



EASTERN NIGERIA

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

## EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

### OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE SECOND HOUSE OF CHIEFS  
OF EASTERN NIGERIA

**SESSION (1964-65)**

SECOND MEETING—*5th and 6th October, 1964*

AND

JOINT SITTING—*12th February, 1965*

CHAS. W. BENTON—1847

1848

ASST. CLERK—1849

CHAS. W. BENTON

1850

CHAS. W. BENTON—1851

CHAS. W. BENTON

CHAS. W. BENTON—1852

CHAS. W. BENTON—1853

CHAS. W. BENTON

1854

## EASTERN NIGERIA GOVERNMENT

(Formed by Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, G.C.O.N., November, 1961)

### MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

### PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS

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

Chief the hon. A. N. Onyiuke; Hon. H. U. Akpabio; Chief the hon. S. E. Onukog

**Parliamentary Secretaries:**

Chief the hon. D. O. Aligwekwe;  
Hon. I. Igajah;  
Hon. E. Chuku.  
Hon. E. Aguma.

**Ministry of Internal Affairs:—**

Minister: Hon. I. U. Akpabio, C.F.R.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. J. A. Jumbo.

**Ministry of Education:—**

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

**Ministry of Finance:—**

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

**Ministry of Works:—**

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

**Ministry of Health:—**

Minister: Hon. B. C. Okwu.  
Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. A. Agams.

**Ministry of Local Government:—**

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

**Ministry of Town Planning:—**

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

**Ministry of Economic Planning:—**

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

**Ministry of Information:—**

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

**Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs:—**

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

**Ministry of Agriculture:—**

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



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

**Ministry of Commerce:—**

Minister: Dr the hon. A. N. Obonna.

Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. R. O. Ikwueke.

**Ministry of Justice:—**

Attorney-General and Minister of Justice: Hon. C. C. Mojekwu.

Parliamentary Secretary: Hon. S. E. K. Iwueke.

**PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS**

The President: Chief the hon. Nyong Essien, C.O.N., C.M.G.

Leader of the House: Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke, C.F.R., *Minister of Education*.

Deputy President: Chief the hon. G. N. Agbasiere, O.O.N.

Clerk of the Legislature: Mr L. O. Okoro, O.O.N., M.B.E.

Acting Clerk-Assistant: Mr V. C. Anigekwu.

Second Clerk-Assistant: Mr F. C. T. Igboka.

Editor, Official Report (*Hansard*): Mr S. B. C. Melifonwu.

Assistant Editor, Official Report (*Hansard*): Mr J. A. Okoh.

Official Reporter, Grade I: Mr K. A. N. Ekwos.

Executive Officer (General Duties): Mr F. B. Eborah-Isichei.

Executive Officer (Accounts): Mr E. O. Asuquo.

Secretary-Typist: Mrs N. Emembolu.

Serjeant-at-Arms: Mr B. O. Ajumogobia.



EASTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS

Monday, 5th October, 1964

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

PRAYERS

(Mr President in the Chair)

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Hon. C. C. Mojekwu—Attorney-General and Minister of Justice.

Hon. R. O. Iwuagwu—Provincial Commissioner, Umuahia.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

**The President:** I have to report to this House His Excellency's answer to the Address as follows:

"I have received with much pleasure the loyal and dutiful expression of your Thanks for my Speech addressed to both Houses of the Legislature."

PAPERS

Presented:

- (i) Draft Supplementary Estimates of Eastern Nigeria, September, 1964 (Official Document No. 27 of 1964). (*The Minister of Finance*).
- (ii) Administrator-General's Report, 1963 (Official Document No. 24 of 1964). (*The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice*).
- (iii) Second Annual Report and Audited Accounts, 1962-63 of the Eastern Nigeria Housing Corporation. (*The Minister of Town Planning*).

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

Distributed:

deemed to have been laid upon the Table, and will be entered upon the Votes and Proceedings of today. They are:—

1. Our Part in Nation Building—Sixth Annual Report of the Eastern Nigeria Library Board for the years 1961-63;
2. Staff List—revised up to 1st January, 1964—Eleventh Issue (Official Document No. 16 of 1964);
3. Approved Estimates of Eastern Nigeria (including Memorandum, Budget Speech and Statutory Corporations) 1964-65 (Official Document No. 13 of 1964);
4. Report of the Enquiry into the Dispute over the Obongship of Calabar by A. K. Hart (Sole Commissioner) (Official Document No. 17 of 1964);
5. Eastern Nigeria Co-operative Field Workers' Manual (Official Document No. 18 of 1964);
6. Annual Report 1963, Leprosy Research Unit, Uzuakoli (Official Document No. 21 of 1964);
7. Ministry of Local Government Annual Report, 1962-63 (Official Document No. 23 of 1964);
8. Parliamentary Debates, Eastern House of Chiefs, Official Report, Third Session of the Second House of Chiefs of Eastern Nigeria, Session (1963-64), Second and Third Meetings, 20th and 21st September, 1963; 1st October, 1963;
9. Ministry of Agriculture, Eastern Nigeria, Soil Survey Memoir No. 1—Anambra-Do Rivers Area (Official Document No. 19 of 1964);
10. Annual Report 1960-61, Veterinary Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Eastern Nigeria (Official Document No. 22 of 1964);
11. Report of the Conference on the Review of the Educational System in Eastern Nigeria (Official Document No. 25 of 1964);



13. Parliamentary Debates, Eastern House of Chiefs, Official Report, Third Session of the Second House of Chiefs of Eastern Nigeria, Session (1963-64) First Meeting, 12th March, 30th April to 8th May, 1963;
14. Law Reports of Eastern Nigeria Volume IV containing Selected Judgments decided in 1960 by the High Courts of Eastern Nigeria;
15. Parliamentary Debates, Eastern House of Assembly, Official Report, Third Session of the Fifth House of Assembly of Eastern Nigeria, Session (1963-64), Second and Third Meetings, 17th to 19th September, 1963; 1st October, 1963.

## REPORT FROM A SPECIAL COMMITTEE

**The Deputy Chairman of the Joint Public Accounts Committee (Chief J. Mpi, O.F.R.):** The Joint Public Accounts Committee have agreed upon their First Report for the 1964-65 Session which I now lay upon the Table of this House.

Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

## MESSAGES FROM THE EASTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### (1) Supplementary Appropriation

Message on the Eastern Nigeria Supplementary Appropriation Bill (1964-65) *brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly endorsed with the Certificate of the Speaker that the Bill is a Money Bill in accordance with Standing Order 60—read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

### (2) Loans

Message on the Loans (Development Programmes) (Amendment) Bill, 1964, *brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly endorsed with the Certificate of the Speaker that the Bill is a Money Bill in accordance with standing Order 60—read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

### (3) Criminal Procedure

Message on the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Amendment) Bill, 1964, *brought up* from

### (4) Sheriffs and Civil Process

Message on the Sheriffs and Civil Process Ordinance (Amendment) Bill, 1964, *brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly, read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

### (5) Local Government

Message on the Local Government (Legalization of Period of Office of Councils) Bill, 1964, *brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly, read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

### (6) State Lands

Message on the State Lands Ordinance (Amendment) Bill, 1964, *brought up* from the Eastern House of Assembly, read the First time; to be read a Second time Today.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### (1) Supplementary Appropriation Bill (1964-65)

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole, C.F.R.):** I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor of Eastern Nigeria to move that a Bill for "A Law to make Supplementary Provision for the Services of Eastern Nigeria for the year ending on the 31st day of March, nineteen hundred and sixty-five" be now read a Second time.

The Bill seeks to appropriate the sum of £2,830,300 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and £2,498,010 from the Capital Development Fund.

Hon. Members will recall that sometime last financial year, the Governments of the Republic set up a Wages and Salaries Commission. This Commission has since made its recommendations which have now been implemented. The effect of the Salaries and Wages arrears has been to increase salaries and wages this year by £3 million. This includes supplementary grants to Statutory Corporations, Local Government Bodies and grants-in-aid to Voluntary



Agencies to permit them meet their commitments in this respect. Other recurrent items are small, covering a few minor requirements not anticipated when the 1964-65 Estimates were prepared.

Of the amount of £2,498,010 which the Legislature is being requested to appropriate from the Capital Development Fund, revotes amount to £766,950. £279,200 of this is in respect of farm settlements, and £121,000 for the completion of the new Legislature. The rest of the revotes are for the completion of projects carried over from the last financial year covering mostly, agricultural schemes and public health programmes.

New provision has been made for additional grants to the E.N.D.C. of £407,200 to meet its bill for the salaries and wages award. Of this amount, £68,200 covers the salaries and wages of workers engaged on commercial projects, while £339,000 is to augment the provision for the wages of plantation labourers.

Provision of £93,000 has been made for additional loans to the Eastern Nigeria Housing Corporation to build low-cost housing for workers in urban areas, and an additional £50,000 for a loan to the Co-operative Bank of Eastern Nigeria, to enable it continue and expand in scope its very useful services to primary producers. A further loan of £150,000 has also been provided for the Modern Ceramics Industry, for the completion of the project and for necessary working capital to commence operations. Hon. Members will be delighted to learn that this industry will commence production early next month.

The sum of £170,000 has been provided to meet liabilities arising from Letters of Credit opened in respect of the Brewery and Glass projects. An amount of £316,810 has been provided for the purchase and installation of two High-powered Medium-wave Transmitters for the Eastern Nigeria Radio Services. When this project is completed it will fill the long-felt need for improvement to the facilities of the Eastern Nigeria Broadcasting Services and will permit our radio station—The Voice of the East—to be heard throughout the length and

Cement Project, while £60,000 is also provided for a Fishery Industry to be sited in the Riverine area.

Hon. Chiefs will agree that this is a straightforward and non-controversial Bill and I commend it to the support of all Members of the House.

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

*Question proposed.*

*Under Standing Order 77 (2)—Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Bills—the Debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed Tomorrow.*

**(2) Loans (Development Programmes) (Amendment) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole, C.F.R.):** I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor of Eastern Nigeria to move that a Bill entitled "A Law to Amend the Loans (Development Programmes) Law, 1959" be now read a Second time.

When this Region launched its first Development Programme in 1958, my predecessor, Dr the hon. S. E. Imoke, moved the reading of a Bill for the Loans (Development Programmes) Law No. 12 of 1959 which was duly passed into law. This law authorized the Region to borrow for the purposes of implementing the Development Programmes approved by the Legislature of this Region a sum not exceeding £6 million.

With the successful realization of this Programme, the limit of £6 million authorized by law was reached and it became necessary in 1961 that the limit of our borrowing powers be raised to £10 million if the Programme was to be prosecuted any further. This was authorized by the Loans (Development Programmes) (Amendment) Law No. 9 of 1961.

In 1962, we launched our second Develop-



...  
this Plan is predicated on the assumption that fifty per cent. of the planned capital outlay will be raised by way of loans and grants.

We are now half-way in time in our current Plan and we have reached the limit of borrowing imposed by Law No. 9 of 1961. It is now intended that this limit be raised to £50 million. This is the object of this Bill and I commend it to this hon. House.

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

**Chief J. Mpi, O.F.R.** (Port Harcourt Province): I do not think that this is a controversial Bill. It is a Bill which I believe everybody in this House would like to support. The only point I would like to make is that this second borrowing power which the Minister of Finance is asking for from us should enable the Government go a long way in developing rural areas when the loan is got. I want the Government to know that the first promise made to our people since 1962 was that the rural areas would be developed. At present our people are leaving the rural areas for the townships and as a result there are not enough people to do farm work and other things of that nature in the rural areas. It is therefore for that reason that while I am supporting the Bill, I am asking the Minister and the Government to take note of the rural areas in the Development Programme.

**Chief C. E. Amobi** (Special Member): I rise to support this Bill. The Bill is timely and it should be supported by all the Members of the House. When somebody is doing a successful business, normally if he wants to expand he must have more money. The Eastern Nigeria Government has done very well with the original loan of £10 million. But looking around, with the expansion of industries here and there in the Region, it has been found necessary to get more money, not by stealing or minting unauthorized money. I am giving my support to the Government to go anywhere in the world to borrow even more than £100 million, because I know that the money is meant for industries to be established in the Region.

here and there in the Region, but Eastern Nigeria will have to patronize them if the industries are to survive. If industries are sited without sufficient patronage they become mere waste of money. For example, we have our *Golden Guinea* beer here, but some people out of sentiment do not want to drink it. The beer has all the qualities other imported ones have. In the circumstance, how can we justifiably blame the Government tomorrow that they do not site industries in our home towns?

We should start to patronize our locally manufactured articles thereby encouraging the Government to establish more industries. The same thing may happen to the proposed cement industry and other industries like the Ceramics Industry which will soon be opened. Why should people order their enamel wares from other countries whereas we can produce them locally? I am calling upon the Eastern Government, through our able Premier, to see that during the next Budget Meeting a law—I think I should put this across to the hon. Attorney-General—should be made that our industries should be supported and patronized. If we weave cloths, I think it proper that our Ministers and everybody should use the cloths we weave. Our contractors, traders and other people should also patronize the industry and make use of the cloths at all times whether they are in the Catering Rest House, cinema theatres, clubs or other places.

**Chief A. U. Ukpa** (Eket Division): I support the Bill. The Bill before this House is forward-looking. We talk always of industrialization; this cannot be achieved without money. We have to thank the Government for its achievements so far. I also support the statement made by Chief Mpi that we must look for money to carry out our industrialization programme. When money is got I would like to appeal that these industries should be sited considerably in rural areas, because there is always the tendency of people leaving rural areas to townships where they can find something to do.

The Government's Six-Year Development Plan aims at reducing unemployment; therefore Government should look far and wide for money to solve the question of unemployment.



**Chief Zumoh Efeke V** (Yenagoa Province): I rise to support the Bill because the Government has done a lot with the last loan received, and therefore it is necessary that Government should look for more money. Before going further, I would like to appeal that Government, in its search for loans, should not depend only on the Western hemisphere: we should send out economic missions to the East also—e.g., to Russia, to Communist China, to Japan, etc.

I support the first speaker. It is quite necessary that Government should extend its activities to the rural areas, mostly my Province, Yenagoa, because no industry has yet been established there, in spite of the fact that we have natural resources such as salt and native gin. I am sure Government is not going to spend much to establish an industry like the salt industry because we have salt within our doorstep. I could remember that during the last war when salt was very scarce we were manufacturing our own salt. I should therefore like the Government to encourage the people of that area by establishing a salt industry in order to save the money we would have spent on importing salt from abroad.

Another thing I want to remind the House about is how the traders increase their prices, so that money that we do not spend abroad is given to the wrong arm here in our country. For instance, after the last Morgan Commission awards, a crate of tobacco which was costing only £112 rose to £220. Such things are very discouraging. If such things are allowed to continue, even the loan we are going to get for the establishment of industries may only go to the wrong persons. It is therefore necessary that the Minister of Commerce should go into this matter, especially P.Z. that increased their Tobacco from £112 to £220 a crate. The Government should look for loans, and more loans, even more than £50 million that the Bill seeks to authorize.

**Chief Silas O. Ezenwa, M.B.E.** (Onitsha Division): I rise to support the Bill with a few remarks. Nobody will oppose this Bill because no nation can be built without money. However, one thing struck me when the last speaker said that after the Morgan Commission

are seeking, I want to say that it is not good to give loans to indigenous industries without giving them adequate protection. Most of our indigenous industries are suffering because the foreigners are given more protection than the Nigerian business men. It is not just a question of giving loans to Nigerian business men, because with the present increase in duty, materials used in manufacturing goods will cost more. This will make it almost impossible for the indigenous business man to survive in the teeth of strong foreign competition; this has led to so many businesses closing down. I suggest therefore that our business men should be given more protection, e.g., exemption from tax, duty-free imports of raw materials, etc. which many foreign concerns enjoy.

Our Minister of Finance should also investigate before giving out any loan—whether the industry will be viable or not.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time.*

*And it being certified a Money Bill—*

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

*Question that the Bill be now read the Third time put forthwith and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

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

### (3) **Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Amendment) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Mr C. C. Mojekwu):** I beg to move that the Bill be now read a Second time. This is not a controversial Bill and does not introduce something new; so it does not call for long speeches. All I wish to do is to explain briefly what this Bill is about.



however, vests this duty on Prison officers. In order to legalize the existing practice, it is necessary to amend the Act as has been done in the Federal Territory.

This is the purpose of this Amendment Bill. The details of the proposed Amendment are given in the Bill. It will be noticed that the Amendment will leave Prison officers free to act as escorts when required, as provided in the Act in its present form, and in addition will empower the Police also to act as escorts as they do in actual practice.

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke, C.F.R.):** I beg to second.

**Chief N. U. Ofem, O.O.N., M.B.E.** (Abakaliki Province): I rise to support the Bill. This is a non-controversial Bill as explained by the hon. Attorney-General. I think the change is necessary as emphasized by him, and therefore I must support the Bill.

**Chief E. A. Egbara** (Obubra Division): This is not a controversial Bill as has been said. What I intend to say is that from my observations, prisoners in escort are safer in the hands of Policemen than in the hands of Warders. It is an accepted fact that whenever these men are sent to arrest accused persons they put fears into the minds of these accused persons. If Policemen are allowed to escort prisoners to and from the courts, they feel more secure. That is why I whole-heartedly support this Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr President resumed the Chair)

*Bill reported without amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

*Other House.*

#### (4) **Sheriffs and Civil Process Ordinance (Amendment) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Mr C. C. Mojekwu):** The Bill before us is not a controversial one. It is the outcome of sundry amendments that have been made to the Sheriffs and Civil Process Amendment Act enacted in 1961.

The object of the Bill is to amend the Act so as to make provision for warrants of committal to be addressed to Police Officers. As the law stands such warrants are addressed only to Sheriffs but owing to various amendments made to the law, it is necessary to make provision for the warrants to be directed to Police Officers. As indicated in the Bill, this provision is now made by inserting an additional subsection to section 38 of the existing Act. As the original Act dates from 1961, it is proposed to give the amendment retroactive effect to 1961.

With this brief explanation, I beg to move that the Bill be now read a Second time.

**The Minister of Agriculture (Mr P. N. Okeke):** I beg to second.

**Chief J. Mpi, O.F.R.** (Port Harcourt Province): There is a point which I would like to know more about. Things concerning Law are always very difficult. This Law was prepared by somebody in charge and I believe it passed through this House in 1961. Now that the amendment is coming up, I do not know whose fault it is. I want to know whether the law was quite in order at that time, or are we just committing ourselves as laymen? So many laws have been passed as a result of which some people have been made to suffer; now that this is going to be retrospective, I think it is necessary for the Law Officer or the man in charge to say a little bit more about this matter so that we cannot commit ourselves. This is not only for ourselves but also for the people we represent. As for me I think I understand it but sometimes we want to know more about these laws so that we may be able to explain to our people.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Eastern House of Chiefs Debates*

13 [Local Government (Legalization of 5 OCTOBER 1964 *Period of Office of Councils*) Bill— 14  
2R, Com. and 3R]

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr President resumed the Chair)

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

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

**(5) Local Government (Legalization of Period of Office of Councils) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Local Government (Chief J. U. Nwodo):** The object of this amendment is very clear. The Oron Urban County Council was due to hold elections in October, 1963, but no elections were held until February, 1964. Thus the Council exceeded its normal life by three months—1st November, 1963 to 31st January, 1964.

Also the Ejagham Dusanga Iyong Iyong County Council, by holding elections in September, 1963 instead of March, 1963, exceeded its life by six months—1st April, 1963 to 30th September, 1963.

This Law seeks to legalize the period during which these Councils performed their functions outside their normal lives and to validate the acts and proceedings of the Councils during these periods.

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

**Chief J. Mpi, O.F.R. (Port Harcourt Province):** In supporting this Bill, we want

**The Minister of Local Government:** The fault is in the administrative machinery. The Administrative Officers were really responsible for this failure to hold elections at the appropriate times. They were involved in some other official work. I was equally embarrassed as the hon. Member is when I heard that certain Councils had over-stayed their terms of office. We have reported the matter to the Chief Secretary who has replied to say that the officers responsible for the mistake had been disciplined.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr President resumed the Chair)

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

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

**(6) State Lands Ordinance (Amendment) Bill**

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Town Planning (Mr P. O. Nwoga):** I rise to move that the Bill for a Law to amend the State Lands Ordinance be now read a Second time.

The object of the Bill is to remove from the existing law certain aspects that reflect our former colonial status.

Section 3 of the State Lands Ordinance which is currently in use states, and I quote from Chapter 45 of the *Laws of Nigeria*, 1948 edition:

“Except with the consent of the Secretary of State first obtained, the Governor shall not sell any State Land.”



longer requires without reference to an outside body or authority. The Minister should also have powers to grant temporary occupation licences for temporary use of State Land. The Bill is straightforward and needs no further elaboration.

**The Provincial Commissioner, Umuahia (Mr R. O. Iwuagwu):** I beg to second.

**Chief J. U. Okudare (Ogoja Province):** I rise to support the Bill because we have had our independence and are no longer in the colonial days. The Minister concerned has said what is right and I support the cause of this Bill which is a proper one.

**Chief E. O. Atakpa (Enyong Division):** I rise to support the Bill. In doing so, I have to point out that the Minister in charge of this Bill has helped to rearrange things in the interest of the communities of this country. At the moment there are many reserves, especially forest reserves. To encourage the communities some of the forest reserves should be released through this Law so as to allow the communities to make use of these lands.

It is in the interest of Government to encourage community development and it is only through this channel that the Government of Eastern Nigeria will be able to encourage community development.

I would further add that the loans which Government intends to raise will not be properly utilized in certain communities except lands are allowed to individuals for development purposes. It is in the interest of the people that they be allowed lands on which to plan their projects and programmes for development before they can approach the Government for supervision and financial assistance. Thereby Government will lessen the burden of undertaking every development programme by itself with its limited funds. What the Government is mainly concerned about is how the people in the rural areas consolidate and utilize their lands in order to attract Government assistance. It is said that Heaven helps those who help themselves.

I thank the Ministry for the interest they have shown in investigating certain difficulties and

**Chief C. E. Amobi (Special Member):** I rise to support this Bill because the amendment reflects the Nigerian Republican status. After we have attained independence in 1960 and in 1963 Republican status, there is no reason why the Governor should obtain permission from the Colonial Secretary for the use of our lands. The idea is absurd. I want to say that the errors of trials which we committed during the colonial era should be corrected nowadays. If you go to Onitsha you will see that all the important commercial areas are owned by aliens. The African business men are being encouraged by the Ministry of Commerce to form co-operative bodies; but who will agree to do business in a very bad site? I would call on the Minister of Town Planning to see that all lands are given to Africans and the foreigners will come to lease from them because they have the capital. In Port Harcourt, it is sad to note that the Syrians have the important commercial areas. This mistake of the colonial era should be corrected. We welcome foreign investors to the Region but they should not be given free hand over our lands. I hope the Minister of Town Planning will take a good note of this.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

(In the Committee)

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.*

*Bill to be reported.*

(Mr President resumed the Chair)

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

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

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke C.F.R.):** I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until ten o'clock Tomorrow morning.



**The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole, C.F.R.):** I beg to second.

### ADJOURNMENT DEBATES

#### National Honours; Quarters for Mr President

**Chief J. Mpi, O.F.R. (Port Harcourt Province):** I seize this opportunity to thank the President of the Republic of Nigeria, the Premier of Eastern Nigeria and other colleagues who made it possible for some of us to be given honours during the first anniversary of our Republican status. Whatever honour is done to one man is for others. This is a very good beginning and I hope it will continue. At the same time it is a mark of confidence. I know that I am conveying the sentiments of the Members of this hon. House. I thank the Government. After all, all was not done in one day and I know that as we keep growing from strength to strength all good things will come. So, I thank the people. I thank the Members of this House and everybody for this very good gesture.

Secondly, I would like to remind this Government that up till now the President, well decorated as he is, still has no house. I had to vacate my own house for him.

**The Premier (Dr M. I. Okpara, G.C.O.N.):** Very soon he will have one.

**Chief Mpi:** I know that may be the answer but we have been talking about this thing for long now. For instance, I had to pack out for him. I know the hon. Premier will be able to do it; there are so many houses vacant and there is nobody living in them. I can mention them if I am asked to do so. It is only a question of order—an order saying: “You pack over there” and that is finished.

**Chief C. E. Amobi (Special Member):** I rise to thank the Government on behalf of those who have been honoured and those of us who have not been honoured. This goes to belie the statement of the Minister of Information of Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Ibrahim Biu,

Eastern Nigeria does not care for the Chiefs. I wonder whether he has gone through the list of the hon. Chiefs, those in the House and those not in the House. Some of the Members of this hon. House were honoured; so were some who have not the opportunity of being in this House. That goes to show that the Government of Eastern Nigeria respects the Chiefs. I want to seize this opportunity, therefore to warn this big-mouthed Alhaji Biu. In Hausa language I know that “biu” means “two” and I know this man is a man of two faces. He is now singing the song of the N.P.C. When we win the Federal Election, which I am confident we will do, I know he is going to cross over to the N.C.N.C. He will begin to look for a chance to come in because he is a man of two faces.

I would ask the Premier to look into this question of providing accommodation for our hon. President of this House. In fact, at present he is my neighbour in the Catering Rest House; I am in Chalet 1 and he is in Chalet 2; so I know the inconvenience he experiences. I would like to see, when next we come here, that proper and respectable quarters have been provided for our respectable President.

**The President:** The hon. the Premier.

**The Premier:** I did not really mean to say anything, Mr President, but now that you have called me, I have to say, that it is my wish that we shall all be honoured in due course. We cannot all be honoured at once, otherwise the Honours become meaningless and worthless. If hon. Members continue to work hard—and we see their contributions—no doubt, the State will take cognizance of them.

On the question of housing the President, all I can say here is that the matter has been carefully noted and proper action will be taken in due course.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Adjourned, accordingly, at fifteen minutes past*

Tuesday, 6th October, 1964

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

## PRAYERS

(Mr President in the Chair)

## OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Hon. S. O. Masi—Provincial Commissioner, Onitsha.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### Adjournment *sine die*

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

The Minister of Works (Mr P. O. Ururuka): 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

### Supplementary Appropriation Bill (1964-65)

(FIRST AND ONLY ALLOTTED DAY)

*Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (5th October):* That the Bill be now read a Second time.

*Question again proposed:*

Chief J. Mpi, O.F.R. (Port Harcourt Province): In fact, I did not intend to speak but looking round the House, I find that nobody has stood up to speak, so I am forced to get up. (*Hon. Members: No, that is not true.*)

The President: You are in order, Chief Mpi.

this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I have gone through it and found that it is quite in order, and I think the Government is wise enough in its method of spending. The money required now is quite appropriate since it is for the payment of other commitments which were not foreseen at the time the Estimates were prepared.

I want to remind the Government of our request when we met last session, that Members of this House would like to be like their counterparts in the other Regions. There are some Chiefs here who ought to be Ministers without Portfolio (*Hon. Members: Good talk.*) Not only that, in the Western House of Chiefs and in the Northern House of Chiefs, there are the offices of Chief Whip and Whip. Even in the young Mid-West Region, these offices exist. So, it is only a question of reminding our Government to remember us here. I know that our Government, as a progressive Government, is taking care of that.

Let me be a little parochial. A promise was made in this House that at least each Division in the Region would get a hospital. But up till now, there is no hospital in Ahoada Division, one of the biggest Divisions in Eastern Nigeria. (*An hon. Member: What of the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital there?*) That hospital which was built by the Seventh Day Adventist Mission is not serving the Division properly. They give one kind of treatment to their members and another type to non-members of their denomination. The Government should look closely into Ahoada Division because we are being denied so many things and it is high time we were remembered.

Another point is the teachers' strike. Now we want more money to pay for those things for which we have committed ourselves. We are here today to support whatever sum the Government wants; but we want the Government to take care of what is going on in the country. There is something radically wrong somewhere and Government should find a solution to it. Now teachers have been on strike for the past six days. We have paid the school fees and boarding fees (in respect of Secondary Schools), but the children have all been turned out of school. I am not against teachers' demand for better conditions of service, if their demand is a just one; but after



[CHIEF MPI]

meeting the teachers' demand, what will be the fate of our children who are now denied their lessons and food which have been paid for. Even now, children in what we now call Elementary V and Elementary VI are unable to write simple letters. There is, in fact, a fall in standards, and this state of affairs cannot be improved by strikes on the part of the teachers. So we want the Government to do something to improve the position. Everything should be done to stop the present strike of teachers.

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke, C.F.R.):** Point of explanation. The hon. Chief will like to know that I shall be flying to Lagos tomorrow to hold a meeting with the other Ministers of Education on this question of teachers' strike. We hope that good result will come out of the meeting.

**Chief Mpi:** That is why I say that the Government of Eastern Nigeria always leads. I do not say that because I am here. Well, we want the Minister to be up and doing—fly tomorrow, please fly quickly!

At the same time I would like to point out a certain thing. We do not want people who like to play politics. There are some teachers who like to play politics whenever something like strike breaks out. Some of them who do not belong to the Party in power sometimes seize such opportunity to do harm to the Government. This type of thing should be stopped forthwith. Now that the Minister of Education is going to Lagos for the matter, the battle is going to be fought and I hope the teachers will win.

I do not want to take more time of the hon. Members because many of them may like to speak.

**The President:** Hon. Members, I have my list here with me, and I want to do justice to all. If you do not rise you miss your chance, and that is not my fault. Thank you.

**Chief J. U. U. Ebong (Abak Division):** I rise to support this Bill. In doing so, I feel I should express my thanks to the Minister of Finance and his staff for the efficient way the finances of the Regional Government have been handled.

**The President:** Hon. Members, the usual time limit should be observed—ten minutes.

**Chief Ebong:** At the same time, I quite remember many Members of this House have made several requests that our hon. President should be given a house at Enugu. It is high time that Government should take this request into consideration now that, as it appears to me, they have got sufficient fund. It is not good to see our President struggling for accommodation along with others in the hotels at Enugu.

Secondly, I quite remember that last session, when we were here, I made a request to the Minister of Works that the remaining part of the Umuahia-Ikot Ekpene-Abak station road should be tarred. That is, it should be tarred from Abak station to Ikarakwa where that road will join the road from Aba to Opobo. During my speech the Minister of Works replied here in this House that the work had been put in the programme, but up till today nothing has been done. I do not know whether the reply was a gesture to quell me so that I would make no more request. If that was the case, I beg to take this opportunity to request the Minister of Works to see that that road be now completely tarred to the Aba-Opobo road junction.

I made another request in this hon. House: as is well known to everybody, Abak Division is a palm produce area. In order to take up some of the quantity of the oil, I made a suggestion here that Government should help us to see that a soap industry was established in Abak Division. I therefore take this opportunity to repeat that request, and I hope Government will now consider it.

Some time ago, I read in a paper that arrangement was being made to construct a railway line from Western Nigeria through Oron, but a rumour is now spreading that the Government is making a change in that arrangement—that instead of that railway line passing through Annang Province it is now being arranged that it should take another course. So I feel that if that is done the people of Annang Province will be highly disappointed. I therefore beg to place before the Government that they should consider constructing the railway line through Annang Province, and that should be between Ikot Ekpene and Abak Divisions.



[CHIEF EBONG]

The only thing I wanted to say about the strike has been said by Chief Mpi and he has got a reply. The strike is telling much on our people in my area. There, nearly all the schools have closed down because the teachers are not in attendance. But since the Minister of Education has made a promise, I hope he will soon take steps to satisfy the teachers, and see that they are given better conditions of service.

I do not wish to waste time, and I think that is all I have to say.

**Chief J. A. Onwudiwe** (Onitsha Division): I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I have to express my thanks to the Minister of Finance, because his Ministry is one of those Ministries that require very careful attention. Mr President, with your permission I wish to seize this opportunity to extend my hearty congratulations to the hon. Premier, Dr M. I. Okpara, leader of the great party, the N.C.N.C. Lack of appropriate words will fail me to describe the courageous Premier with an expression befitting his worth and qualities.

I congratulate the Premier and the Government for the meet-the-people tour which they undertook sometime ago. It enabled the people to know them and also made it possible for them to know the people.

I seize this opportunity also to say a few words about the Minister of Local Government. This Minister has been receiving praises from Members; some say he is an energetic worker.

May I seize this opportunity to say a word or two about my area—Anambra. This area is a new child begot by the Eastern Government. Anambra comprises fourteen towns with a population of over two hundred thousand. Anambra's land is fertile. But the area requires Government's development. It appears nothing valuable has been done for my area; I may say that Anambra has been neglected or denied amenities. I have once made a request that Anambra needs a canning industry. Anambra river produces more fish than any other river in the Region. It supplies Onitsha Division and the surrounding areas with fish. Anambra produces more yams than any other town in Onitsha Division. In this respect I see no reason why Anambra should be neglected by the Government. Apart from farm settlement there is nothing else which has

been done for my area—Anambra. The Six-Year Development Plan will soon come to an end and a new scheme will be proposed. I seize this opportunity to remind the Government in time that Anambra river requires dredging to allow big boats sail from Lagos to Onitsha and to Anambra in order to carry the goods that are stored there.

While I continue to say that the Government have been very good to us because they have tarred the road from Abagana to Nteje to Otuocha, I wish to say that there are other important roads leading from Nteje—Umuonya—Ogbunike—Ogidi—Seventh Mile. They are popular roads. They lead to Onitsha and Government should take into consideration the tarring of these roads.

Also in Anambra we have some people who live on the other side of the river. They lack transport. Government should consider the establishment of ferry service so that the people could benefit from the tax they pay. These people have no means of transport except by canoe.

**Chief F. O. J. Allagoa, O.O.N., M.B.E.** (The Amanyanabo of Nembe): I rise to support the Bill. I am very grateful to the Government for their good plans and also to the Premier in particular for visiting Nembe.

*Ministry of Works:* A new road is being built from Yenagoa. If the road connects Nembe it will mean shortening the distance by about a hundred miles. It will be a direct road to the main-land. It will be good if it connects Nembe the capital of Brass Division.

We have been talking about the bridge between Ogbolomabiri and Bassambiri but up till now nothing has been done. I am appealing that this bridge be constructed for my people so that they will not feel that they are forgotten.

*Ministry of Customary Courts:* The Customary Court judges are doing very good work. They are experienced men but their pay is very little. These men sit for about twelve hours on each occasion but at the end of the month they are paid only £8—the salary of a messenger. I think they should be considered for higher pay. I appeal to the Minister to take



this into consideration. We have big Chiefs there, big men. They are doing good work and deserve more pay.

The next thing I want to talk about is water for my town. There is an estimate to supply Nembe with water; however, although a neighbouring town has already been supplied with water, mine has still not been supplied. In this connection, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister of Works to give this matter serious consideration.

**Chief J. J. Ogbulafor** (Bende Division): I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would first of all thank the hon. Premier and his Ministers for the wonderful meet-the-people tour which they undertook earlier this year. Some people say that our Ministers sit down and "eat" our money for nothing, but the meet-the-people tour has shown us that they are very hard working indeed. Also, I would like to extend my profound gratitude to Mrs Adanma Okpara who also accompanied the hon. Premier on the tour and made it so smooth and lively; when the Premier broke the tour at Calabar and travelled to Benin, she did not hesitate to accompany the Acting Premier to the Calaro and Dunlop Estates.

Secondly, Mr President, I take this opportunity to express my hearty congratulations to the Ministers of this Region for the honest support they have been giving the Premier, especially in connection with his Western Nigeria tour. I know that without the support of his Ministers he could not have undertaken the tour successfully. The Inspector-General of Police, Mr Edet, also deserves gratitude for arranging the tour so successfully that there was no incidence at all.

We are now on the eve of the Federal elections, and I would like to appeal to our newspaper editors not to molest the leaders of the country and the politicians with provocative articles and editorials. We all want the elections to be free and fair, otherwise Nigeria will lose her reputation abroad. In this connection, I could remember that the Ghana Government has been calling Nigeria "big for nothing". We are in no wise big for nothing, and we should show the world that we are a nation able to control our affairs.

May I say that this Government is the only Government that has shown itself able to balance its Budget with £1 million surplus without any difficulty.

I have to bring to the notice of the Minister of Finance and especially the Minister of Health, that there are lots of mentally deranged patients roaming about in this Region. The Calabar Mental Hospital is congested; so I appeal to the Minister of Health to see that Mental Sections are attached to all Government Hospitals in the Region. This will check the incident of mental victims moving loosely.

Continuing, Mr President, I have to congratulate this Government for the two wise appointments they have made—the appointment of Mr C. C. Mojekwu as Attorney-General and also the appointment of Chief Marcus Ubani as the First-class Chief for Umuahia Province. These two appointments will surely earn the Government the respect of the outside world. I am sure that Chief Ubani will keep the flag flying when he comes to this hon. House to be sworn in.

Another point, Mr President: there are still many people going about saying that we have industries now in the Region. But it is regretful that our people do not patronize our industries. I often see some young men in bars who say "I do not want to drink this *Golden Guinea Beer*". In comparison, I am sure *Golden Guinea* will even beat *Heinekens*, but these people do not want to buy it because it is made here. I am not saying that they should not drink any other beer, but it is our duty to patronize our own products.

As regards loans, we should be sure that countries from which we obtain them also buy our products in return. For instance, we have palm kernels, palm oil, etc., which they should purchase in return for their loans. At the moment, this is not so, and if you go to Port Harcourt you will find that the G. B. Ollivant sheds and others are full of goods; this is because these foreign countries from which we get loans do not usually patronize our products. I think we should make it plain, before getting loans, that they also will purchase our goods in return.

In concluding, Mr President, I again express my gratitude to the hon. Premier and his Ministers, especially the Minister of



[CHIEF OGBULAFOR]

Education who has told us that he will be going to Lagos about the teachers' strike. Although some people have tried to criticize him, it will yet be seen that he is an able and hard-working Minister, and we hope he will put his points plainly, one by one, in Lagos. This question of the teachers' strike is, in fact, very very awful. I think the position of teachers should be considered. I am quite sure that they do not even want the Morgan Awards, but they want their conditions of service to be fair. It is deplorable that, for instance, a teacher with a family at times may not get his salary for up to four months! Why not let them have the little they are paid regularly? I am also appealing to the Minister of Education through this hon. House to look into the question of these Voluntary Agencies. These proprietors collect the school fees, put them in their pockets, use the money in sending their children overseas, to Nsukka University and so on, and yet leave the teachers to suffer and die of starvation! The schools of such proprietors should be closed down.

**Chief F. N. Ogudoro (Aba Division):** I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have to thank the Minister of Finance and his officials for the able way they have been handling the finances of this Region which are now buoyant. The Minister himself is, in fact, very able and keen, and he has been able to run his office with great efficiency.

I will now speak on the Ministry of Information. In this regard, I beg to repeat the statement which I made some time ago, and that is, that Nigeria is very fond of imitating other countries. We see in the television programmes and cinemas a lot of things about people stealing here and there at gun point and our people have copied this practice. I appeal to the Minister of Information to keep such films and programmes under control, because we are always fond of copying bad things rather than good things.

I am happy that the Minister of Education has made a promise, and I am also happy that one of the Chiefs has commented on the question of teachers.

I happen to be one of the proprietors of schools, and there has been a lot of rumours about misappropriation and misuse of grants-in-aid paid to schools by Managers and School

Proprietors. I would suggest that the Minister of Education should try and investigate, and if he finds any proprietor who misappropriates he should be punished, for all of us are answering a bad name—Managers and Proprietors—which is bad.

*Ministry of Town Planning.*—I do not oppose the planning of our area as the Minister of Town Planning has proposed to do. All I am saying is that Eastern Ngwa and Southern Ngwa should be represented in the Planning Committee; secondly, they should be allowed to collect rates from the areas so planned; that is to say, that the boundary should be allowed to remain as it is now. Unless the Government has decided to dissolve the two Councils, otherwise Opobo, Ikot Ekpene, Umuahia and Umuoba roads all belong to Eastern Ngwa, and then Owerri, Port Harcourt, Ndoki and other roads belong to Southern Ngwa.

There has been a rumour that the Aba Urban County Council would not exceed the boundary after planning, which means that many a time every good thing goes to the township and all bad things to the village. I therefore appeal to the Government to allow both Eastern Ngwa and Southern Ngwa to collect rates, even in the areas now proposed to be planned.

During the last Provincial Assembly meeting at Umuahia, when I took a stroll to the township, I discovered that most of the Police Constables were scattered in the township. The same thing applies to Aba Police Constables. Most of the Inspectors are living in the town, and this is bad. I therefore suggest that it will be the duty of the Government of the East to press the Federal Government to see that police constables are given quarters. However big or small the constable may be he should be given at least a two-roomed quarters and Inspectors three-roomed quarters.

*Court Bailiffs.*—Most of the Court Bailiffs are having wrinkled faces due to old age. So, I am suggesting that the Government should make it a duty to see that these old people are compensated so as to give room or chance for young men to do the job, because most of them wear slippers to the court and are therefore not able to chase prisoners when they run away. Since we want development in the country their dresses should be changed. We should substitute these old men with the educated ones of the day.



The Eastern Government has been doing well as far as the finances of the Region are concerned. Most of the Members of the Opposition, as we were told, have crossed over to the Government side, leaving only four of them. This is due to the fair way the finances of the Government are handled by the Premier and his Ministers. I therefore, think the remaining four will not hesitate to surrender. The Premier and his Ministers are doing very good work.

**Chief G. O. Ihenacho, M.B.E.** (Owerri Division): I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. It is a Bill which gives us an insight of what money we need to pursue the business of our Government during the remaining part of the financial year. I do not, therefore, think it is necessary for anybody to labour on it very much. This matter was hammered upon during the Budget Session. We are satisfied that the money has been well earmarked for specific items, and, in my view, the only subject which I think I should mention is this current issue of the teachers' strike. I predicted some years ago in this House that teachers, particularly graduates, who were then in the Education Department, were making their ways into other departments because, as I thought, the Education Department did not seem to offer them attractive conditions of service. If one refers to our Parliamentary Debates of 1961, one will find that teachers were making their ways into other departments thereby crippling our education. Who now suffers? The answer is: those of us who have paid school fees, both in the secondary and primary schools. The strike by teachers at this time of the year is drawing us back, and I think that even the teachers themselves who have children to maintain will in due course discover that they will also suffer. The Minister of Education has offered us a promise of his intention to go to Lagos to meet his counterparts in other Regions to deal with this matter. I would like to remind him that wise men come from the East and he is also an Easterner. He should use Eastern tactics to bring the others to understand their duty. Tell me what the Hausa man will say! It does not worry him; he is only concerned about the Koran. The man from the West is busy with lip-services. They promise to bring heaven to the ground in one moment and in the next

breath they change. If the Federal Government cannot solve the teachers problem, could not this Region make her own arrangements to satisfy the teachers' genuine demands?

I will not take my seat without allying myself with the previous speakers who praised and thanked our able Premier and members of the Cabinet. I would like to stress this point: I think that both our Premier and the Ministers will prefer any good services we render to daily praises we shower on them.

**Chief J. O. Njemanze, C.O.N., M.B.E.** (Owerri Province): I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and also to mention a few points. I heartily thank our able and brave Premier and his Lieutenants for the good services they have been rendering in this Region. I have to thank the Minister of Commerce for giving Owerri a Catering Rest House. We are very grateful that we now have a Catering Rest House.

May I call the attention of the Minister of Health to the Owerri General Hospital which appears to be the worst in the Region. If a V.I.P. is sick I am sure that he would not like to be admitted in the Owerri General Hospital. The wards are made of mud blocks and the hospital itself was built since 1902. Look at a place like Yenagoa and Ogoni, their hospitals are more modern than that of Owerri. We are not selfish, we are faithful to the Government, but I am asking that the hon. Premier and his able Lieutenants should think seriously about the Owerri General Hospital. When the Shell Company left Owerri, we were told that the Shell Clinic would be annexed to the General Hospital. It was also alleged that a sum of £9,000 would be used in getting equipment and furnishing the hospital, but today there is nothing practically. Instead of sending the £9,000, the Senior Medical Officer at Owerri only received £50. What will £50 do? That is very disappointing! We give our Premier and his Government full support but Owerri is left behind in the scheme of things. When they go on tour we pledge our implicit confidence in them, but when actual work is to be done we will not get them. Look at what is happening in various Divisions today. The Hausa people are spending money here and there seeking for support. They want us to leave our great men. But we shall not do so



[CHIEF NJEMANZE]

Look at what they are doing to Ibo people. The Hausa man has the audacity of saying that Ibo people are against the progress of Nigeria. Is he not a stupid man who would say that? I know of an ex-Commissioner of Police who was in charge of Owerri Province in 1922. When he left on transfer to Lagos, he wrote that the salvation of Nigeria will come from the Ibos. Who made the various States of Africa to open their eyes and see the light? It is the Ibo man.

I want to call the attention of the Minister of Education to Owerri. It was formerly said that the Trades School would be built at Owerri. We were disappointed when it was announced that the Trades School which was to be built at Owerri would be taken to somewhere else. But that does not make us to go against our good Government. What we are saying is that it is useless for Government to make promises without keeping them.

I will go back again to the Ministry of Health. Government was good enough to post a Senior Medical Officer and three other Medical Officers to Owerri, but today, what you see is only one Senior Medical Officer and two Medical Officers. The work in the Hospital is very heavy and there is always congestion. The other day, one of the Medical Officers went to Uyo to give evidence in a court case and the patients were there waiting till about two o'clock. I am asking the Minister of Health to send more doctors to Owerri.

I will now speak on the Ministry of Justice. I am very grateful to the Government for appointing hon. C. C. Mojekwu as the Minister of Justice. It is a very good appointment indeed. I ask our Minister of Justice to consider the question of Owerri Judicial staff. Formerly, we had one Judge after we had worried, petitioned and sent delegations to the Premier. We also had one Chief Magistrate and two Magistrates; but now, we have only a Judge and two Magistrates. We are asking the Minister of Justice to post two Chief Magistrates to Owerri so as to be able to meet the demands of the people. One Chief Magistrate is unable to conduct all the cases. I am sorry to say that Owerri Division is full of litigants.

An hon. Chief made some comments on Customary Courts and their judges. I do not

know whether the payment of the salaries of Customary Court Judges is in the hands of the Minister of Local Government or the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs. I think the salaries paid to these Customary Court Judges are very inadequate. This matter was brought up in this House before by many hon. Members, and still Government has done nothing. We want something to be done. For a man to leave his house everyday and do a hard day's work and at the end of the month he is paid only £6, is very bad. A common Bailiff who is under the Customary Court Judge gets more pay than a Customary Court Judge. Bailiffs earn £18, £15 or £14 as the case may be. Something must be done about this.

Yesterday, Chief the hon. Mpi thanked our Premier and his Government for the Honours awarded to various Chiefs in the Region. I know that charity begins at home. Although our great man, His Excellency, the Right hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, knows some of us, it is true that he does not know all of us, and that before such Honours are awarded, the Premier must be consulted. We thank the Premier for what he has done and I am asking on behalf of my colleagues and others who received these awards on the first day of October, 1964, that our appreciation and thanks should be conveyed to His Excellency, the Right hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe. We hope that the awards will continue in order of merit every first of October. This is encouraging and we are very happy indeed.

I am sorry that I have to make this comment about our Chiefs. I have to give an advice to our Chiefs, some of whom are here. Some of them are leopards in sheep's skin. I know some of them are supporters of the N.P.C. I am therefore asking our Premier to make it a point of duty or give a standing order that any Chief, member of Customary Court, President of Customary Court or Council or member of a Council who errs by supporting any other party than our Great Party, the N.C.N.C., should be deprived of his position. If this point is neglected, we will find things difficult during the forthcoming Federal Elections. Last Saturday, at a meeting of the Zikist Movement and the Okpara Youth Brigade, I advised the members to fight for the up-liftment of our country. We must defend our Government and our Great Party and see that the Federal



Government is run by the N.C.N.C. Why should we allow our Party to suffer? We are not the poorest Region in the Federation. We are even the richest. Why should we betray our fatherland and Party?

**Chief N. N. Anyika** (Onitsha Province): In supporting the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I have a few remarks to make. First, I have to thank the Government for what it has been doing in this Region.

I have to say something about the Ministry of Education. Some hon. Members have just said that the Minister will be going to Lagos tomorrow. The Voluntary Agency school proprietors and the Government have done wrong to the parents and guardians of school children as a result of the present strike by teachers. A meeting of the parents and guardians, Voluntary Agencies and the Government should have been summoned to investigate the grievances of these striking teachers. It is a pity that after tuition and boarding fees have been collected, these teachers have gone on strike, leaving the parents and guardians to suffer the loss. I hope the present negotiating machinery will achieve something in order to avoid any future strike by these teachers. Think of the polygamist who has many children and wives and imagine the losses he will suffer. Since all human stomachs are equal, the Government must do something to bring the salary of teachers in line with other workers.

Another matter I want to speak on is water supply. I have first of all to congratulate the Minister of Works for what he has done so far, though there is no pipe-borne water at Aguata. Pipes have been collected and reservoir built. We want pipe-borne water to be supplied to us as soon as possible so that when we speak to the people during this Federal election-eering campaigns, we will not be ashamed. We, the people who live in the villages, are suffering too much.

I agree with one of the hon. Members who said that some of us praise our Premier and political leaders in their presence but back home in the villages we campaign against them. Our Government is doing very well but we want more amenities in the villages so that the people can see what the Government is doing.

During elections some people use religion to win votes. Some teachers even threaten school children and their parents with failure in examinations if parents vote for the party of their teachers' dislike.

I will now speak on Aguata Community Development efforts. The people of Aguata are now trying to build a hospital because there is no Government Hospital in Aguata; there are, of course, the ones built by the Missionaries. I am now appealing to the Government to give us every financial assistance.

Another point is on schools. There are two Government schools in Awka Division. In 1950,—I have to refer to the *Hansard*—I appealed to the Government to consider building secondary schools in Awka or if possible convert the two Government Schools there into secondary schools. At a certain stage, the Niger County Council, Abagana was asked to give more land for the erection of houses there and the Council did so, but up till now the Government has done nothing.

I want to speak again on the election issue. At election time people say many different things—some are pro-Action Group, others pro-Independent. Many people make most noise in order that Government will notice them. But if you make too much noise you will be wrecking your plans as your opponents will come to know your movements. My advice is that you should make less noise but plan constructively.

**Chief D. O. John Oduah** (Special Member): In supporting this Bill, I will make some observations. Going through the Supplementary Estimates I find that no provision has been made for the Onitsha-Ogbaru road promised by our amiable Premier. Knowing our Premier very well to be a man of his words, I have firm belief that he made the promise in good faith. I am therefore appealing to his lieutenants—the Minister of Works and the Minister of Finance—to come to our aid by fulfilling the Premier's sincere promise without further delay.

**The Minister of Works (Mr P. O. Ururuka)**: Point of explanation. I must really confirm that the hon. Premier on his return from his meet-the-people tour, spoke to me about his approval for that road to be



[MR URURUKA]

constructed. Every attempt and arrangement are now being made to see what we can do about it.

**Chief Oduah:** It is my wish that the Premier and all the Ministers would be returned unopposed when the time comes !!

With regard to the teachers' demand, I appeal to Government to implement the Morgan recommendations now. The days are gone when the teachers work on earth to be paid in heaven since they buy their food-stuff and all necessities of life in this world. There is not much wisdom in using delaying tactics which have in the past plunged Government into heavy losses of money and confidence of the people. Personally, I feel that teachers should be the most highly paid persons in the world because they mould society. Today I am a Chief and I still know the teacher who taught me in class one. I still call him my master. In fact, I feel embarrassed when I am driving my limousine while my teacher still rides a bicycle. I know we are passing through many financial problems but something must be done for the teachers.

Regarding the wave of terror and lawlessness in the country, I call on the Minister of Justice to devise adequate punishment for highway robbers and house burglars. I would suggest that the Government should revert to the olden days' punishment of hanging highway robbers and house breakers in the open market squares.

I have to congratulate the Minister of Information, though he is not here, on the able way he fires back at the vile critics who have made the Government and people of Eastern Nigeria their target. Last month I could not resist firing back at the palm wine drunken Western Chief who had the impudence to attack our Premier and Eastern Chiefs. In fact, I concluded by inviting him to come and work in my farm as did his fore-fathers in my fore-father's vineyard if his salary was about being reduced to penny a year. Coming to the Hausas, no body taught them, we woke them from slumber; now they have turned against us. It is the solemn duty of the rulers to protect their subjects from the evil machinations of opponents; that was the motive of my fighting the ignorant Chiefs of the West and the North who thought they can boost their ego by assassinating the characters of the people.

Mr President, coming back to the Government, I want to thank the Premier and his Ministers for their good services. It is difficult to rule. One finds it very difficult to rule himself; but when you have people who rule millions of people as successfully as they are doing now, they should be praised. It is not lip-service. You have got to respect somebody's opinion, somebody's attitude, and somebody's temperament. Our leaders are doing very well; I thank them and I wish they should continue in the way they are doing. They should not regard constructive criticisms as personal attacks.

**Chief S. B. Maeba** (Ogoni Division): In supporting the Bill, I have a few remarks to make. I appeal to the Minister of Works to continue with the tarring of the road from Obigbo to Aba. I am appealing to him to carry on the work in the way he has been doing because the road is so bad that even a cyclist cannot pass through it now. I am appealing to him to make the road wider to accommodate two cars or lorries abreast comfortably. Many accidents occur on this road, and so many people have lost their lives. I am appealing to the Minister of Works to tar the road for us. I know that the Eastern Government is a very good Government. We the Chiefs are the pillars of the Government of this Region. We are trying to help; so, I want Government to support the Chiefs.

On this Bill, I would like the Government to do something for the people of Ogoni Division. Our people are too backward in everything. I would like an industry to be opened in the Division. Since we have been appealing to Government to do something for us nothing has happened up to now. I am appealing to the Premier to help us because our Division is too backward. If something is done for us then everybody in the Division will be happy with the Government.

Now that the time for the Federal election is near, I am appealing to all the Chiefs to help in their own Divisions so that we shall succeed. I know the Government Party will win.

I want the Government to help all the rural areas in this Region.

**Chief J. U. Okudare** (Ogoja Province): I have not very much to say, Mr President, than



to thank the Eastern Government for installing pipe-borne water and a Cattle Ranch at Ogoja. A few years ago we lacked many things in Ogoja Province, but now we are being provided with amenities. We wish the Government to continue like that to assist the people of Ogoja Province.

With regard to teachers, I have no malice against them. I appeal to the Government to see that teachers' demand is granted. In my own view they should also work on Saturdays because they have enough holidays. Therefore, the schools should also open on Saturdays.

**An hon. Member:** What of Sunday?

**Chief Okudare:** Not Sunday; only Saturdays so that the week is fully utilized. I also thank the Premier for all he is doing. This forthcoming election is a very important one. I would like the Chiefs to stand firm. They should not be afraid of anything at all. They should try to face their opponents in their areas or Divisions so that we shall control the Federal Government.

**Chief C. O. Nebe (Awka Division):** I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill which seeks to budget the sum of £5 million for the services of the Region for the year ending March, 1965, and in doing so, I have some remarks to make. Going through this Money Bill, it is observed that a very large sum of money is being spent on personal emoluments and this is caused by the Morgan Awards. This, I think, will adversely affect the Six-Year Development Plan because from that very sum these expenses will be met; I do not think that continuing to increase duties is a solution to the present agitation for increased wages. I think the Government will find a solution by creating something like a machinery for the price control of food-stuffs, manufactured goods, house rents, etc. I think if Government adopts this method there will be a solution to frequent strikes which often disturb the Six-Year Development Plan. The strike is not yet over! I suggest that Government should see that something is done to give room for our Development Plan to flourish.

It is true that the Government of Eastern Nigeria is second to none, and it is one of the

Governments which fulfil their promises. For example, the Calabar Cement Factory is one of the industries the Government promised the people of Calabar, which has now been fulfilled. I would like, however, to point out one thing in my own Division, in connection with the provision of social amenities. In 1961, the installation of electricity was being carried out in Awka and for the past three years the poles have been planted in the streets but nothing more has been done till the present moment. Places like Uyo and Ikot Ekpene have got light and are enjoying it. I would like the Government to see that Awka community enjoys the amenity of light before December this year.

We have a hospital catering for over 400 people. This hospital was built over a year ago but is lacking so many amenities and equipment and we cannot meet up the present rush: there is no water supply, no light, no quarters and in particular, there is acute shortage of nurses for the efficient running of the hospital. I would like the Government to look into the possibility of giving the necessary amenities for the good running of the hospital.

Awka town is an ancient town and the present population, according to the last census is high and the local development there is high, in fact so high that when you meet the people there you really feel that the place is developing. I would therefore like this Government to consider it for an urban status. We have the people, we have the resources and we have the materials.

I now come to the question of the Second-class Chiefs in this Region. I would like the Government to look seriously into this question because what is good for the goose is also good for the gander: we want equal status with our counterparts in the West and the North. I would like the Government to look into this matter and increase the membership of the House and give us the same status as our counterparts in the West and the North.

I now turn to the question of the coming elections. We all wish the Government Party, the N.C.N.C. in particular, and the U.P.G.A. success. We have to support them morally



[CHIEF NEBE]

and otherwise during the election. I hope the whole Chiefs in this Region will join me in wishing them the best of luck. We are giving them moral support and, if possible, financial support.

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

**The President:** Hon. Chiefs, the Leader of the House has signified his intention to move a Motion suspending Standing Order 11.

Pursuant to Standing Order 81, is it the wish of the House that he be allowed to do so?

**Hon. Members:** Aye.

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke, C.F.R.):** I beg to move, That Standing Order 11—Order of Business—be suspended to enable a new Member of the House to take the Oath of Allegiance at this stage of Today's proceedings of the House.

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

Ordered: That Standing Order 11—Order of Business—be suspended to enable a new Member of the House to take the Oath of Allegiance at this stage of Today's proceedings of the House.

#### OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Chief the hon. M. W. Ubani—First-class Chief, Umuahia Province.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (1964-65)

*Debate resumed.*

**Chief Ako Okwoli II (Enugu Province):** I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I want to seize this opportunity to congratulate our able Premier and his Government for all that they have done for this Region, and to make some comments.

In the first place, I am speaking to the hon. Minister of Education. Everyone of us would like to see that the teachers are satisfied. As

the Minister promised that he would be going to Lagos tomorrow, I am sure he will try all his best to bring the teachers back to the schools. I am appealing to the Minister of Education to see that secondary school scholarships are not delayed much because some school children passed the entrance examinations but their parents have no money to pay for the first term when such children are waiting for the approval of the Scholarship Board. It means that the children will not go to school. I would like to point out to the Minister that before the middle of January he should make sure that the names of those awarded secondary school scholarships are released.

My other appeal is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. I appeal to him to see that experts are sent out to the rural areas to teach the farmers the modern methods of planting cash crops such as rice, cashew, oranges, tea, mangoes and other exportable products. Our land is fertile enough for these commodities but our farmers do not know how to plant them on commercial level. If the Government leaves our farmers to continue to plant only yams and rice they will continue to remain poverty-stricken as most of them are now. But if they are taught how to cultivate these other crops they can export them to other countries, get more money and their standards of living will rise.

May I appeal to the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs to ensure that Third-class Chiefs are now created and recognized. This matter appears to be getting too much delayed and we are not happy about it. He should take immediate action to recognize these Chiefs.

Sir, my warmest congratulations go to the President of our Republic for his fatherly advice during the quarrel between Ibos and Hausas. But for his timely and fatherly advice the relationship between the two tribes might have been strained beyond repair. Only people who do not know where they slept yesterday accused the President of siding one tribe.

**Chief S. A. Ike (Okigwi Division):** In supporting the Bill I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for introducing it because without doing so, the Region would not be able to meet up some of its gigantic projects before the end of the present financial year.



I appeal to the Government to give us—the Chiefs of this Region—the protection that we deserve. We are in duty bound to give support to only candidates nominated by the Government party in power in this Region during the forthcoming Federal election. It is certain that by this action we shall incur the hatred of those who are opponents of the party and who, as had been the case in the past, will do all in their power to inconvenience us even to the point of threatening our lives. It is our duty to support the Government and it is the duty of the Government to give us protection.

My thanks also go to the hon. Premier for taking a bold step to tour the Western Region during his meet-the-people tour despite the threats of some of the Obas and Chiefs of the West. The Premier's tour of the East was a huge success, although Okigwi and Orlu Divisions were only given a day each. I am requesting that when next our able Premier undertakes such a grand tour, Okigwi Division, being the fourth largest, should be given at least four days.

I appeal to the Minister of Finance to see to it that sufficient grants are made to County Councils to enable them maintain their roads and bridges. It will augur well for the future if the County Councils are granted enough money to be able to build at least one permanent bridge a year.

Government should also come to the aid of Councils in my Division—Okigwi—by taking over the maintenance of some of the roads linking the important towns in the Division. I have in mind such roads as Okigwi-Uturu-Isoikwuato-Ahaba road and Okigwi-Ezinachi-Ehime-Umuahia road. In some towns in Okigwi Division women and ratepayers find it very difficult to transport their palm produce to the nearest markets owing to bad roads and bridges. The means of communication and transportation are bad and it is very important that Government looks into these matters now that people no longer carry loads on the head.

*Ministry of Works.*—This Ministry caters for both the maintenance of roads and provision of water supply. I am requesting that attention should be given to the tarring of Umuduru-Orlu road which has for a long time now been included in the Government's Six-Year Development Plan.

*Ministry of Town Planning.*—I have to thank the Minister for creating a Town Planning Authority for Okigwi township. But our only dissatisfaction was that the Minister did not include a representative of the Okigwi Northern County Council on the Authority even though it is that Council that will provide the money for the Authority when it commences duty. I appeal to the Minister to rectify this anomaly.

*Police Station for Mbano.*—As our able Premier is a member of the Police Council, Lagos, I strongly appeal to him to see that the Council provides money for the extension of the Police Barracks in Mbano. The police there should be supplied with a land-rover and arms for cases of emergency when robbers attempt to commit felony in their area of authority.

The menace of robbers in Mbano is a case well known to everybody. A recent case was the armed robbery in the Mbano County Council's Treasury where a sum of £148 3s 4d was removed by robbers who blasted the Council's safe. While on this subject, I have to suggest to the Government that, if it wishes to stamp out armed highway robbery, severe punishment should be introduced, such as life jail for any one found guilty.

*Teachers' Strike.*—While the Governments of the Federation spend nearly 25 per cent. of their revenue on Education, teachers' conditions of service should be highly improved in order to encourage them. Their present case with the Governments of the Federation is quite clear. They want an audience which is long overdue. The Governments of the Federation should look into their grievances without further delay in order to save our children who are entering for their final examinations in a month's time.

*Ministry of Agriculture.*—Government has so far done one interesting thing for the people of Okigwi Division by siting the Provincial Headquarters of the Ministry in Okigwi. This is as it should be because Okigwi has the largest number of farmers in the whole of Owerri Province.

*Ministry of Health.*—I would like the Minister of Health to undertake a tour of Okigwi General Hospital and see for himself whether the staff quarters there are good for human habitation. The houses were built in 1905



[CHIEF IKE]

with mud and they are now dilapidated. It is a fact that Government is spending much in the Six-Year Development Plan, but the Government must have to start to save the lives of the nurses by making funds available for building good quarters for them.

Lastly, I appeal to the Government to create a separate Provincial Administration for Okigwi and Orlu Divisions. The two Divisions are very populous—in fact each of them is by far more thickly populated than such Provinces as Yenagoa and Degema which have their own Assemblies. We have the man-power and other requirements essential for the establishment of a Provincial Assembly to serve our interests. We are economically viable and I cannot see the sense in lumping us with the other Divisions in Owerri Province.

**Chief G. A. Oluje** (Aba Division): I rise to support the 1964–65 Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the following reasons. Firstly, I have to thank the Government for one of the many good things they have done recently, by appointing Chief the hon. M. W. Ubani as a First-class Chief representing Umuahia Province in this House. I think the Government has done a good thing at the right time, to the right person and for the right place. The second good thing was the appointment of Chief Elijah Okezie as President of Eastern Ngwa County Council. All these things happened at the same time and we are all very grateful to the Government.

I think every individual under the sun thirsts for knowledge. I know of a gentleman who had to trek all the way from East Africa, doing nearly four thousand miles on foot in quest of knowledge, and right here, Eastern Nigeria, in particular, we have been doing quite a lot in the promotion of education so that very many of our children are today well read. At least we have one University in this Region, not to talk of the many secondary schools. In the last convocation at Nsukka, I remember that nearly 150 children of ours graduated there, but many of them today are roaming about in the cities and towns without jobs. (*Hon. Members: That is not true. Withdraw!*) There are some who have not got jobs yet.

However, may I refer hon. Members to an advertisement in the *Nigerian Outlook* of 8th August, 1964.

## “EASTERN NIGERIA SPORTS COMMISSION

### Vacancy for Secretary

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment as Secretary to the Eastern Nigeria Sports Commission, Enugu.

*Commencing Salary.*—£822 per annum.

*Qualifications.*—The normal educational requirement will be a University Degree but applications will also be considered from candidates who do not hold this qualification but in addition to a good general education have had considerable office experience either in the Public Service, Professional or Commercial life.”

Many graduates applied for this single post. But it is aching to understand that somebody even without a School Certificate has been appointed to hold that post at a salary of £822 per annum. I feel that such matters should be probed. Now we are looking for money to carry out many social services, but there are several School Certificate holders and graduates who have not found jobs to do; and yet when there are positions for which they are qualified they are not considered.

Now I have to align myself with very many speakers here who have actually commented on the position of Customary Court Judges. The Morgan Commission has come and passed and we are now implementing it, but nobody seems to remember these Customary Court Judges in the scheme of things.

**The Minister of Education:** I would not like to leave this impression in the mind of hon. Members, as implied by the last speaker. The appointment was handled by the Board of the Sports Commission and it is true that this post was advertised, and he has read what the advertisement said, that university graduates would be considered, but apart from that anybody with a good general education and experience would also be considered. Applications went before this Board and members of the Board considered that this particular individual had very wide experience and had served in the Public Service for a very long period, so they appointed him in place of a young graduate who had just qualified and had no experience whatsoever. This appointment



was recommended to me and I approved the recommendation. I do not see anything wrong with the appointment because it was a question of experience.

*Sitting suspended at 12.00 noon.*

*Sitting resumed at 12.30 p.m.*

**Chief Olujie:** I have heard the explanation given by the hon. Minister of Education. While I am not quarrelling with that I feel that Government should take my points into consideration. The young man who is occupying that position has not even a School Certificate, let alone a degree.

Returning to the question of Customary Court Judges who are expected to dispense justice, the House has dwelt on this matter for quite a long time. I feel that since Morgan has given some awards to the workers, the Customary Court Judges should be considered for an increase in their allowance. I wonder how a gentleman in the town would do a full time job from Monday to Saturday and then earn only £6 a month. It is quite absurd. I feel the Government should have to do something about them and that the Minister of Local Government should do something to improve the lot of the judges, and not to leave them grumbling.

Many people have spoken a lot about the teachers and I actually ally myself *in toto* with all they have said.

Another point is that in the whole of Aba township and Aba Division in general, there are very many secondary schools. One of the most outstanding among them is the Ngwa High School which has passed the test of time. There is not even one of them that has up till now been allowed to run the Higher School Certificate course. This is one of the things which the people actually require, and I still have to call upon the Minister of Education to see what he can do, because up till now we have been denied the conversion of the Government School into a secondary school. We have been appealing from time to time that according to the Government's promise this should be done. The Ngwa High School is one of the outstanding colleges in the whole of Eastern

Nigeria. It is well qualified to run the Higher School Certificate course.

**Chief C. E. Amobi (Special Member):** The aim of presenting the Supplementary Appropriation Bill is to enable the Government to meet the commitments of the year, and the fact that we are being called upon to approve estimates of over £5½ million for the completion of the work already in hand proves that the financial position of the Government is quite buoyant. So the Minister of Finance should be congratulated on the efficient way the finances of Eastern Nigeria are being handled. This has been done in most profitable ways—by putting up industries and loans being given to the E.N.D.C. for development.

I think I must pay tribute to the Chairman and the Secretary of the E.N.D.C. for the nice work they have been doing throughout the Eastern Region. I know that in a space of five to ten years the efforts of the E.N.D.C. will begin to bear fruits. Money voted for agricultural development is very well spent, because at present we have started to see signs of progress as far as agricultural development is concerned. The Minister of Agriculture and the entire staff of the Ministry should continue to be up and doing as they are at present.

With regard to the Ministry of Finance, I must say that the fine way of collecting taxes in Onitsha should be extended to other Divisions. I am an eye-witness of the excellent way the officer in charge of the Internal Revenue Division of the Ministry is going about his job at Onitsha; it is very commendable. He is not afraid of putting anybody to court. Those of you who listen to radio announcements or read newspapers might have heard or read a few weeks ago about his work in Onitsha in connection with collection of tax. This young man has no fear in carrying out his duties; he does it in such a way that even lawyers and big business men are threatened with court action. The Ministry should give him all necessary support, because it generally happens that this type of men who want to do their jobs well are often hated and sometimes their opponents begin to collect all sorts of fictitious signatures to petition against them, branding them all sorts of false names, just in order to take them away from their stations.



[CHIEF AMOBI]

Also in the Motor Licensing Office, the arrangement made there is quite good. These officers should be encouraged.

There is one difficulty I noticed the Internal Revenue Division has, and that is lack of enough boats to travel to the riverine areas. They require special boats to travel to the riverine areas. The one boat now available is not sufficient because at times other Government officials may like to use it, and that might be the time that the officers of the Internal Revenue might like to use it. In view of that, I am suggesting that a boat should be provided specially for the staff of the Internal Revenue to travel to the riverine areas for the collection of tax.

The activities of the Police in Onitsha deserve some mention. Some of you might have heard over the radio that about three weeks ago the lives and properties of the people living in Onitsha were in great danger. Owing to the seriousness of the officer in charge (I must ask your indulgence, Mr President, to mention his name), the Chief Superintendent of Police, Mr J. N. Ezeadiugwu, who left everything else in the night to go out with other policemen, they were, as a result, able to capture a few weeks ago, four masked men who went for robbery, and since then the people at Onitsha can now sleep quietly. This type of officer should not be transferred from Onitsha. It is unfortunate that reports without foundation, and with selfish ends in view, are sometimes made against some officers. I am stressing that this particular officer should be left in Onitsha for sometime and should be given every encouragement.

Also, Police dogs should be imported into big townships like Port Harcourt, Aba, Enugu and Onitsha so that they will be able to track down rogues. If a man is robbed of all his property he lives in sorrow and will not be of economic use to the country—he will not be able to pay his tax. After all, cost of living is rising rapidly.

*Teachers' salaries.*—I have to thank the Minister of Education for the grants given to County Council schools in Onitsha totalling £20,000. That goes to prove that these Council schools are doing very well. About a few months ago people were carrying placards against the Minister of Education. Now that the question of teachers' salaries has cropped up instead of going to those people who sent them

they are crying to the Government for aid, but when Government wants to put up a proposal which will help people out of their difficulties some of these teachers are so fanatical in their religious beliefs that they are being used as tools. When it comes to the payment of their salaries they complain that they have not got their salaries for some months. Probably some people are misled to understand that it is the fault of the Government. Government gives grants to these Voluntary Agencies; but private proprietors of schools, instead of utilizing the grants to pay the salaries of the school teachers some of them utilize them in building commercial houses, some buy cars, some utilize the money in sending their girl friends to study, while the poor teachers suffer. I am so happy that the Minister of Education has made a statement on this but it is high time we stopped looking behind. The Government of the Federation will have to find a way out and I feel that it is high time the payment of teachers' salaries should be nationalized. They should draw their salaries from the Treasury; their salaries should not be handed over to the missionaries or to private individuals—no matter in which institutions they teach—Catholic, C.M.S., etc. The teachers may be teaching in various institutions but once the money comes to the Government for their payment the money should be deposited in the Treasury and Vouchers should be prepared for the proprietors through the Treasury. By this method we shall be able to know where the money goes. This will make the work of the Government easy. If this method is not adopted people in the rural areas (some of them are not well informed, some of them do not read newspapers) will still think and believe that the non-payment of teachers' salaries is the fault of the Government. This is election time and the people we are fighting against can use this particular matter against us. The Federal election is a very serious issue and Government must stand on her feet. I do not say that there should be no religion but this question of handling teachers' salaries must be very well dealt with so that people will not suspect the Government. If it is well settled the Minister of Education will have the rest of mind he deserves. He is just implementing the policy of the Government and not his own policy.

Strikes are occurring too often in Nigeria. It is because everybody wants to control our



Ministers and the Government. During the imperialist days who would come out and say a word against the Government? People say all sorts of things because tomorrow the Minister may ask them for votes. I do not condemn strike generally. There may be peaceful demonstrations, but during the last nation-wide strike what happened was so bad. Go to the glass industry—the machinery was damaged. After all, they did not damage the money of the Englishman, neither did they damage money from Russia. It is our own money. Our people should realize that any damages done to all these property add to our already many difficulties.

I have to welcome the appointment of the Attorney-General, hon. C. C. Mojekwu. The appointment is good and there could be no better choice. I also welcome the appointment of Chief Marcus Ubani.

**Chief M. W. Ubani** (Umuahia Province): It is a pleasure to make what I might describe as a preliminary maiden speech on the floor of the House of Chiefs of Eastern Nigeria. I say so because I should reserve many of the things I should say about the activities and successes of the Government till some later date. Today, I am sure, is a short period dealing with the Supplementary Expenditure. Before I say anything I must say that I am most grateful to the Government of Eastern Nigeria for the able way they have demonstrated what they preach. It is a great Government by men of prestige and integrity, men of honesty of purpose, and a young generation that is full of enthusiasm and dynamism to direct the affairs of this country. I am most grateful also to the Premier and his able Ministers. They have really demonstrated creditably to the conviction of those who are honest. They have proved that they are not here for their own personal aggrandizement. They are here in the service of the people. I am sure that in all nooks and corners of Eastern Nigeria in particular, and the Federation of Nigeria as a whole they have carved a niche in the annals of our national progress.

I think, Mr President, Sir, you yourself are deserving of my appreciation and honest commendation for the dignified position you occupy. I remember that in those days little did I know or little did the people of Eastern Nigeria know, that one day a great institution such as this would be established. Who has

done it? It is our young Premier and the hard working Ministers of this Region. You yourself, Mr President, are one of the torch-bearers for the emancipation of this great nation, fighting without looking behind to usher us into the independence which, I am sure, is the pride of everybody (*Hear! Hear!*). We must uphold this independence and see to it that the powers-that-be elsewhere do not laugh at us. You are the right person in the right position and I must congratulate you (*Cheers*).

I must also call on my fellow hon. Chiefs—the great dynasties of their respective domains. I am very happy to be among you this morning. I can assure you that I will do all I can to help you, and support you to maintain the respect, the dignity and the prestige that is expected of the high institution of chieftaincy. I am also delighted, particularly, as I have an hon. Friend here—a colleague of mine whom I knew during my teaching profession days, who comes from the same place as I do—he is Chief the hon. Ururuka, the *Okaomee of Mbawsi in Ngwa Land*. I also remember other Chiefs who have been my friends even before they came here to the House of Chiefs; they are Chief the hon. Emole, Chief the hon. J. U. Nwodo, the *Igwe Okwuluora II of Ukehe*, my hon. Chief and colleague—in fact my college mate—Chief S. E. Imoke. In fact, there are so many of them; also my friend, Chief—forgive me if I call everybody Chief—because I think they deserve the title because of the good way they have really performed their duties—the hon. Otue, Chief Nwuke, hon. Echeruo and particularly my Commissioner, hon. R. O. Iwuagwu.

I cannot thank them enough, but I can assure them that a day will come—probably during the Budget Session—when I shall be able to speak at length and thank them for what they have achieved for this great country. No other Government has a catalogue of such successes except the Government which these hon. Gentlemen, the Ministers are leading; and all the Chiefs have promised faithfully to stand by them and to do their very best to support the Government of the day. I join the chorus in saying that it is our duty to guide these hon. Gentlemen, and they should regard us as a sort of buffer to urge them to go ahead. If they go wrong we should not be afraid, we should not hesitate in pointing out their errors to them.



[CHIEF UBANI]

There are two kinds of citizens: one is destructive and the other is constructive. I think that the Chiefs are the type of people made of constructive stuff (*Hear! Hear!*).

I beg to say, Sir, that on behalf of my people of Umuahia Province consisting of Aba and Bende Divisions, I am grateful for the honour done to me and my people. This is another turning point in my life which I know will remain indelible and will never be forgotten.

Thank you, Mr President.

**Chief A. U. Ukpa** (Eket Division): I rise to support the 1964-65 Supplementary Appropriation Bill and in doing so I would like to lay emphasis on three principal Ministries: the Ministries of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, Education, and Local Government.

Before I go on to these Ministries, I would like to associate myself with the statement made by the First-class Chief for Owerri Province—Chief Njemanze—that the Hausas have attacked the Ibos. I would like to ally myself with that statement. Eastern Nigerians must unite and fight this menace. You know very well that when the head is cut, the legs, the limbs, and the other parts of the body cannot exist; this attack is not on Ibos only, but on Easterners as a whole. Therefore, I would like the small tribes to co-operate with the major tribes and face the Hausas so that they would not come and control the Easterners, the sons of the land of the rising sun!

I will now speak on the question of highway robbers. Sir, many gentlemen have been forced to become night-watchmen because of armed robbers. I am suggesting that the Eastern Nigeria Government should make a law of life imprisonment for highway robbers. If you go to many schools in the rural areas now, you will find that teachers have deserted the compounds; they cannot sit down to teach the children, because of these robbers, who often go into their compounds and carry away their property; so Government should come to our help.

I have to congratulate the Government for the good works they are doing because of the change of heart of the people of Uyo Province.

The Catering Rest House at Uyo is in progress: this signifies that the Government has noticed the change of heart of Uyo people, and I can always assure the Government of this continued support in the coming Federal elections and in future.

I remember last year that I called on the Minister of Education to check the accounts of Voluntary Agencies. It is quite true that some of the proprietors and managers of schools are making proper use of the Government grants, but it is also noticeable that some managers are not making proper use of the grants. Some discoveries of misappropriation have been made and so I would like to associate myself completely with the statement made by Chief Amobi this morning. Irrespective of schools opened by Voluntary Agencies, since the Government is paying grants to these schools, Government should take over the responsibility of payment of teachers' salaries. I am very sure that when this is done, this question of closing down schools and this question of A.L.C. will come to an end, and it is only then that the Government will be properly reflected to the people. At the moment the Government is paying grants to schools but some of the teachers in the schools remain without salaries for four and sometimes five months. What is happening to the grants that Government has been paying? The school managers simply go to the villages and tell the people that they have not received grants, when in actual fact they have received grants from the Government for quite a long time. I am saying that the Government should take some measures to see that teachers receive their salaries directly from the Government. Government should collect the fees, pay them into the Treasury and pay teachers' salaries directly to them.

I would also like to make a point here on Secondary Schools. It is true that scholarship awards, according to the policy of the Eastern Government, are not extended to non-grant-aided schools. That has its advantages and disadvantages. There is always that rush of children trying to seek admission into grant-aided schools in order to be fit to apply for Government scholarships. Then the disadvantage is to the effect that non-grant-aided schools have not the privilege of having clever children to go there. They feel



that if they go to the non-grant-aided schools, they will not have the County Council scholarship or the Regional scholarship. So, I am appealing to the Government to modify its policy so that clever children in non-grant-aided schools may have the chance of getting Regional scholarships.

Another point I would like to raise is that when Government is making awards of scholarships, especially those of the university level, the policy of making the awards on Divisional basis should not end there. The Government should also consider the component parts of each Division because there is always the accident of two scholarships—say for Owerri—being awarded to two boys from one family or one village. So I am appealing to the Government to see that if they have two scholarships for a particular Division, these scholarships should not be given to one particular unit of the Division.

**The Minister of Education:** Point of explanation. If the hon. Chief is referring to university scholarships, the policy on that at the moment is that these scholarships are awarded on divisional and population bases. We do not have to go down to the Council level; but for secondary school scholarships, we feel it is necessary to go down to Local Council level.

**Chief Ukpa:** I want to thank the Minister of Education for the policy he has made to avoid mass termination of teachers' appointment at the close of every school year. This, in a way, helps to check Councils and some quack managers who always terminate the appointment of teachers towards the end of every school year as a source of making money. I am very grateful for this policy which the Ministry is now contemplating to adopt. I think that the Government is also showing more interest in County Council schools by the expansion Government intends and by giving grants to County Council schools. The people of Iman County Council are happy for the £800 that has been given it for school expansion.

I now refer to the Ministry of Local Government. The Minister is not here but I have to congratulate him for what has happened at Iman County Council which has actually reflected the honesty of the Government of

Eastern Nigeria. I am very happy that he has decided a case which was between a son of the soil and a stranger in compliance with the policy of the Government.

**Chief N. U. Ofem, O.O.N., M.B.E.** (Abakaliki Province): I rise to support the 1964-65 Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have a few observations to make. I thank the hon. Premier and the Minister of Finance for the prudent way in which the funds of this Region are being spent. Since the aim of the Supplementary Bill, according to my understanding, is for the Government to be able to discharge certain unforeseen expenses which were not provided for during the main Appropriation Bill, I have at this stage to request the Minister of Works to see to the completion of the pipe-borne water supply at Ugep for which a reservoir was built since 1961.

I have also to thank the Minister of Town Planning for establishing a Town Planning Authority in Ugep.

Concerning the teachers' nation-wide strike, I have to thank the Minister of Education for his speech on the floor of this House in which he informed us of the facts. I am sure that when he goes to Lagos he will see about the strike.

Referring to the Ministry of Agriculture, I beg to refer to page 4 of the *Nigerian Outlook* of 2nd October, 1964 under the caption "Farmers' Council Proposed in East". It is disappointing to note that we have twelve Provinces in Eastern Nigeria, but when a tour by Eastern farmers was proposed, only six men from Eastern Nigeria were sent out. Their names are Mr C. I. Nwapa, Mr N. O. Alozie, Mr B. O. Ogbuagu, Mr E. C. I. Onuigbo, Mr C. Ezeani and Mr D. U. Otong.

In so far as farming is concerned in Eastern Nigeria, the people of Abakaliki and Ogoja Provinces should not be ignored because they are the builders of this Region. We are the farmers of this Region.

If we are not recognized as far as farming is concerned, where and when can we be recognized? We are considered among the backward Provinces of Eastern Nigeria, but we build the wealth of the Region. We supply the Region and, in fact, the whole country



[CHIEF OFEM]

with rice and other food-stuffs. These six farmers who went overseas have proposed a Region-wide tour. I am not saying that they should not come to Ogoja and Abakaliki Provinces since freedom of movement is entrenched in our Constitution, but I am saying that when they come they will not be received by the farmers of these two Provinces. In view of the fact that we are among the best farmers of this Region our farmers should also have been given the privilege to go on this course. So, it is a spite on the people of Abakaliki and Ogoja Provinces by whoever organized this course to have omitted farmers from these two Provinces.

I have to thank the hon. Minister of Local Government for recognizing the present Okudowe of Ogoja as the President of the Ogoja County Council. At this stage, I have to request our good Government to look into the present salary structure of our Customary Court judges throughout the Region. Their present salary is most unfair; it is disgraceful to pay them only £6 a month. It calls for bribery and corruption which we are waging war against. I do not know if they are covered by the Morgan Awards. If they are covered, the awards should be paid to them in order that they may dispense justice with equity according to their oath of office.

**Chief Zumoh Efeke V (Yenagoa Province):** I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so, first of all I have to thank the Premier and those of his Ministers who took the pains to travel to my Province, the Yenagoa Province. There are many people in this House who have the bad impression that we have no land. But they will be surprised to hear that these people did not go to my Province by water, but by land. (*Chief Mpi: Which land?*) By land in Yenagoa Province. I am therefore happy to tell some of my hon. Friends, especially Chief Mpi who always says that Yenagoa Province is water, that the Premier and his entourage travelled by land. I am assuring them that we have the most fertile land in Eastern Nigeria. I have to give you an example because I am a qualified agriculturist. I have worked for over fifteen years at the Moor Plantation. It takes not less than seven to eight years before cocoa flourishes in the hinterland, but in my Province, cocoa takes three to four years.

The same thing applies to cassava. It takes about one to two years before cassava flourishes in the hinterland, but in my Province, it will take only three to six months. So I am assuring this House that the people of Yenagoa Province have the most fertile land in Eastern Nigeria

Yenagoa Province is a Province by itself and it is therefore entitled to all the Provincial Departments. We want a full-fledged Post Office because communications at present are very difficult. We want a Prison Yard to be built at Yenagoa because whenever some people are sentenced in Brass Division, they are sent to Degema Province. The Minister responsible should convey our demand to the Federal Minister responsible for this.

I have to say a word to the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs. We have been crying about the recognition of Second and Third-class Chiefs. Even those Hausa Chiefs who cannot sign their names are recognized as Second and Third-class Chiefs. We want all our Chiefs to be recognized so that we will be on the same line with Chiefs in the other Regions.

I now come to the Ministry of Works. The Minister is not here, but I think the Minister of Finance or some other person will take note of this and convey it to him. We have a fleet of launches in Port Harcourt, but with the exception of "Darphin" and "Dawn", none of these launches is good. So that it takes about twenty-four hours for these launches to travel from Nembe to Yenagoa. I discussed this matter with the Divisional Engineer of the Inland Waterways Department. What he reported to me was that there was no dockyard or slipway at Port Harcourt with the result that whenever any of the launches develops engine trouble it is sent to Warri for repairs. The Federal Minister of Transport is our own man. If Warri should have their dockyard and slipway, why should our man neglect a place like Port Harcourt? What is our man doing there? They simply sit down in Lagos approving and passing some controversial Bills. They are the same people who will come and ask for our votes. Let them be careful. They have to be warned. The "M. I. Okpara" is the only launch we have that carries passengers from Port Harcourt to Odi. It was promised that two launches would be provided so that whenever one of them was bad the



other one would be running. "M. I. Okpara" has now been over-worked with the result that it breaks down at times. I have also to warn the crew of this launch because they are doing all kinds of immoralities in our area. If they are not careful, I will be forced to take constitutional action against them.

I am appealing seriously to the Government to help us check the laxity of law and order in my area by establishing a police post in Amassoma. This will check the activities of some criminals who cross from the Mid-West and after committing some crimes do not find difficulty in running back home. The same consideration should be given to Ogu which is in the same position.

Government should take very seriously the fate of our teachers who are now on strike. The solution to the whole problem of teachers is for the Governments of the Federation to take over the payment of salaries to teachers all over the country. Government should levy education rate of £1 10s on every taxpayer to enable all children in the rural areas to go to school. We of the East are interested in education and every person will only be very happy to pay this sum in order to give his children good education. As things stand at present there are many children in the rural areas who have been deprived the opportunity of being educated because their parents cannot afford the money. During the time that fees were not paid in the U.P.E. schools we had many children in our schools. For instance, in my place there were three thickly populated schools. The C.M.S. school had up to 600 pupils and the two U.P.E. schools had about 400 pupils each. But the population of each of these three schools now is so scanty that one wonders whether we are going backwards or forwards in the education of our children. At the present rate, within five to ten years, the whole of our rural areas will be inhabited by illiterates. This is a case for the Minister of Education to look into. He should look into my suggestion of levying £1 10s education rate. I am sure that if he gives this suggestion a trial we shall be able to give our children the free education that they deserve. I am optimistic about the success of this scheme because when I was the Chairman/President of Central Ijaw Native Authority we levied an education rate of £1 5s on each adult. There were many children in our schools who received free

education. When Government introduced its U.P.E. we stopped ours, and when Government stopped free attendance at the U.P.E. schools the children whose parents could not afford the fees deserted the schools. We are prepared to pay the levy and the Minister should take steps to enact the Law.

I have on several occasions appealed to the Minister of Health to introduce Floating Ambulances in the creek areas for conveying patients to and from the Yenagoa Hospital. At the present rate it takes a patient five to six days to get to the hospital by canoe. We all can appreciate what this entails. When the Chief Secretary visited the area recently he recommended that this should be done because he thought that was the best way out in the circumstances. The hospital will not be serving its purpose if the people who are meant to benefit from it are unable to do so because of lack of means of contact with the hospital.

**Chief S. N. Okore** (Bende Division): I rise to support this Bill and in doing so I wish to make a few remarks. In the first place this Supplementary Appropriation Bill which has been so ably moved by the Minister of Finance reflects the ability of his Ministry in controlling the finances of the Region.

The second point is my indebtedness to our able Premier and his Ministers for their successful meet-the-people tour of Western and Eastern Nigeria. That was a very noble and gigantic step and the people appreciated it.

The question of the national strike by our teachers has cost the nation a great deal and as our able Premier is accepted by the people as the Defender of our Constitution and our able Minister of Education has told us that he is willing to take steps to bring the strike to an end, we hope that urgent steps will be taken to satisfy the teachers.

While on this subject of education I wish to show the appreciation of the people of Bende Division in general and Arochuku in particular, for approving the opening of two schools for girls and boys in the area. We assure the Government that we are going to make full use of the opportunity afforded us by the schools.

In any case I have one other observation to make on the Ministry of Education. This is



[CHIEF OKORE]

the question of giving allowance to Science teachers. I think there is a snag in this policy. I think that this noble venture is carried out at the expense of the teaching of other subjects, such as Arts. While we appreciate the £120 allowance to Science teachers we appeal to the Minister to extend similar facilities to Arts teachers because they also need to be encouraged so as to balance our education.

Coming to the serious allegation made by some of my hon. Friends in connection with some school proprietors who divert Government education grants to other uses, I think the best solution to it all is for the Minister to exercise vigilance on how the grants are spent. If any proprietor is found guilty the Minister should retrieve public confidence by taking swift action to hand over the school to a Council in the area. This will deter other criminally-minded managers.

I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Health to the awkward situations in some of our general hospitals with particular reference to the Arochuku General Hospital. This hospital is so much congested that even children are forced to sleep on the ground. I have noticed from the Supplementary Estimates that provision is made for the expansion of some hospitals in the Region. I want to impress upon the Minister that the situation at Arochuku is alarming. He should, if he wishes, go to see things for himself. I hope this money for expansion will also be used in extending this general hospital to save patients from the inconvenience they are subjected to now.

I have on several occasions called the attention of the Minister of Works to the poor situation of some commercial roads in my area. This appeal at some occasions appear to be taken seriously but the hon. Minister needs to be reminded that the Nto Ndang-Arochuku-Ikot Okpora road is long overdue for tarring. We all appreciate the work done on the Umuahia-Arochuku road and we appeal to the Government to give similar attention to the road I have mentioned earlier and the Ihie-Achara road which is only a distance of one and half miles. The latter road is very important to the people and they have spent over £3,000 on it and they need to be encouraged. When the hon. Minister of Works visited our area

recently we called his attention to the road and he gave us a definite undertaking that he was going to see to it that something was done as soon as he returned to the Headquarters. We hope that the hon. Minister of Finance will co-operate with him to solve this our aching problem.

*Ministry of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs.*—I think the time is overdue for the hon. Minister to look into the vacant posts in the Appeal Court in Bende Division. Very often we have reminded the hon. Minister in writing and I hope by this time all arrangements to fill the vacancies must have been completed. We will be happy to hear an announcement.

I support Chief Ogbulafor in calling on the Government to look into the awkward situation of lunatics roaming about in Bende Division. Either they ask the relatives of these people to come and claim them or something else be done. While it is not possible to have a Mental Hospital in every Province or Division, it is now highly necessary to have a Mental Hospital in Umuahia Province so that it will eliminate this danger to the community.

*Ministry of Local Government.*—I wish to say that there is a situation in my County Council area, Aro-Ibo, which requires the attention of the hon. Minister of Local Government. In this area, ratepayers are made to pay somewhere else. At one time Aro-Ibo ratepayers were molested. So, there are two County Councils struggling to claim the ratepayers, and except the Minister comes out boldly, as he has always done, it will be very difficult for things to run smoothly because this has actually reached a stage where it is likely to cause some trouble to the community.

**Chief E. U. Dureke** (Owerri Division): I rise to support the 1964-65 Eastern Nigeria Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have these few observations to make. In the first place, I have to thank our dynamic Premier, Dr the hon. M. I. Okpara, for the able way he has been handling the affairs of this Region. I have also to express my warmest thanks and profound appreciation to his worthy Ministers for their courageous and untiring efforts to make this Region what it is today. Hon. Members will agree with me that



Dr Okpara's Government has been able to mount industries and farm settlements in almost all the Provinces of the Region, and this has gone to prove the meaning of his agrarian policy and pragmatic socialism. Personally, I wish them more grease to their elbows.

*Ministry of Finance.*—I have to thank the Minister for the able way he has been handling the finances of this Region. He has made the finances of this Region very buoyant. I have to thank the staff of his Ministry for working round the clock to see that the finances are good.

I have to appeal to the Government on one particular aspect. It is tax assessment notices which bailiffs distribute in the rural areas. It is most unfortunate that when these bailiffs, go to present these tax assessment notices to the peasants and do not see them, they go back with these notices without the people receiving them. In course of time, these ignorant people who had no knowledge of the assessment notices will be taken to court where they spend much to bring themselves out. So, I want the Government to see that these peasants or people having some other business, sign for these notices to be sure that they actually received them.

*Ministry of Works.*—I have to thank the Minister of Works for the work he has been doing in this Region, especially the tarring of roads and extension of pipe-borne water to the rural areas. I have to appeal to him to see that when electricity is to pass from Oji River via Onitsha to Owerri, he remembers Ogbaku town because a Technical College has been approved in that town. That college needs electricity to teach some of the subjects. If this is done I think it will give true dignity to that Technical College. On this road too there is the Bishop Lasbery College. This is an old institution and it needs electricity so that every affair going on there will be normal.

*Ministry of Commerce.*—I thank the Government for establishing various industries in the Region. But I have to say that Owerri is thickly populated and turns out many school leavers who become jobless. In view of this, I appeal to the Government to mount a very big industry there. If this is done, it will help to absorb these school leavers. I have to thank the

Government for putting up a Catering Rest House in Owerri, for approving an Advanced Teacher Training College for the town and also for siting a Shoe Industry there.

*Ministry of Health.*—There is congestion in the Hospital at Owerri. Now we have three doctors, but we need two more so that this congestion could be reduced.

*Ministry of Justice.*—I have to thank the Government for posting a State Counsel to Owerri, but I must say that he and his staff should be advised by this Ministry to dissociate themselves from corrupt practices at this initial stage of the posting of a State Counsel there.

**Chief G. A. Ikibah, M.B.E. (Brass Division):** I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, but in doing so I have a few observations to make. First of all, I would call the attention of the Government to the composition of the Nigerian Senate. The Senate has equal representation from each of the Regions. As far as the East is concerned, we have twelve Provinces and each of these Provinces is supposed to have been represented by one person. But in the present Senate which is about to be dissolved, my Province, Yenagoa and Degema Province, have no representatives there. Therefore I am appealing to the Government to take note of this so that when a new Senate is set up, Yenagoa and Degema Provinces will be represented by one person each.

We cannot understand why we were left out; but that is too late now and we are not going into that but merely reminding the Government that we are not happy about it, and that we should not be forgotten again.

The second point is that I would like to associate myself with what Chief Allagoa said about the Nembe bridge. The bridge is in my Division and we have made repeated requests, repeated demands and repeated reminders. Even last May when our able Premier and his Ministers visited us it was included in the Welcome Address presented and the Premier promised to look into it, but up till now nothing has been done. I am appealing once again to the Government to take note of this. Unfortunately the Minister of Works is not here but I hope the other Ministers will take note. We are not happy over it.



[CHIEF IKIBAH]

Another thing is about Odi Health Centre which was set up since 1961 and which has not been completed. I understand that this Centre has not been completed because the balance of £2,500 which was to be paid by the Regional Government to the County Council has not been paid. We have sent many reminders—by writing, by delegation—but nothing has been done and we feel that this is the time for the Government to pay this money now that the Federal elections are drawing near. If this is not done it will give a chance or opportunity to our opponents who would say: "You are supporting the Government; this is a Health Centre which was set up in 1961, but cannot be completed because the Government you support has refused to pay its share of the money". I call upon the Minister of Local Government to see that this money is paid forthwith. If this is not done it will do a lot of harm particularly during the campaigns.

I am associating myself with many other speakers that the teachers' grievances should be seriously considered by the Government. Teachers are the people who hold our future and lots of complaints have been on and off like that; now that the strike is on I think it is another opportunity for the Governments of the Federation to come together and see that teachers are placed in a position that they would not grumble. If possible, their conditions of service should be the same as civil servants, and then the schools will be controlled by the Government. Lots of them complain that for six months they do not receive their salaries. That was why I asked during the last Budget Session whether Government could not penalize school proprietors and managers who get grants from Government but do not pay their teachers. It is now time to put our heads together and since our Minister of Education is going to Lagos to tackle this matter, I hope he will be in a position to give the teachers some satisfaction.

**Chief P. M. Abue** (Ogoja Division): I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and Secretary of the E.N.D.C. for building a new Catering Rest House in Ogoja. This, indeed, has made Ogoja Provincial Headquarters look like other Provincial Headquarters in the Region.

I want now to talk about the teachers' strike. As the Minister of Education, Eastern

Nigeria, will be meeting the Ministers of Education from the other Regions of Nigeria, I hope they will do all they can to meet the teachers' needs in the Federation because, as far as I know, if teachers are well paid they will love the teaching profession. As it is now, teachers are jumping from here to there because of poor conditions of service. Teachers are crying for better conditions of service as other workers in Nigeria because, for example, if a teacher serves for about eighteen years, when retiring he will not have any benefits unlike the civil servants and other workers. If the teachers have retiring benefits like other workers, they will love the teaching profession. I feel that full mandate should be given to our Minister of Education so that this matter will be solved amicably.

I want to talk briefly about the Ministry of Works. Sometime last year P.W.D. Headquarters were built in Ogoja Province but up to now they have not started functioning—no engineer to enable the people of the Province to register as contractors. Among those already registered, some are old and some are no more contractors. If registration is opened I think it will enable more people to be registered. It is good for the would-be contractors to be registered and I think the Minister should open registration once more to enable those who register as contractors to serve as well.

I want to criticize the Ministry of Agriculture in the way it gives employment to the lower grades of workers in Ogoja. For example, if a vacancy requiring Standard VI certificate exists and a person with that qualification is required for the Province, the person would be sent from Enugu. For a place like Ogoja, if a Standard VI person is wanted, the Senior Agricultural Officer of the Province should not get someone from Enugu. Also, if a labourer is wanted in such a department, he should be employed locally in order to help the people, especially now that we are facing elections. The same thing applies to the Ministry of Works. For example, pipe-borne water is being supplied to Ogoja and people had to come from Enugu to dig the holes while people in Ogoja are crying for what to do. I think the Minister should take note of all these in order to solve this situation so that nobody would question anything that the Government does. I know that the Government is doing its best but sometimes it also errs. I am saying this so that the



Minister may know what the civil servants do. They may do all this without the Minister knowing. I think the Minister who caters for us should investigate the case which I have made.

I want to talk about the forthcoming Federal elections. The elections are at hand and if we are going to face them we want all concerned to take note of this: there are serious allegations in my Division that some individuals are planning to make trouble against some of us if the results of the election do not favour them. The Police are doing their very best to protect the Chiefs and law-abiding citizens.

**Chief E. E. Okpa** (Awgu Division): I do not want to waste the time of this House but rather I want to say a few words which I feel should be recorded for the Ministers to note, because I feel that this attitude is not good or fair to us. Looking round this Chamber hon. Members will observe that out of the many Ministers we have in this Region only about two with Portfolios and two others without Portfolios are present with us now. This, to my mind, does not show good sense of responsibility. They should be here to watch and hear what we have to say about their activities but instead, most of them go out.

**The Minister of Education:** I do not intend to defend my hon. Colleagues for being absent, but I want to point out that everything the hon. Member says is recorded in the *Hansard* which we shall all read and take note.

**Chief Okpa:** In fact, I do not see why Ministers should not stay and hear the points made by the Members of this hon. House. We sit for only a few days in the year and if they are unable to listen to us during this period, what guarantee have we that the points we made in the *Hansard* have been read or noted by the Ministers? It is this attitude which has made many Members go away immediately they have made their contributions to the debate.

The other point is that there is another way by which we still maintain the colonial mentality in this Region and I am asking the Government to look into this and lead other Regions of the Federation to scrape the idea. On the 24th of March every year we observe Youth Day.

Youth Day has no meaning to us. It is a substitute for Empire Day which was a colonial make-up. I would suggest that instead of having Youth Day we should ask the Government of this Region to increase the Republic Day holidays to two days, the first day to be used by school children for their own events, while the second day would be for the older people. I suggest that this be introduced throughout the length and breadth of this Federation.

Now I want to say something about my Division, Awgu. I am asking the Minister of Works to complete the nice road he is building there. There is, however, a corner at Ogwurugwu which is very dangerous and since the construction of the Ozalla-Awgu road has claimed quite a number of lives. I am asking that Government should put the following road on the priority list—a road through Ihe, Umuabi going through to Oji River could be constructed to meet the present Onitsha Road. That would save us the danger of using the present Milliken Hill; it will not cost the Government much money, and will curtail the distance to Onitsha.

**Chief E. A. Egbara** (Obubra Division): I quite agree with the last speaker. When we came here yesterday the House was very full; but today the House is almost empty. If we had this number yesterday, I think we could not have formed a quorum. This is really very disgraceful. Hon. Members feel that once they have spoken, they can get away; that is not the essence of this House. We gather a lot by hearing what other people say. Equally well, I agree with the hon. Member that it is good for hon. Ministers to stay also to hear what we have to say so that they can give answers to certain points raised by us here, instead of waiting to communicate the replies to us afterwards. I do not agree that because they read the *Hansard* therefore they could absent themselves from the House. Because they are not present here, certain points which would have been explained by the Ministers will now take them some months to reply.

I would like the Minister of Agriculture to take note of the fact that while he has encouraged the people of Obubra to clear land for rubber plantation, he has not supplied them with enough rubber seedlings. He has not even supplied one-third of the needs of the Division in this respect. May I ask the Minister



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2R and 3R; Attacks by Other People]

[CHIEF EGBARA]

to do something about that next year. If possible, let his Ministry create a rubber nursery, from where the farmers could be supplied.

The Minister of Commerce told us that he would be prepared to establish a plywood factory at Obubra. We do not know why it should take so long a time to be started. In fact, everything for Obubra Division seems to be delayed for one reason or the other. The hon. Minister is not here today, but let whoever is here please convey the message to him (through the *Hansard* or through a friend in the Ministry).

**The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole, C.F.R.):** I have not much to say except to thank the hon. Chiefs for the fine things they have said both about my Ministry in particular and the Government in general. I want to assure this hon. House that every word of advice that is given to this Government has been noted both in the *Hansard* and by my hon. Colleagues. It is not necessary to take note of everything said because everything said is being recorded by the Official Reporters. So I want to assure the hon Chiefs that the fact that a particular Minister is not present here does not mean that what has been said about him and his Ministry is lost. The records are being kept, and we will make use of them in due course.

As I said before, I do not want to go in detail, particularly in trying to reply to all the points raised. I thank the hon. Chiefs very much and assure them that we will continue to do our best.

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke, C.F.R.):** Since most of the hon. Chiefs spoke on the teachers' strike I think I would refer them to the statement which I made in the House and also to the broadcast which I made a few days ago. And in it I did say that this Government has no objection whatsoever to the setting up of a national negotiating machinery for teachers which was recommended by the Morgan Commission. I have a copy of the Morgan Report here and I would like to refer to it and say that apart from the National Joint Negotiating Council for teachers there were other Councils of that nature also recommended. One was for Local Government Authority staff. The only difficulty so

far has been on the question of our constitution. I think some Governments have felt that the constitution will not allow us to set up a national body of that nature and that each Region should be allowed to set up one if it desires. But in my statement I made it clear that as far as this Region is concerned, we are prepared to examine the possibilities of setting up a National Joint Negotiating Council for teachers. That is the stand I am going to take at the meeting which is holding the day after tomorrow in Lagos.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time.*

*And it being certified a Money Bill—*

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

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

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

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

## ADJOURNMENT

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

**The Minister of Finance (Mr E. Emole, C.F.R.):** I beg to second.

## ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

### Attacks by Other People

**Chief J. Mpi, O.F.R. (Port Harcourt Province):** I want to make only a point. In everything we do and say, we the people of Eastern Nigeria try to show very good examples. Therefore, I am advising both myself and my colleagues, the Members of the Eastern House of Chiefs, to try to guide themselves while speaking about other people who try to attack us, because two wrongs cannot make a right. Even if others are attacking us or try to attack us, I think we must show them the light by treating them with silence and by telling them



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[Adjournment]

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the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, that is to say "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do". I do not want anybody to come here particularly at this time the country is trying to come together, to say that we want to retaliate. If anybody wants to retaliate, let

him go to the press and do that, and not on the floor of this hon. House.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Adjourned, sine die, at seven minutes after two o'clock, p.m., pursuant to the Resolution of this House this day.*



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[Proclamation]

12 FEBRUARY 1965

[Selection of Senators]

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

*Friday, 12th February, 1965*

*The Houses met at 10 o'clock a.m. pursuant to a proclamation by His Excellency the Governor dated 5th February, 1965, published in the Official Gazette of 9th February, 1965, as followeth:—*

*“Constitution of Eastern Nigeria Law, 1963*

THE LEGISLATURE OF  
EASTERN NIGERIA  
A PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency Sir FRANCIS  
AKANU IBIAM, Grand Com-  
mander of the Order of the  
Niger, Knight Commander of the  
Most Distinguished Order of  
Saint Michael and Saint George,  
Knight Commander of the Most  
Excellent Order of the British  
Empire, Governor of Eastern  
Nigeria.

L.S.

FRANCIS  
AKANU IBIAM  
*Governor of  
Eastern Nigeria*

WHEREAS under section 42 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federation, it is provided that of the members of the Senate there shall be twelve Senators representing each Region who shall be selected by a Joint Sitting of the Legislative Houses of that Region from among persons nominated by the Governor;

AND WHEREAS under paragraph 4 of the Selection of Senators (Eastern Nigeria) Regulations, 1959 the Governor shall by Proclamation give notice to the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly of his intention to summon a Joint Sitting of both Houses for the selection of Senators;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary and expedient that a Joint Sitting of both Houses be convened to select the twelve Senators to represent Eastern Nigeria;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANCIS AKANU IBIAM, Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Governor of Eastern Nigeria, in exercise of the power in that behalf vested in me do by this Proclamation appoint the Chamber of the Legislature of Eastern Nigeria and Friday the 12th day of February, 1965, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon to be the place and time of the Joint Sitting for the purpose of selecting the said Senators.

GIVEN under my hand and the Public Seal of Eastern Nigeria, this 5th day of February, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five.”

Mr Speaker read the Prayers. Mr President *took the Chair*

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY  
THE GOVERNOR ON THE SELECTION  
OF SENATORS

**The President:** Hon. Members, I have received the following Message relating to the Selection of Senators from His Excellency the Governor:

*“Mr President,*

*Whereas it is provided by the Constitution of the Federation that there shall be a Parliament which shall consist of the President, the Senate and the House of Representatives;*

*And whereas under section 42 (1) (a) of the said Constitution it is further provided that of the members of the Senate there shall be twelve Senators representing each Region who shall be selected by a Joint Sitting of the Legislative Houses of that Region from among persons to be nominated by the Governor;*

*And whereas it is necessary and expedient to select the twelve Senators to represent Eastern Nigeria;*



And whereas I have nominated—

Mr Asuquo Nyong  
 Chief A. U. Ekefre  
 Mr P. C. Ndu  
 Chief Ezogo Uka of Edda  
 Chief Philip of Bansara  
 Mr J. K. Nzerem  
 Mr A. E. Ukata  
 Dr Nwafor Orizu  
 Chief R. A. Umoh  
 Mr M. B. C. Chukwubuike  
 Chief Patrick I. Acholonu, and  
 Chief J. O. Ngiangia

for selection as members of the Senate to represent Eastern Nigeria;

Now, therefore, I do by this Message invite the Joint Sitting of the Legislative Houses of Eastern Nigeria to select the aforementioned persons as members of the Senate to represent Eastern Nigeria.

Francis Akanu Ibiam  
 Governor”

Question Proposed: “That the Governor’s nomination of:—

Mr Asuquo Nyong  
 Chief A. U. Ekefre  
 Mr P. C. Ndu  
 Chief Ezogo Uka of Edda  
 Chief Philip of Bansara  
 Mr J. K. Nzerem  
 Mr A. E. Ukata  
 Dr Nwafor Orizu  
 Chief R. A. Umoh  
 Mr M. B. C. Chukwubuike  
 Chief Patrick I. Acholonu, and  
 Chief J. O. Ngiangia

for selection as Senators be approved.”

**The Premier (Dr M. I. Okpara, G.C.O.N.):** I would like to explain to this Joint Sitting of the Legislative Houses of this Region the reason why we are adopting this unusual procedure of selecting Senators to represent this Region ever before the election of our Members of the House of Representatives.

Hon. Members are all aware of the events which led to the boycott of the last Federal Elections by the members of the United Progressive Grand Alliance and the subsequent agreement between the President and the Prime Minister. One of the points of that agreement was that elections should be held in

those areas of Eastern Nigeria and the Federal Territory of Lagos where none was held.

We were all prepared to go to the polls when the Federal Law Officers discovered that the present Electoral Act made no provision for the contingency and that it would be necessary to bring an Act of Parliament to legalize any new election.

Since an Act of Parliament could not be valid unless it was passed by the President, the Senate and the House of Representatives, it is necessary that we select our own Senators in order that the Senate would be properly constituted.

Hon. Members will agree that the timing of the senatorial selections does not encourage the making of many changes in the composition of the Eastern senatorial team. Nor do we consider it wise to alter the old senatorial districts at the present time. Accordingly, we have made only few changes in the overall interest of the Region.

Hon. Members will agree with me that the persons proposed are all men of proved integrity, ripe age and mature experience, and capable, in view of their region-wide outlook, of representing the overall interests of the Region, no matter their places of birth or residence.

This is not the time for prolonged debates and as the proposal is not controversial I urge hon. Members to give their consent to His Excellency’s nominations.

**The Minister of Education (Dr S. E. Imoke, C.F.R.):** I rise to support the hon. Premier in accepting the names proposed as Senators to represent the Eastern Region. In doing this, I would like to congratulate all the twelve men on behalf of the Government and people of Eastern Nigeria for their great achievement.

It is unnecessary to review events that have led to this situation, but I think it is timely for me to take this opportunity to congratulate the Leader of the N.C.N.C. and U.P.G.A., the Premier of Eastern Nigeria for the effort and fortitude that he showed during the campaigns for the Federal Election. I want also to bring



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[DR IMOKE]

in the young lawyers of this Region and everybody else who helped in portraying the evils that exist in the Northern Region. There is no doubt at all whatsoever in the minds of those of us who visited the North, and even those of you who were listening to the news, that our Constitution had been very badly flouted; the Fundamental Human Rights were so violated that people were not even allowed to nominate their candidates, not to talk of going to the polls to cast their votes. As I said before, this is not the time to review the situation. I would urge all of us to go back and wait for the day that the postponed elections in the Eastern Region and other constituencies of the Federation will be announced, and I do hope that all of you will put in your maximum efforts, as the hon. Premier and those who campaigned before did, and that you will make sure that all our members in the Federal House are returned.

May I, finally, thank the Governor of this Region for the able choice he has made. These men are men of integrity and I have no doubt they are going to represent us very well in the Senate.

*Question put and agreed to.*

Resolved: That the Governor's nomination of:—

Mr Asuquo Nyong  
Chief A. U. Ekefre  
Mr P. C. Ndu  
Chief Ezogo Uka of Edda  
Chief Philip of Bansara  
Mr J. K. Nzerem  
Mr A. E. Ukata  
Dr Nwafor Orizu  
Chief R. A. Umoh  
Mr M. B. C. Chukwubuike  
Chief Patrick I. Acholonu, and  
Chief J. O. Ngiangia

as Senators be approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Resolved: That the Joint Sitting do now adjourn *sine die* (*The Minister of Education, Dr S. E. Imoke, C.F.R.*).

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



## APPENDIX

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Answers received during Adjournment  
(10th April to 4th October, 1964)**African Continental Bank Ltd.**

1. **Chief Zumoh Efeke V** asked the Minister of Agriculture, whether the African Continental Bank Limited is being financed and run by the Government of Eastern Nigeria; if so, why the Head Office of the Bank is sited in Lagos and not in Enugu, the Headquarters of the Government which runs the Bank.

**The Minister of Agriculture:** Nearly all the shares in the African Continental Bank Limited are held by the Eastern Nigeria Marketing Board and the Eastern Nigeria Development Corporation which are agencies and arms of Government.

The Head Office of the Bank is sited in Lagos because Lagos is the centre of commerce, business and financial transactions of the Federation of Nigeria.

**Payment of Premium**

3. **Chief J. J. Ogbulafor** asked the Minister of Agriculture, why Calabar Oil Palm Estate are paid premium on special palm oil produce when E.N.D.C. and other mill owners are not paid such premium.

**The Minister of Agriculture:** The Marketing Board pays a premium on palm oil produced by Pamol (Nigeria) Limited in recognition of the fact that such oil commands a selling premium and also contains a negligible amount of impurities so that no processing, but merely storage, is required at the Bulk Oil Plant. Because of the lower bulking costs and the superior value of the product the Board, despite paying more for it, always makes a higher profit on Pamol oil than on ordinary Special Grade oil. The Marketing Board has for many years stated that it is prepared to consider according plantation status to any organization which can demonstrate its ability consistently to produce in reasonable quantities oil of the same high quality as that produced on Pamol estates.

**F.F.A. Tests**

4. **Chief J. J. Ogbulafor** asked the Minister of Agriculture, what F.F.A. test qualifies oil for plantation palm oil.

**The Minister of Agriculture:** There is no fixed F.F.A. content qualifying oil as plantation palm oil. Pamol (Nigeria) Limited receives a premium at the rate of 1 per cent. of the Marketing Board's take-over price for each 1 per cent. by which the F.F.A. of the oil on delivery to the Bulk Oil Plant is less than 4 per cent.

5. **Chief J. J. Ogbulafor** asked the Minister of Agriculture, if plantation palm oil does not exceed 2.5 per cent. F.F.A., why then should Calabar Oil Palm Estate oil which is 3.7 per cent. to 3.9 per cent. F.F.A. be paid as plantation palm oil.

**The Minister of Agriculture:** I have explained in my answer to question No. 4 that there is no fixed F.F.A. content for plantation palm oil, although no premium would be paid on oil containing 4 per cent. F.F.A. or over. Normally the F.F.A. content of Pamol oil is less than 2.5 per cent. although it is true that this figure was considerably exceeded in 1963 on some occasions and the average of all deliveries in the year was 3.0 per cent. The Marketing Board expressed its concern over this rise in F.F.A. content to the firm and there has since been a return to the standard of previous years. The Marketing Board and my Ministry are closely studying the weekly bulking figures.

**Lock-up Cells for Customary Courts**

6. **Chief G. A. Ikibah** asked the Minister of Local Government, when lock-up cells will be provided in all Customary Court compounds in order to avoid the risk of Court Messengers keeping prisoners in their houses.

**The Minister of Local Government:** The provision of lock-up cells in all Customary Courts compounds depends on the financial ability of individual Councils. Applications for financial provision for lock-ups when made by Councils are approved by my Ministry subject to availability of funds. If the hon. Member will give me a list of the Councils which he knows have no lock-up cells I shall take the matter up with the Councils.



**Third and Fourth-class Chiefs**

7. **Chief G. A. Ikibah** asked the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, how soon will Government recognize Third and Fourth-class Chiefs throughout the Region.

**The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs:** It is not possible for me to say exactly when these two classes of Chiefs will be recognized, but the matter is still being considered by Government and necessary action will be taken at an appropriate time.

8. **Chief R. A. Ukwu** asked the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, how soon will Third and Fourth-class Chiefs be appointed Customary Court Judges and when will they be injected into both County and Local Councils.

**The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs:** As no regulations have yet been made for the selection of Third and Fourth-class Chiefs, these two categories of Chiefs are in fact not yet recognized, and the question of appointing them Court Members does not arise. However, appointments of Customary Court Judges are based purely on merit and not merely on traditional status. The injection of traditional members into Local Government Councils is a matter for my colleague the hon. Minister of Local Government to whom, I suggest, the hon. Member should direct his question.

**Staff of Office**

9. **Chief R. A. Ukwu** asked the Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs, how soon will staffs of office be distributed to all Second-class Chiefs.

**The Minister of Customary Courts and Chieftaincy Affairs:** At present only First-class Chiefs are presented with Staffs of Office. Government does not intend to extend this privilege to Second-class Chiefs. It is considered that the Certificate of Recognition given to Second-class Chiefs is sufficient.

**General Manager of Anglican Schools**

11. **Chief G. A. Ikibah** asked the Minister of Education, whether Government is aware that in Brass Division a Headmaster is imposed on

the people as General Manager for Anglican Schools thus making the people to pay extra A.L.C. for the maintenance of that office; if so, will Government take steps to remedy the situation?

**The Minister of Education:** On investigation, the Anglican Authorities denied this allegation. The hon. Member would, however, like to know that the Headmaster in question has now returned to his class-room work and is no longer in the Manager's Office.

**Secondary School Fees**

12. **Chief J. J. Ogbulafor** asked the Minister of Education, when will the reduction of school fees for secondary schools take effect.

**The Minister of Education:** The new instructions regarding the maximum of fees to be charged in grant-aided secondary schools have already been published and came into operation on 1st April, 1964.

**Roads**

13. **Chief R. A. Ukwu** asked the Minister of Works, how soon will the Degema-Abua-Ahoada-Omoku-Oguta Road be tarred, considering that £32 million have been voted for roads in Eastern Nigeria.

**The Minister of Works:** I am afraid that the hon. Member has been misinformed about the financial allocation for road construction in Eastern Nigeria. The revised allocation for capital expenditure on roads during the 1962-68 Development Plan is only £10.3 million. The Degema-Oguta road will be tarred as soon as funds are available. I am aware of the importance attached by the users of this road to its improvement and it is one of the roads for which we are seeking foreign finance.

14. **Chief S. O. Ezenwa** asked the Minister of Works, when Government will consider the take-over from the Idemili County Council of the Onitsha-Nkpor-Umuoji-Uke-Ojoto-Nnobi-Nnokwa-Adazi Road which joins the Awka-Agulu Road in view of the importance of this road to the people of Onitsha Division.

**The Minister of Works:** My Ministry does not normally take over for maintenance roads maintained by Local Government Councils until they have been reconstructed. The



Nkpor-Nnobi Road is listed in the current Development Plan for reconstruction, and when it is reconstructed my Ministry will be in a position to relieve the Idemili County Council of the responsibility for its maintenance.

It is not possible to indicate when the remainder of this road will be reconstructed as this will depend on the priority to be accorded the road *vis-a-vis* other roads in the Region competing for consideration in the Development Plan. The hon. Member can, however, be assured that the road will be given every fair consideration when the time comes to revise the present Development Plan.

#### **Ikot Okpora Ferry**

15. **Chief J. J. Ogbulafor** asked the Minister of Works, what arrangements Government is making in order to get a new pontoon to replace the old one at Ikot Okpora Ferry.

**The Minister of Works:** The need to replace the existing powered ferry at Ikot Okpora has not yet arisen because basically it is adequate for its purpose. It is temporarily out of service just now because one of its propeller shafts broke, but it has been taken to Calabar for repairs as soon as the Cross River rises sufficiently to enable repairs to be undertaken. While it is away a stand-by pontoon retained for the purpose by my Ministry has been put into service. This can carry cars but not lorries.

#### **Bridges**

16. **Chief S. O. Ezenwa** asked the Minister of Works, whether Government will consider helping the Idemili County Council in the construction of bridges over the five roads crossed by the Idemili river in view of the river's tidal

waves and of the facts that the people of the area concerned have been suffering over the years, especially in 1963 when floods carried away a £3,000 bridge constructed on one of the roads by the Council.

**The Minister of Works:** As these bridges are on roads maintained by Local Government Councils, I would ask the hon. Member to direct this request to the hon. Ministers of Local Government and Internal Affairs.

#### **Japanese Goods**

17. **Chief J. J. Ogbulafor** asked the Minister of Commerce, how much of the £5 million worth of goods to be imported from Japan will be Eastern Nigeria's share.

**The Minister of Commerce:** The question has been referred to the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry which controls such importation. As soon as an answer is received it will be transmitted.

#### **Eastern Nigeria Business men**

18. **Chief S. O. Ezenwa** asked the Minister of Commerce, whether he is aware that Eastern Nigerian business men are being discriminated against in the duty relief privilege while foreign and other Nigerian business men are being allowed the privilege in Lagos and other parts of the Federation: if so, will the Minister consider the desirability of having the duty relief spread to all Regions so that Eastern Nigerians will benefit from it.

**The Minister of Commerce:** I am not aware of the allegation. If the hon. Chief will give me more specific data, the matter will be investigated.







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FOURTH SESSION (1964-65) SECOND MEETING

AND JOINT SITTING

5th and 6th October, 1964 and 12th February, 1965

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1R = First Reading		Q = Oral Question
2R = Second Reading		W = Written Question—
3R = Third Reading		at end of Volume

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