work if they give us the list of bridges and roads to be considered. It is a question of considering them and if Government has the money it may do something. We are equally anxious to meet the various needs. Hon. Chiefs have been showering praises on the Ministry and it will be my pleasure to meet their demands provided there is money.

Chief Ofem wanted to know when Ugep-Ndialichi-Calabar road will be surveyed. I think he is a regular reader of the *Daily Times* and he should have found out that we said at one time that some engineers sent by I.C.A. came over to survey this road or made what we call reconnaissance. Preliminary survey has been made and when next survey will be conducted is a matter to be decided by that Company or that body. Now, that particular road, including the one from Igrinta to Okpuala to Owerri to Ikwerazu is being given to I.C.A. in order to see how best they can help us in financing, surveying and seeing it constructed and they are taking every action in connection with this. So, when that will be done is a matter for them to decide. We have done everything by giving them maps and concluded all preliminary things they want us to do. So, I would like Chief Ofem to rest assured that we are as anxious as himself, to see this road constructed.

Chief Angus Ilonze must be thanked for his nice contribution in this debate in the way he tried to defend the Ministers in connection with the allegation made by some contractors. I thank him very much for this observation.

He wanted us to give some sort of help also to some contractors and referred to what was done in Nsukka and how the contractors did the work there. But I would like to point out that we have our policy in the Ministry whereby we can give some sort of help to some contractors in the way of advance. If contractors bring machinery or plant to the spot, they are paid about 75 per cent, if not more, I am not quite exact in this, but it is more than that. They are paid 75 per cent of the cost of the plant or machinery. This, in a way, is a sort of help and perhaps it is a little bit more than the 25 per cent which he has requested Government to grant. I appreciate the difficulties that



these contractors meet as regards getting credit facilities from the banks in the way of loans and things like that. I wish to say that it is a matter which we may have to discuss in a round table conference with these contractors when we meet because I hope in a very short time we will be able to have a meeting where they may put all their needs and we try to see how far we can solve the problem.

I wish to say that I heard what the hon. Chief from Okigwi said about Okigwi-Isiukwuato-Abiriba-Umuahia road; how it shortens the route. I would not like him to think that because he said this last time and up till now no action has been taken and the road has not been constructed that eventually means that no attention is being paid to his request. It does not mean so. Whatever is said here we take note of and study the situation and find ways and means of meeting them. It may be that some of the requests made by the hon. Chiefs will be considered this year, some next year and some during the next Development Programme. I wish them to know that the roads which they have talked about have not been forgotten.

The hon. Chief Ihenacho from Owerri deserves my thanks for the very good speech made and the praise about my Ministry. I have also noted his request about the road from Ulakwo to Ngwoma to Enyiogugu. I only wish he will not be in a haste because at the moment we are tarring one road from Umuna to Owerri and are going to build another road from Owerri to Umuahia and this one he is talking about will be put in our next Development Programme—when funds will be available.

I want to thank the hon. Chief from Bende for the community effort being made by the people in his area and to say that what he requested about bulldozer and tipper to help in levelling these hilly roads will be put to my Engineers to see what can be done.

Others who have spoken to which I have not replied fully their points should please pardon me because time is against me and I cannot answer everybody this time. Let them rest assured that their requests have been noted for action in due course.

Mr President, may I say once more: "Thank you" to all hon. Chiefs for all they said about my Ministry and about the Government.

**The Minister of Agriculture (Mr P. N. Okeke):** Mr President, may I join my colleagues in thanking the hon. Chiefs here for what they have said. I must say that they have exhibited a high sense of responsibility and mature experience which are expected of Chiefs in this Region. I must say that we in this Ministry have benefited from their rich experience and will take into consideration most of their suggestions and advice. I do not wish to be long in this speech but I like just to refer hon. Chiefs to one aspect of my speech during the Budget Session.

During the Budget Session of the Other House I said: "Agricultural development is the keynote of Government's future policy. We are going all out on a drive to increase agricultural productivity in the shortest possible time, and the keynote of my Ministry will be *action*." I like to underline the word "*action*". I went further to say: "I am determined that we should look upon the problems which will undoubtedly arise in the implementation of our plans not as insuperable obstacles, but rather as hurdles to be overcome and a challenge to our ingenuity and determination. I am also conscious of a new spirit of enthusiasm in my own Ministry and I appreciate the very hard work which has gone into the formation of these plans. Short of staff though we may be, I would assure our esteemed leader and this House that we in the Ministry of Agriculture are ready for the task before us. We are going to build a new agricultural economy. We are going to lay the foundation of a fuller and better life for those who gain their living from the soil.

"This is a venture of hope and of faith. United, we can defeat the giant evils of poverty and unemployment which threaten us and create a new world for the people of this Region. I appeal therefore to hon. Members, to Chiefs, to Local Government Councils and above all to the people of this Region for their

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[MR P. N. OKEKE]

whole-hearted co-operation and support in this campaign.”

Mr President, I have quoted this to give hon. Chiefs an idea of certain sections of my speech during the last Budget meeting of the Other House which lays emphasis on action. I want to assure hon. Members of this House that they are not mere words. We intend to implement every aspect of this speech.

Today, ten Eastern Nigerians left Enugu for Tel-Aviv, Israel, via London, for training in poultry farming. Five of these are members of the junior staff of my Ministry and five are from private farmers who have shown real interest in poultry. Of these five from the Ministry, two come from Owerri Province, one from Abakaliki Province, one from Umuahia Province and one from Onitsha Province. They will remain in Israel for six months in the Poultry Seminar and will return to join the new avalanche of agricultural revolution of Eastern Nigeria.

May I seize this opportunity to give thanks to the Israeli Government which has made this trip possible by paying more than three-quarters of the total cost of this course. Further, I would like to inform hon. Chiefs that as from October this year the Eastern Nigeria Scholarship Board will begin to award twenty scholarships annually for five years in consultation with my Ministry in the various fields of agriculture, veterinary, forestry, fishery and produce inspection. This will bring home to the hon. Members and Chiefs here the emphasis which Government have now placed on agriculture.

Already we have advertised—as I said yesterday—for offers of land for farm settlements and I am happy to announce that already within two or three days of our advertisement offers of land have begun to flow into my Ministry. I appreciate this act and want to assure the hon. Chiefs that we require their co-operation and support for the success of this great venture. Already in certain areas we are sure of the nature of the soil. I have had the opportunity of studying the soil survey of the whole Anambra area in Onitsha Province. Already a soil survey team is now working in the Aro-Bende area. In a few weeks time, we are expecting to get the services

of Soil and Drainage Engineers who will assist us in surveying and deciding on the nature of the soil before we embark on actual planting.

I want to say this because some people feel that these are paper plans which we do not intend to execute and I am assuring the hon. Chiefs here that I look forward to receiving their co-operation and support in the implementation of this new scheme. It is a new scheme. We have not had farm settlements before in this Region. It is a new venture and its success depends on the amount of co-operation which we can receive from them, the leaders of the people of this Region.

I would like to take this opportunity also to inform hon. Members of this House that the Eastern Nigeria Government has now set up an indigenous Insurance Company—the Universal Insurance Company Limited—with a total share capital of £100,000. The temporary offices of the Company are at the end of the Survey Office just behind the House. Eastern Nigeria Government has 50 per cent of the total share capital, the Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board 15 per cent and the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation 10 per cent.

The remaining 25 per cent of the total share capital will be given out to the public for contribution. We expect that Members of the House of Chiefs will support this new Insurance Company. Also it is the intention of the Government that all those who have car advances and even those who will buy cars on their own should be able to insure with this Company. It is not only cars but any other type of insurance: we handle all types of insurance—marine, fire, theft, and it is expected that in a few months we are going to undertake life insurance. To that end proposals have been made in my Ministry to increase the total share capital of this Company perhaps to a total of £ $\frac{1}{4}$  million. I hope that the Members of the House of Chiefs will give this Insurance Company their full support. Insurance, as I said during the last Budget meeting of the House of Assembly, is the life-blood of any nation. I think we have reached a stage, as I said yesterday, that the political battle is over, and the next stage is economic battle and we must join as a team to fight for this economic battle. How do we do that?

It is by patronising Nigerian Companies, Nigerian products rather than always patronising imported things. I believe that in a few months we shall have branches of this Company all over the Region in order to make it possible for Members who are not living in Enugu to take opportunity of the services offered by this Company. I think I have answered some of the Members yesterday and once again I refer Members to my Budget Speech which is comprehensive enough and has set out clearly the new plans we have for the new agricultural plantations and farm settlements throughout the Region in taking care to make sufficient provision for every Province of the Region. I hope that they will give us their support especially in this farm settlement without which it may not be very successful.

**The Minister of Finance (Dr S. E. Imoke):**

I rise to thank the House for the various contributions to the debate on the Motion for the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. It is obvious that hon. Chiefs in speaking to the Motion of Thanks for His Excellency's Speech from the Throne, the debate of which ended yesterday, dealt fairly exhaustively with most aspects covered by the Appropriation Bill as well. Similarly, in replying my colleagues inevitably endeavoured to cover the points made as effectively as they could within the time at their disposal. Most Members who have spoken today on the Appropriation Bill have, with few exceptions, repeated themselves, or the points made by others. One or two speakers, however, made new points and my few colleagues who are here have dealt with some of those in their replies. I wish to assure the hon. Chiefs that there is a record of everything they have said in the *Hansard* and in our notes for us to act upon even though their points are not dealt with immediately here today. In winding up the debate, therefore, I wish to take up a few points touching on my Ministry.

Chief Amobi has suggested measures for avoiding or arresting tax evasion. He suggested temporary inter-provincial transfer of the staff of the Revenue Division of my Ministry; and also the simultaneous operation of tax drive throughout the Region instead of the sectional drive we make at the present.

Both suggestions are very useful indeed, though I must point out that they will both involve fairly heavy extra expenditure to carry them out. It will be necessary to provide enough vehicles and staff if the launching of tax drive is to be Region-wide at one and the same time. We shall, however, consider his suggestions.

Other Chiefs also spoke of tax evasion. I am happy to note that hon. Chiefs have shown so much concern about this question of tax evasion. It is practised in various forms and shapes ranging from deliberate refusal to declare one's correct income to the new habit of converting business that had existed for years as a single man's business to limited liability companies so as to avoid tax. I wish to appeal to hon. Chiefs to use their influence and offices in seeing that our target of £3.5 million is reached. It is a very high target indeed: almost £1 million higher than last year's. As I indicated in my Budget speech, we can only reach it if every citizen of Eastern Nigeria will co-operate.

Chief Anyika asked the question why there was no transport allowance given to Members of this House as is given to Members of the Lower House—that is local transport allowance. I want to explain that an allowance of 15s used to be given to Members of the House when they attended meetings for every day they met here, but since it was decided to give £140 consolidated allowance per annum this was stopped, and so the Members of the Lower House do not receive it now.

Chief Anyika also wanted to know why Questions were not answered, that is Questions submitted to the Clerk of the House. Questions are only answered when they appear on the Order Paper. There have not been any Questions at all on the Order Paper throughout this Session and I believe those Questions probably did not arrive in time because they have to mature before they appear on the Order Paper. At any rate, if there is any slip somewhere this will be corrected next time.

Other points which come under the direct responsibility of the Premier were raised and we are not in a position to make categorical statements on them, but I would like us to touch on them briefly.

[DR IMOKE]

Hon. Chief Mpi said his Province—Port Harcourt Province—is the only one without a Minister. The hon. Attorney-General promptly called his attention to the Commissioner for Port Harcourt. But he did not quite appear to be satisfied. I suppose he meant a Cabinet Minister. I want to point out to the hon. Chief Mpi that it is not only Port Harcourt Province that is without a Cabinet Minister. I am not prepared to enumerate all of them, but if he only thinks more deeply he will find that there are two or three others. At any rate, we shall bring this to the notice of the hon. Premier.

Chief Amobi also want retiring age of Civil Servants to be 60 and not 55 years. This will no doubt be given due consideration by the hon. Premier.

Chief Njemanze and a few others raised the question of religious discrimination in our politics. We in the Government are equally perturbed by this menace which threatens this Region in particular and we are wide awake to its dangers. The Heads of our churches have already made statements in the press in this connection but I must say that politicians themselves are mainly to blame for this trend in our politics.

Chief Allagoa wants the Headquarters of the Niger Delta Board placed centrally. We shall bear this message to the hon. Premier but I would like to add that it is not only the East Regional Government that decides issues about the Niger Delta Board.

Finally, many hon. Chiefs raised the issue of uniforms for the President of this hon. House. I completely agree with them that uniform is necessary.

*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.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time forthwith and passed.*

*The appropriate Message to be conveyed to the Other House.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

**The Minister of Agriculture (Mr P. N. Okeke):** I beg to second.

#### ADJOURNMENT DEBATES

##### (1) Inaccurate Reports by the Eastern Nigeria Information Services Corporation and the Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General (Mr M. O. Ajegbo):** Mr President, on the motion for adjournment, I want to correct the impression which the E.N.I.S. report might have created on my speech. The report is in the Eastern News bulletin of 21st of April. There was a report that there was a demand by Members that only people who are professionally qualified should be appointed Customary Court Judges. Personally, I did not hear that and I do not think any Member made such a demand. It would create a wrong impression outside. The only Member who made a point about presidents of Customary Courts was Chief Ogudoro. If I remember rightly what he said was that I should endeavour to appoint as presidents of courts members who have already had experience of court work and I answered that I did not think that that was necessary, because the only requirement enjoined upon me by the Customary Courts Law was to appoint a man who understands English language. I did not hear any Member say that only professionally qualified persons should be appointed presidents of Customary Courts.

Another point is about the pay of members of Customary Courts. As you may know, members of Customary Courts have been forwarding petitions to me about an increase in their pay and I am considering the matter. I think it is wrong here to say that on the question of increase in the salary of Customary Court Members, Ajegbo said that it is not considered expedient as it would amount to increase in the capitation rate of the individual Councils affected. We were discussing double panel

and I said that I thought that if any member wanted double panel in a court in his area, he should first of all ascertain from the County Council concerned whether they were willing to pay and then get the confirmation from the Ministry of Local Government that the Council has the money to pay. I should like it to be noted that the question of increase in the salary of Customary Court Members is receiving my attention and I have taken no decision yet.

**Chief J. Mpi** (Port Harcourt Province): Mr President, yesterday or today I said that in the Province which I represent, both in the Federal and Regional Governments not a single person is made a Minister. I never said: come to Ahoada and take one man and make him a Minister. That is what the N.B.C. announced this afternoon. They have quoted me wrongly and I would like them to correct that report.

**Chief Francis O. Joseph Allagoa** (The Amanyanabo of Nembe): Mr President, I would like to take this opportunity to correct the impression which the N.B.C. created in their news. They said that I am the Amanyanabo of Kalabari. I am not Amanyanabo of Kalabari but Amanyanabo of Nembe.

**Mrs Margaret Ekpo** (Special Member): Mr President, I seize this opportunity to record that our Broadcasting Service is distorting news especially in the interpretation version.

The Ibo or the Efik version is always quite different from the English version. I wonder whether the man who edits the news in English does not look into the interpretation to see that it is exactly what he reads in English. If anyone listened to the news bulletin today, he would have realised what I am saying. I do not quarrel with them because they left out so many things from my speech in this House today, but the Efik version was horrible. I appeal to the Minister of Information or whoever is responsible to look into these anomalies and see that the correct versions are relayed.

## (2) Chieftaincy Title

**Chief Angus Ilonze** (Awka Division): Mr President, I would like to say that generally when reference is being made to me, I am called "Chief Angus of Abagana". I am not "Chief Angus"; I am the Igwe of Abagana. Before coming to this hon. House of Chiefs, I was installed the Igwe of Abagana by my people—a post similar to the "Amanyanabo of Opobo", the "Obi of Onitsha" or any such title in the North. To call me "Chief Angus Ilonze" embarrasses my people.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Adjourned, sine die, at eight minutes to six o'clock p.m. pursuant to the Resolution of the House this day.*

## APPENDIX

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

#### Answers received during Adjournment

(24th November, 1960 to 19th February, 1961)

#### **Tarring of Umuahia-Ikot Ekpene-Abak Road**

7. **Chief J. U. U. Ebong** asked the Minister of Works whether the tarring of the Umuahia-Ikot Ekpene-Abak road held up in 1959 on reaching Abak Government station will continue in the present financial year to link up with Aba-Opobo road at Ekparakwa in Abak Division.

**The Minister of Works:** It is regretted that, because of limited funds, this link cannot be completed during the current development period. It is, however, listed as a project to be undertaken during the next development programme.

#### **Results of Customary Court Registrars**

23. **Chief E. A. Egbara** asked the Minister of Justice, why the results of the Customary Court Registrars' courses at Awgu Community Development Centre for the first and second batches of the Customary Court Registrars from Obudu Division have not been published while the result for the last batch of trainees was published soon after the completion of their course.

**The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General:** The results were published and the successful candidates were notified.

# APPENDIX

## FINANCE (AMENDMENT) LAW

### THE FIRST SCHEDULE

INCOME RANGE	AMOUNT OF TAX			
	Single Persons	Married Persons with no Children	Married Persons with not more than 2 Children	Married Persons with 3 or more Children
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
PART I				
Under £ 60 .. ..	1 7 6	1 7 6	1 7 6	1 7 6
PART II				
£ 60 or over, but under £ 70 .. ..	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0
£ 70 or over, but under £ 80 .. ..	1 15 0	1 15 0	1 15 0	1 15 0
£ 80 or over, but under £ 90 .. ..	2 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
£ 90 or over, but under £ 100 .. ..	2 5 0	2 5 0	2 5 0	2 5 0
PART III				
£ 100 or over, but under £ 110 .. ..	3 0 0	2 15 0	2 10 0	2 5 0
£ 110 or over, but under £ 120 .. ..	3 8 9	3 2 6	2 16 3	2 10 0
£ 120 or over, but under £ 130 .. ..	3 17 6	3 10 0	3 2 6	2 15 0
£ 130 or over, but under £ 140 .. ..	4 6 3	3 17 6	3 8 9	3 0 0
£ 140 or over, but under £ 150 .. ..	4 15 0	4 5 0	3 15 0	3 5 0
£ 150 or over, but under £ 160 .. ..	5 3 9	4 12 6	4 1 3	3 10 0
£ 160 or over, but under £ 170 .. ..	5 15 0	5 2 6	4 10 0	3 17 6
£ 170 or over, but under £ 180 .. ..	6 6 3	5 12 6	4 18 9	4 5 0
£ 180 or over, but under £ 190 .. ..	6 17 6	6 2 6	5 7 6	4 12 6
£ 190 or over, but under £ 200 .. ..	7 8 9	6 12 6	5 16 3	5 0 0
£ 200 or over, but under £ 210 .. ..	8 0 0	7 2 6	6 5 0	5 7 6
£ 210 or over, but under £ 220 .. ..	8 13 9	7 15 0	6 16 3	5 17 6
£ 220 or over, but under £ 230 .. ..	9 7 6	8 7 6	7 7 6	6 7 6
£ 230 or over, but under £ 240 .. ..	10 1 3	9 0 0	7 18 9	6 17 6
£ 240 or over, but under £ 250 .. ..	10 15 0	9 12 6	8 10 0	7 7 6
£ 250 or over, but under £ 260 .. ..	11 8 9	10 5 0	9 1 3	7 17 6
£ 260 or over, but under £ 270 .. ..	12 2 6	10 17 6	9 12 6	8 7 6
£ 270 or over, but under £ 280 .. ..	12 16 3	11 10 0	10 3 9	8 17 6
£ 280 or over, but under £ 290 .. ..	13 10 0	12 2 6	10 15 0	9 7 6
£ 290 or over, but under £ 300 .. ..	14 3 9	12 15 0	11 6 3	9 17 6
£ 300 or over, but under £ 310 .. ..	14 5 0	13 0 0	11 15 0	10 10 0
£ 310 or over, but under £ 320 .. ..	14 18 9	13 12 6	12 6 3	11 0 0
£ 320 or over, but under £ 330 .. ..	15 12 6	14 5 0	12 17 6	11 10 0
£ 330 or over, but under £ 340 .. ..	16 6 3	14 17 6	13 8 9	12 0 0
£ 340 or over, but under £ 350 .. ..	17 0 0	15 10 0	14 0 0	12 10 0
£ 350 or over, but under £ 360 .. ..	17 13 9	16 2 6	14 11 3	13 0 0
£ 360 or over, but under £ 370 .. ..	18 7 6	16 15 0	15 2 6	13 10 0
£ 370 or over, but under £ 380 .. ..	19 1 3	17 7 6	15 13 9	14 0 0
£ 380 or over, but under £ 390 .. ..	19 15 0	18 0 0	16 5 0	14 10 0
£ 390 or over, but under £ 400 .. ..	20 8 9	18 12 6	16 16 3	15 0 0
£ 400 or over, but under £ 410 .. ..	21 2 6	19 5 0	17 7 6	15 10 0
£ 410 or over, but under £ 420 .. ..	21 16 3	19 17 6	17 18 9	16 0 0
£ 420 or over, but under £ 430 .. ..	22 10 0	20 10 0	18 10 0	16 10 0
£ 430 or over, but under £ 440 .. ..	23 3 9	21 2 6	19 1 3	17 0 0
£ 440 or over, but under £ 450 .. ..	23 17 6	21 15 0	19 12 6	17 10 0
£ 450 or over, but under £ 460 .. ..	24 11 3	22 7 6	20 3 9	18 0 0
£ 460 or over, but under £ 470 .. ..	25 5 0	23 0 0	20 15 0	18 10 0
£ 470 or over, but under £ 480 .. ..	25 18 9	23 12 6	21 6 3	19 0 0
£ 480 or over, but under £ 490 .. ..	26 12 6	24 5 0	21 17 6	19 10 0
£ 490 or over, but under £ 500 .. ..	27 6 3	24 17 6	22 8 9	20 0 0
£ 500 or over, but under £ 510 .. ..	28 0 0	25 10 0	23 0 0	20 10 0
£ 510 or over, but under £ 520 .. ..	28 13 9	26 2 6	23 11 3	21 0 0





Eastern House of Chiefs Debates

THE FIRST SCHEDULE — continued

INCOME RANGE	AMOUNT OF TAX			
	Single Persons	Married Persons with no Children	Married Persons with not more than 2 Children	Married Persons with 3 or more Children
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
£ 961 or over, but under £ 970 .. ..	69 15 0	61 15 0	55 15 0	49 15 0
£ 970 .. ..	70 15 0	62 15 0	56 15 0	50 13 9
£ 971 or over, but under £ 980 .. ..	71 3 9	62 18 9	56 16 3	50 13 9
£ 980 .. ..	72 3 9	63 18 9	57 16 3	51 12 6
£ 981 or over, but under £ 990 .. ..	72 12 6	64 2 6	57 17 6	51 12 6
£ 990 .. ..	73 12 6	65 2 6	58 17 6	52 11 3
£ 991 or over, but under £ 1,000 .. ..	74 1 3	65 6 3	58 18 9	52 11 3
£ 1,000 .. ..	75 1 3	66 6 3	59 18 9	53 10 0
£ 1,001 or over, but under £ 1,010 .. ..	75 10 0	66 10 0	60 0 0	53 10 0
£ 1,010 .. ..	76 10 0	67 10 0	61 0 0	54 10 0
£ 1,011 or over, but under £ 1,020 .. ..	77 1 3	67 16 3	61 3 9	54 11 3
£ 1,020 .. ..	78 1 3	68 16 3	62 3 9	55 11 3
£ 1,021 or over, but under £ 1,030 .. ..	78 12 6	69 2 6	62 7 6	55 12 6
£ 1,030 .. ..	79 12 6	70 2 6	63 7 6	56 12 6
£ 1,031 or over, but under £ 1,040 .. ..	80 3 9	70 8 9	63 11 3	56 13 9
£ 1,040 .. ..	81 3 9	71 8 9	64 11 3	57 13 9
£ 1,041 or over, but under £ 1,050 .. ..	81 15 0	71 15 0	64 15 0	57 15 0
£ 1,050 .. ..	82 15 0	72 15 0	65 15 0	58 15 0
£ 1,051 or over, but under £ 1,060 .. ..	83 6 3	73 1 3	65 18 9	58 16 3
£ 1,060 .. ..	84 6 3	74 1 3	66 18 9	59 16 3
£ 1,061 or over, but under £ 1,070 .. ..	84 17 6	74 7 6	67 2 6	59 17 6
£ 1,070 .. ..	85 17 6	75 7 6	68 2 6	60 17 6
£ 1,071 or over, but under £ 1,080 .. ..	86 8 9	75 13 9	68 6 3	60 18 9
£ 1,080 .. ..	87 8 9	76 13 9	69 6 3	61 18 9
£ 1,081 or over, but under £ 1,090 .. ..	88 0 0	77 0 0	69 10 0	62 0 0
£ 1,090 .. ..	89 0 0	78 0 0	70 10 0	63 0 0
£ 1,091 or over, but under £ 1,100 .. ..	89 11 3	78 6 3	70 13 9	63 1 3
£ 1,100 .. ..	90 11 3	79 6 3	71 13 9	64 1 3
£ 1,101 or over, but under £ 1,110 .. ..	91 2 6	79 12 6	71 17 6	64 2 6
£ 1,110 .. ..	92 2 6	80 12 6	72 17 6	65 2 6
£ 1,111 or over, but under £ 1,120 .. ..	92 16 3	81 1 3	73 3 9	65 6 3
£ 1,120 .. ..	93 16 3	82 1 3	74 3 9	66 6 3
£ 1,121 or over, but under £ 1,130 .. ..	94 10 0	82 10 0	74 10 0	66 10 0
£ 1,130 .. ..	95 10 0	83 10 0	75 10 0	67 10 0
£ 1,131 or over, but under £ 1,140 .. ..	96 3 9	83 18 9	75 16 3	67 13 9
£ 1,140 .. ..	97 3 9	84 18 9	76 16 3	68 13 9
£ 1,141 or over, but under £ 1,150 .. ..	97 17 6	85 7 6	77 2 6	68 17 6
£ 1,150 .. ..	98 17 6	86 7 6	78 2 6	69 17 6
£ 1,151 or over, but under £ 1,160 .. ..	99 11 3	86 16 3	78 8 9	70 1 3
£ 1,160 .. ..	100 11 3	87 16 3	79 8 9	71 1 3
£ 1,161 or over, but under £ 1,170 .. ..	101 5 0	88 5 0	79 15 0	71 5 0
£ 1,170 .. ..	102 5 0	89 5 0	80 15 0	72 5 0
£ 1,171 or over, but under £ 1,180 .. ..	102 18 9	89 13 9	81 1 3	72 8 9
£ 1,180 .. ..	103 18 9	90 13 9	82 1 3	73 8 9
£ 1,181 or over, but under £ 1,190 .. ..	104 12 6	91 2 6	82 7 6	73 12 6
£ 1,190 .. ..	105 12 6	92 2 6	83 7 6	74 12 6
£ 1,191 or over, but under £ 1,200 .. ..	106 6 3	92 11 3	83 13 9	74 16 3
£ 1,200 .. ..	107 6 3	93 11 3	84 13 9	75 16 3
£ 1,201 or over, but under £ 1,210 .. ..	108 0 0	94 0 0	85 0 0	76 0 0
£ 1,210 .. ..	109 0 0	95 0 0	86 0 0	77 0 0
£ 1,211 or over, but under £ 1,220 .. ..	109 16 3	95 11 3	86 8 9	77 6 3
£ 1,220 .. ..	110 16 3	96 11 3	87 8 9	78 6 3
£ 1,221 or over, but under £ 1,230 .. ..	111 12 6	97 2 6	87 17 6	78 12 6
£ 1,230 .. ..	112 12 6	98 2 6	88 17 6	79 12 6
£ 1,231 or over, but under £ 1,240 .. ..	113 8 9	98 13 9	89 6 3	79 18 9
£ 1,240 .. ..	114 8 9	99 13 9	90 6 3	80 18 9
£ 1,241 or over, but under £ 1,250 .. ..	115 5 0	100 5 0	90 15 0	81 5 0
£ 1,250 .. ..	116 5 0	101 5 0	91 15 0	82 5 0
£ 1,251 or over, but under £ 1,260 .. ..	117 1 3	101 16 3	92 3 9	82 11 3
£ 1,260 .. ..	118 1 3	102 16 3	93 3 9	83 11 3

## Eastern House of Chiefs Debates

9

[Finance (Amdt.) Law—

18 APRIL 1961

First Schedule]

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## THE FIRST SCHEDULE—continued

INCOME RANGE	AMOUNT OF TAX			
	Single Persons	Married Persons with no Children	Married Persons with not more than 2 Children	Married Persons with 3 or more Children
	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d	£ s d
£1,261 or over, but under £1,270 .. ..	118 17 6	103 7 6	93 12 6	83 17 6
£1,270 .. ..	119 17 6	104 7 6	94 12 6	84 17 6
£1,271 or over, but under £1,280 .. ..	120 13 9	104 18 9	95 1 3	85 3 9
£1,280 .. ..	121 13 9	105 18 9	96 1 3	86 3 9
£1,281 or over, but under £1,290 .. ..	122 10 0	106 10 0	96 10 0	86 10 0
£1,290 .. ..	123 10 0	107 10 0	97 10 0	87 10 0
£1,291 or over, but under £1,300 .. ..	124 6 3	108 1 3	97 18 9	87 16 3
£1,300 .. ..	125 6 3	109 1 3	98 18 9	88 16 3
£1,301 or over, but under £1,310 .. ..	126 2 6	109 12 6	99 17 6	89 2 6
£1,310 .. ..	127 2 6	110 12 6	100 17 6	90 2 6
£1,311 or over, but under £1,320 .. ..	128 1 3	111 6 3	100 18 9	90 11 3
£1,320 .. ..	129 1 3	112 6 3	101 18 9	91 11 3
£1,321 or over, but under £1,330 .. ..	130 0 0	113 0 0	102 10 0	92 0 0
£1,330 .. ..	131 0 0	114 0 0	103 10 0	93 0 0
£1,331 or over, but under £1,340 .. ..	131 18 9	114 13 9	104 1 3	93 8 9
£1,340 .. ..	132 18 9	115 13 9	105 1 3	94 8 9
£1,341 or over, but under £1,350 .. ..	133 17 6	116 7 6	105 12 6	94 17 6
£1,350 .. ..	134 17 6	117 7 6	106 12 6	95 17 6
£1,351 or over, but under £1,360 .. ..	135 16 3	118 1 3	107 3 9	96 6 3
£1,360 .. ..	136 16 3	119 1 3	108 3 9	97 6 3
£1,361 or over, but under £1,370 .. ..	137 15 0	119 15 0	108 15 0	97 15 0
£1,370 .. ..	138 15 0	120 15 0	109 15 0	98 15 0
£1,371 or over, but under £1,380 .. ..	139 13 9	121 8 9	110 6 3	99 3 9
£1,380 .. ..	140 13 9	122 8 9	111 6 3	100 3 9
£1,381 or over, but under £1,390 .. ..	141 12 6	123 2 6	111 17 6	100 12 6
£1,390 .. ..	142 12 6	124 2 6	112 17 6	101 12 6
£1,391 or over, but under £1,400 .. ..	143 11 3	124 16 3	113 8 9	102 1 3
£1,400 .. ..	144 11 3	125 16 3	114 8 9	103 1 3
£1,401 or over, but under £1,410 .. ..	145 10 0	126 10 0	115 0 0	103 10 0
£1,410 .. ..	146 10 0	127 10 0	116 0 0	104 10 0
£1,411 .. ..	147 10 0	128 6 3	116 13 9	105 1 3
£1,412 or over, but under £1,420 .. ..	147 11 3	128 6 3	116 13 9	105 1 3
£1,420 .. ..	148 11 3	129 6 3	117 13 9	106 1 3
£1,421 .. ..	149 11 3	130 2 6	118 7 6	106 12 6
£1,422 or over, but under £1,430 .. ..	149 12 6	130 2 6	118 7 6	106 12 6
£1,430 .. ..	150 12 6	131 2 6	119 7 6	107 12 6
£1,431 .. ..	151 12 6	131 18 9	120 1 3	108 3 9
£1,432 or over, but under £1,440 .. ..	151 13 9	131 18 9	120 1 3	108 3 9
£1,440 .. ..	152 13 9	132 18 9	121 1 3	109 3 9
£1,441 .. ..	153 13 9	133 15 0	121 15 0	109 15 0
£1,422 or over, but under £1,450 .. ..	153 15 0	133 15 0	121 15 0	109 15 0
£1,450 .. ..	154 15 0	134 15 0	122 15 0	110 15 0
£1,451 .. ..	155 15 0	135 11 3	123 8 9	111 6 3
£1,452 or over, but under £1,460 .. ..	155 16 3	135 11 3	123 8 9	111 6 3
£1,460 .. ..	156 16 3	136 11 3	124 8 9	112 6 3
£1,461 .. ..	157 16 3	137 7 6	125 2 6	112 17 6
£1,462 or over, but under £1,470 .. ..	157 17 6	137 7 6	125 2 6	112 17 6
£1,470 .. ..	158 17 6	138 7 6	126 2 6	113 17 6
£1,471 .. ..	159 17 6	139 3 9	126 16 3	114 8 9
£1,472 or over, but under £1,480 .. ..	159 18 9	139 3 9	126 16 3	114 8 9
£1,480 .. ..	160 18 9	140 3 9	127 16 3	115 8 9
£1,481 .. ..	161 18 9	141 0 0	128 10 0	116 0 0
£1,482 or over, but under £1,490 .. ..	162 0 0	141 0 0	128 10 0	116 0 0
£1,490 .. ..	163 0 0	142 0 0	129 10 0	117 0 0
£1,491 .. ..	164 0 0	142 16 3	130 3 9	117 11 3
£1,492 or over, but under £1,500 .. ..	164 1 3	142 16 3	130 3 9	117 11 3
£1,500 .. ..	165 1 3	143 16 3	131 3 9	118 11 3
£1,501 .. ..	166 1 3	144 12 6	131 17 6	119 2 6



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THE FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

INCOME RANGE	AMOUNT OF TAX															
	<i>Single Persons</i>	<i>Married Persons with no Children</i>	<i>Married Persons with not more than 2 Children</i>	<i>Married Persons with 3 or more Children</i>	£ s d			£ s d			£ s d			£ s d		
					£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
£1,692 or over, but under £1,700 .. ..	208	16	3	182	11	3	167	8	9	152	6	3				
	209	16	3	183	11	3	168	8	9	153	6	3				
£1,700 .. ..	210	16	3	184	11	3	169	7	6	154	2	6				
	211	2	6	184	12	6	169	7	6	154	2	6				
£1,702 or over, but under £1,710 .. ..	212	2	6	185	12	6	170	7	6	155	2	6				
	213	2	6	186	12	6	171	7	6	156	1	3				
£1,710 .. ..	213	11	3	186	16	3	171	8	9	156	1	3				
	214	11	3	187	16	3	172	8	9	157	1	3				
£1,712 or over, but under £1,720 .. ..	215	11	3	188	16	3	173	8	9	158	0	0				
	216	0	0	189	0	0	173	10	0	158	0	0				
£1,720 .. ..	217	0	0	190	0	0	174	10	0	159	0	0				
	218	0	0	191	0	0	175	10	0	159	18	9				
£1,722 or over, but under £1,730 .. ..	218	8	9	191	3	9	175	11	3	159	18	9				
	219	8	9	192	3	9	176	11	3	160	18	9				
£1,730 .. ..	220	8	9	193	3	9	177	11	3	161	17	6				
	220	17	6	193	7	6	177	12	6	161	17	6				
£1,732 or over, but under £1,740 .. ..	221	17	6	194	7	6	178	12	6	162	17	6				
	222	17	6	195	7	6	179	12	6	163	16	3				
£1,740 .. ..	223	6	3	195	11	3	179	13	9	163	16	3				
	224	6	3	196	11	3	180	13	9	164	16	3				
£1,742 or over, but under £1,750 .. ..	225	6	3	197	11	3	181	13	9	165	15	0				
	225	15	0	197	15	0	181	15	0	165	15	0				
£1,750 .. ..	226	15	0	198	15	0	182	15	0	166	15	0				
	227	15	0	199	15	0	183	15	0	167	13	9				
£1,752 or over, but under £1,760 .. ..	228	3	9	199	18	9	183	16	3	167	13	9				
	229	3	9	200	18	9	184	16	3	168	13	9				
£1,760 .. ..	230	3	9	201	18	9	185	16	3	169	12	6				
	230	12	6	202	2	6	185	17	6	169	12	6				
£1,762 or over, but under £1,770 .. ..	231	12	6	203	2	6	186	17	6	170	12	6				
	232	12	6	204	2	6	187	17	6	171	11	3				
£1,770 .. ..	233	1	3	204	6	3	187	18	9	171	11	3				
	234	1	3	205	6	3	188	18	9	172	11	3				
£1,772 or over, but under £1,780 .. ..	235	1	3	206	6	3	189	18	9	173	10	0				
	235	10	0	206	10	0	190	0	0	173	10	0				
£1,780 .. ..	236	10	0	207	10	0	191	0	0	174	10	0				
	237	10	0	208	10	0	192	0	0	175	10	0				
£1,782 or over, but under £1,790 .. ..	238	1	3	208	16	3	192	3	9	175	11	3				
	239	1	3	209	16	3	193	3	9	176	11	3				
£1,790 .. ..	240	1	3	210	16	3	194	3	9	177	11	3				
	240	12	6	211	2	6	194	7	6	177	12	6				
£1,792 or over, but under £1,800 .. ..	241	12	6	212	2	6	195	7	6	178	12	6				
	242	12	6	213	2	6	196	7	6	179	12	6				
£1,800 .. ..	243	3	9	213	8	9	196	11	3	179	13	9				
	244	3	9	214	8	9	197	11	3	180	13	9				
£1,802 or over, but under £1,810 .. ..	245	3	9	215	8	9	198	11	3	181	13	9				
	245	15	0	215	15	0	198	15	0	181	15	0				
£1,810 .. ..	246	15	0	216	15	0	199	15	0	182	15	0				
	247	15	0	217	15	0	200	15	0	183	15	0				
£1,812 or over, but under £1,820 .. ..	248	6	3	218	1	3	200	18	9	183	16	3				
	249	6	3	219	1	3	201	18	9	184	16	3				
£1,820 .. ..	250	6	3	220	1	3	202	18	9	185	16	3				
	250	17	6	220	7	6	203	2	6	185	17	6				
£1,822 or over, but under £1,830 .. ..	251	17	6	221	7	6	204	2	6	186	17	6				
	252	17	6	222	7	6	205	2	6	187	17	6				
£1,830 .. ..	253	8	9	222	13	9	205	6	3	187	18	9				
	254	8	9	223	13	9	206	6	3	188	18	9				
£1,832 or over, but under £1,840 .. ..	255	8	9	224	13	9	207	6	3	189	18	9				
	255	8	9	224	13	9	207	6	3	189	18	9				

















THE FIRST SCHEDULE — continued

INCOME RANGE	AMOUNT OF TAX															
	Single Persons			Married Persons with no Children			Married Persons with not more than 2 Children			Married Persons with 3 or more Children						
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d				
£2,953 or over, but under £2,960 .. ..	583	6	3	525	11	3	494	13	9	463	16	3				
£2,960 .. ..	584	6	3	526	11	3	495	13	9	464	16	3				
£2,961 .. ..	585	6	3	527	11	3	496	13	9	465	16	3				
£2,962 .. ..	586	6	3	528	10	0	497	10	0	466	10	0				
£2,963 or over, but under £2,970 .. ..	586	10	0	528	10	0	497	10	0	466	10	0				
£2,970 .. ..	587	10	0	529	10	0	498	10	0	467	10	0				
£2,971 .. ..	588	10	0	530	10	0	499	10	0	468	10	0				
£2,972 .. ..	589	10	0	531	8	9	500	6	3	469	3	9				
£2,973 or over, but under £2,980 .. ..	589	13	9	531	8	9	500	6	3	469	3	9				
£2,980 .. ..	590	13	9	532	8	9	501	6	3	470	3	9				
£2,981 .. ..	591	13	9	533	8	9	502	6	3	471	3	9				
£2,982 .. ..	592	13	9	534	7	6	503	2	6	471	17	6				
£2,983 or over, but under £2,990 .. ..	592	17	6	534	7	6	503	2	6	471	17	6				
£2,990 .. ..	593	17	6	535	7	6	504	2	6	472	17	6				
£2,991 .. ..	594	17	6	536	7	6	505	2	6	473	17	6				
£2,992 .. ..	595	17	6	537	6	3	505	18	9	474	11	3				
£2,993 or over, but under £3,000 .. ..	596	1	3	537	6	3	505	18	9	474	11	3				
£3,000 .. ..	597	0	0	538	0	0	506	0	0	476	0	0				

PART IV

£3,001 or over, but under £4,001												
(a) On £3,000 .. ..	597	0	0	538	0	0	506	0	0	476	0	0
(b) On each pound of Income exceeding £3,000 .. ..	0	7	0	0	6	0	0	5	6	0	5	0
£4,001 or over, but under £5,001												
(a) On £3,000 .. ..	597	0	0	538	0	0	506	0	0	476	0	0
(b) On each pound of the next £1,000 of Income .. ..	0	7	0	0	6	0	0	5	6	0	5	0
(c) On each pound of Income exceeding £4,000 .. ..	0	8	6	0	7	0	0	6	6	0	5	9
£5,001 or over, but under £10,001												
(a) On £3,000 .. ..	597	0	0	538	0	0	506	0	0	476	0	0
(b) On each pound of the next £1,000 .. ..	0	7	0	0	6	0	0	5	6	0	5	0
(c) On each pound of the next £1,000 .. ..	0	8	6	0	7	0	0	6	6	0	5	9
(d) On each pound of Income exceeding £5,000 .. ..	0	9	0	0	8	0	0	7	0	0	6	0
£10,001 or over												
(a) On £3,000 .. ..	597	0	0	538	0	0	506	0	0	476	0	0
(b) On each pound of the next £1,000 .. ..	0	7	0	0	6	0	0	5	6	0	5	0
(c) On each pound of the next £1,000 .. ..	0	8	6	0	7	0	0	6	6	0	5	9
(d) On each pound of the next £5,000 .. ..	0	9	0	0	8	0	0	7	0	0	6	0
(e) On each pound of Income exceeding £10,000 .. ..	0	11	3	0	10	0	0	8	9	0	7	

THE FOURTH SCHEDULE

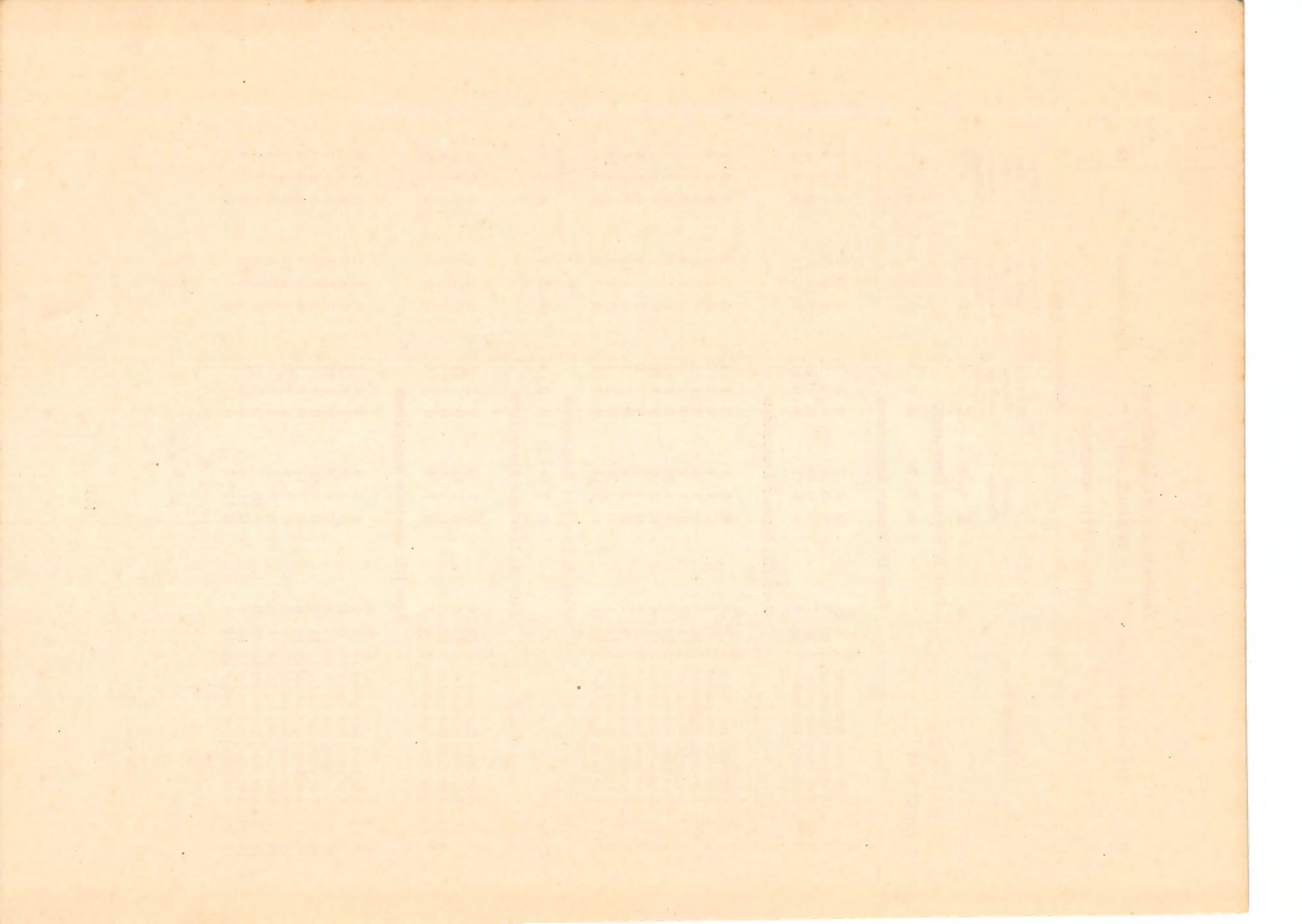
Item	Unit	Rate of Tax
Petrol .. ..	Gallon .. ..	s d 0 3
Diesel Oil .. ..	Gallon .. ..	0 4

(for road vehicles and non-industrial purposes)

THE FIFTH SCHEDULE

AMOUNT OF TAX

INCOME RANGE	Single Persons		Married Persons with no Children		Married Persons with not more than 2 Children		Married Persons with 3 or more Children				
	£	s d	£	s d	£	s d	£	s d			
PART I: WEEKLY EMOLUMENTS											
Under £1 3s 1d			0	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	7
PART II: WEEKLY EMOLUMENTS											
£ s d	£ s d	..									
1 3 1 or over, but under	1 6 11	..	0	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	7
1 6 11 or over, but under	1 10 9	..	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	9
1 10 9 or over, but under	1 14 7	..	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10
1 14 7 or over, but under	1 18 5	..	0	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	11
PART III: WEEKLY EMOLUMENTS											
£ s d	£ s d	..									
1 18 5 or over, but under	2 2 3	..	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	0
2 2 3 or over, but under	2 6 1	..	0	1	4	0	1	3	0	1	0
2 6 1 or over, but under	2 10 0	..	0	1	6	0	1	5	0	1	1
2 10 0 or over, but under	2 13 10	..	0	1	8	0	1	6	0	1	2
2 13 10 or over, but under	2 17 8	..	0	1	10	0	1	8	0	1	3
2 17 8 or over, but under	3 1 6	..	0	2	0	0	1	10	0	1	5
3 1 6 or over, but under	3 5 4	..	0	2	3	0	2	0	0	1	6
3 5 4 or over, but under	3 9 2	..	0	2	5	0	2	2	0	1	8
3 9 2 or over, but under	3 13 1	..	0	2	8	0	2	5	0	2	10
3 13 1 or over, but under	3 16 11	..	0	2	11	0	2	7	0	2	0
PART I: MONTHLY EMOLUMENTS											
Under £5			0	2	4	0	2	4	0	2	4
PART II: MONTHLY EMOLUMENTS											
£ s d	£ s d	..									
5 0 0 or over, but under	5 16 8	..	0	2	6	0	2	6	0	2	6
5 16 8 or over, but under	6 13 4	..	0	2	11	0	2	11	0	2	11
6 13 4 or over, but under	7 10 0	..	0	3	4	0	3	4	0	3	4
7 10 0 or over, but under	8 6 8	..	0	3	9	0	3	9	0	3	9
PART III: MONTHLY EMOLUMENTS											
£ s d	£ s d	..									
8 6 8 or over, but under	9 3 4	..	0	5	0	0	4	7	0	4	2
9 3 4 or over, but under	10 0 0	..	0	5	9	0	5	3	0	4	9
10 0 0 or over, but under	10 16 8	..	0	6	6	0	5	10	0	5	3
10 16 8 or over, but under	11 13 4	..	0	7	3	0	6	6	0	5	9
11 13 4 or over, but under	12 10 0	..	0	7	11	0	7	1	0	6	3
12 10 0 or over, but under	13 6 8	..	0	8	8	0	7	9	0	6	10
13 6 8 or over, but under	14 3 0	..	0	9	7	0	8	7	0	7	6
14 3 0 or over, but under	15 0 0	..	0	10	7	0	9	5	0	8	3
15 0 0 or over, but under	15 16 8	..	0	11	6	0	10	3	0	9	0
15 16 8 or over, but under	16 13 4	..	0	12	5	0	11	1	0	9	9



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THIRD SESSION (1961-62) FIRST MEETING

2nd March, 18th to 22nd April, 1961

## ABBREVIATIONS

Adj. Deb. = Adjournment Debate	Com. = Committee	E.N. = Eastern Nigeria
1R = First Reading		Q = Oral Question
2R = Second Reading		W = Written Question—
3R = Third Reading		at end of Volume

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